



MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS AUGUST-2025



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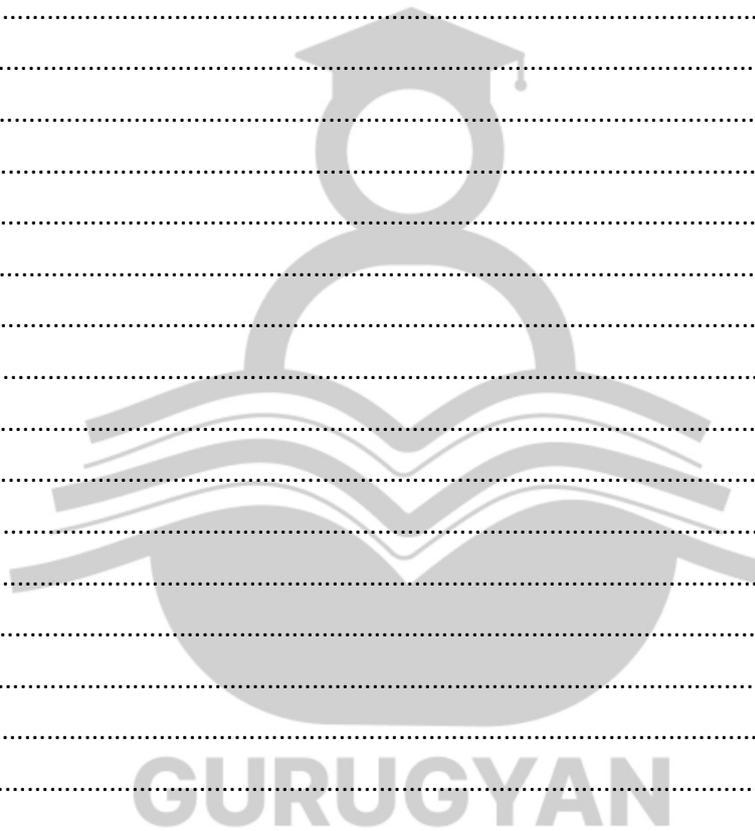
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Important Days & themes

Date	Day	Remark
1 st August	World Wide Web Day	to commemorate the invention of the World Wide Web by Tim Berners-Lee in 1989 By the end of 1990, Berners-Lee had successfully developed the first web server and web browser at CERN
1 st August	National Mountain Climbing Day	To honor the spirit of adventure and the achievements of mountaineers.
1 st August	World Lung Cancer Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established in 2012 by the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) Purpose: To educate the public on lung cancer prevention, symptom recognition, screening (especially for high-risk individuals), treatment advances, and to combat stigma associated with the disease
1 st –7 th August	World Breastfeeding Week 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 1992 World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated every year in the first week of August (1–7 August), championed by WHO, UNICEF THEME: Invest in breastfeeding, invest in the future
1 st August	Non-Cooperation (Asahayog) Movement anniversary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Non-Cooperation Movement (NCM) was the first nationwide movement launched by Gandhiji in 1920 during British rule. It emerged as a powerful and fervent response to a culmination of grievances and disillusionment that had been building up among the Indian populace. Rowlatt Act and the brutal Jaliawala Bagh Massacre were the immediate causes for launching the movement. However, the movement was called off by Gandhi on February 11, 1922, following the Churi Chaura incident in the Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh.
3 rd August (First Sunday of August) –	Friendship Day	
3 rd August -	Cloves Syndrome Awareness Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To spread awareness about the rare genetic disorder. It is a rare genetic disorder which causes enlargement of fatty tissues, vascular malformations, and other skin and skeletal abnormalities. One gene termed PIK3CA mutation is the main cause of Cloves.
6 th August	Hiroshima Day	

6 August Hiroshima Day

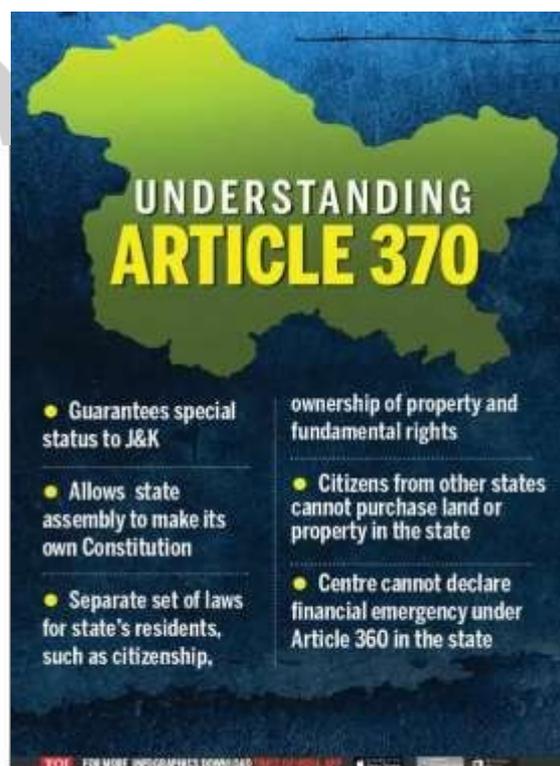
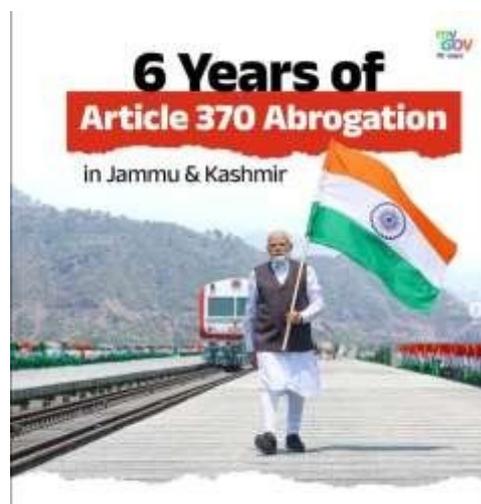
- to commemorate the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, by the US during World War II on August 6th, 1945.
- In 1945, during World War II, the US dropped an atomic bomb called "Little Boy," on Hiroshima using the B-29 bomber Enola Gay.
- On August 9, 1945, the US dropped a second atomic bomb, "Fat Man" on Nagasaki. This led to Japan's surrender and marked the end of World War II.
- In December 1941, the US government launched the Manhattan Project to develop the bomb under the leadership of J. Robert Oppenheimer.

- The incident of atomic bombing gave birth to the **Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)**, **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty**, **Limited Test Ban Treaty**, **Nuclear Suppliers Group**, etc. to restrict proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Date	Day	Remark
5th August	Article 370 abrogation	

5 August - Article 370 abrogation

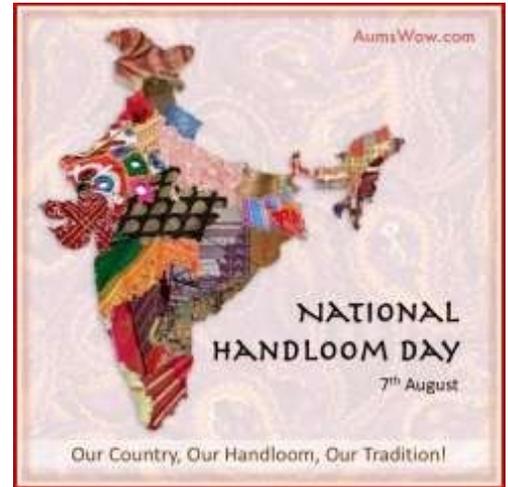
- It is now six years since the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution and the reorganisation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories (UTs).
- **Article 370** in the Indian constitution gave special status to **Jammu and Kashmir**, a region disputed by India, Pakistan and China.
- It was drafted by **N Gopalaswami Ayyangar**, a member of the **Constituent Assembly** of India, and was added to the constitution as a 'temporary provision' in 1949.
- It allowed the state to have its own constitution, flag and autonomy over most matters except defence, foreign affairs and communications.
- It was based on the terms of the **Instrument of Accession**, which was signed by the ruler of Jammu and Kashmir, **Hari Singh**, in 1947 to join India after an invasion by Pakistan.



Date	Day	Remark
6 th August	International Day of Awareness of the Special Development Needs and Challenges of Landlocked Developing Countries	The first celebration of this Day will take place during the Third Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in 2025 (LLDC3) in Awaza, Turkmenistan from August 5-8, 2025
7 th August	National Handloom Day	

7 August - National Handloom Day

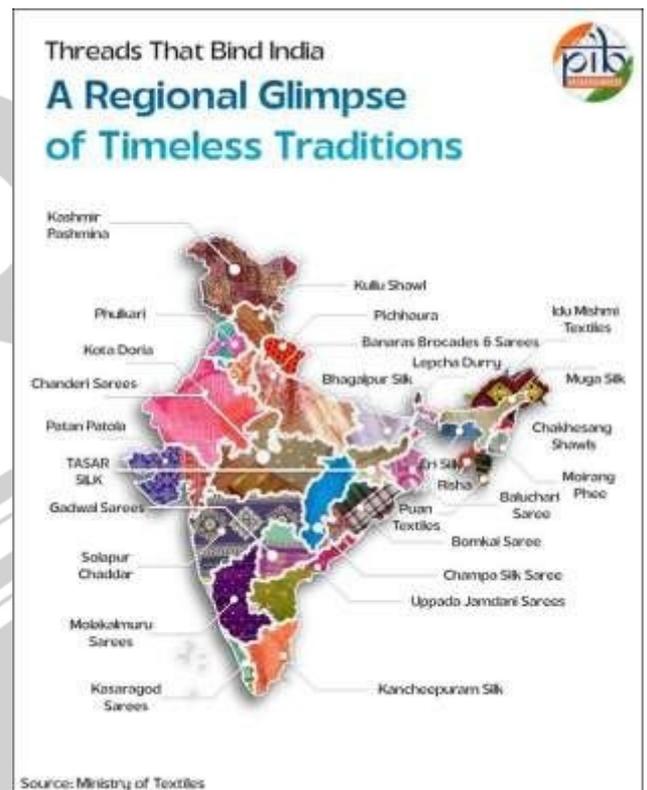
- **11th National Handloom Day** will be celebrated on 7th August 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- **THEME: Weaving Innovation into Tradition**
- In a tribute to **Swadeshi Movement, which was launched on August 7, 1905**, at Town Hall, Kolkata
- **Government of India declared August 7 as National Handloom Day in 2015.**
- **Week-long Celebrations: 1st to 8th August 2025 by Ministry of Textiles**
- The prestigious **Sant Kabir Handloom Awards and National Handloom Awards for 2024** to a total of **24 awardees**, including 5 Sant Kabir Awardees and 19 National Awardees.
- Each **Sant Kabir Award carries a cash prize of ₹3.5 lakh**, a gold coin (mounted), a Tamrapatra, a shawl, and a certificate.
- Each **National Handloom Award includes a cash prize of ₹2 lakh**, a Tamrapatra, a shawl, and a certificate.
- **Handloom weaving is India’s largest cottage industry.**



Date	Day	Remark
8 th August	Quit India Movement Day	

8 August – Quit India Movement Day

- The Quit India Movement, **launched on August 8, 1942**, under Mahatma Gandhi’s leadership, was a significant anti-colonial struggle.
- **Gandhi’s slogan, “Do or Die,”**
- Also called the **“August Kranti Movement,”**
- The background of the Quit India Movement lies in the **failure of the Cripps Mission**, economic hardships during World War II, and rising nationalist sentiments from earlier movements like **Civil Disobedience and the demand for Purna Swaraj.**
- The All India Congress Committee met at **Gowalia Tank, Bombay, on 8 August 1942** and passed the famous Quit India Resolution.



Date	Day	Remark
9 th August	World Tribal Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Also referred to as World Indigenous Day or International Day of World’s Indigenous People ▪ Observed to support and protect the rights of the world’s indigenous people. ▪ The origins of the International Day of the World’s Indigenous People date back to December 1994, when the United Nations General Assembly designated 9 August for this annual observance. ▪ 2025 Theme: “Indigenous Peoples and Artificial Intelligence – Defending Rights, Shaping the Future”.
9 th August	World Sanskrit Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The World Sanskrit Day, observed on Shraavan Poonima, which also marks Raksha Bandhan ▪ This year, World Sanskrit Day falls on August 9, while Sanskrit Week will be celebrated from August 6 to 12, 2025.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sanskrit Day was first celebrated in 1969 through a joint effort by the Government of India and Sanskrit institutions.
9 th August	Nagasaki Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ to commemorate the tragic atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Japan, by the United States during World War II in 1945 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bomb: "Fat Man" (plutonium-based) ▪ Immediate deaths: Approx. 40,000; total by end of 1945: ~73,000
10 th August	World Lion Day	

10 August World Lion Day

- Aims to raise awareness about the conservation and protection of lions worldwide.
- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** in collaboration with the **Forest and Environment Department, Government of Gujarat**, will celebrate World Lion Day – 2025 on August 10, 2025, at **Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Devbhumi Dwarka district, Gujarat**.
- In Gujarat, the Asiatic are found only in the Saurashtra region.
- **As Gujarat's Lion Census of 2025 records a historic 891 lions statewide**



About Asiatic Lion

- **Habitat:** Grasslands, savannas, dense scrub, and open woodlands.
 - Concentrated in the **Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary (Gujarat)**.
 - **Barda Wildlife Sanctuary** has emerged as a "second home" for lions.
- **IUCN Status: Vulnerable.**
- Listed in **Schedule I and IV** of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, in **Appendix I** of CITES.
- Asiatic lions are slightly smaller than African lions.
- **International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA):** Launched in 2023, includes lions.

Date	Day	Remark
10 th August	World Biofuel Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To promote the use of biofuels as a sustainable alternative to fossil fuels. ▪ In India, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change started celebrating World Biofuel Day from 2015 onwards. ▪ On August 10, 1893, Sir Rudolf Diesel successfully ran his engine using peanut oil, demonstrating for the first time that vegetable oil could power engines. ▪ The Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA) launched at the G20 Summit 2023 positions India as a global leader in ethanol trade and technology.
12 th August	International Youth Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Theme 2025 - Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond. ▪ In 1999 the UN General Assembly declared August 12 as International Youth Day ▪ First celebration took place on August 12, 2000. ▪ National Youth Day, also known as Vivekananda Jayanti, is celebrated annually on 12 January, being the birthday Swami Vivekananda.
12 th August	World Elephant Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2025 Theme - "Matriarchs & Memories" ▪ On August 12, 2012, the inaugural World Elephant Day was launched to bring attention to the urgent plight of Asian and African elephants.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India is home to nearly 60% of the world’s wild elephant population, with 33 Elephant Reserves and 150 identified Elephant Corridors Elephant - National Heritage Animal Asian elephants (Indian) are classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List
13 th August	World Organ Donation Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and to make people aware of the misconceptions of organ donation. Theme : “Answering the Call”. Ronald Lee Herrick was the first person to donate his organ in 1954, and Dr Joseph Murray was the doctor who carried out this successful organ transplantation process. Later in 1990, He was honoured with Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine for bringing advances in organ transplantation.
13 th August	International Lefthanders Day	
14 th August	World Lizard Day	
14 th August	Partition Horrors Remembrance Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government declared 14th August as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day (Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas) in 2021. 14th August is a day to honor those who lost their lives or were displaced during the partition.
14 th August	Youm-e-Azadi (Pakistan Independence Day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 14 August 1947, the new Dominion of Pakistan became independent and Muhammad Ali Jinnah was sworn in as its first <u>governor general</u> in Karachi.
15 th August	79 th Independence Day	Theme : Naya Bharat
17 th August	Gabon Independence Day	

17 August - Gabon Independence Day

- Country’s independence in 1960.
- Official Name:** Gabonese Republic
- Location:** West-Central Africa, along the Atlantic coast.
- Capital & Largest City:** Libreville
- System:** Presidential Republic.
- One of Africa’s wealthiest countries per capita** due to oil.
 - Oil & Gas** (biggest contributor to GDP, though reserves are declining)
 - Manganese** (Gabon is a top global producer)
 - Timber** (extensive rainforests)
- Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema** is the current President.



Date	Day	Remark
19 th August	World Photography Day	
12 th - 26 th August	World Photography Week	
19 th August	World Humanitarian Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To honour humanitarian workers who risk their lives to help people in crises Theme - Strengthening Global Solidarity and Empowering Local Communities

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Call to #ActForHumanity ▪ The day was designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 2009 in memory of the 2003 bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, which killed 22 people
19 th August	World Orangutan Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ to raise awareness on the conservation of orangutans threatened by habitat loss and the illegal pet trade. <p><u>About Orangutans</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Share 97% DNA with humans. ▪ Name derived from Malay: Orang = person, Hutan = forest → “person of the forest.” ▪ Present only on the islands of Sumatra (Indonesia) and Borneo (shared by Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei). <p>Conservation Status: <i>Critically Endangered</i> (IUCN).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Major threats: deforestation, palm oil plantations, illegal hunting, pet trade, climate change.
19 th August	Afghanistan Independence Day	

19 August - Afghanistan Independence Day

- In 1919, after the Third Anglo-Afghan War, Afghanistan secured full independence from British influence.
- **Location:** Landlocked in South-Central Asia
- **Capital & Largest City:** Kabul
- Since August 2021, **Taliban** controlled
- **One of the world’s poorest nations**
- **Main Sectors:**
 - Agriculture (wheat, fruits, nuts, livestock)
 - Natural resources (copper, lithium, rare earths, natural gas – largely untapped)
- **Prime Minister (acting):** Mohammad Hassan Akhund.

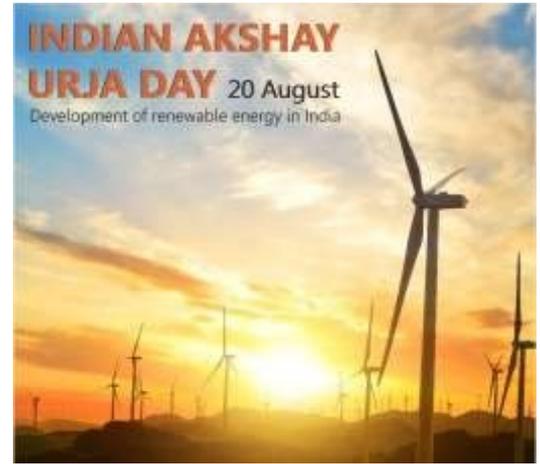


Date	Day	Remark
20 th August	World Mosquito Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ to raise awareness about the dangers of mosquito -borne diseases such as malaria, dengue, Zika, yellow fever, and chikungunya. ▪ The day commemorates the discovery made by Sir Ronald Ross in 1897, who established that female Anopheles mosquitoes transmit malaria.
20 th August	Sadbhavna Diwas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This national observance commemorates the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who was born on August 20, 1944, and served as the sixth Prime Minister of India from 1984 to 1989. ▪ He became the youngest Indian prime minister at the age of 40, succeeding his mother, then–Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, after her assassination.
20 th August	Indian Akshay Urja Day	



20 August - Indian Akshay Urja Day

- to underscore the significance of renewable energy sources and to highlight the strides India has made in advancing the same.
- The word 'Akshay' is derived from Sanskrit, which means "eternal", "indestructible" or "imperishable".
- Initiated in 2004 by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy,
- the observance provides an opportunity to showcase India's commitment to renewable energy transition as it aims at achieving 500 GW of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel by 2030.



Key schemes to achieve renewable energy targets

- **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan scheme (PM-KUSUM):** This scheme promotes the installation of small grid-connected solar power plants, standalone solar pumps, and solarisation of existing grid-connected pumps in rural areas.
- **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for High Efficiency Solar PV Modules:** This initiative aims to establish large-scale manufacturing of high-efficiency solar PV modules in India, reducing dependence on imports and enhancing domestic production capacity.
- **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana:** Under this scheme, solar PV panels are installed on the roof of a building to meet the electricity needs of the building. Surplus solar power units generated from the rooftop solar plant can also be exported to the grid.
- **National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM):** The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) implemented the NGHM with a target to achieve a production capacity of 5 million tonnes per annum of Green Hydrogen by 2030. This will support an addition of about 125 GW of renewable energy capacity in our country.

Date	Day	Remark
21 st August	International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In 2017, the General Assembly, established the the day ▪ This year's theme, "United by Hope,"
21 st August	World Entrepreneurs' Day	honours the creativity, dedication, and risk-taking spirit of entrepreneurs around the globe.
22 nd August	International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief	
23 rd August	National Space Day	

23 August - National Space Day

- India celebrated its first National Space Day in 2024
- Commemorates the soft-landing of Vikram Lander of Chandrayaan-3 mission on the lunar surface on August 23, 2023 (The landing site was named as 'Shiv Shakti' point - Statio Shiv Shakti).
- Theme 2025 "Aryabhata to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities."
- The National Meet 2025 is held with the theme "Leveraging Space Technology and Applications for Viksit Bharat 2047."

ISRO FACTS:

- Established: 15 August 1969



- Founder: Dr. Vikram Sarabhai (Father of Indian Space Program)
- HQ: Bengaluru, Karnataka
- ISRO was previously the Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR), set up by the Government of India in 1962, as envisioned by Dr. VikramA Sarabhai.
- ISRO was formed on August 15, 1969.
- Department of Space was set up and ISRO was brought under DOS in 1972.

Key ISRO Missions

- **Aryabhata (1975):** First Indian satellite (launched from USSR).
- **SLV-3 (1980):** First satellite launch from India (Rohini satellite).
- **Chandrayaan-1 (2008):** First Moon mission; discovered water molecules on lunar surface.
- **Mangalyaan / MOM (2013):** First interplanetary mission to Mars; India became the **1st Asian nation and 4th in the world** to reach Mars orbit.
- **Chandrayaan-2 (2019):** Attempted soft landing near Moon's south pole (orbiter successful).
- **Chandrayaan-3 (2023):** Successful soft landing on Moon's south pole – **India became the 1st country to do so.**
- **Aditya-L1 (2023):** India's first solar mission.
- **XPoSat (2024):** India's first dedicated astronomy mission to study black holes.

Date	Day	Remark
23 rd August	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proclaimed by: UNESCO in 1997. First observed in 1998 ▪ The date 23 August 1791 marks the uprising in Santo Domingo (now Haiti and the Dominican Republic). ▪ The revolt led to the Haitian Revolution, which played a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. ▪ It symbolizes freedom, human rights, and dignity.
26 th August	Women's Equality Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual event in the United States, observed on August 26 since its inception in 1971, marking American women's advancements toward equality with men ▪ August 26, 1970, marked the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which granted full woman suffrage.
26 th August	International Dog Day	
27 th August	World Lake Day	<p>Theme: Lakes: the lifeblood of our planet</p> <p>2025 is the first observance of World Lake Day.</p> <p>World Lake Day aims to raise awareness of the importance of lakes and the sustainable management of lake and related ecosystems.</p> <p>The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) will facilitate the observance of the Day.</p>
29 th August	National Sports Day	

29 August - National Sports Day

- marks **hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand's birth anniversary.** The day has been nationally **recognised since 2012** and served as the launch platform for the Fit India Movement in 2019.
- **Celebration Theme 2025 - "Ek Ghanta, Khel ke Maidan Main"**
- India will celebrate National Sports Day 2025 from August 29 to 31.
- Led by sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya, the three-day nationwide campaign under the Fit India Mission will promote sports and fitness.

Major Dhyan Chand

- Major Dhyan Chand was a prominent **hockey player** in **India's pre-independence period**.
- He is famously known as the **"Wizard of Hockey"** and **"The Magician"** due to his stick work and understanding of the game.
- He played a key role in **India's first hat-trick of Olympic gold medals**, winning at the **1928, 1932, and 1936 Summer Olympics**.
- Between **1926 and 1948**, he played **185 matches** for India scoring over **400 goals**.
- He **retired as a Major** in the **Punjab Regiment of the Indian Army in 1956**.
- He received the **Padma Bhushan**, the third-highest civilian award in **1956**.
- To honour him, the Indian government renamed the **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award** to the **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award** in **2021**.

Date	Day	Remark
29 th August	International Day against Nuclear Tests	

29 August International Day against Nuclear Tests

- In **2009**, **United Nations General Assembly** declared 29 August the International Day against Nuclear Tests
- **2010** marked the **inaugural commemoration** of the Day
- UNGA designated **26 September** as the **"International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons"**
- **India** conducted **two nuclear tests** in 1998.

India Nuclear Weapon Programme

- **Smiling Buddha (1974)**: India's **first successful nuclear test**, conducted at **Pokhran in Rajasthan**, marking India as the **sixth nuclear-capable nation** after the **US, Soviet Union, United Kingdom, France, and China**.
- **Operation Shakti (1998)**: (**Pokhran-II**) was a series of **five nuclear tests** under **Operation Shakti**, including a **thermonuclear bomb**.

Date	Day	Remark
30 th August	Small Industry Day	

30 August Small Industry Day

- **India observes** National Small Industry Day every year on August 30 **to recognize the role played by small-scale industries (SSIs)**
- Celebrates the pivotal role of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in shaping economies
- The day was **first observed on August 30, 2001**
- The **United Nations General Assembly** designated **27 June** as **"Micro-, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises Day"**

Classification criteria for MSMEs

Types of Enterprises	Changes in Investment Limit	Changes in Turnover Limit
Micro Enterprises	Rs 1 crore to Rs 2.5 crore	Rs 5 crore to Rs 10 crore
Small Enterprises	Rs 10 crore to Rs 25 crore	Rs 50 crore to Rs 100 crore
Medium Enterprises	Rs 50 crore to Rs 125 crore	Rs 250 crore to Rs 500 crore

Appointments

President Appoints Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla as Governor of Nagaland

- **Following Nagaland Governor La Ganesan's death**, Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla has been given the additional charge of discharging those functions.
- **The Governor serves as the chief executive head of a state**
- **Article 153:** It states that there shall be a Governor for each state.
- The Governor, along with the Chief Minister, the Council of Ministers, and the Advocate General of the state, constitute the **state executive**.
- **Articles 153 to 167 in Part VI** of the Indian Constitution outline the **structure and functions of the state executive**



Constitution Club of India (CCI)

- **NEWS: BJP Leader Rajiv Pratap Rudy Retains Post of Constitution Club of India (CCI) General Secretary (Administration)**
- **Founded in February 1947**, the Constitution Club of India serves as a **social and professional hub for current and former Members of Parliament**, offering a unique space for bipartisan interaction and networking.
- The **present-day CCI was inaugurated in 1965 by the then president Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan** and is registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- The **Lok Sabha speaker is the ex-officio president of the CCI**, the **deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha is the general secretary** and the **Union urban affairs minister is the vice president**.

Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan To Be NDA Candidate For Vice Presidential Election

- **Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan** was named the **National Democratic Alliance's Vice-Presidential candidate**
- Mr. Radhakrishnan, 68, is a **two-time former MP from Coimbatore** and a **former Tamil Nadu BJP president**.
- Dubbed the **"Vajpayee of Coimbatore"**
- He was appointed the **Governor of Jharkhand in 2023**, where he served till July 2024, and was given additional charge of **Telangana and Puducherry** till July 2024.
- He was later appointed Governor of Maharashtra in July 2024, where he serves till date.
- As per **Article 68** of the Constitution:
 - If a **Vice-President is finishing their 5-year term**, the **next election must be done before the term ends**.
 - But if the **Vice-President leaves office early** (resignation, death, etc.), the election is held **as soon as possible**, and the newly elected VP serves the complete 5-year term.
- **Article 324** of the Constitution:
 - The **superintendence, direction and control of the conduct of election** to the office of the Vice-President of India in the Election Commission of India.
 - The rule fixes a window for when the Election Commission must begin the election process—**no earlier than 60 days before the end of the term**—so that the process is completed in time.
- **Eligibility:**
 - Should be a citizen of India.
 - Should have completed 35 years of age.
 - Should be qualified for election as a member of the Rajya Sabha.
 - Should not hold any office of profit under the Union government or any state government or any local authority or any other public authority.



- As per **Article 66 of the Constitution of India** - The Vice-President is **chosen by all MPs of both Houses (elected + nominated)** using a **secret ballot and proportional representation with a single transferable vote system**.
- The Vice President is the **ex-officio Chairperson of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha)**.



IAS Pratyay Amrit Becomes Bihar Chief Secretary, Assumes Charge on September 1

- He will succeed **Amrit Lal Meena** who retires on August 31.



IAS officer Shashi Prakash Goyal assumed charge as the new Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh

- Goyal succeeds **Manoj Kumar Singh**, who retired on July 31.



K. Arul Jothi assumed charge as the Inspector General cum Principal Chief Security Commissioner of the Railway Protection Force (RPF), Southern Railway, in Chennai

- He succeeds **G.M. Eswara Rao**, who superannuated on July 31.



Commodore Varghese Mathew Takes Charge as Naval Officer-in-Charge, Kerala

- Commodore Varghese Mathew assumed charge as the Naval Officer-in-Charge, Kerala.
- He was commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 1, 1996.
- He had earlier served as the Naval Officer-in-Charge, Kerala, from 2015 to 2017.



Lieutenant General V. Sreehari to take charge as GOC, Dakshin Bharat Area from August 1

- Lieutenant General V. Sreehari will assume charge as the **General Officer Commanding, Dakshin Bharat Area, Indian Army**.
- The formation covers Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and the Union Territories of Puducherry and Lakshadweep.
- He was awarded the **Shaurya Chakra** in 1998 while serving with the 31 Rashtriya Rifles (Commando), the **Sena Medal (Distinguished Services)** in 2021, and an **Ati Vishist Seva Medal in 2023**.



Vice Admiral C R Praveen Nair, AVSM, NM, Assumes Charge As Controller Personnel Services

- Vice Admiral CR Praveen Nair, AVSM, NM assumed charge as the Controller Personnel Services (CPS) on **31 July 2025**.
- Before assuming his current post**, he served as the **Commandant of the Indian Naval Academy**.
- He was awarded the **Nao Sena Medal (Devotion to Duty)** in 2000 and the **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in January 2025**.

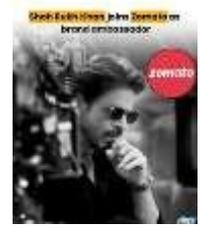


Sara Tendulkar appointed a brand ambassador for \$130 Mn Australian tourism campaign

- The Australian government is set to launch a new tourism campaign featuring legendary Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar's daughter Sara Tendulkar.
- The **"Come and Say G'day"** campaign is a global tourism initiative by **Tourism Australia** launched in 2022, with a major **second chapter introduced in August 2025**

Zomato Partners with Shah Rukh Khan as New Brand Ambassador

Deepinder Goyal - Founder, Managing Director, and Chief Executive Officer of Zomato

**CII appoints Gaurav Banerjee as chairman of National Media & Entertainment Council**

- The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has named **Gaurav Banerjee, Managing Director and CEO of Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI)**, as **Chairman of its National Council on Media & Entertainment (M&E) for 2025–26.**

**IndusInd Bank appoints Rajiv Anand as MD and CEO for three years**

- The appointment is **effective from August 25, 2025** up to August 24, 2028
- Established Year: 1994
- Tagline: We Make You Feel Richer
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- The bank was founded by the Hinduja family and is named after the Indus Valley Civilization.

**SHORT NEWS**

- **Mrs. S. Radha Chauhan** assumes charge as **Chairperson, Capacity Building Commission**

Senior IPS Officer Satish Golcha Takes Charge as Delhi Police Commissioner

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** appointed **Satish Golcha** as the **26th Commissioner of the Delhi Police.**
- The move comes a day **after Chief Minister Rekha Gupta was attacked** at her camp office by a man from Rajkot in Gujarat
- The senior IPS officer **will be replacing S.B.K. Singh, the Director General of Home Guards**, who was given additional charge as the Commissioner of Police on August 1.

**Anish Dayal Singh appointed PM Modi's new Deputy NSA**

- **Anish Dayal Singh**, the former Director General of the CRPF, Former Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and a Special Director with the Intelligence Bureau (IB) has been appointed as Deputy National Security Adviser
- In his new role, 60-year-old Singh **will report directly to NSA Ajit Doval.**
- Singh will look after Jammu and Kashmir, Left-Wing Extremism and the long-running Northeastern insurgency

**Ajay Singh re-elected Boxing Federation of India President for third straight term**

- **BFI Established: 2016 (successor of Indian Amateur Boxing Federation (IABF), 1949).**

Facts:

- India won its **first Olympic boxing medal in 2008 (Vijender Singh – Bronze, Beijing Olympics).**
- First **Indian woman boxer Olympic medalist** → **Mary Kom (2012, Bronze, 51 kg, London Olympics)**

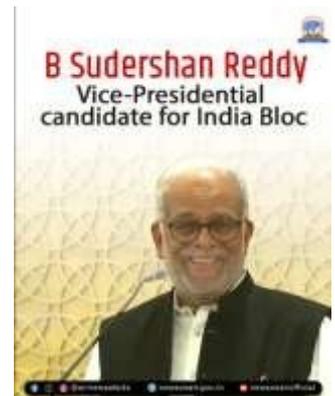


EC appoints two Observers for upcoming Vice Presidential Election 2025

- Additional Secretary of Ministry of Panchayati Raj **Sushil Kumar Lohani** and Additional Secretary of Ministry of Finance **D. Anandan** have been appointed as observers.
- **17th Vice Presidential election** will be held on the **9th September**
- The Vice-President is elected by an **Electoral College**, which consists of the **members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha**.
- **NDA candidate - CP Radhakrishnan**
- **INDIA bloc candidate - B Sudershan Reddy**.

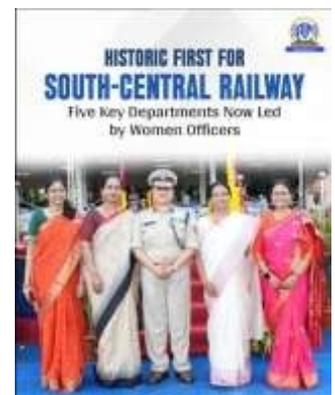
INDIA bloc names Justice B. Sudershan Reddy as Vice Presidential candidate

- The INDIA bloc named **former Supreme Court Judge Justice B. Sudershan Reddy** as its candidate for the **upcoming Vice Presidential election scheduled for September 9**.
- The announcement was made by **Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge**
- He was appointed a **permanent Judge of the Andhra Pradesh High Court** in 1995, **Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court** in 2005, and **Judge of the Supreme Court** in 2008.
- **He retired in 2011**.



Historic first for South-Central Railway

- For the first time in the history of the South-Central Railway (SCR), **five of its most crucial departments**, Operations, Commercial, Finance, Security, and Medical, are currently being **led by women officers**.
- The headquarters of the South Central Railway (SCR) is located in **Secunderabad, Telangana**



Srinivasan. K. Swamy elected president of Advertising Agencies Association of India for 2025-26

- Srinivasan. K. Swamy, executive group chairman of R. K. Swamy Ltd., was elected president of **Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI)** for 2025-26



Rajiv Ranjan Appointed VP, Chief Risk Officer at NDB

- **New Development Bank**, established by the **BRICS nations**, has appointed former Monetary Policy Committee(**MPC**) member **Rajiv Ranjan** as Vice-President and **Chief Risk Officer (CRO)** for a five-year term.
- NDB - A **multilateral development bank** established by **BRICS nations** to mobilise funds for infrastructure and sustainable development.
- Functions as an alternative to Western-dominated institutions like the World Bank and IMF.
- **Established:** July 21, 2015 (Agreement signed on July 15, 2014 at **BRICS Fortaleza Summit**).
- **NDB Headquarters:** Shanghai, China
- **Membership:**
 - **Founding Members:** Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS).
 - **New Members (expanding base):** Bangladesh, UAE, Egypt, Uruguay, and **Algeria (2025)**.
 - Membership is **open to all UN member states**, provided BRICS retain 55% minimum shareholding.



Grihum Housing to Appoint Ex-Citi Banker Arjun Chowdhry as MD & CEO

- Grihum Housing (formerly Poonawalla Housing Finance) is a publicly listed, RBI-registered housing finance company
- Its current MD & CEO Manish Jaiswal will step down with effect from August 31



Teymur Abasgulyev Named New CEO of Nayara Energy

- Russian oil giant Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy has appointed Teymur Abasgulyev as the new CEO of the company, effective September 2025
- Sergey Denisov, who was Nayara's Chief Development Officer, was named the interim CEO



Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Vipul Pancholi Elevated to Supreme Court By President

- The Centre has notified the appointments of **Justice Alok Aradhe (presently Chief Justice of Bombay High Court)** and **Justice Vipul Pancholi (CJ of Patna HC)** as Supreme Court judges
- Besides Chief Justice of India Bhushan R Gavai, the other **members of the Collegium** are Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath and J K Maheshwari.
- The Judges of the Supreme Court are **appointed by the President under clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution.**
- The President consults with judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts to make informed appointments.

President appoints Justice Alok Aradhe & Justice Vipul M. Pancholi as Supreme Court Judges



Tenure and Resignation:

- There is **no prescribed minimum age limit** for a judge's appointment.
- A judge of the Supreme Court **serves until they reach the age of 65 years.**
- However, a judge may resign before reaching the age of 65 years by tendering their resignation to the President.

Collegium System for Judicial Appointments:

- The **collegium**, consisting of the **Chief Justice of India** and the **four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court**, decides on appointments, elevations, and transfers of Judges.
- The **term "collegium" is not mentioned in the Indian Constitution** but has been established through judicial pronouncements.

P. Deepa appointed new Director of CSRTI, Mysuru

- P. Deepa has been appointed as the new Director of the **Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute (CSRTI)** in Mysuru.
- She replaces Gandhi Doss



TCS Launches AI Unit, Appoints Amit Kapur as Head

- Indian IT firm Tata Consultancy Services has named Amit Kapur as the head of its newly formed **AI and services transformation unit**



Former Reserve Bank of India Governor Urjit Patel appointed IMF Executive Director

- Urjit Patel appointed Executive Director at the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** for a **period of three years,**
- The position that has been **lying vacant since April 30** following the **removal of Krishnamurthy Subramanian**, a former chief economic advisor to the finance ministry.
- **Patel**, who served as the **governor** of the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) from **September 4, 2016 to December 11, 2018,**



India appoints Dinesh K Patnaik, as new High Commissioner to Canada

- India has announced the appointment of **Dinesh K. Patnaik**, currently serving as **Ambassador to Spain**, as the next **High Commissioner to Canada**.
- In October 2024, India recalled High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma following tensions triggered by Trudeau’s controversial statement.
- **Canada** has also announced the **appointment** of veteran diplomat **Christopher Cooter** as its **new High Commissioner in New Delhi**.
- **Capital:** Ottawa
- **Currency:** Canadian dollar
- **Prime Minister:** Mark Carney
- Canada, the second largest country in the world in area (after Russia),



J&K Bank Appoints S Krishnan as New Chairman

- J&K Bank approved the appointment of S Krishnan as non-executive chairman of the bank **for a period up to March 26, 2028**.
- His career highlights:
 - Managing Director & CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank
 - MD & CEO of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (appointed in 2022)
 - Currently serving as an Independent Director on the J&K Bank board



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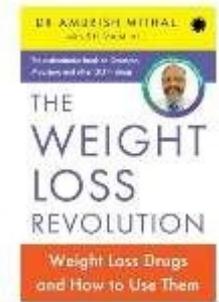
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Books & Authors

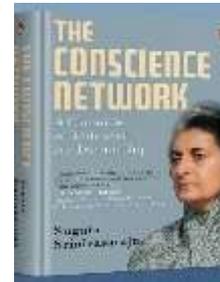
Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Launches Book on Weight Loss Revolution

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Minister of State PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, **Dr. Jitendra Singh** addressed the launch of
- The book **“The Weight Loss Revolution – Weight Loss Drugs and How to Use Them”**
- authored by** eminent endocrinologist **Dr. Ambrish Mithal** along with **Mr. Shivam Vij.**



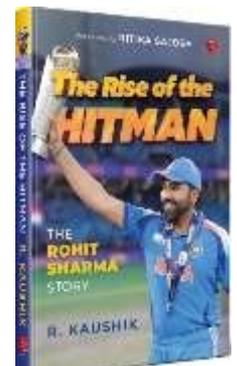
A Book Titled ‘The Conscience Network’ by Sugata Srinivasaraju

- The Conscience Network reveals the inspiring story of young Indian diaspora activists in the U.S. who resisted Indira Gandhi’s Emergency (1975-77) through nonviolent, moral protest to defend democracy from afar.



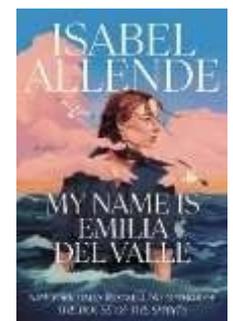
The Rise of the Hitman, written by R. Kaushik

- In **2022**, Rohit became India’s **captain in all formats**, taking over from Virat Kohli.
- Under his leadership, India reached the **final of the 2023 ODI World Cup**, won the **2024 T20 World Cup**, and lifted the **2025 Champions Trophy**.



New book - My Name is Emilia del Valle

- Author - Isabel Allende**
- Set during the 1891 Chilean Civil War, this story is told through the eyes of a brave heroine who is way ahead of her time



Chhota Bheem Comic Book Launched to Promote Reading Among Children

- The Publication division of **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** launched a new comic book based on popular children’s animation series Chhota Bheem.
- Launched at the 29th Delhi Book Fair in New Delhi
- creator of Chhota Bheem - Rajiv Chilaka**



New book titled ‘Justice Denied Justice Lost’ released

- In a book titled **‘Justice Denied Justice Lost’**, released in Kolkata
- Author Kanchan Chakraborty**
- raises questions on the role of the judiciary**, particularly of the Supreme Court’s ‘in-house procedure’, in addressing complaints against sitting judges.
- The book takes a deep dive into the prolonged controversy **surrounding corruption charges against former Calcutta High Court Judge Soumitra Sen** from 2006, till his resignation in 2011.



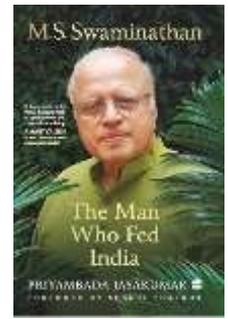
Anand Mahindra launches book on Project Nanhi Kali’s impact on girl child welfare

- Anand Mahindra**, the Chairman of the Mahindra Group, launched a coffee table book, **May A Million Buds Bloom**, in Mumbai.
- which captures the **qualitative impact of Project Nanhi Kali** — an initiative started by him — **on educating girls.**
- The book was compiled by 18-year-old Nitya Manoj Kumar,
- Mr. Mahindra began Project Nanhi Kali in 1996**



Book: 'M.S. Swaminathan: The Man Who Fed India' by Priyambada Jayakumar

- Biography of **Father of Indian Green Revolution**
- This is the centenary year of his birth
- **Born on 7th August, 1925, in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu**
- He served as the **Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**.
- Swaminathan **worked with Nobel laureate Norman Borlaug** to introduce **high-yielding varieties (HYVs) of wheat and rice to India**.
- **Awards & Recognition**
 - **Bharat Ratna (2024, posthumously)**
 - **Padma Shri (1967), Padma Bhushan (1972), Padma Vibhushan (1989)**.
 - **World Food Prize (1987)** – he was its first recipient.
 - **Ramon Magsaysay Award (1971)**.
- The first **M. S. Swaminathan Award for Food and Peace** was conferred to **Nigerian scientist Prof. Ademola A. Adenle** for combating hunger in Nigeria. Prof.



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Obituaries

Renowned historian Rajat Kanta Ray passes away at 79

- Eminent historian Prof Rajat Kanta Ray, the **former head of the Department of History at Kolkata's Presidency University** (earlier College), passed away in Kolkata



Myanmar's acting President U Myint Swe passes away at age of 74

- **Myint Swe, Myanmar's acting president** who assumed the largely ceremonial role **after the military ousted the elected civilian government in 2021**, has passed away



Satyapal Malik, former Jammu and Kashmir Governor, passes away at 79

- J&K Governor who **oversaw Article 370 abrogation**, Satya Pal Malik has passed away
- Hailed **from Baghpat in western UP**
- He has also **served as the Governor of Meghalaya, Goa, Odisha and Bihar.**
- In October 2017, the government appointed Malik as the Bihar Governor but transferred him to J&K just over a year later
- He was transferred to Goa in October 2019.
- In just nine months, he was moved to Meghalaya.
- He retired as Meghalaya Governor on October 4, 2022.



Nagaland Governor and former BJP leader L. Ganesan passes away at 80

- L. Ganesan, Governor of Nagaland and former senior BJP leader from Tamil Nadu, passed away in Chennai on August 15, 2025.
- He had **earlier served as the Governor of Manipur** and held the **additional charge as the Governor of West Bengal**
- **In 2017**, Mr. Ganesan was **elected to the Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh**



Shibu Soren, former Jharkhand CM, passes away at 81

- The 81-year-old leader and **founder of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)**, Shibu Soren, popularly known as **'Dishom Guru or Guruji'** passed away .
- Shibu Soren **co-founded JMM in 1972**
- Shibu Soren took charge of the State as the **third Chief Minister of Jharkhand** on March 2, **2005 (lasted for just 10 days)**,
- He became the Chief Minister for the **second time in 2008** (lasted for 4 months and 22 days).
- His **third tenure as Chief Minister** lasted from **December 30, 2009, to May 31, 2010.**



Dr. V. Vasanthi Devi, Former Vice-Chancellor of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Passes Away

- V. Vasanthi Devi was the **first woman vice chancellor of a university in Tamil Nadu**
- Prof. Vasanthi Devi was also **former chairperson of the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women**



T. N. Manoharan, IDBI Chairman and Padma Shri Awardee, Passes Away

- T N Manoharan, IDBI Chairman and former President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, has passed away.
- He served as the non-executive Chairman of Canara Bank from 2015 to 2020 and later took charge as the Chairman of IDBI Bank
- He also worked as an Independent Director at Mahindra & Mahindra and Tech Mahindra
- One of the most significant milestones in Manoharan's career was his role in the revival of Satyam Computers Services Ltd. after its corporate scandal in 2009.
- He was awarded the Business Leadership award & Indian of the year 2009 and was also conferred with India's prestigious civilian award "Padma Shri" in 2010.

**Japanese Boxer Hiromasa Urakawa Dies from Fight Injuries, Prompting Safety Rule Changes**

- Hiromasa Urakawa, a 28-year-old Japanese boxer, died due to brain injuries
- Urakawa becomes the third high-profile boxer to die in 2025, following the death of Japanese Shigetoshi Kotari and Irish boxer John Cooney.

**Vece Paes, Olympic hockey medallist and father of Leander Paes, passes away**

- Dr Vece Paes won bronze medals with the Indian hockey team at the 1972 Munich Summer Games and the 1971 Hockey World Cup in Barcelona.
- He became the president of the Indian Rugby Football Union from 1996 to 2002.

**Double Olympic Champion Laura Dahlmeier Dies in Mountaineering Accident in Pakistan**

- Laura Dahlmeier, a two-time Olympic biathlon champion from Germany, died in Pakistan following a mountaineering mishap
- The accident happened at Laila Peak, (6,069 metres) in Pakistan's Karakoram range.

**Former Australia captain and coach Bob Simpson passes away at 89**

- Represented Australia in 62 Tests and two One-Day Internationals between 1957 and 1978
- He also coached Australia from 1986 to 1996 and under his guidance, Australia won the 1987 World Cup, four Ashes campaigns and in 1995 the Frank Worrell Trophy, ending a 17-year drought against the West Indies.
- Simpson was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1978 and an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2007.
- He was inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 1985 and the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame in 2006.

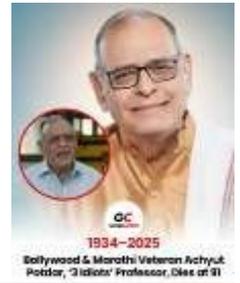
**British-Indian industrialist Lord Swraj Paul passes away in London**

- Leading British industrialist Lord Swraj Paul passed away in London. He was 94.
- Lord Paul, founder of U.K.-based steel and engineering multinational Caparo Group of industries, Headquartered in London
- born in Jalandhar and relocated to the U.K. in the 1960s
- A regular in the annual 'Sunday Times Rich List'



Veteran Actor Achyut Potdar Passes Away at 91: A Tribute to His Remarkable Legacy in Indian Cinema

- Veteran actor Achyut Potdar, popular for his role in the Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan's film '3 Idiots', has passed away
- His noteworthy work includes 'Lage Raho Munna Bhai', 'Ishq', 'Vaastav: The Reality', and others



PM Modi condoles demise of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust member Vimalendra Mohan Pratap Mishra

- **Bimalendra Mohan Pratap Mishra**, a member of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust and a scion of Ayodhya's erstwhile royal family who passed away
- Mishra was one of the first members chosen for the Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust when it was formed in 2020.



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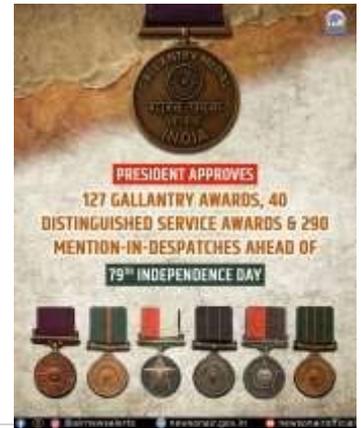
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Awards

President approves 127 Gallantry awards, 40 Distinguished Service awards & 290 Mention-in-Despatches on the eve of 79th Independence Day

- President Smt Droupadi Murmu has approved **127 Gallantry awards and 40 Distinguished Service awards to the Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel** on the eve of Independence Day 2025.
- 4 Kirti Chakras; 15 Vir Chakras; 16 Shaurya Chakras; 2 Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry); 58 Sena Medals (Gallantry); 6 Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry); 26 Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry); 7 Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medals; 9 Uttam Yudh Seva Medals and 24 Yudh Seva Medals.**



Kirti Chakra

1.	Captain Lalrinawma Sailo, 4 Para (Special Forces)	Army
2.	Lieutenant Shashank Tiwari, The Army Service Corps, 1 Sikkim Scouts	Army
3.	Lance Naik Meenatchi Sundaram A, The Regiment Of Artillery, 34 Rashtriya Rifles	Army
4.	Sepoy Janjal Pravin Prabhakar, The Mahar Regiment, 1 Rashtriya Rifles	Army

Wartime Highest Gallantry Awards:

- Param Vir Chakra** : India's highest military decoration
- Maha Vir Chakra** : The second highest war time gallantry award
- Vir Chakra** : Country's third-highest wartime gallantry award

Peacetime Highest Gallantry Awards:

- Ashoka Chakra** : The highest military award during peacetime
- Kirti Chakra** : The second highest peacetime gallantry award
- Shaurya Chakra** : The third highest peacetime gallantry award

Other Awards:

- Sena Medal
- Nao Sena Medal
- Vayu Sena Medal

Order of precedence

- The Param Vir Chakra
- The Ashoka Chakra
- The Mahavir Chakra
- The Kirti Chakra
- The Vir Chakra
- The Shaurya Chakra



15th Indian organ donation day - Angdaan Jeevan Sanjeevani Abhiyaan

- Indian Organ Donation Day is observed every year on the **3rd of August, commemorating India's first successful deceased-donor heart transplant on August 3rd, 1994.**
- Hosted by** National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization (**NOTTO**)
- Organ Donation Month** was observed from **1st to 31st July, 2025**
- World Organ Donation Day** is observed on **August 13**



- Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda noted that **India ranks third globally in organ transplants**, behind only the United States and China, and leads the world in hand transplants
- Awards** were presented to recognize outstanding contributions:
 - ROTO North** was named the best region
 - Tamil Nadu** the best state
 - Puducherry** the best Union Territory, and
 - Manipur** the best Northeast state.
 - Telangana** recorded the highest deceased organ donation rate.
 - Civil Hospital Surat was awarded Best NOTTO-RC,
 - KDRC-ITS, Gujarat was named Best Government Hospital in Transplantation.

Telangana awarded with maximum number of organ donations in the country

- In recognition of this achievement, the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (**NOTTO**) presented an award to Telangana.
- As per the Union Health Ministry, Telangana reported a significantly higher rate of **4.88 organ donations per 10 lakh population during 2024**, while the national average stood at **0.8** per 10 lakh population.
- The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (**THOTA**), ensure equitable access to organs, regardless of a person's financial status.
- The organ transplant surgeries are being offered free of cost under the **Aarogyasri** scheme.



National Anubhav Awards 2025: Celebrating a Decade of Honouring Retired Employees' Contributions

- The National Anubhav Awards 2025 will be held on **18 August 2025 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**, marking the 10th anniversary of the awards.
- The **National Anubhav Awards** are annual honours recognizing outstanding memoirs by retiring or recently retired **Central Government employees**, highlighting their experiences and contributions
- Awarded by Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW)**, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India.

Launched in:

- 2015**, as envisioned by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.
- Part of the [Anubhav Portal](#) initiative to document institutional memory through personal narratives.

Eligibility:

- Central Government employees**, employees of **Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs)**, and **Public Sector Banks**.
- Must be **retiring within 8 months** or **retired within the last 3 years**.
- Write-ups must be published on the **Anubhav Portal**
- 5 Best Write-ups + 10 Jury Certificates for other exceptional submissions.

PM Modi's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' Sets Guinness World Record with 3.53 Crore Registrations

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship initiative Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC) has entered the Guinness World Records for the **"Most people registered on a Citizen Engagement Platform in one month."**
- The recognition comes after the **8th edition of the programme**, held earlier this year, received a record **3.53 crore valid registrations on the MyGov platform**.

PM Modi's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2025' conferred with Guinness World Record for most registrations in a month
HINDUSTAN TIMES | AUGUST 08, 2025



- **Launched in 2018**, Pariksha Pe Charcha is a unique global platform where Prime Minister **Modi directly interacts with students, teachers, and parents**, encouraging stress-free preparation and holistic learning.

Union Minister Gadkari honoured with 43rd Lokmanya Tilak National Award

- Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari, was conferred with the prestigious Lokmanya Tilak National Award **in Pune on August 1** - Lokmanya Tilak’s death anniversary.
- Constituted by the **Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust in 1983**
- It recognizes **significant contributions to national progress**.
- *Nitin Gadkari is the 43rd recipient of the award. The award carries a cash prize of ₹1 lakh and a citation*
- **Last year**, the award was presented to social activist, writer and **Rajya Sabha MP Sudha Murty**



Paradip Port receives ‘Major Port of the Year – Non-Containerised Cargo’ award

- The Paradip Port has received the prestigious “Major Port of the Year – Non-Containerised Cargo” award **at the 15th All India Maritime and Logistics Awards (MALA) 2025**.



SCDCC Bank bags Apex Bank award for the 23rd time

- The **South Canara District Central Cooperative (SCDCC) Bank** has been conferred with the **Apex Bank award** for the **23rd time** for its **performance during 2023-24**.
- **Awarded by: The Karnataka State Apex Cooperative Bank**—the central coordinating and supervisory body for all district-level cooperative banks (DCCBs) in the state
- SCDCC Bank was given an ‘A’ certificate in the cooperative audit for the year.



Neeraj Ghaywan’s ‘Homebound’ wins top honours at Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2025

- IFFM 2025 (16th edition), the largest Indian film festival outside India.
- **Filmmaker Neeraj Ghaywan’s** drama Homebound dominated the **Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2025** awards night, bagging the coveted honours of **best film and best director**.

Category	Winner(s)	Work / Recognition
Best Film	Homebound	Directed by Neeraj Ghaywan
Best Director	Neeraj Ghaywan	Homebound
Excellence in Cinema Award	Aamir Khan	Contribution to Indian cinema
Best Actor (Male) – Film	Abhishek Bachchan	I Want to Talk (dir. Shoojit Sircar)
Best Actor (Female) – Film	Geetha Kailasam	Angammal

Best Series	Vikramaditya Motwane	Black Warrant
Best Actor (Male) – Series	Jaideep Ahlawat	Paatal Lok Season 2
Best Actor (Female) – Series	Nimisha Sajayan	Dabba Cartel
Disruptor Award	Vir Das	—
Diversity in Cinema Award	Aditi Rao Hydari	—
Leadership in Cinema Award	Arvind Swamy	—
Best Short Film (India)	-	Kalar Pencils
Best Short Film (Australia)	-	Drifters

71st National Film Awards 2025 for the year 2023 announced

- **Best Feature Film** - 12th Fail
- **Best Non-Feature Film** - Flowering Man
- **Best Actor award** - Shah Rukh Khan (*Jawan*) and Vikrant Massey (12th Fail)
- **Best Actress award** - Rani Mukerji (*Mrs. Chatterjee Vs Norway*).
- **Best Direction:** Sudipto Sen, 'The Kerala Story' (Hindi)



1st National Film Awards, 2023 Feature Films Section

Category of Award	Title of The Film	Awardee	Medal & Cash Prize
Best Feature Film	12th Fail (Hindi)	Producer: VC Films LLP Director: Vidhu Vinod Chopra	Swarna Kamal Rs. 3,00,000/- (each)
Best Debut Film of a Director	Aatmapamphlet (Marathi)	Director: Ashish Bende	Swarna Kamal Rs. 3,00,000/-
Award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani (Hindi)	Producer: Dharma Productions Pvt. Ltd. Director: Karan Johar	Swarna Kamal Rs. 3,00,000/- (each)
Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social, and Environmental Values	Sam Bahadur (Hindi)	Producer: Unilazer Ventures Private Limited Director: Meghna Gulzar	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2,00,000/- (each)
Best Children's Film	Naal 2 (Marathi)	Director: Sudhakar Reddy Yakkanti	Swarna Kamal Rs. 3,00,000/- (each)
Best Film in AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming & Comic)	Hanu-Man (Telugu)	Director: Prasanth Varma	Swarna Kamal Rs. 3,00,000/- (each)

Best Direction	The Kerala Story (Hindi)	Director: Sudipto Sen	Swarna Kamal Rs. 3,00,000/-
Best Actor in a Leading Role	Jawan (Hindi)	Actor: Shah Rukh Khan	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2,00,000/- (Shared)
	12th Fail (Hindi)	Actor: Vikrant Massey	
Best Actress in a Leading Role	Mrs. Chatterjee V/s Norway (Hindi)	Actress: Rani Mukerji	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2,00,000/-
Best Actor in a Supporting Role	Pookkaalam (Malayalam)	Supporting Actor: Vijayaraghavan	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2,00,000/- (Shared)
	Parking (Tamil)	Supporting Actor: Muthupettai Somu Bhaskar	
Best Actress in a Supporting Role	Ullozhukku (Malayalam)	Supporting Actress: Urvashi	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2,00,000/- (Shared)
	Vash (Gujarati)	Supporting Actress: Janki Bodiwala	
Best Male Playback Singer	Baby (Premisthunna) (Telugu)	Singer: PVN S Rohit	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2,00,000/-
Best Female Playback Singer	Jawan (Chaliya) (Hindi)	Singer: Shilpa Rao	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2,00,000/-

71st National Film Awards, 2023 Non-Feature Films Section

Category of Award	Title of the Film	Awardee	Medal & Cash Prize
Best Non-Feature Film	Flowering Man (Hindi)	Director: Soumyajit Ghosh Dastidar	Swarna Kamal Rs. 3,00,000/- (each)
Best Documentary	God Vulture and Human (English, Hindi & Telugu)	Director: Rishiraj Agarwal	Rajat Kamal Rs 2,00,000/- (each)
Best Non-Feature Film Promoting Social and Environmental Values	The Silent Epidemic (Hindi)	Director: Akshat Gupta	Rajat Kamal Rs 2,00,000/- (each)
Best Direction	The First Film (Hindi)	Director: Piyush Thakur	Swarna Kamal Rs 3,00,000/-
Best Script	Sunflowers Were The First Ones To Know (Kannada)	Script Writer: Chidananda Naik	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2,00,000/-

IDSFFK to honour documentary filmmaker Rakesh Sharma with Lifetime Achievement Award

- **Acclaimed documentary filmmaker Rakesh Sharma** has been chosen for the Lifetime Achievement Award of the **17th International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala (IDSFFK)** organised **by the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy**.
- The award comprising **₹2 lakh**, a certificate, and a statuette
- He is best known for his ground-breaking **2004 documentary 'Final Solution' on the 2002 Gujarat pogrom**.



Film 'Vasu' selected as a finalist at the Student Academy Awards 2025

- **Vasu** is one of the seven finalists nominated for the Student Academy Awards 2025 in the Narrative category.
- **Filmmaker Sidharth Harikumar**

- The **Student Academy Award**, presented by the **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences** is considered the most prestigious honour for student projects in the film industry.
- The awards ceremony will take place on October 6, 2025 in New York



Aditi Rao Hydari to receive Diversity in Cinema award at Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2025

- Actor Aditi Rao Hydari will be felicitated with the Diversity in Cinema Award at the upcoming edition of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM).
- The actor will attend the festival as guest of honour.

The Hindu photographer wins 'Tribal Photo of the Year Award – 2025'

- A photograph by *The Hindu's* Special News Photographer **Vudimudi Peddi Raju** has been selected for the prestigious '**Tribal Photo of the Year Award – 2025**'.
- The photography contest was **organised by the Andhra Pradesh Creative Culture Commission**, Government of Andhra Pradesh, in collaboration with the India International Photographic Council and the Photography Academy of India.



Manika Vishwakarma Crowned Miss Universe India 2025, to Represent India at 74th Miss Universe in Thailand

- **Crowned by Miss Universe India 2024 Rhea Singha**,
- Originally hailing from **Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan** and now living in Delhi, Manika — who was previously crowned the Miss Universe Rajasthan 2024
- She beat Tanya Sharma from Uttar Pradesh (the first runner-up)
- Sushmita Sen (1994) – the first Indian to win Miss Universe.
- Lara Dutta (2000) – the second Indian Miss Universe.
- Harnaaz Sandhu (2021) – third crown for India after two decades.



Balakrishna finds place in World Book of Records, Naidu terms it historic milestone

- Veteran Telugu actor and politician **Nandamuri Balakrishna** - officially honoured by the **World Book of Records UK Gold Edition** for completing 50 glorious years in the film industry.
- He got the **Padma Bhushan honour earlier this year (2025)** for outstanding contributions to Indian cinema

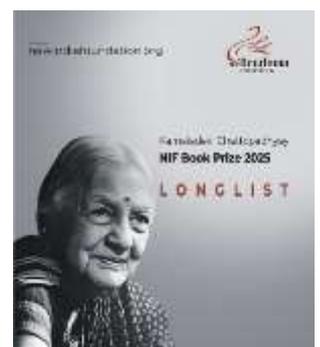
Sculptor Premchandra Pukhrambam honoured with Lalit Kala Akademi Award

- Sculptor Premchandra Pukhrambam from Manipur's Kakching district has been conferred the prestigious **Lalit Kala Akademi Award** at the **64th National Exhibition of Art 2025** for his **wooden sculpture titled "Made Me Change"**.
- The National Exhibition of Art (NEA), organised by the Lalit Kala Akademi in New Delhi
- Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, graced the occasion as the chief guest.



The New India Foundation announces longlist for Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2025

- The New India Foundation (NIF) has announced the Longlist for Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2025, **featuring ten exceptional works of non-fiction writing** on modern and contemporary India.
- The shortlist will be announced in October 2025 and the **winner will be announced on December 6, during Bangalore Literature Festival**.
- **About the Award:** Instituted in 2018, the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay Book Prize is **India's largest Book Prize for non-fiction**, open to **writers of all nationalities** who have worked on any aspect of Indian history after Independence.



- The work can be **originally written in English or translated into English**, and welcomes a wide range of non-fiction genres.
- **Ashok Gopal won last year's Book Prize for A Part Apart: The Life and Thought of B.R. Ambedkar (Navayana).**
- **Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay** - A freedom fighter, actor, social activist, art enthusiast, politician and feminist
- She revived Indian handicrafts and nurtured the greater majority of the country's national institutions charged with the promotion of dance, drama, art, theatre, music, and puppetry.

Shakti scheme enters Golden Book of World Records

- **Karnataka Government's flagship Shakti Scheme - implemented on June 11, 2023**
- provides **free bus travel for women across state-run transport corporations**, has entered the Golden Book of World Records for catering to a record number of passengers.
- Between **June 11, 2023, and July 20, 2025**, the scheme facilitated over **500 crore ticketed journeys** by women passengers across the state.
- They credited the programme for empowering women socially, economically, and educationally.



KSRTC receives two awards at Asia's Best Employer Brand 2025

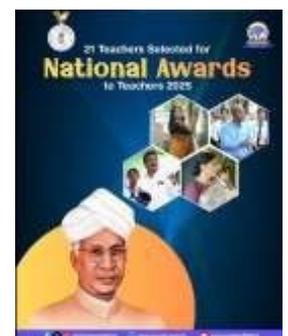
- The **Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC)** received two awards at the **Asia's Best Employer Brand Awards 2025** held in Singapore.
- The awards were for **'Institution Building'** and **'Best Inclusion Recruitment Programme'**.
- Over the last 18 months, KSRTC has recruited nearly 2,600 personnel across various categories.

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Wokha, Nagaland, Awarded Best KVK in the North Eastern Region

- The recognition was **conferred by ICAR-NRCB (National Research Centre for Banana)** in acknowledgement of the team's exemplary work and impactful contributions, selected from over 200 nominations.
- The award was **presented during the 32nd Foundation Day and Kisan Mela** held on 21st August in **Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.**

21 Teachers from Higher Education Institutions and polytechnics have been selected for the National Awards to Teachers 2025

- **Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education** selects 21 teachers in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Polytechnic for **National Awards to Teachers (NAT) 2025.**
- **In the year 2023**, it was decided to **institute these two categories** of awards under the **umbrella of NAT**, hitherto restricted to School teachers only.
- NEP 2020 recognizes that motivated, energized and capable faculty is critical for advancement of the students, institution and profession.
- The awards, **established in 1958**, are **presented annually on Teachers' Day (September 5)** by the **President or Vice President of India**, under the supervision of the **Ministry of Education (MOE).**
- It carries a certificate of merit, a **cash award of Rs. 50,000**, and a silver medal.



National Youth Award

- The **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India**, invited nominations for the **National Youth Award (NYA) 2024.**
- It aims to motivate young persons (aged between **15 – 29 years**) to achieve excellence in the field of **national development or social service**
- The award is given in two categories: Individual Category and Organisation Category
- The number of awards given each year would **ordinarily not exceed 20 for individual category** and **5 for organization category.**



- **Prize money:** Award to **individuals** will comprise a medal, a certificate and award money of ₹1,00,000/-.
Award to voluntary **youth organizations** will comprise a medal, a certificate and award money of ₹3,00,000/-.

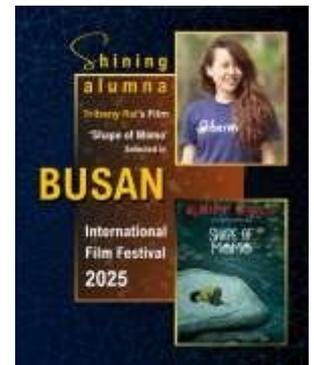
'UNDP Equator Initiative Award' for Bibi Fatima SHG of Teertha village

- A self-help group (SHG) from a small village in **Kundgol taluk of Dharwad district, Karnataka** has bagged the '**Equator Initiative Award**' given by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which is also referred to as the **Nobel Prize for Biodiversity Conservation**.
- The Bibi Fatima Women's Self-Help Group is one among the **10 winners of the Equator Prize 2025**. The awards were announced on International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- The award includes a **cash prize of \$10,000** (approximately ₹8.5 lakh).
- This year's **award selection** was based on the **theme Women and Youth Leadership for Nature-Based Climate Action**".
- The group had **revived millet based mixed cropping systems through natural farming methods** in around 30 villages. The SHG was formed in the year 2018 by just 15 women.
- With the assistance and support of Sahaja Samrudha, Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad, and CROPS4HD they set up a **millet processing unit, which is entirely managed by women**.
- The Bibi Fatima SHG has also established a **community seed bank** to distribute these seeds free of cost to interested farmers



BIFF 2025: Shape of Momo to Premiere in Vision Section of Asia's Biggest Film Festival

- **Tribeny Rai's debut feature, Shape of Momo**, has been officially selected for the **Vision Section of the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) 2025**, the **largest and most prestigious film festival in Asia**.
- 30th Busan International Film Festival will be held from **September 17 to September 26, 2025**, in Busan, **South Korea**



DARPG Notifies the Scheme for National Awards for e-Governance 2026

- Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (**DARPG**) has notified **23rd National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2026 scheme**.
- To honor and **encourage excellence in the implementation of e-Governance initiatives** and promote innovation and best practices in digital governance.
- **Nominations:** Open from September 1, 2025, and close on October 15, 2025.
- will recognize excellence in digital governance through **16 awards across seven categories**
- **Award Incentives: Gold Award: ₹10 lakh; Silver Award: ₹5 lakh**

President Murmu SCOPE Eminence Awards 2022-23 to Public Sector Enterprises In New Delhi

- The SCOPE Eminence Awards, **instituted by the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE)**, are an endeavour to commemorate the remarkable achievements and **contributions of Public Sector Enterprises**.



Kerala Tourism received the coveted PATA Gold Award 2025 for the 'Most Engaging Social Media Campaign.'

- **Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) award ceremony in Bangkok**.
- PATA awards **honour exceptional achievements in the travel and tourism industry** in the Asia Pacific region.

State News

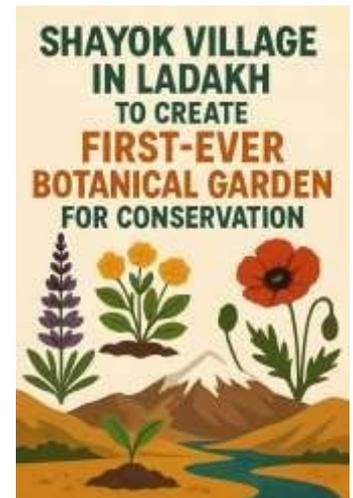
Ladakh

Shayok village in Ladakh to create First-ever botanical garden for conservation

- In eastern Ladakh, Shayok village, situated on the way to Galwan Valley, is working to convert its 10 hectares of barren community land into a botanical garden for the conservation of varieties of fruits, medicinal plants and flora and fauna of Ladakh.
- will be the first-ever botanical garden in the Union Territory.
- It is being developed as part of the ongoing Go Green Go Organic initiatives in Ladakh

Apricots of Ladakh

- Fresh apricots from Kargil, Ladakh, have been introduced to Saudi Arabia for the first time during India's 79th Independence Day celebrations in Riyadh, under the One District One Product initiative.
- Apricot (*Prunus armeniaca*) is a temperate fruit tree belonging to the Rosaceae family, closely related to peaches, plums, almonds, and cherries.
- **Globally:** Cultivated across temperate regions, especially in the Mediterranean, Central Asia, and North America.
- **In India:** Grown in Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, and other dry temperate and mid-hill regions.



Features:

- Trees are small and spreading with bright green leaves; flowers are white and self-pollinated.
- Drought-resistant and long-lived (some up to 100 years).
- Distinct varieties in India include wild "Zardalu" and cultivated "Khubani."

Suru Summer Festival 2025

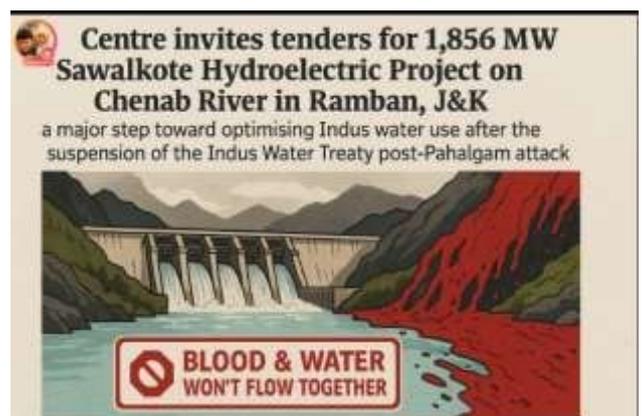
- Suru Summer Festival is organized for the first time
- on 26th August 2025
- at Thulus Spang, Suru Valley, Kargil, Ladakh.
- organized by the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh, in collaboration with LAHDC Kargil and District Administration Kargil
- to celebrate the breathtaking beauty, adventure sports potential, and cultural richness of the Suru Valley.
- The valley has been recognized by National Geographic as one of the 25 best places in the world to visit in 2025.



J&K

Sawalkote hydropower project

- Months after India put the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) on hold, it is now moving to revive a long-stalled Sawalkote hydropower project on the Chenab — first envisioned six decades ago but held back by the very treaty with Pakistan.
- It is a 2,185 megawatt (MW) run-of-the-river hydroelectric plant proposed on the Chenab River in the Ramban District of Jammu and Kashmir.
- It will be the largest hydroelectric project in the Union Territory and one of the biggest in North India.



- The project was **first conceptualised in the 1980s**.
- It is expected to generate over 7,000 million units of electricity annually.
- The project, **to be executed by** National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Ltd in **collaboration with** Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Limited (JKSPDC), is **estimated to cost ₹22,704 crore**.
- The project would feature a **192.5-metre concrete gravity dam**.
- By regulating the flow of the Chenab River, the Sawalkote project could contribute to flood mitigation downstream, while also ensuring better water management for agriculture and domestic use

Indus Waters Treaty

- The IWT was **signed in 1960** between India and Pakistan, with the World Bank acting as a mediator.
- The treaty outlines water usage rights over **six rivers of the Indus River System**, categorizing them into Eastern and Western rivers.
- The **Eastern rivers—Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej**—are allocated for **India’s exclusive and unrestricted use**.
- The **Western rivers—Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab**—are allocated **primarily to Pakistan**.
- The treaty gives Pakistan access to about 70% of the water, while India retains around 30%.

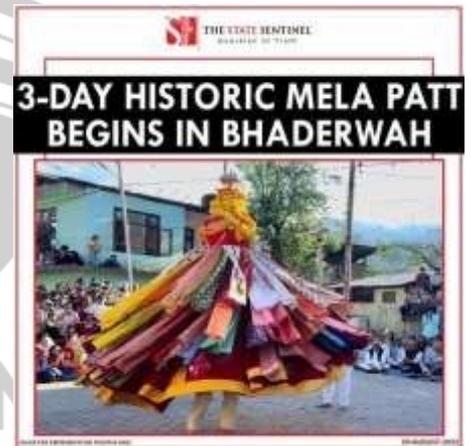
PM Modi Flags Off Amritsar–Katra Vande Bharat Train to Boost Devotee Travel, Local Economy

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off Amritsar – Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Vande Bharat Train.
- Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha expressed deep gratitude to the Prime Minister for the Amritsar–Katra connection



J&K: Annual Mela Patt Festival Begins in Baderwah

- In Jammu and Kashmir, the **annual three-day Mela Patt**, dedicated to **Lord Vasuki Nag**, the **presiding deity of Baderwah Valley**, commenced at the **ancient Khakhal Mohalla in Baderwah town in Doda district**.
- The **festival, rooted in the Nag culture**, marks the historic meeting **between Mughal Emperor Akbar and King Nag Pal of Baderwah**.
- The festival is being **celebrated since the 16th century**.
- It is **observed every year on Nag Panchami**, seven days after the **conclusion of the Kailash Yatra**
- Festivities include the **Jhari procession**, where a metallic "Jhari" is carried through the town to the Vasuki Nag Temple
- The iconic **“Patt” display**—a decorated, **conical arrangement of silk cloths** and floral embellishments—is carried in procession
- The unique **‘Dikko Dance,’** a traditional folk performance where men and women of all religions and backgrounds participate, serves as a symbol of peace, pride, and communal harmony.



Element	Details
When	Annually on Nag Panchami , lasting 3 days
Where	Khakhal Mohalla , Baderwah, Doda district
Significance	Commemorates divine episode between Raja Nag Pal & Akbar
Key Rituals	Jhari procession, Patt display, Dikko/Dhakku dance
Highlight Feature	Dikko Dance —symbol of peace & communal harmony
Legacy	Celebrated for over 600 years—free from conflict

Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta launches 'Delhi Ko Koode Se Azadi' campaign to clean every street, market



SHORT NEWS

- Delhi Assembly Becomes India's First Legislature to Run Entirely on Solar Power
- Mrs. S. Radha Chauhan assumes charge as Chairperson, Capacity Building Commission

Delhi PWD Minister unveils 'Government on Wheels' campaign for on-site solutions

- Public Works Department (PWD) launched the campaign of the Delhi government by undertaking a 47-km-long inspection of the Outer Ring Road on a bus to understand the ground realities faced by commuters.
- The initiative aims at shifting from closed-door reviews to on-site problem-solving.
- The Delhi government has launched this new concept – bringing all departments together in one bus, on one road, at one time

Annpurna Devi inaugurated Second Edition of UN Women's 'SheLeads II' Programme in New Delhi

- Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Annpurna Devi, inaugurated the second edition of UN Women's flagship capacity-building programme – SheLeads II in New Delhi.
- SheLeads is a flagship initiative of UN Women India Country Office, aimed to advance gender equality in public and political leadership, aiming to support women leaders in contesting the upcoming/next Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections.

Haryana

Haryana CM launches 11-week 'Swachh Kurukshetra' mission to make city cleanest, most beautiful in country

- To make this sacred land clean, an 11-week 'Swachh Kurukshetra – Mera Kurukshetra, Mera Abhimaan' mission has been launched.
- From August 24 to November 7.
- under the 'Haryana Shehr Swachhta Abhiyan – 2025' a mass movement will be launched to make every street and corner of Kurukshetra clean.

Matri Van Initiative

- Union Ministers of Environment launched the 'Matri Van' Initiative in Gurugram, under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign.
- 'Matri Van' is a theme-based urban forest project spanning 750 acres in the Aravalli Hills, being developed in Gurugram, Haryana.
- **Aim:** To foster urban ecological restoration, community-driven tree plantation, biodiversity conservation, and revive the degraded Aravalli landscape.

Haryana Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution to honor Guru Tegh Bahadur on his 350th martyrdom anniversary

- The Haryana Legislative Assembly unanimously announced plans for a major event in Kurukshetra on 25 November, featuring religious processions.
- Ninth Guru of Sikhism (1621–1675), remembered as Hind Di Chadar (Protector of India).



Early Life and Education

- Born on April 1, 1621, in Amritsar, youngest son of Guru Hargobind Ji.
- Trained in martial skills, scriptures, music, and meditation from a young age.
- Founded several towns including Anandpur Sahib, which later became a Sikh spiritual and military centre.

- **Strengthened Sikh institutions** and spread teachings through hymns later included in the **Guru Granth Sahib**
- **Opposed the Mughal policy of forced conversions of Kashmiri Pandits.**
- He made the supreme **sacrifice in November 1675 at Chandni Chowk, Delhi.**

Haryana Defines Forests

- The Haryana government issued a formal definition of forest in August 2025.
- This move follows directives from the Supreme Court of India, which required all states to clarify forest boundaries and conduct surveys.

SC Directive on Forest Definition

- Recently, the Supreme Court mandated all states and Union Territories to define forest clearly.
- The court asked for expert committees to map forest areas using GIS-based tools.
- These mappings must include forest-like areas, unclassified forests, community forests, and eco-sensitive zones.

Haryana's Official Forest Definition

- As per Haryana's Environment, Forest and Wildlife Department - **"A patch of land shall be deemed to be 'forest as per dictionary meaning' if it fulfils following conditions:**
- It has a **minimum area of five hectares**, if it is in isolation, and a **minimum area of two hectares**, if it is in contiguity with the government notified forests; and
- It has a **canopy density of 0.4 (40%) or more"**.
- The notification further specifies that **"all linear/compact/agro-forestry plantations and orchards situated outside the government notified forests shall not be treated as forests under the above definition"**.



Puducherry

'NAKSHA' project for urban land survey launched in Puducherry

- **NAKSHA** (NAtional geospatial Knowledge-based land Survey of urban HABitations)
- Union Minister of Rural Development and Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare **Shivraj Singh Chouhan had inaugurated NAKSHA programme at Raisen, Madhya Pradesh in Feb, 2025**
- It is a **pioneering one-year pilot programme** launched by the **Department of Land Resources (DoLR)** under the **Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)**.
- The initiative **utilises advanced technologies** such as aerial mapping and drones **to create highly accurate digital land records**, replacing the traditional method.



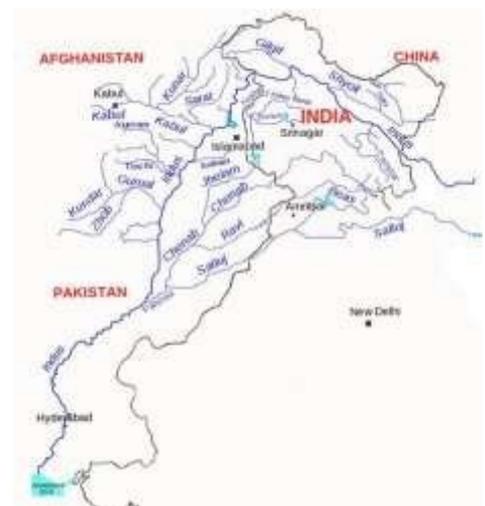
Himanchal Pradesh

Ravi River

- Recently, floodwaters from the **Ravi River submerged the Kartarpur Corridor complex in Pakistan's Narowal district**, including **Gurdwara Darbar Sahib**, stranding over 100 people and forcing large-scale evacuations.
- **One of the three eastern rivers of the Indus basin allocated to India under the Indus Waters Treaty (1960).**

Source & Course

- **Origin: Near Bara Bhangal, in the Chamba region (Himachal Pradesh).**



- Flows through India Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, J&K
- Forms a short India–Pakistan boundary stretch, enters Pakistan near Narowal, passes Shahdara (Lahore), and finally joins the Chenab near Ahmadpur Sial.

Tributaries

- **Right bank:** Budhil, Baira, Siul.
- **Left bank:** Ujh (J&K), Basantar, Sewa.

Key Infrastructure (India)

Ranjit Sagar (Thein) Dam – hydropower + irrigation.

Uttarakhand

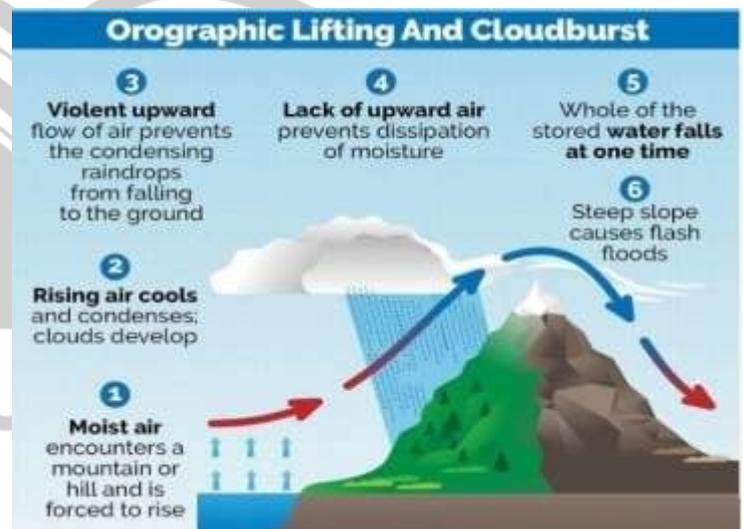
Devastating Flash Flood in Uttarkashi's Dharali Village after Cloudburst

- A devastating cloudburst in **Uttarkashi's Dharali region** triggered flash floods and landslides, killing at least four people and sweeping away homes.
- A cloudburst is defined by the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** as rainfall exceeding **100 mm/hour over a small area (20–30 sq km)**.
- A **2023 IIT Jammu & NIH study** redefined it as **100–250 mm/hour over just 1 sq km**, making it **one of the most localized and intense weather events**.
- These events are **often associated with cumulonimbus clouds (thunder clouds)** in mountainous regions, caused by **orographic lift** that rapidly accumulate moisture before collapsing violently.



Why Are Hilly Areas More Prone?

- **Topography:** Steep slopes accelerate water runoff and debris flow.
- **Orographic lifting:** Moist monsoon air is rapidly lifted over hills, intensifying precipitation.
- **Rocky terrain:** Poor water absorption causes rapid accumulation on surface.
- **Altitude (1,000–2,000m):** High vulnerability zone due to dense valley populations and fragile ecosystems.



Hazards of Cloudbursts:

- **Flash Floods:** Intense rainfall overwhelms streams and drains, causing sudden flooding that devastates homes, farms, and public infrastructure.
- **Landslides:** Saturated soil on steep slopes leads to slope failures, blocking roads and burying settlements under debris.
- **Mudflows and Debris Slides:** Rainwater mixes with soil and rocks to form high-speed flows that destroy everything in their path.

About Uttarkashi District:

- Uttarkashi is a **northern Himalayan district** in Uttarakhand and part of the Garhwal division, created on **February 24, 1960**.
- Nicknamed "Kashi of the North", Uttarkashi shares spiritual similarities with **Varanasi**, lying between the rivers **Varuna (Syalam Gad)** and **Asi (Kaligad)**.
- Uttarkashi district, Uttarakhand — a region **known as the "Water Tower of India"**



Vishnugad Pipalkoti Hydro Electric Project

NEWS: Twelve workers were injured, four of them critically, in a sudden landslide that struck the dam site

- It is **located on Alaknanda River**, a major **tributary of the Ganga River**, in the district Chamoli in the state of Uttarakhand.
- It is **being developed by THDC India Ltd** (formerly Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited) and financed by a US\$ 648 million loan from the World Bank.
- **THDC is a joint venture between the government of India and the government of Uttar Pradesh.**



25,807 cases registered under 'Operation Safe Campus Zone' in Andhra Pradesh

- 'Operation Safe Campus Zone' aims at **preventing the sale of cigarettes and illicit drugs within 100 yards of educational institutions.**
- The **Elite Anti-Narcotics Group for Law Enforcement (EAGLE)**, in association with the law and order police of various districts, conducts raids on shops near educational institutions

Uttarakhand Assembly clears Amendments to UCC and Anti-Conversion Bills, New Minority Education Law

- **UCC Amendment Bill, 2025** extended **marriage registration period** from six months **to one year** and **raised penalties for illegal live-in relationships.**
- **Anti-Conversion Bill, 2025** increased punishment for **forced conversions** from **10 years to life imprisonment** in extreme cases.
- **Minority Education Bill, 2025** mandated **all minority educational institutions**, including **madrasas**, to seek **affiliation with the Uttarakhand Education Board by July 2026** and reapply for **minority status recognition.**

Uniform Civil Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025:

- The amendment to **Section 380(2)** says a **married person entering a live-in relationship** can be punished with **jail term of up to seven years and fine.**
- also **amended sub-sections of Section 387** which now says **getting into a relationship by force, pressure or fraud** will attract **imprisonment of up to seven years and fine.**
- The **time limit for marriage registration**, which needed to be done in six months, was **extended to one year.**
- Under **Section 390-A**, the **Registrar-General will have the power to cancel** any registration related to marriage, divorce, live-in relationship or inheritance.

Uttarakhand Minority Education Bill, 2025:

- Establishes **Uttarakhand State Authority for Minority Education (USAME)** replacing the **Madrassa Education Board.**
- USAME will have **12 members**, including academicians from six minority communities, a retired civil servant, and ex-officio education officials.
- Institutions must:
 - Affiliate with the **State Education Board.**
 - Be run by a **society/trust/non-profit.**
 - Admit **15% non-minority students.**
 - Appoint teachers as per Board qualifications.
 - Avoid **religious coercion** of students or staff.
- **Recognition valid for three academic sessions**, renewable upon compliance.
- The **government retains overriding powers** to modify or cancel USAME's decisions.
- All **452 madrasas** previously recognised need fresh recognition

Freedom of Religion and Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion (Amendment) Bill, 2025:

- Allows jail sentences ranging from **3 years to life term** for persons found guilty of "**forced conversions**".
- Previously, the maximum jail term for a "**forced conversion**" was 10 years.
- Accused can also be booked for "**false promises of marriage**" under the Bill.

- **Hiding one’s religion** with the intention of marriage will attract **imprisonment of three to 10 years**, and a fine of ₹3 lakh
- **Human trafficking and making threats to life** attract sentences ranging from **20 years to life term** under the 2025 Bill.

Punjab

Punjab Becomes First State to Empanel Sign Language Experts Under Juvenile Justice Act

- Punjab has become the first state in India to empanel **sign language interpreters, translators, and special educators** under the **Juvenile Justice Act, 2015** to ensure justice for children with hearing and speech impairments.
- These experts will be deployed district-wise to provide support services to children in need.
- The move is also **aligned with** the provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (**POCSO Act, 2012**).
- Under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, a **"juvenile" or "child"** is defined as any person who has **not completed the age of 18 years** on the date of the commission of an offence or the date of the incident

First state in the country: Punjab adds interpreters to juvenile justice system

Aims to ensure inclusive, accessible, sensitive justice for children with speech and hearing disabilities



Punjab Launches ‘Baaj Akh’ Anti-Drone System to Curb Cross-Border Drug Smuggling

- To check the supply of drugs from across the border, Punjab has launched a **new Anti-Drone System (ADS) named ‘Baaj Akh’** from the border district of **Tarn Taran**.
- **Three such ADS have been launched and six more will be launched soon** to curb the smuggling of drugs through drones from across the border.
- This system will immediately neutralize those drones that try to enter in the state from other side of the border.
- The system **will be deployed along the border from Pathankot to Fazilka as a second line of defense**.
- This will be made functional in coordination with the BSF

Sukhna Lake (places in NEWS)

- It is an **artificial lake** located in the city of **Chandigarh** at the **foothills of the Shivalik hills, created in 1958**.
- The lake is declared **National Wetland by the Government of India**.
- The lake is also a **part of the Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- Sukhna Lake has the **longest channel for rowing and yachting events in Asia**.



Uttar Pradesh

UP Cabinet Approves Atal Bihari Vajpayee-Chevening Scholarship for Higher Education in UK

- Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has approved the **“Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee-Chevening Uttar Pradesh State Government Scholarship Scheme.”**
- **5 outstanding students** from Uttar Pradesh will be awarded scholarships each year to pursue a **one-year master’s degree** at a reputed **UK university**
- The scheme will be launched from the academic year 2025-26 and will remain **in effect for three years-2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28**.
- The scholarship will be implemented through a joint **collaboration between the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)**.

- The scholarship package will cover tuition fees, examination and research expenses, a generous monthly living allowance, and round-trip economy class airfare
- The **state government will contribute approximately around 23 lakh rupees per student**, while the remaining amount will be borne by UK's FCDO.

Indian Railways Commissions First Removable Solar Panel System Between Tracks at BLW, Varanasi

Indian Railways has commissioned the **country's first removable solar panel system** installed **between railway tracks**.

What it is?

- A **70-metre-long solar installation** with **28 removable panels** generating **15 KWp power**.
- Placed **between railway tracks**, ensuring efficient use of space.

Launched on: August 2025 at **Banaras Locomotive Works, Varanasi** by the Ministry of Railways.



Objective:

- Promote **green and sustainable rail transport**.
- **Generate clean energy using underutilised track space**.
- Reduce dependence on fossil fuels and cut **carbon footprint**.

Features:

- **Removable design** → panels can be lifted for maintenance or emergencies.
- **Compact installation** → no need for large **land acquisition**.
- **15 KWp capacity** → supports auxiliary power needs at railway units.
- **Pilot project** → model for replication across India.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has officially approved the renaming of **Jalalabad town** in **Shahjahanpur district, Uttar Pradesh, to Parashurampuri**. The State government had told the Centre that Jalalabad is known as the birthplace of Parashuram



India's first urban public transport ropeway under trial runs in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

- **Trial run of the country's first urban ropeway in Varanasi** will continue for three months
- The **₹807 crore project** aims to improve urban transport and **reduce traffic congestion** in the city.
- The **ropeway will cover a distance of 3.75 km**, linking **Banaras Cantt Railway Station with Godowlia Chowk**.
- The project is expected to **cut travel time from 45-50 minutes to just 15 minutes**
- Three stations—Cantt, Vidyapeeth, and Rathyatra—are already constructed



Banke Bihari Temple row: Supreme Court sets up 14-member panel to oversee functioning

- **Shri Banke Bihari Ji Temple in Vrindavan, Mathura (U.P.)** is one of the most visited Krishna temples in India.
- It is **traditionally managed by Goswami priests/sevayats** (descendants of the original founders).
- Over the years, **issues came up regarding Mismanagement** of temple funds, **Poor facilities** for lakhs of pilgrims, **Internal disputes** among Goswami groups about control.



- The **UP government** brought an **ordinance (2025)** to take over administration by creating a **Temple Trust** - This was **opposed by the Goswamis**
- The **SC** found the UP govt acted in **“haste”** and **stayed the ordinance** (i.e., put it on hold).
- To ensure devotees don't suffer from mismanagement in the meantime, the SC on **8 Aug 2025** set up a **14-member interim panel headed by retired Allahabad HC judge Justice Ashok Kumar**.
- In this temple, the principal deity stands in the 'tribhanga' posture, which is tilted at three angles (got the name “Banke”).
- It was **established by Swami Haridas**, a guru of the famous singer Tansen.
- The present temple complex was constructed in 1864.
- Architecture of the temple is influenced by the Rajasthani style.
- One unique feature of the Banke Bihari temple is that there are no bells on the premises.
- In the freedom struggle, this temple was the main center of revolutionary activities; from here, the revolutionary newspaper **“Bundelkhand Kesari”** was published secretly.

17th BioFach India to Begin in Greater Noida with Focus on Organic Growth

- **17th edition** of the event, happening **30 Aug – 1 Sep 2025** at the India Expo Centre & Mart, **Greater Noida**.
- Over 27 Farmer Producer Organization (FPOs) from the North Eastern Region will showcase their wide range of products
- **Jointly organized by:**
 - **NürnbergMesse India Pvt. Ltd.**, and
 - **The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**, under the aegis of the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**.
- The scheme provides end-to-end support to farmers engaged in organic cultivation, focusing on production, processing, certification, and marketing.



Madhya Pradesh

Sahariya Tribe

NEWS: A remarkable genetic study conducted by researchers revealed a **possible genetic link associated with the unusually high rate of tuberculosis (TB) in the Sahariya tribe** of central India.

- Recent research indicates that the **IRGM1 gene and rare mitochondrial haplogroups N5 and X2** play a significant role. The overall vulnerability results from a complex interaction between genetic, socioeconomic, and environmental factors
- It is one of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (**PVTG**) and is among the **most disadvantaged and vulnerable population** groups in the country.
- **Six-lakh population (Census 2011)** is mainly spread across **Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh**
- The Sahariya community is also called by the names **Seher, Sair, Savar, Saonar, Sahra**, etc.
- The Sahariyas mostly live in a **separate area in the village**, which is called **‘Seharana’**.
- They are known for their dance, the **Saharia Swang**, which is performed **during the month of Holi**.
- The dance is performed to the beats of the dhol, nagari, and matki.
- It features a male dressed in female attire who dances around the male performers.

Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh Emerges as Major Ni–Cu–PGE Mineral Belt with Breakthrough Discovery in Mahasamund

- A potential **Nickel–Copper–Platinum Group Elements (Ni–Cu–PGE)** mineral zone has been discovered in the Bhalukona–Jamnidih block, Chhattisgarh, marking a breakthrough in India's strategic mineral exploration.
- **Location:** Located in **Mahasamund district, Chhattisgarh**, 70 km from Raipur,



Bihar

Rahul Gandhi launched 'Vote Adhikar Yatra' in Bihar on August 17

- Senior Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi began his 16-day-long 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' from Sasaram in poll-bound Bihar.
- The Yatra will cover 1,300 kilometres



Bihar CM announces doubling of honorariums for cooks, physical education instructors in schools

- Chief Minister of Bihar, Nitish Kumar, declared a significant hike in the honorarium for several categories of support staff in government schools:
- Cooks employed under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) saw their monthly payment increase from Rs 1,650 to Rs 3,300,
- Night watchmen deployed in secondary and higher secondary schools have seen a monthly honorarium increase from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000.
- Similarly, physical education and health instructors' monthly honorarium increased from Rs 8,000 to Rs 16,000

Union Minister Amit Shah & Bihar CM Nitish Kumar to lay foundation stone of temple dedicated to Goddess Sita at Punaura Dham, Bihar

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of Maa Janaki Mandir at Punaura Dham in Bihar's Sitamarhi district, believed to be the birthplace of Goddess Sita.
- The Bihar Cabinet had on July 1, 2025 sanctioned ₹882.87 crore for the integrated development of the temple complex.
- The temple will be spread over in 67 acres of land.



Bihar Cabinet Cuts BPSC Preliminary Exam Fee to ₹100, Waives Fee for Main Exams

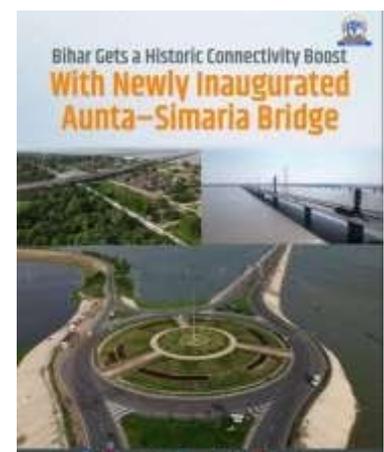
- The Bihar Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, has approved a major reduction in examination fees for job aspirants across the state.
- Preliminary (PT) exam fee will be slashed to ₹100.
- The fee for main examinations has been completely waived.
- This change applies to multiple recruiting bodies, including BPSC, BSSC, BTSC, BPSSC, and the Central Constable Selection Board, among others

Bihar Cabinet to celebrate birth anniversary of late Upendra Nath Verma as "state function"

- The Cabinet has decided to celebrate the birth anniversary of late Upendra Nath Verma, educationist, social reformer, social worker, as "state function" every year on August 23 at a place where his statue has been installed in Gayaji town.
- Also, the State Teacher Award prize money doubled from Rs 15,000 to Rs 30,000 from FY 2025–26

PM Modi inaugurates Aunta-Simaria Bridge in Bihar

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 8.15 km Aunta-Simaria bridge project on NH-31, featuring a 1.86 km six-lane bridge over the river Ganga, built at a cost of over ₹1,870 crore.
- Constructed alongside the nearly seven-decade-old Rajendra Setu, the bridge provides direct connectivity between Mokama in Patna district and Begusarai, reducing travel distance for heavy vehicles by up to 100 km.
- The Aunta-Simaria Bridge is 1.86 km long and has six lanes
- It is part of an 8.15 km stretch on National Highway 31



West Bengal

West Bengal Launches 'Shramshree' Scheme for Returning Migrant Workers

- Mamata Banerjee has launched a new rehabilitation initiative, the "Shramshree" scheme
- Aimed at Bengali migrant workers returning to the state after alleged harassment and discrimination in other states for speaking Bengali.
- Under the Shramshree scheme, each returning worker will receive **₹5,000 per month for a year or until they secure new employment in Bengal.**



Odisha

Odisha and Chhattisgarh expressed willingness to resolve Mahanadi water dispute amicably

- **Mahanadi River originates in Chhattisgarh** and flows into **Odisha**, finally draining into the Bay of Bengal.
- About **53% of its catchment lies in Chhattisgarh** and **nearly 47% in Odisha.**
- The dispute arose when **Odisha accused Chhattisgarh of constructing barrages** and dams in the upstream areas without consultation, which **reduced water flow into Odisha** — especially during lean (non-monsoon) months - **Impact on Hirakud Dam (Odisha)**
- Odisha moved the **Supreme Court in 2016**, alleging violation of interstate water-sharing norms.
- The SC referred the matter to a **Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal in 2018** under the **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956.**

Constitutional Provisions related to interstate water dispute

- **Article 262** empowers Parliament to adjudicate such disputes.
- **Inter State River Water Disputes Act, 1956** empowers the Central Government to constitute water dispute tribunals.
- **River Boards Act, 1956** provides for the establishment of River Boards to advise on interstate river development.

Mahanadi River

- It is one of the **major east-flowing peninsular rivers** located in the states of Chhattisgarh and Odisha.
- It ranks **second to the Godavari River** among the peninsular rivers in respect of **water potential.**
- **Origin:** The river originates from the **Sihawa range of hills in the Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh.**
- It then flows in the eastward direction, cutting a ravine in the Eastern Ghat.
- Enters the plains of Odisha near Cuttack and forms a delta.
- **Joins the Bay of Bengal at False Point** through several channels **near the major seaport town of Paradip,**
- The **Mahanadi basin** extends over the states of **Chhattisgarh and Odisha** and comparatively **smaller portions of Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh,** draining an area of 1,41,589 sq.km., which is **nearly 4.3% of the total geographical area of the country.**
- It passes through several major cities and towns, including Raipur, Sambalpur, and Cuttack.
- It is considered to be one of the most active silt-depositing streams in India.
- **Tributaries:** Its main tributaries are Seonath, Jonk, Hasdeo, Mand, Ib, Ong, and Tel.
- **Hirakud Dam:** The Hirakud Dam, the **world's longest earthen dam (26 km),** is constructed across the Mahanadi River, about 15 km from Sambalpur in Odisha.
- The dam is used for irrigation, flood control, and power generation.
- **Chilika Lake:** a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, **gets 61% of its inland flow from the Mahanadi River system,** mainly from its distributaries – **Daya and Bhargabi**

Assam

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma launches 'mukhya mantrir nijut Moina 2.0' in Guwahati- to boost girls' higher education

- Nijut Moina, a flagship initiative of the Assam government, aims to empower girl students by **providing financial support to reduce school dropout rates and promote higher education.**



- Girls from all families, irrespective of their economic condition are eligible for this scheme.
- As a part of the scheme, monthly financial assistance for girl students **from HS to PG level in government and government aided educational institutions** will be given.
- A student in **HS First year will be entitled to Rs. 10 thousand** that is Rs. 1 thousand every month for 10 months.
- A student at **graduate level will be entitled to Rs. 12,500** that is Rs. 1250 for every month and **PG level student** will be entitled to **25,000** that is Rs. 2500 for every month for 10 months in a year.

Exercise Samanvay Shakti 2025

- Inaugurated at **Laipuli, in Tinsukia district of Assam**.
- 10 days exercise is initiated **by Indian Army** collaboration **with state officials of Assam & Manipur** to foster efficient cooperation, cohesion and mutual understanding.
- It is a **military-civil Integration exercise** aimed at fostering synergy between **security forces, government departments and civil institutions** to address the region's complex challenges through a unified and coordinated approach.
- The inaugural session witnessed participation from the Indian Army, Indian Air Force, District Administration, Police, Intelligence Agencies, NDRF, SDRF, Medical Officials, BRO & GREF, Railways, educational institutions and security officials from OIL India, IOCL and Coal India .



Parthenium Free Pobitora

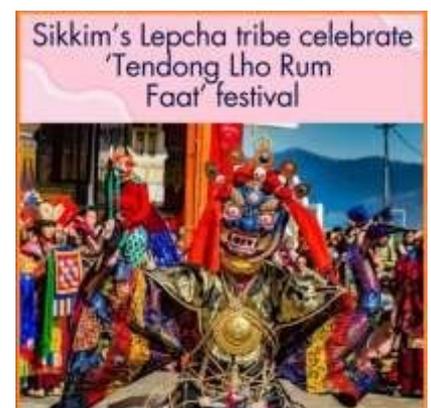
- As a part of a **three-day campaign of Parthenium Free Pobitora**, about **5.2 hectares of the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam's Morigaon district**
- **Parthenium hysterophorus L.**, commonly known as **carrot weed, white top, or congress grass in India**,
- is an herbaceous, erect, and annual plant belonging to the family Asteraceae (compositae).
- It is a **poisonous, pernicious, problematic, allergic, and aggressive weed** posing a serious threat to human beings and livestock.
- In India, this weed has been considered as one of the greatest sources of dermatitis, asthma, nasal-dermal and nasal-bronchial types of diseases.
- It is most popularly known as **gajar ghas** due to its appearance like a carrot plant.
- The origin of parthenium is considered to be from **Mexico, America, Trinidad, and Argentina**.
- After the noticeable occurrence of parthenium **in Pune (Maharashtra) in 1955**, it has spread like a wildfire throughout India.
- At present parthenium has **invaded about 35 million hectares of land in India**.
- A single plant can produce about 5000 – 25000 seeds. The seeds are very small in size and light in weight.



Sikkim

Sikkim: Tendong Lho Rum Faat, the traditional nature-worshipping festival of the primitive Lepcha tribe

- Sikkim recently celebrated Tendong Lho Rum Faat, the traditional nature-worshipping festival of Lepcha Tribe
- They are an indigenous people of eastern Nepal, western Bhutan, Sikkim state, and the Darjeeling district of West Bengal.
- They are classified as a **Scheduled Tribe in the state of Sikkim**.
- The **Lepchas call themselves 'Rongs' or 'Rongkups'**.
- They **occupy the southern and eastern slopes of Mt. Kanchenjunga** (world's third highest mountain).



- They are a vanishing tribe with a dwindling population. Lepcha has an estimated population of around 42,909 individuals at the time of the Indian Census 2011.
- **Livelihood:** Traditionally hunters and gatherers, the Lepchā now also engage in farming and cattle breeding.
- **Religion and Beliefs:** Originally, Lepchas were nature worshipers and had belief in witch-craftship and spirits. But in due course they embarrassed Buddhism.
- The community would traditionally have worshiped Mt. Kanchenjunga, which they regard as their guardian deity.

Sikkim becomes 1st state to launch Sabbatical Leave scheme for govt staff

- Sikkim as the first state in the country to introduce a formal Sabbatical Leave scheme, the government has empowered its workforce, especially the youth, with a rare **opportunity for personal and professional growth.**
- **Introduced in August 2023, the policy allows regular state government employees who have completed at least five years of continuous service to avail of leave from 365 days up to a maximum of 1,080 days while receiving 50% of their basic pay during their absence.**
- The scheme preserves their seniority, ensuring continuity in service, and the **government retains the right to recall the employee with one month's notice.**
- Recognising the value of extended leave for temporary staff, the policy was expanded to include them as well.
- **Temporary employees become eligible after six months of continuous service,** with the same structural provisions in place.
- Further enhancing the scheme's effectiveness, in April this year, the government delegated approval authority.
- **Heads of Departments can now grant Sabbatical Leave to Group C and D employees including temporary staff,** while Group A and B employees must seek approval from the Secretary of the Personnel Department.



Sikkim CM launches 'Nari Adalat' on occasion of 1st Amma Samman Diwas

- **August 10** has been declared as **Aama Samman Diwas** - a yearly tribute to mothers across the state.
- Sikkim Chief Minister **Prem Singh Tamang** launched **'Nari Adalat'** on the occasion of the **first Amma Samman Diwas at Rongpo.**
- **'Nari Adalat'** is a **community-based forum run by women** to provide **accessible and informal justice,** without having to depend entirely on the formal court system, especially in rural and semi-urban areas of Sikkim.

Arunachal Pradesh

ISRO Inaugurates Space Laboratory in Remote Arunachal Pradesh District

- Inaugurated by Arunachal Pradesh Education Minister Pasang Dorjee Sona at remote **Mechuka in Shi-Yomi district.**
- The facility has been named **Pasang Wangchuk Sona Isro Space Laboratory**
- The lab at Mechuka Government Higher Secondary School, established in **collaboration between the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) and Muskaan Foundation.**
- Aims to provide students with hands-on experience in space science and technology, fostering curiosity, innovation, and scientific thinking among the youth



Mountaineer from Arunachal Kabak Yano scales Mount Kilimanjaro successfully

- **Fifth woman to do so from Arunachal Pradesh**



- Towering at 5,895 meters above sea level, **Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania is the tallest peak on the African continent.**
- It is also the **highest free-standing mountain in the world**

Kalai-II Hydroelectric Project

NEWS: The Arunachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board (APSPCB) recently conducted a public hearing for environmental clearance for the proposed 1,200 MW Kalai-II hydroelectric project

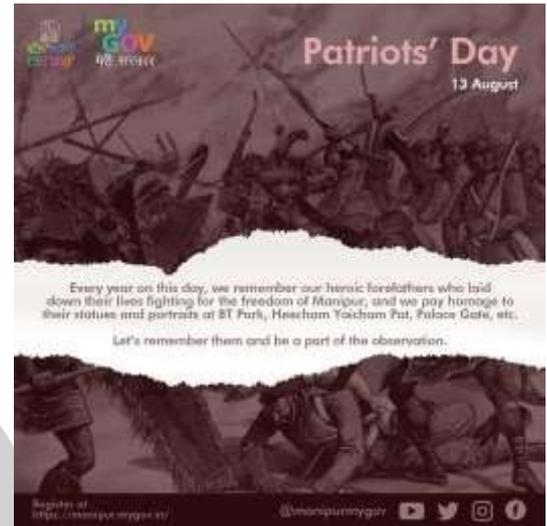
- It is a 1,200 MW hydropower project planned on the Lohit River (a tributary of the Brahmaputra River) in the Anjaw District of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The project is **being developed** and currently owned by **THDC India Limited** (formerly Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited).



Manipur

13 August Manipur observes Patriots' Day

- Manipur observed the Patriots' Day remembering those martyrs **who laid down their lives during the Anglo-Manipuri War, in 1891.**
- Floral tributes to last rites memorial sites of **Yubaraj Tikendrajit and Thangal General** who were **hanged to death by the Britisher on August, 13, 1891.**



Indian Air Force and Assam Rifles Launch 'Operation Sahyog' to Aid Landslide-Hit Villages in Manipur

- Assam Rifles in close coordination with the Indian Air Force, successfully conducted a **joint ration distribution drive for 18 villages** in Henglep Sub-Division in Churachandpur District of Manipur.
- These villages remained cut off since 17 July 2025, **following multiple landslides along NH-2.**

Mizoram

Mizoram Assembly passes Bill to prohibit beggary

- The Mizoram Assembly passed the **'Mizoram Prohibition of Beggary Bill, 2025**
- Its objective is **not only to prohibit begging**, but also to **assist and rehabilitate beggars** by offering sustainable livelihood options.



Rajasthan

India's First Drone-AI Powered Artificial Rain Experiment Launched in Jaipur

- Rajasthan carried out India's first drone-based artificial rain experiment, **replacing aeroplanes with unmanned aerial vehicles for cloud seeding.**

What is Artificial Rain?

- Artificial rain, also known as **cloud seeding**, is a **weather modification technique** aimed at enhancing precipitation (**generate artificial rain**) from clouds.
- **Method:** Uses chemicals like **silver iodide, potassium iodide, and dry ice**, which are dispersed into the sky via aeroplanes and helicopters.
- These **chemicals** attract water vapour (**acting as nuclei**), helping form rain clouds.
- **Types:** **Hygroscopic Cloud Seeding** (accelerates the merging of droplets in liquid clouds) and **Glaciogenic Cloud Seeding** (induces ice formation in super cooled clouds).



Gugga Naumi

- A vibrant folk religious festival celebrated in northern India
- The festival honours Gugga Pir, a folk deity believed to have the power to protect against snakebites.
- Gugga Naumi falls on the ninth day of Krishna Paksha in the Bhadrapad month of the Hindu lunar calendar.
- The village of Gugga Medi in Hanumangarh district, Rajasthan, serves as a major pilgrimage centre.
- Gugga Pir, also known as Guga Ji or Guggapir, was a Rajput prince from the Chauhan clan.
- He is depicted riding a blue horse and carrying blue and yellow flags.
- Gugga is believed to possess divine powers to control poisonous snakes.
- Mothers pray to him for the health of their children, and barren women seek blessings for offspring. His worship reflects deep-rooted folk beliefs in protection, healing, and fertility.



Operation Sanskar

- 'Operation Sanskar', roughly translated 'Operation Values', is the Dungarpur(Rajasthan) Police's newest initiative to counter an increase in "glorification" of criminal activities on social media.
- Launched in July, the operation is aimed at reducing crimes by these local "street" gangs, allegedly composed of young men aged between 18 and 24.
- Offenders were made to record apology videos, which were then shared on the same platforms where they boasted about their crime



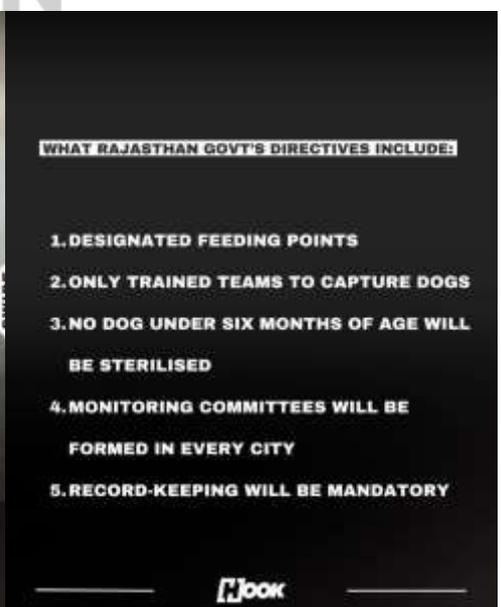
India's 1st phytosaur fossil unearthed from Jaisalmer Village

- Researchers in India have discovered the fossilised remains of a rare crocodile-like species from the Jurassic era in the western state of Rajasthan.
- The fossil, known as a phytosaur, measures between 1.5 to two metres and is likely to be more than 200 million years old, researchers say.
- It was unearthed at Megha village in Jaisalmer district by senior hydrogeologist Dr Narayandas Inkhiya and his team, who work for the state's water department.
- The phytosaur timeline spans the Late Triassic Period, approximately 242 to 201 million years ago.
- These large, crocodile-like reptiles lived in freshwater environments and were abundant throughout the Late Triassic, with distinct groups appearing successively over time.



Rajasthan becomes first State to issue guidelines on stray dogs after Supreme Court directive

- Every ward and locality will have designated feeding zones for stray dogs, while new centres will be established for their sterilisation, vaccination and deworming.
- The instructions include the action to be taken for capture, treatment and release of dogs. The urban



local bodies are required to submit **compliance reports within 30 days.**

- The guidelines ban the use of tongs, wires or nooses to capture dogs, instead mandating **“humane handling” by trained personnel** who should either use nets or capture them by hand.
- Each dog-catching team will include a **van driver, two or more trained municipal employees,** and a representative of an **animal welfare organisation.**
- **Dogs under six months** of age **cannot be captured or sterilised,** and **lactating females** with un-weaned puppies **cannot be operated upon.**
- Sick or injured dogs can be sterilised only after treatment and recovery.
- The **NGO** recognised by the Animal Welfare Board of India will receive **₹200 for catching a stray dog** and **₹1,450 for sterilisation, feeding, and post-operative care.**
- A monitoring committee will be formed in every municipal body to review sterilisation, vaccination, and release programmes.
- Dogs suspected of **rabies or repeated biting** must be **humanely captured and isolated** in kennels under veterinary supervision until natural death.

India Launches Major OSAT Facility For Semi-Conductor in Gujarat

- Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Shri **Ashwini Vaishnaw** along with Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri **Bhupendra Patel** inaugurated one of **India’s first end-to-end Semiconductor OSAT Pilot Line Facility**
- Developed by CG Semi Private Limited, **at Sanand, Gujarat.**
- The facility is **one of India’s first full-scale Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) plants.**
- It provides **end-to-end solutions** for chip assembly, packaging, testing and post-test services, covering both traditional and advanced packaging technologies.



Haryana approves monthly aid scheme for women - Lado Lakshmi Yojana

- Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini announced that women in the state will **start receiving Rs 2,100 per month from September 25** under a new welfare scheme—Lado Lakshmi Yojana.



Feature	Details
Scheme Name	Lado Lakshmi Yojana (Deen Dayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana)
Announced On	August 28, 2025 by CM Nayab Singh Saini
Launch Date	September 25, 2025 (Deendayal Upadhyaya’s birth anniversary)
Financial Aid	₹2,100 per month per eligible woman
Target Beneficiaries	Women aged 23 years and above (married/unmarried) from families with annual income below ₹1 lakh (in first phase)
Estimated Beneficiaries	~19–20 lakh women in first rollout phase
Funding Allocation	₹5,000 crore provisioned in 2025–26 Haryana state budget
Residency Requirement	Unmarried women or husband of married women → must be Haryana domicile for 15 years
Beneficiary Limit	Up to 3 women per household can avail benefit
Exclusions	Women already receiving higher pensions under other schemes not eligible (except in cases of serious illness)
Automatic Transitions	At age 45, unmarried beneficiaries shift to Widow & Destitute Women Allowance, at age 60, to Old Age Pension Scheme

Bihar Cabinet approves Mukhya Mantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana

- **Announced by:** Chief Minister Nitish Kumar
- **Approval Date:** August 29, 2025
- **Objective:** Empower **one woman per family** across Bihar to **become self-reliant through entrepreneurship.**

Installment Type	Amount	Purpose
Initial (at start)	₹10,000	Seed funding to begin a chosen livelihood
Second (after 6 months)	Up to ₹2 lakh	Additional support based on venture assessment

- **Grant Type:** Non-repayable financial aid directly transferred to bank accounts.
 - Fund transfers to women’s bank accounts will begin **from September 2025**
- **Implementation Agencies:**
 - **Rural Areas:** Rural Development Department (RDD)
 - **Urban Areas:** Urban Development & Housing Department
- **Support Infrastructure:** Establishment of **Haat Bazaars** across villages, towns, and cities for marketing women-led products.
- **Goal:** Enhance women’s economic independence, raise household income, and curb out-of-state migration.

Delhi CM Launches ‘U-Special’ Buses for College Students

- ‘University Special’ (U-Special) bus service returned to the University of Delhi (DU) after more than 10 years.
- She inaugurated the bus service, which was closed in 2020.



Gujarat

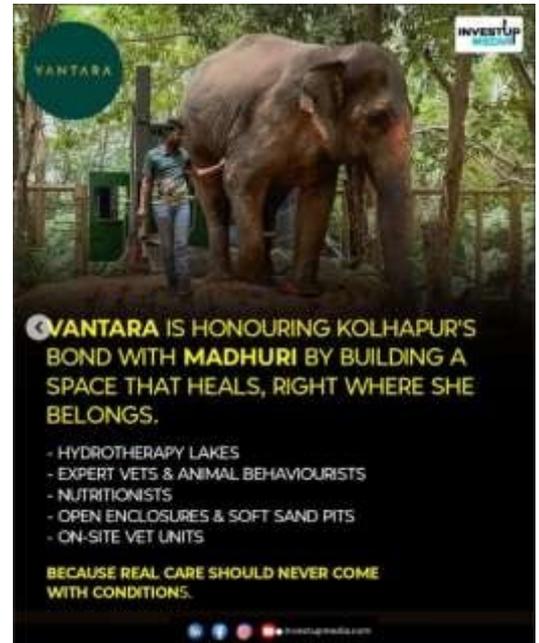
India’s First Make-in-India Green Hydrogen Plant Commissioned at Kandla

- The **Deendayal Port Authority, Kandla**, has commissioned India’s 1st Make-in-India Green Hydrogen Plant in the port sector at Kandla
- **Deendayal Port (previously called Kandla port)** is situated in the **Kandla Creek** and is **90 kms from the mouth of the Gulf Of Kachch in Gujarat.**
- It is a protected **natural harbor.**It is recognized as **one of major ports** in India.
- It was **constructed in the 1950s** as the chief seaport serving western India, after the partition of India from Pakistan left the port of Karachi in Pakistan.



Vantara offers to set up rescue centre for elephant Madhuri in Kolhapur

- Vantara will set up a rescue facility for **36-year-old elephant Madhuri**, which was relocated to its centre in Gujarat's Jamnagar last week following a court order, in the Nandani area of Maharashtra's Kolhapur for her rehabilitation.
- Vantara's statement came amid the ongoing silent marches held by the Jain community in Kolhapur protesting the relocation of the elephant, which was with the **Swastishri Jinsen Bhattarak Pattacharya Mahaswami Sansthan Mutt or Nandani Matha** for over three decades, to Jamnagar.
- **Vantara** (meaning *Star of the Forest*) is a private, non-commercial **wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centre**.
- Developed by the **Reliance Foundation**, it is led by **Anant Ambani** as a philanthropic initiative under Reliance Industries.
- **Location:** Located inside the **Jamnagar Refinery Township**, Gujarat, spanning **3,500 acres** in Motikhavdi village, Jamnagar district.
- **Inaugurated:** March 2025
- **Mission:** To provide **care, conservation, and rehabilitation** for injured, abandoned, and rescued animals.
- **First-of-its-Kind in India:** Largest privately managed facility for animal welfare and biodiversity rescue.
- **Corporate Animal Welfare Model:** Received **Prani Mitra Award** from the Animal Welfare Board of India



Prime Minister Modi virtually addresses the foundation stone laying ceremony of Sardardham Phase-II, Kanya Chhatralaya, Ahmedabad

- This initiative **aims to empower young women** by providing them with the opportunity **to pursue education and fulfill their aspirations**.
- The **new hostel facility** will accommodate **3,000 girls**, supporting their educational endeavors.



PM Modi flags off 'Made in India' battery electric vehicle 'E-Vitara' and inaugurates hybrid battery electrodes plant in Gujarat

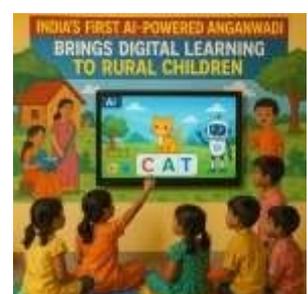
- PM Modi flagged off e-VITARA, **Maruti Suzuki's first global strategic battery electric vehicle (BEV)**, from the company's manufacturing facility in **Hansalpur, Ahmedabad**.
- The Made-in-India BEVs **will be exported to more than 100 countries**, including advanced markets such as Europe and Japan.
- **India will now serve as Suzuki's global manufacturing hub for electric vehicles**,
- PM Modi also inaugurated the **TDS Lithium-Ion Battery plant in Hansalpur**, a joint venture between **Toshiba, Denso and Suzuki**.
- The facility will manufacture hybrid battery electrodes, ensuring that over 80% of the battery value is produced within India.



Maharashtra

India's First AI-Powered Anganwadi Centre

- The **Maharashtra government inaugurated** the nation's first AI-powered Anganwadi centre in **Waddhamna village, Nagpur district**.
- This pilot project **under Mission Bal Bharari** introduces advanced digital tools to early childhood education in rural India.



Maharashtra: Govt announces insurance coverage for Govindas of Dahi Handi

- The Maharashtra government has announced **insurance coverage for 1.5 lakh Govindas** participating in the upcoming **Dahi Handi festival during Gokulashtami**.
- To ensure their safety, the **government will bear the insurance cost through The Oriental Insurance Company** at a rate of **75 rupees per participant**.
- An **amount of 1.12 crore rupees will be allocated from the Sports Development Fund** for this purpose.
- The scheme will be implemented in coordination with the Maharashtra State Dahi Handi Govinda Association and the Sports and Youth Services Department.

Maharashtra Cabinet Approves 105-Km Freight Corridor Linking Vadhavan Port to Samruddhi Expressway

- The Maharashtra cabinet has approved the construction of a 105-km express freight corridor **connecting the upcoming Vadhavan port in Palghar to the Samruddhi Expressway at Bharvir in Nashik district**.
- The high speed corridor **will reduce the travel time from five hours to just one and a half hours**.
- The connector link is crucial to support the expected increase in cargo traffic from **Vadhavan Port, which is part of the Centre's Sagarmala initiative** and is expected to become a major hub for international maritime trade.



ICRISAT's AI-based Agromet Advisory Service

- Recently, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (**ICRISAT**) and **ICAR** have **launched an AI-based context-specific Agromet Advisory Service to boost farming**.
- **to provide real-time, personalised climate advisory services to farmers** - enabling them to make informed decisions amid increasing climate variability.
- The project **will first be implemented in Maharashtra**
- Insights from this phase will inform a national rollout and serve as a model for South-South expansion.

Tesla launches first charging facility at Bandra-Kurla Complex in Mumbai

- Global EV giant **Tesla** launched its first charging facility in the country - in the **Bandra-Kurla Complex**
- it plans to set up three more such facilities, one each at Lower Parel, Thane and Navi Mumbai by the September quarter.



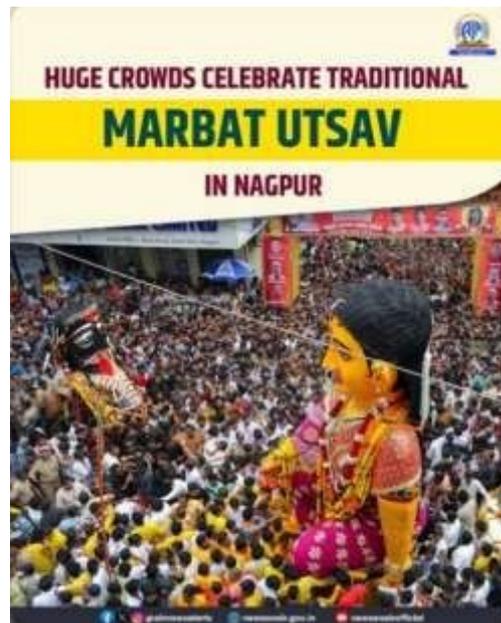
India's First Smart Intelligent Village

- The **village of Satnavri in rural Nagpur** is at the **forefront of India's rural digital transformation**. Selected under a state-backed pilot project, it **aims to become the nation's first 'Smart Intelligent Village'**.
- The initiative integrates advanced technology into daily rural life, covering agriculture, education, healthcare, governance, and finance.
- The initiative involves 15 private firms collaborating under the 'Make in India' campaign.
- Voice of Indian Communication Technology Enterprises (VOICE) leads the technology deployment.
- The village uses drone-assisted farming, smart irrigation, and soil sensors to improve productivity.
- Satnavri's gram panchayat is equipped with WiFi and digital governance tools
- Education is enhanced with AI-integrated digital books, remote learning platforms, and smart Anganwadi centres.
- The initiative involves 15 private firms collaborating under the 'Make in India' campaign.



Marbat festival of Nagpur

- Originating in the 19th century, the event was designed to ward off evil spirits through effigies known as Marbats, representing societal ills.
- The Marbat festival falls on ‘Tanha Pola’, the day after Pola when people in rural Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh express gratitude to their bulls for their contribution to their farming activities.
- Shravana Amavasya → Pola (bull-worship festival).
- On this Bhadrapada Shukla Prathama, Nagpur celebrates the Marbat Festival.
- the festival day when effigies of Kala (Black) and Pili (Yellow) Marbat were paraded and burned in Tanha Pola processions
- A Marbat is a large, colourful female effigy that is traditionally crafted for this unique festival.
- Giving company to the Marbats are smaller male effigies known as Badgyas made by various communities across the city. These small effigies also represent evils in society and carry placards of social issues.



A flood-like situation prevails across the Krishna River basin

NEWS: All 30 gates of the Basava Sagara Reservoir have been opened due to the incessant rainfall and heavy inflows from Maharashtra.

- The Basava Sagara Reservoir, also known as the Narayanpur Dam, is a large reservoir and dam on the Krishna River in the Yadgir district of Karnataka
- Krishna in south-central India is one of India’s longest rivers - 1,290 km.
- **Course:** The river rises in Maharashtra state in the Western Ghats range near the town of Mahabaleshwar
- It passes through Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh and meets the Bay of Bengal at Hamasaladeevi in Andhra Pradesh, on the east coast.
- The Krishna River Basin extends over an area of about 2,58,948 sq. km, which is nearly 8 percent of the total geographical area of the country.
- It is bounded by the Balaghat range on the north, by the Eastern Ghats on the south and the east, and by the Western Ghats on the west.
- The principal tributaries joining Krishna are the Ghataprabha, the Malaprabha, the Bhima, the Tungabhadra, and the Musi



Maharashtra Launches ‘Disha Abhiyan’ for Uniform Education of Students with Intellectual Disabilities

- Maharashtra becomes the first state in India to implement such a state-wide, uniform curriculum for students with intellectual disabilities
- Developed by the Jai Vakil Foundation and certified by the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID),
- The program aims to improve teaching standards and learning outcomes for these students.
- It has been rolled out in 453 special schools across the state, focusing on academics, life skills, and vocational training

Aspect	Details
Initiative	Disha Abhiyan – standardized curriculum for students with intellectual disabilities
Developed by	Jai Vakil Foundation

Certification	NIEPID
Implementation	453 special schools across all districts of Maharashtra
Support Systems	IEP checklists, multisensory pedagogy, digital portal, educator training
Impact	~18,000 students & ~2,600 educators
Alignment	Developed India 2047 mission
Next Step	Nationwide rollout through NIEPID–JVF MoU

Odisha

Didayi Tribe

NEWS: Champa Raspeda, a student from **Odisha's Malkangiri district**, has made history by becoming the **first member of the Didayi**, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG), to clear **NEET 2025**.

- The **Didayi tribe**, also known as the Didai people or **Didiya tribe**, is an **indigenous tribal community** residing in the **Malkangiri district of Odisha**.
- They are one of 13 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) in Odisha.



PM Modi extends his wishes to the nation on the occasion of Nuakhai

- **Observed on panchami tithi** (the fifth day) of the lunar fortnight of the month of **Bhadrapada** (August–September), the day after the **Ganesh Chaturthi** festival.
- Nuakhai Juhar is an **agricultural festival**, also called **Nuakhai Parab** or **Nuakahi Bhetghat**.
 - It is celebrated to **welcome the new crop** of the season.
 - **Nuakhai** is a combination of **two words** that signifies eating of **new rice** as **'nua'** means new and **'khai'** means eat.
- This is the festival of **Western Odisha**, **southern Chhattisgarh** and adjoining areas of **Simdega (Jharkhand)**.
 - Its coastal counterpart is **Nabanna**, observed in **Coastal Odisha**.
- **Festive Activities:** Farmers offer the first produce from their lands to **Goddess Samaleswari**, the famous 'Mother Goddess' of **Sambalpur district of Odisha**.



Goa

Dhirio-Bull Fighting

- Goa state Assembly legislators across party lines demand the legalisation of bull fighting which is locally called Dhirio in Goa.
- **Bull fighting**, locally referred to as **dhirio** or **dhiri**, is an integral part of **Goa's cultural fabric**.
- It is **organised after the harvest season**.
- **In India, bull fights like Jallikattu were banned** for animal cruelty by the **Supreme Court in 2014**, but **later the court upheld** the 2017 Tamil Nadu Amendment to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, which **permitted the tradition**.
- **Other forms of bull fighting, such as in Goa, were also banned by the Bombay High Court in 1997** and upheld by the Supreme Court, making them illegal.



Telangana

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Inaugurates India's First-of-its-Kind State-of-the-Art Animal Stem Cell BioBank and Laboratory at NIAB, Hyderabad

- India's first-of-its-kind State-of-the-Art Animal Stem Cell Biobank and Animal Stem Cell Laboratory was inaugurated at the **National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB) in Hyderabad**

- The facility aims to advance regenerative medicine, disease modelling, and reproductive biotechnology for livestock.
- Supported by the National Biopharma Mission of DBT–BIRAC, it will also enable the preservation and study of animal stem cells and their derivatives.

Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project in Telangana

- The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) in Telangana has recently come under intense scrutiny.
- **National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) reported significant structural damage and design flaws** in the project.
- The project, once hailed as a lifeline for Telangana, now faces questions regarding its foundation, planning, and governance.
- Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project is a large-scale multi-stage irrigation project on the Godavari River in Kaleshwaram, Bhupalpally district, Telangana.
- It utilises over 1,800 km of canal network to irrigate 16 lakh acres across 13 districts.
- Initially estimated at ₹71,000 crore, costs have escalated beyond ₹1 lakh crore.
- **CAG termed it economically unviable** (benefit–cost ratio less than 1).
- Very high annual power & operational costs (~₹10,000 crore).



Telangana Legislative Assembly passes bill ensuring 42% reservation for Backward Classes in local body polls

- The Telangana Legislative Assembly unanimously passed the **Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2025** and **Telangana Municipalities (Amendment) Bill 2025**.
- The two bills propose to lift the 50 per cent ceiling on total reservations and enabling 42% reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) in panchayats, municipalities, and urban local bodies.
- In Telangana's local body polls: SCs already have ~17% reservation, STs have ~10%.
- The 50% cap (from Supreme Court rulings like *Indra Sawhney, 1992*) applies to the total reservations (SC + ST + BC + others) in any election, education, or employment.

Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh to become single-use plastic-free by June 2026

- In a landmark move toward environmental conservation, the Andhra Pradesh government has committed itself to making the State single-use plastic-free by June 5, 2026.
- The initiative, spearheaded by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, begins with the Andhra Pradesh Secretariat, which will officially go plastic-free from August 15, 2025.



A.P. police to launch 'Operation Trace' to identify missing and kidnapped girls from August 1-31

- The Women and Child Safety Wing will conduct the operation in association with the IGPs, DIGs and Superintendents of Police (SPs) and other officers across the State

AP Govt Announces ₹1 Crore Cover for Municipal Staff

- Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced ₹1 crore insurance coverage for regular workers of municipalities and ₹20 lakh for the outsourced workers in the event of death in accidents.
- In cases of permanent disability, the same amount will be ensured. He also announced education support up to ₹8 lakh for their children.



Andhra Pradesh Government will soon set up the country' largest Central Library in Amaravati.

- Amaravati would soon house the country's largest and most modern Central Library, **spread across 2 lakh sq. ft.**, and designed as a "world-class hub of knowledge."

Andhra Pradesh to host 41st IATO Convention in 2026

- 41st **Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) Convention** will be **hosted by Andhra Pradesh in Visakhapatnam in 2026.**
- the 40th IATO annual convention held at Puri in Odisha from August 22 to 24
- IATO works to promote tourism and advocate for the interests of India's tour operators



A.P. DSP Harshitha Manikanta scales Mount Elbrus

- **Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Harshitha Manikanta**, attached to the **Railways wing of the Andhra Pradesh Police**, has scaled **Mount Elbrus, the tallest peak of Europe.**
- The 5,642-metre-high mountain is in the Caucasus range along the Russia–Georgia border.
- The **'Seven Summits'** challenge consists of climbing to the highest point on each of the seven continents, including:
 1. Kilimanjaro: Africa (5,892 m)
 2. Elbrus: Europe (5,642 m)
 3. Aconcagua: South America (6,962 m)
 4. Denali: North America (6,194 m)
 5. Kosciuszko: Australia (2,228 m) or Puncak Jaya: Oceania (4,884 m)
 6. Mount Vinson: Antarctica (4,892 m)
 7. Mount Everest: Asia (8,848 m).



Healthcare initiative Bharat BRAIN to be launched at Amaravati soon

- The Andhra Pradesh government officially launched the **Bharat Biodesign Research and Innovation (BRAIN)** programme **at the Ratan Tata Innovation Hub in Amaravati**
- **This initiative aims to:**
 - Position Andhra Pradesh as a **global hub for health-tech and digital health innovation.**
 - Create a **start-up ecosystem** and drive **entrepreneurial capacity-building** in healthcare.
 - Enable solutions that are **exportable to emerging markets**, aligning global expertise with local implementation.

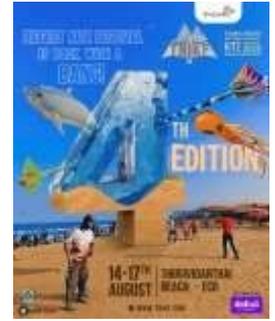
Tamil Nadu

T.N. CM Stalin inaugurates medical camps under 'Nalam Kaakkum Stalin' scheme

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated medical camps **across all 38 districts in the State** organised under the 'Nalam Kaakkum Stalin' scheme, **aimed at taking healthcare to people's doorsteps.**
- The camps **will prioritise people from economically weaker sections**, those with diabetes and blood pressure, heart patients, lactating mothers, and pregnant women, among others.



Tamil Nadu International Kite Festival 2025 to be held from August 14-17



Kodali Karuppur Silk Sari facing crisis

- Kodali Karuppur silk sari, a luxury hand-woven garment once patronised by the Maratha kings of Thanjavur, is facing a crisis as its traditional handloom weavers dwindle in number.

About Kodali Karuppur Silk Sari

- It derived its name from Karuppur, a village near Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu.
- These evolved under the patronage of the Maratha ruler Serfoji Raja Bhonsle Chhatrapati II in 1787-1832 and were made exclusively for the Ranis of Thanjavur up to the 19th century.



Toda Tribe – Preserving India’s Endangered Languages

- Toda tribe of the Nilgiri Hills, Tamil Nadu is spearheading efforts to preserve their endangered language through SPPEL
- SPPEL - the Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages
- It focuses on recording, transcribing, and archiving Toda language materials, creating educational primers, and uploading them to online repositories for global access and long-term preservation.
- Collaborating with the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL)
- Under SPPEL Scheme, the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru works on protection, preservation and documentation of all the mother tongues/languages of India spoken by less than 10,000 people which are called endangered language
- Nodal Ministry - Ministry of Education
- Executed by Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru

AIM

- To document and preserve Indian languages spoken by fewer than 10,000 people or those not studied linguistically earlier
- To create a permanent linguistic record in the form of grammar-dictionaries, and ethno-linguistic profiles
- To safeguard cultural heritage embedded in these languages

FEATURES

- Eligibility Criteria:** Focus on languages with less than 10,000 speakers or without prior linguistic study
- Documentation Scope:** Grammar, vocabulary dictionaries, pictorial glossaries
- Scale of Work:** 117 languages already identified; target of documenting ~500 languages in coming years
- Digital Archiving:** Data stored in repositories for global academic and public access

Kerala

Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis

- Recently, Kerala’s health department has sounded an alert in Kozhikode district after three back to back cases of the rare primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM) were reported in the region
- It is an infection of the brain and the membranes covering the brain.
- Cause: It is caused by *Naegleria fowleri*, known as the “brain eating amoeba”.



What is amoebic encephalitis?

Caused by free-living amoeba, amoebic encephalitis is a deadly infection that is typically contracted from freshwater sources such as lakes, rivers, and streams.

What are the symptoms?

- ▶ Headache, fever, nausea, and vomiting are its early symptoms, according to CDC.
- ▶ Stiff neck, confusion, lack of attention to people and surroundings, loss of balance, and hallucinations.
- ▶ It leads to coma and death after five days. Most people die within one to 18 days.

- Naegleria fowleri is a **free-living amoeba found in warm, fresh water and soil**, and infects people when it **enters the body through the nose**.
- This is a **very rare, but serious disease with a mortality rate of more than 95%**. It affects mainly young, active people.
- **It is classified into two main types:** Primary Amebic Meningoencephalitis (**PAM**) and Granulomatous Amebic Encephalitis (**GAE**).

Transmission: The amoeba that causes the infection occurs in **shallow surface waters and incorrectly maintained swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas, particularly in warm climates**.

- Infection occurs when **infected water enters the nose**. This can happen when diving, jumping, or swimming in freshwater.

Symptoms: sore throat, headache and pain in the forehead, hallucinations, nausea and vomiting, high fever etc.

- Treatment: Swift diagnosis and treatment with specific antibiotics may be useful, but **recovery is rare**.



Kerala Declared India's First Fully Digitally Literate State

- Kerala Chief Minister declared Kerala as the **first fully digitally literate State in India**, marking the completion of Phase I of the Digi Kerala project.
- The initiative sought to bridge the digital divide by training individuals in basic digital skills across all local bodies.
- **Mass Coverage:** Surveys covered **1.5 crore individuals from 83.46 lakh families**.
- **Targeted Intervention:** Identified **21.88 lakh digitally illiterate persons**, of which **21.87 lakh (99.98%)** successfully completed training and evaluation.
- **Inclusive Approach:** Even senior citizens participated—showcasing accessibility and inclusiveness.
- **Grassroots Orientation:** Training delivered through local bodies, reflecting Kerala's strong decentralisation and participatory governance tradition.

Kerala to be declared first State to achieve total digital literacy

S.R. Praveen
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

For the past few months, 67-year-old C. Sarasu, a Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme worker from Pullampara in Thiruvananthapuram, has been using her leisure time to video-call her relatives and watch YouTube videos.

In Muvattupuzha, 75-year-old Krishnakumar is now using WhatsApp to mobilise people from the neighbourhood for an anti-drugs campaign. Until re-



Over 21 lakh senior citizens completed the government's 'Digi Kerala' digital literacy programme. I.K. MENON

cently, both of them were "digital illiterates" for whom technology was a hard nut to crack. The two are now part of

the over 21 lakh people who have completed the Local Self-Government Department's "Digi Kerala" digital literacy programme, making Kerala the first State to achieve total digital literacy.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Local Self-Government Minister M.B. Rajesh said the Kerala government was waiting for President Droupadi Murmu's confirmation for an event to make the official announcement. "This programme has included people of all ages," Mr. Rajesh said.

Onam 2025

- **Onam is a 10-day-long harvest festival** celebrated by the **Malayali community** in Kerala and worldwide.
- This year, Onam festivities will begin on **August 26, 2025**, and will **conclude with Thiruvonam falling on September 5, 2025**.
- Onam is observed in the **Chingam month on the Malayalam solar calendar (between August and September in the Gregorian calendar)**.
- The **first day of Chingam** is celebrated as the **Malayalam New Year** and also marks the **beginning of the Onam festival**.
- **Atham Day** is the first day of the Onam festival
- The festival commemorates the appearance of the **Vamana avatar of Vishnu** and subsequently the **homecoming of King Mahabali**.



In pictures: Atham celebrations in Kerala

Kani Tribe

NEWS: Recently, Kuttimathan Kani belongs to the Kani tribal community who revealed Arogyapacha has died.



- The **Kani tribals or Kanikarars are a traditionally nomadic community**, who now lead a **settled** life in the **forests of the Agasthyamalai hills of the Western Ghats** in the **Thiruvananthapuram district of Kerala**.
- The Kani tribe's traditional occupations include the production of handicrafts, seasonal collection of minor forest products such as honey and beeswax, and cultivation of edible plants such as tapioca, banana, millets and cash crops.
- They **speak Tamil and Malayalam** as their language. They have **vast knowledge about medicinal plants**.
- **Arogyapacha (*Trichopus zeylanicus*)**, the '**miracle plant**' of tribal healers known for its anti-fatigue and therapeutic properties, was once a secret well-preserved by the Kani community.

Muthuvan Tribe

- A rare convention of the **Muthuvan community** has taken on a novel mission to protect their language and culture,
- organised a **three-day special conference** as part of the **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples**.
- The **Muthuvans, or Mudugars**, live on the **border hill forests of Kerala and Tamil Nadu**.
- They have **expertise in traditional medicines** - confidentially preserved and passed on to the generations.
- These tribal people follow a unique system of governance called the '**Kani System**' - **each village is headed by a 'Kani'**, who is responsible for the administration of the village.
- **Religion and Beliefs:** They are animists and spirit worshippers and also worship the forest gods.
- **Occupation:** Virippukrishi (a form of shifting cultivation) is their traditional means of livelihood, and they cultivate a wide variety of food grains that are used only for consumption.



Matsya Shakti Project

- **Launched in August 2025** by Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (George Kurian) in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**
- Aimed at **empowering minority fishing communities** through **skill development** and sustainable livelihood training under the **Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS)** scheme.
- **Managed by ICAR–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)** via its **Vizhinjam Regional Centre**, in **collaboration with the Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA)**
- A **one-year, multi-phased program** targeting **690 beneficiaries** from minority communities.
- **Participants receive stipends** during training and post-training support to start their own enterprises or act as consultants
- Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (**PM VIKAS**) scheme launched under the **Ministry of Minority Affairs** is a **central sector scheme**.
- It provides skill development, leadership training and entrepreneurship to minorities and artisan communities all over India.
- **The PM VIKAS Scheme also consolidates five already existing schemes:**
 - Seekho aur Kamao, USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development), Hamari Dharohar, Nai Roshni Nai Manzil



Defence

12th edition of Exercise SLINEX

- 12th edition of **Sri Lanka and India Naval Exercise (SLINEX-25)**.
- 14 to 18 August 2025 in Colombo, Sri Lanka**
 - Harbour Phase: 14–16 August at Colombo Port
 - Sea Phase: 17–18 August off the coast of Colombo

About Exercise SLINEX

- It is a **bilateral naval exercise** between India and Sri Lanka, which was **conceptualised in 2005**.
- The previous edition of SLINEX was **conducted at Visakhapatnam, India in 2024**.

Participating Units:

- Indian Navy:** INS Rana (guided missile destroyer), INS Jyoti (fleet tanker)
- Sri Lanka Navy:** SLNS Gajabahu, SLNS Vijayabahu (Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessels), SLNS Sayura; supported by Sri Lanka Air Force BEL 412 helicopters and Special Forces from both sides

India, Philippines stage joint sail and naval drill in the disputed South China Sea

- The **two-day joint naval sail and exercises began on August 3, 2025**
- President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr of the Philippines arrived in New Delhi** on August 4 in his **first trip to India since assuming office in 2022**
- The **diplomatic relations** between India and the Philippines were **established in November 1949**.
- President Marcos Jr's state visit coincides with the 75th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relations

The South China Sea

- It is **situated just south of the Chinese mainland** and is **bordered by** the countries of **Brunei, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam**.
- It is an **arm of the western Pacific Ocean** that borders the Southeast Asian mainland.
- It is connected by the **Taiwan Strait** with the East China Sea and by the **Luzon Strait** with the Philippine Sea (both marginal seas of the Pacific Ocean).

Operation Akhal

- Operation Akhal, a **joint anti-terror operation** in Akhal Khulsan forest area in **Kulgam district** of Jammu and Kashmir, entered its third day, with at least one terrorist killed amid continued firefight by Indian security forces.
- Launched by:** Jointly conducted by the Indian Army's Chinar Corps, Jammu & Kashmir Police, and the Special Operations Group (SOG).
- Aim:** To neutralize 3–5 terrorists based on intelligence inputs, tighten internal security, and dismantle local terror modules.



Operation Alert Launched Along Rajasthan Border Ahead of Independence Day

- The Border Security Force (BSF) has launched a week-long security operation called '**Operation Alert**' along the Indo-Pak border in Rajasthan.
- The operation will run between 11th August 2025 to 17th August 2025 and is aimed at strengthening security and preventing any infiltration attempts ahead of **India's Independence Day**.



Third ship of Nilgiri delivered to Indian Navy in Kolkata

- **Himgiri (Yard 3022)**, the **third ship of Nilgiri Class (Project 17A)** and the **first of the class built at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**, was **delivered to the Indian Navy on 31 Jul 2025 at GRSE, Kolkata**.
- P17A ships are **fitted with an advanced weapon and sensor suite** compared to the P17 (Shivalik) class.
- These ships are configured with **Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG) propulsion plants**.



RS-28 Sarmat

- As tensions escalate between the United States and Russia, the spotlight is back on one of the deadliest weapons in **Russia's nuclear arsenal, the RS-28 Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), dubbed 'Satan 2' by NATO**.
- The RS-28 Sarmat is Russia's **new generation intercontinental ballistic missile**.
- It is a three-stage, liquid-fueled missile with a **range of 18,000 km** and a **launch weight of more than 208 tonnes**.
- It is the **world's heaviest ICBM**.
- The missile is 35.3 meters long and 3 meters in diameter.
- **Maximum speed** of 25,500 kph (**about Mach 20**).
- It can carry a 10-ton payload and can load a wide variety of warhead options.
- It can carry **up to 16 independently targetable nuclear warheads** as well as Avangard hypersonic glide vehicles.



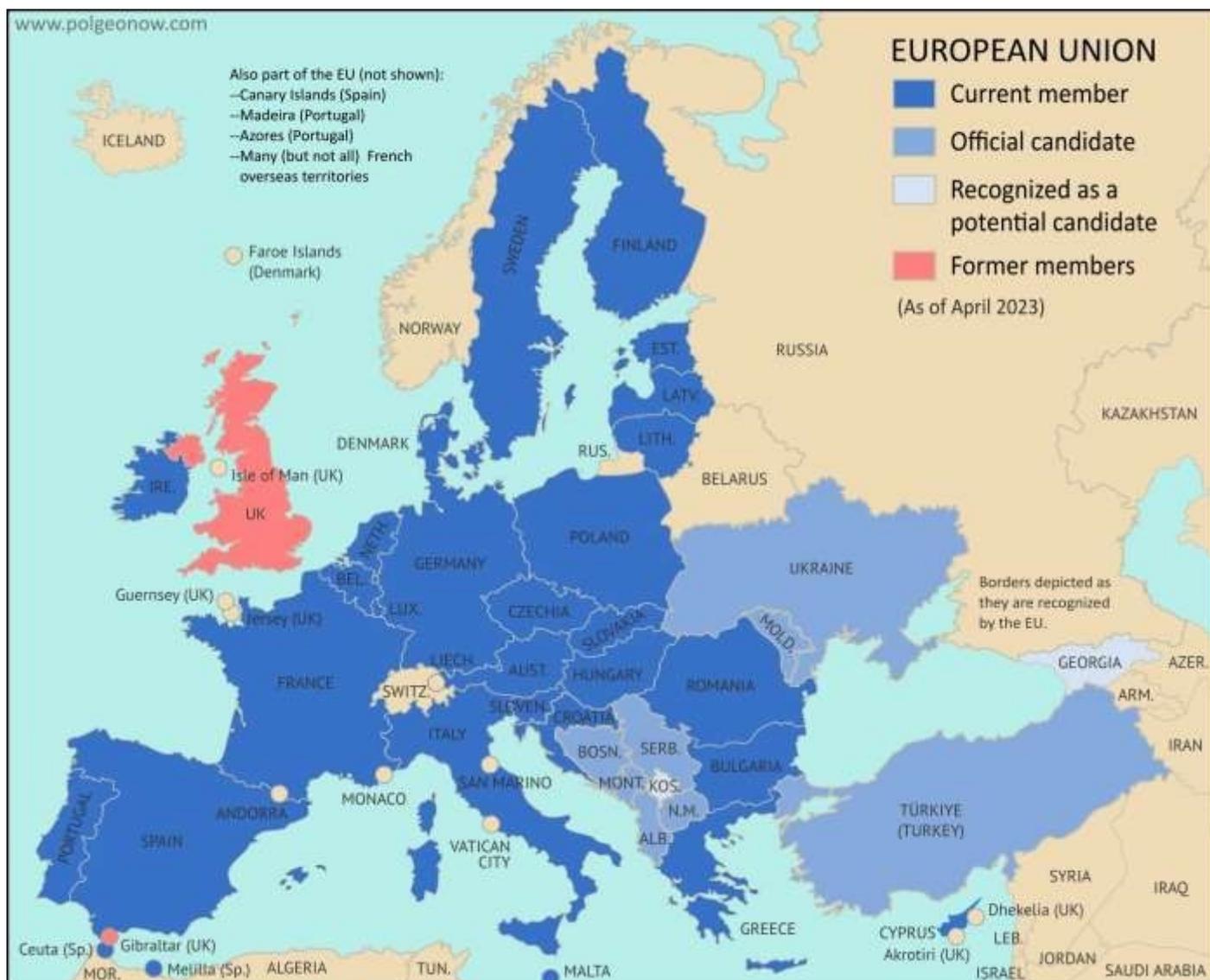
Oreshnik Missile

- **Russia has begun production of its latest hypersonic missile, the Oreshnik, and reaffirmed plans to deploy it in Belarus before the end of 2025**.
- It is a **Russian intermediate-range hypersonic ballistic missile**.
- This **high-velocity missile, named after the Russian word for "hazel tree,"** was first launched operationally on November 21, 2024, in a precision strike targeting the Pivdenmash defence-industrial facility in Dnipro, Ukraine
- It is a mobile, solid-fueled missile – can reach **speeds of Mach 10**—ten times the speed of sound.
- It has a reported **range of approximately 5,000 kilometers** (3,100 miles).
- The system is reportedly **capable of carrying multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles (MIRVs)**, allowing a single missile to strike several distinct targets simultaneously with either conventional or nuclear warheads.
- Unlike conventional missiles, the Oreshnik's maneuverable reentry vehicle (**MaRV**) **allows it to shift direction mid-flight**, making it nearly impossible for U.S. or NATO missile defense systems to intercept.



- Belarus is located at the doorstep of the European Union and shares borders with Poland, Latvia, and Lithuania, all NATO member states.
- Key specifications of Russia’s Oreshnik hypersonic missile

Feature	Details
Type	Hypersonic Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM)
Speed	Up to Mach 10 (~12,000 km/h)
Range	3,400–5,500 km
Warhead	Conventional or nuclear (with MIRV capability)
Launch Platform	Road-mobile or silo-based
First Use	Tested in Ukraine (November 2024, non-nuclear warhead)
Deployment	Scheduled in Belarus by end of 2025



Golden Dome Missile Defense System

- U.S. President has unveiled the Golden Dome Missile Defense System design and appointed a leader for the \$175 billion project, aiming to shield the U.S. from foreign missile threats.
- A next-generation U.S. missile defense program using space-based and land-based intercept layers to neutralise missile threats.



- It's designed to safeguard the United States against advanced threats like ballistic, hypersonic, and cruise missiles—potentially even from space

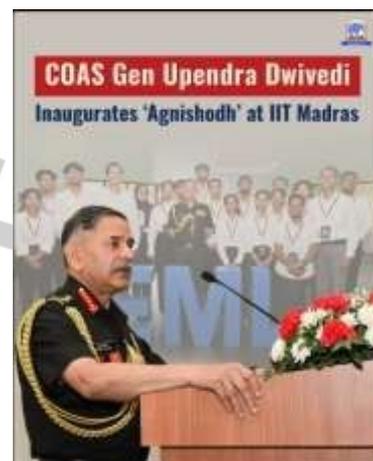
Key Features:

- **Aim:** To create a **multi-layered defense shield to knock out intercontinental ballistic missiles** during the “boost phase” just after lift-off. It would consist of:
 - A **satellite-based layer** for early detection and potential interception in space.
 - **Three ground-based layers**, incorporating systems like THAAD, Patriot, and Next Generation Interceptors—all integrated under a unified command-and-control system
 - **Collaboration with private sector** firms like [SpaceX](#), Palantir, Anduril, L3Harris, Lockheed Martin, RTX.
 - Targeted to be **operational within three years (by around 2028)**, with an initial large-scale test planned for the fourth quarter of 2028
- Leadership: **General Michael A. Guetlein** of the U.S. Space Force was appointed to lead the effort

Attribute	Details
Purpose	Multi-layer missile shield (space + ground) against emerging threats
Announced by	President Trump, May 2025
Estimated Cost	~\$175 billion (initial); could reach \$500–600+ billion over decades
Timeline	Operational by ~2028; major test scheduled late 2028
Lead Official	Gen. Michael A. Guetlein (USSF)
Layers	Satellite detection/interceptor, plus 3 ground-based layers
Tech & Contractors	Lockheed, Northrop, Leonardo DRS; SpaceX, Palantir, Anduril among private bidders
Strategic Aim	Defend entire U.S. homeland (including Hawaii & Alaska) from global missile threats

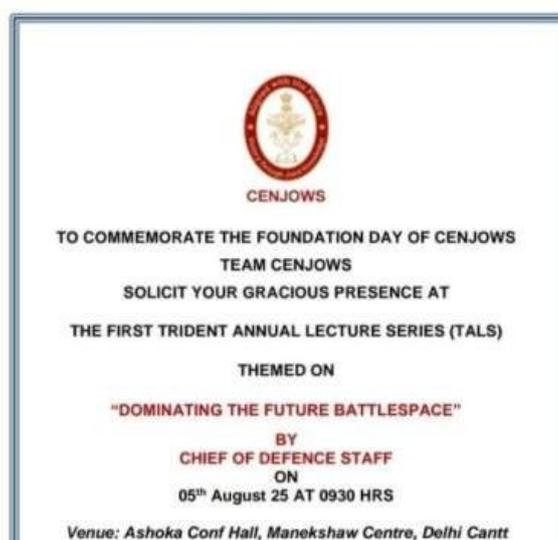
Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi Inaugurates ‘Agnishodh’ Research Cell at IIT Madras

- The Indian Army has joined hands with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras to establish ‘Agnishodh’, the Indian Army Research Cell (IARC) on the IIT Madras campus.
- The research facility was formally inaugurated by General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), during his two-day visit to Chennai.



CENJOWS to Inaugurate First Annual Trident Lecture Series in New Delhi

- The Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS) will inaugurate the first Annual Trident Lecture Series (ATLS) at the Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt on August 05, 2025.
- Anchored on the theme ‘Dominating the Future Battlespace’,



14th Joint Bilateral Military Exercise MAITREE

- **14th edition** of MAITREE - Joint Bilateral Military Exercise between India and Thailand
- will be conducted from **01–14 September 2025** at the Foreign Training Node, **Umroi, Meghalaya**
- The **13th edition** of India- Thailand joint military Exercise MAITREE conducted from **1st to 15th July 2024** at Fort Vachiraprakan in **Tak Province of Thailand**.



Joint Military Exercises of India with Other Countries (static)	
Name of Exercise	Country
Garuda Shakti	Indonesia
Ekuverin	Maldives
Hand-in-Hand	China
Kurukshetra	Singapore
Mitra Shakti	Sri Lanka
Nomadic Elephant	Mongolia
Shakti	France
Surya Kiran	Nepal
Yudh Abhyas	USA

Exercise Ulchi Freedom Shield

- **South Korea and the United States** began their annual **large-scale joint military exercise**
- From **August 18th – 28th**
- The 11-day Ulchi Freedom Shield, the **second of two large-scale exercises held annually in South Korea**, after another set in March
- will involve 21,000 soldiers, including 18,000 South Koreans, in computer-simulated command post operations and field training.



Iran Conducts “Sustainable Power 1404” Missile Drills in Gulf of Oman

- **Iran launched a two-day missile drill in the northern Indian Ocean and Sea of Oman.**
- The exercise is for improved combat readiness, an improved command system, and reinforcement of deterrence
- **Iran maintains two separate naval forces:** the conventional **Islamic Republic of Iran Navy (IRIN)**, which is a part of the traditional army, and the **Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy (IRGCN)**.
- The IRIN patrols the Gulf of Oman, the Indian Ocean, and the Caspian Sea, while the IRGCN controls the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.



MoD to Host First Tri-Services Seminar “Ran Samwad” at Army War College, Mhow on Technology and Future Warfare

- The Ministry of Defence is organising a first-of-its-kind Tri-Services Seminar, “**Ran Samwad-Conversations on War, Warfare, and Warfighting,**” at the Army War College in Mhow (Dr. Ambedkar Nagar).
- Scheduled from the **26th to the 27th** of this month
- the seminar **will focus on the Impact of Technology on Warfare** with two sub-themes: Emerging Technologies and Impact on Future Warfare and Reforms in Institutionalised Training to Catalyse Technological Enablement.



India successfully test-fires Agni V

- **India successfully test-fired** Agni-5 from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha
- **Agni V is an intermediate-range, nuclear-capable, surface to surface Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)** with Multiple Independently Targetable Reentry Vehicle (**MIRV**) capability.
- It is **developed by** the Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**).



Features of Agni-5 Missile

- **Range:** It is **one of India’s most advanced** long-range missiles, capable of striking targets well **beyond 5,000 kilometers**
- It is designed with **modern navigation, guidance, warhead, and engine technologies** and strengthens India’s strategic deterrence capability.
- **Warhead Capacity:** It is capable of carrying and **firing up to three nuclear warheads simultaneously.**

What is a Ballistic Missile?

- It is a **rocket-propelled, self-guided strategic-weapons system** that follows a **ballistic trajectory** to deliver a payload from its launch site to a predetermined target.
- They can be launched from aircraft, ships, and submarines, in addition to land-based silos and mobile platforms

Four general classifications of ballistic missiles:

- **Short-range:** less than 1,000 kilometers, also known as “tactical” ballistic missiles.
- **Medium-range:** between 1,000 and 3,000 kilometers, also known as “theater” ballistic missiles.
- **Intermediate-range:** between 3,000 and 5,500 kilometers
- **Long-range:** more than 5,500 kilometers, also known as intercontinental or strategic ballistic missiles.

Agni Missile Series

Missile	Type	Range	Propulsion	Warhead Capacity	Stage
Agni-I	SRBM – Short Range Ballistic Missile / MRBM – Medium Range Ballistic Missile	700 – 1,200 km	Solid fuel	1,000 kg	Single-stage solid
Agni-II	MRBM – Medium Range Ballistic Missile	2,000 – 3,500 km	Solid fuel	1,000 kg	2-stage solid
Agni-III	IRBM – Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile	3,000 – 3,500 km	Solid fuel	1,500 – 2,500 kg	2-stage solid
Agni-IV	IRBM – Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile	3,500 – 4,000 km	Solid fuel	1,000 – 1,200 kg	2-stage solid

Agni-V	ICBM – Intercontinental Ballistic Missile	5,000 – 5,500+ km	Solid fuel	1,500 kg	3-stage solid
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India successfully conducts maiden flight tests of IADWS to establish multi-layered air-defence capability

- DRDO successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS) off the coast of Odisha.
- The IADWS is a **multi-layered air defence system**, entirely developed indigenously, and **comprises** Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles (QRSAMs), Advanced Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missiles, and a high-power laser-based Directed Energy Weapon (DEW).



CISF launches its first all-women commando unit to boost gender parity.

- **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**
- The **training of the first batch of 30 women** began on August 11 at the Regional Training Centre in Barwaha, Madhya Pradesh, and will conclude on October 4.
- This all-women commando team is being envisioned as a Quick Reaction Team (QRT) and Special Task Force (STF) component for deployment at high-security establishments.



Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

- It is a central armed police force in India **under the Ministry of Home Affairs**. CISF's primary mission is to **provide security** policing services to large institutions, whether state-owned or privately owned
- **Motto: "Protection and Security"**
- The CISF came **into existence in 1969** through the **CISF Act 1968** with a sanctioned strength of only three battalions.
- The original charter of CISF was to provide integrated security cover to certain sensitive public sector undertakings.
- The Act was **amended in 1983** declaring the **CISF as an Armed Force of the Union**

Indian Navy commissioned the advanced stealth frigates Udaygiri and Himgiri at Visakhapatnam

- Two multi-mission stealth frigates of **Project 17A – INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri** – were commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh at the **Naval Base, Visakhapatnam on August 26, 2025**
- These are the **100th and 101st warships** designed in-house by the **Warship Design Bureau of the Indian Navy**, and built in India
- Both frigates **will join the Eastern Fleet** under the Eastern Naval Command



INS Udaygiri:

- Built by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai**.
- A modern, stealth-capable multi-mission warship designed for anti-surface, anti-air, and anti-submarine warfare.

Features:

- Displacement ~6,670 tonnes, length 149 m, speed 28 knots.
- **Weapons:** Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missiles (LRSAM), 8 BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, Barak-8, lightweight torpedoes, rocket launchers, 127 mm main gun, AK-630 rapid fire guns.
- Equipped with modern radars, sonar (Humsa-NG), and Shakti Electronic Warfare suite.
- Propulsion: Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG).

INS Himgiri:

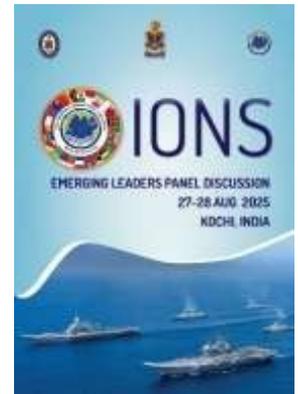
- Built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.**
- Stealth guided-missile frigate with advanced weaponry and sensors.

Features:

- Similar displacement and size to INS Udaygiri (~6,670 tonnes, 149 m).
- Equipped with LRSAM, BrahMos missiles, Barak-8 system, torpedoes, rocket launchers, 127 mm gun, AK-630 guns.
- Integrated stealth design with reduced radar cross-section.
- **Propulsion:** CODOG, endurance 5,500 NM at economical speed.

Navy to Host 'Emerging Leaders Panel Discussion' Under Indian Ocean Naval Symposium

- The Navy will conduct the 'Emerging Leaders Panel Discussion' under the aegis of 'Indian Ocean Naval Symposium' (IONS) on **27 and 28 August** at the **Southern Naval Command in Kochi, Kerala.**
- The two-day event will feature **discussions on maritime security and regional cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region.**

**Super Garuda Shield 2025**

- **Indonesia, along with the United States and allied nations,** has launched the **annual military exercise "Super Garuda Shield 2025"**, aimed at enhancing regional security amid rising Indo-Pacific tensions.
- The joint exercise will take place across Jakarta, Baturaja in South Sumatra, and Dabo Singkep in Lampung from August 25 to September 4, 2025
- A large-scale **multinational military exercise** conducted annually since 2009.

**Members/Participants (2025):**

- **Jointly hosted by the Indonesian National Armed Forces and the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.**
- Expanded to include: **Australia, Japan, Singapore, UK, France, Canada, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Brazil, and South Korea.**
- Includes **joint combat training, interoperability drills, and a combined live-fire exercise.**
- Strengthens **coordination in air, land, and maritime operations.**

Armed Forces Personnel Gear Up to Participate in 'Exercise Bright Star 2025'

- Exercise **Bright Star** is a **biennial, large-scale military exercise** conducted **jointly by Egypt and the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM).**
- **Dates & Location:** The **19th edition** of Bright Star is scheduled to occur **from August 28 to September 10, 2025**
- At the **Mohamed Naguib Military Base in western Egypt**
- **Participants:**
 - A total of **43 nations** are involved.
 - **13 countries** will actively contribute military forces (over **7,900 troops**).
 - **30 nations** will participate as **observers**
 - **Over 700 personnel from India's Armed Forces and Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff** will participate
- It **originated in 1980**, following the Camp David Accords, as a **bilateral U.S.–Egypt drill.**
- The exercise is **held biennially**

Indian Air Force (IAF) retired the iconic MiG-21 fighter jet

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) retired the iconic MiG-21 fighter jet from operational service on 26 September 2025, after more than six decades of service.

- The **MiG-21** is a **supersonic jet fighter aircraft** that became the backbone of the Indian Air Force for over 60 years.
- Known for its speed, agility, and delta-wing design, it is also the **world's most produced supersonic jet fighter**.
- Designed & developed by the **Mikoyan-Gurevich Design Bureau (Soviet Union)**.
- **First prototype flew in 1955, formally inducted into the IAF in 1963.**



History in India:

- First squadron: **No. 28 Squadron, Chandigarh**, earned the title *"The First Supersonics"*.

Played decisive roles in major wars:

- **1965 war** – frontline interceptor.
- **1971 war** – executed Dhaka strikes, turning point in victory.
- **Kargil War (1999)** – limited ground attack/air defence.
- **2019 Balakot aftermath** – MiG-21 Bison shot down a Pakistani F-16 (Gp. Capt. Abhinandan Varthaman).
- Nearly **900 MiG-21s** served in India, with around **660 built in India** under license.

Key Features:

- **Maximum speed:** over **Mach 2 (2,175 km/h)**.
- Operated as **interceptor, ground attack, reconnaissance, and training aircraft**.
- Despite being called the *"Flying Coffin"* due to crash record, it remained a **symbol of courage, Indo-Russian defence ties, and India's aerospace self-reliance**.

Exercise Achook Prahar 2025

- **conducted from August 25 to 28**
- **Troops of the Indian Army's Spear Corps and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** undertook four days of **firepower drills** under simulated battlefield conditions in **central Arunachal Pradesh**.
- Mortars, machine guns, rockets, and grenades were employed to validate synergised response, accuracy, and battlefield effectiveness
- The exercise served as a joint validation of operational preparedness under simulated battlefield conditions.



Exercise Achook Prahar 2025

Discover how "Achook Prahar" strengthens India's Himalayan defense.

Indian Army has conducted Exercise Yudh Kaushal 3.0 in Eastern Himalayas

- Indian Army has conducted Exercise Yudh Kaushal 3.0 in the **high-altitude Kameng region of Arunachal Pradesh**, showcasing its preparedness for next-generation warfare in extreme Himalayan conditions.
- Observed by the General Officer Commanding of Gajraj Corps
- The exercise featured large-scale manoeuvres with drone surveillance, precision strikes, real-time target acquisition, air-littoral operations and synchronized battlefield tactics.

Indian Warship Kadmatt to participate in ID Golden Jubilee celebrations of Papua New Guinea

- INS Kadmatt arrived at Port Moresby to participate in **Papua New Guinea's 50th Independence Day celebrations** to be held on **September 16, 2025**
- It is an **indigenous stealth anti-submarine warfare corvette**.
- It is the **second of four anti-submarine warfare corvettes** built for the Indian Navy **by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers of Kolkata under Project 28**.
- It was **commissioned into the Indian Navy in January 2016**.
- **Named after the Kadmat Island of India's Lakshadweep Islands.**

- Role: The primary role of the **INS Kadmatt** is in **anti-submarine warfare**—to protect ships in convoys and ports from enemy submarine attacks.

The Four Ships under Project 28:

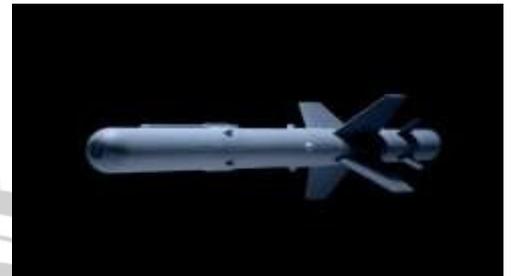
1. **INS Kamorta** – commissioned **2014** (Visakhapatnam).
2. **INS Kadmatt** – commissioned **2016** (Visakhapatnam).
3. **INS Kiltan** – commissioned **2017** (Visakhapatnam).
4. **INS Kavaratti** – commissioned **2020** (Visakhapatnam).

IDF launches surprise "Dawn" exercise amid ongoing operations on multiple fronts

- The **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** launched a surprise drill called "Dawn" in mid-August 2025 **to test the readiness of its general headquarters and key command centers.**
- The drill was conducted amid ongoing operations in Gaza and tensions in southern Lebanon and other fronts.
- **Led by Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Eyal Zamir**, the exercise is designed to assess **how quickly and effectively the IDF can respond to large-scale attacks.**

Nimbrix Missile

- **Swedish defense company Saab** recently announced the **development of a new missile named Nimbrix**
- It is a **counter-unmanned aircraft system (C-UAS) missile** - small unmanned aerial vehicles (**UAVs**).
- It is its first dedicated C-UAS missile.
- Nimbrix is intended for ground-based use, operating either independently or as part of wider air defence systems.
- range of up to 5 km and use an active seeker to track targets.



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Science & Tech

LEAP-1 Mission

- Indian space tech firm **Dhruva Space** (founded in 2012) is set to **launch its first commercial satellite mission, LEAP-1**, aboard **SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket**.
- LEAP-1 (Launch, Experiment, Analyze, Progress)** is **Dhruva Space's debut commercial satellite mission, carrying international payloads for AI and Earth observation**.
- Developed by:** Hyderabad-based **Dhruva Space Pvt Ltd**, in collaboration with **Akula Tech (Australia)** and **Esper Satellites (Australia)**.

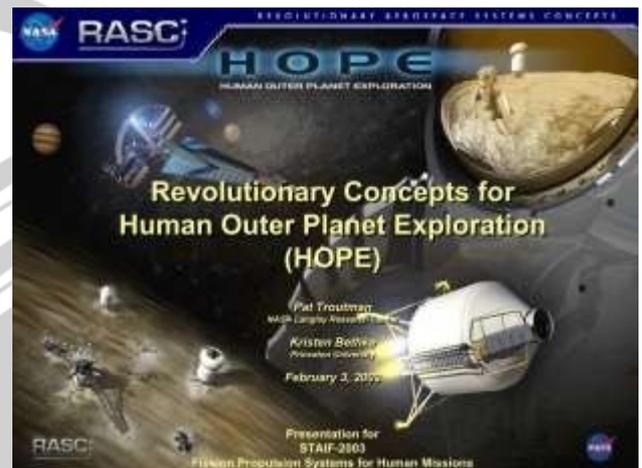


Objectives:

- Demonstrate **real-time geospatial AI processing** in space.
- Enable **low-cost, hosted payload missions** for defense, agriculture, and disaster monitoring.
- Showcase Dhruva's **P-30 satellite platform** for commercial deployment.
- Two Payloads (Australia):**
 - Nexus-01** (Akula Tech): An in-orbit **AI/ML module** with self-retraining capabilities.
 - OTR-2** (Esper Satellites): A **hyperspectral imaging sensor** for high-resolution Earth observation.

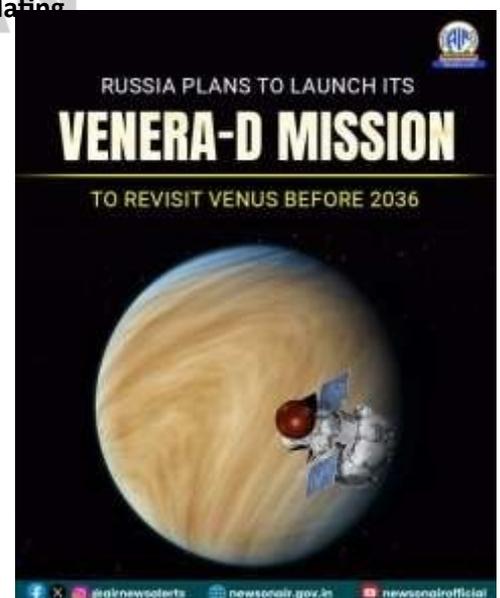
Human Outer Planet Exploration (HOPE)

- Bengaluru-based space tech company **Protoplanet**, along with the Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**), **has developed the analogue station, called the Human Outer Planet Exploration (HOPE) station in Ladakh's Tso Kar region**
- HOPE is an analogue site, at Tso Kar, located at an altitude of over 14,500 feet
- The site, was chosen because of its terrain and environment, which closely mimics conditions on the Moon and Mars
- Selected crew will take turns to inhabit the station and will undergo extensive physiological and psychological studies to **assess human adaptability and resilience in conditions simulating deep space environments**



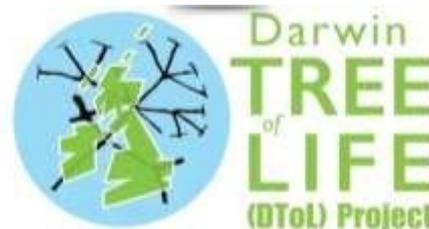
Russia Plans Venera-D Venus Mission Launch by 2036

- In **1975 and 1982**, four of the **Soviet Union's Venera probes** captured the **only images of Venus' surface**.
- The **Veneras, which means 'Venus' in Russian**, scanned the surface back and forth to create **panoramic images of their surroundings**.
- Russia is set to launch the **Venera-D mission to revisit Venus before 2036**.
- The mission will include a **lander, a balloon probe, and an orbital spacecraft**, with the **launch expected between 2034 and 2036**.
- The **design phase, in collaboration with the Lavochkin Association**, will take two years to complete.



Darwin Tree of Life (DToL) Project

- The **first phase** of the Darwin Tree of Life (DToL) project is **almost complete**.
- It aims to **sequence the genomes of 70,000 species of eukaryotic organisms in Britain and Ireland**.
- It is one of several initiatives across the globe working towards the ultimate goal of sequencing all complex life on Earth, in a venture known as the **Earth BioGenome Project**.
- It will carefully collect representatives of each species, and use advanced DNA sequencing technologies to generate high quality genome sequences.
- It also uses cutting edge computational tools to understand how the DNA sequence translates into the diversity of life.



NIT-C becomes India's first I-STEM catalyst centre

- The **National Institute of Technology, Calicut (NIT-C)**, has become the country's first I-STEM Catalyst Centre.
- The newly established Catalyst Center at NIT Calicut is envisioned as a regional innovation hub
- It aims to provide equitable access to advanced scientific equipment and resources, encouraging collaboration among academia, industry, startups, and research institutions.



IIT Madras develops agriculture waste-based packaging materials to eliminate plastic use

- Over 350 million tons of agricultural waste are generated annually, much of which is burned or left to decay, causing air pollution and wasting valuable resources
- The researchers **cultivated fungi (mushroom) on agriculture and paper waste to derive the material**.
- The researchers have **established NatureWrks Technologies**, a start-up incubated by IIT-M, to develop and commercialise the product.



Elon Musk's Starlink gets licence to launch satellite internet in India

- **India has officially granted a licence to Elon Musk's Starlink to offer satellite-based internet services**, setting the stage for the company's entry into one of the world's fastest-growing digital markets.
- The announcement comes **as India celebrates the 30th anniversary of its first-ever cellular phone call, made on 31 July 1995**.
- **Starlink is the third company after Eutelsat OneWeb and Jio Satellite Communications to get a licence** from the Department of Telecommunications to provide satellite internet services in the country
- A **fourth applicant, Amazon's Kuiper is still waiting for approvals**.



NASA's Surya AI

- **NASA has introduced "Surya," a groundbreaking artificial intelligence model aimed at revolutionizing the way we understand and predict space weather.**
- **Developed in collaboration with IBM and trained on over nine years of continuous data from NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO) - a spacecraft launched in 2010 to study the Sun**



- The SDO takes images of the Sun in multiple wavelengths every 12 seconds, providing unmatched detail.
- Surya analyzes vast streams of solar activity **to detect early signs of solar flares and eruptions.**



Recently, a strong earthquake of magnitude 7.5 hit Drake Passage and a tsunami alert was issued briefly

- It is **located between South America's Cape Horn and the South Shetland Islands of Antarctica.**
- The passage is **named after Sir Francis Drake, who was the first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe.**
- It is a **deep and wide waterway that connects the southwestern Atlantic and southeastern Pacific Oceans.**
- It is considered **one of the roughest waterways in the world** because here, layers of cold seawater from the south and warm seawater from the north collide to form powerful eddies, which when combined with strong winds and storms can be treacherous for those attempting to navigate it.
- The Drake Passage played an important part in the trade of the 19th and early 20th centuries before the opening of the Panama Canal.

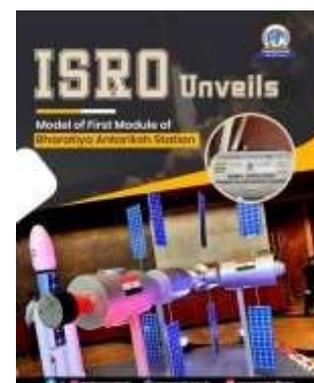
Subhanshu Shukla Inaugurates Aryabhata Gallery on National Space Day

- The **Nehru Planetarium in Delhi** marked the second National Space Day with the **inauguration of its newly renovated Aryabhata Gallery**
- **Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla**, who created history in July as the **second Indian in space** and the first to dock at the International Space Station.
- On display are rare artefacts such as the descent capsule of Rakesh Sharma, India's first cosmonaut, the space suit made for backup astronaut Ravish Malhotra, and exhibits that trace the evolution of astronomy from ancient observatories to the Indian Space Research Organisation's milestones.



ISRO has unveiled a model of the first module of the "Bharatiya Antariksh Station" (BAS)

- ISRO unveiled a model of the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS) module **during the two-day National Space Day celebrations**
- India **plans to launch the first module** of the BAS, its own home-built space station, **by 2028.**
- **Full Station Completion:** Expected **to be operational by 2035**, with **all five modules** in place - in a low earth orbit at 450 km above the earth
- **Presently**, there are **two orbital laboratories** — the **International Space Station** operated by five space agencies, and the **Tiangong space station** of China.



ISRO successfully accomplishes the first Integrated Air Drop Test for parachute-based deceleration system for Gaganyaan missions

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted its **first Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-01)** for the parachute-based deceleration system of the Gaganyaan mission.
- the demonstration was carried out **in coordination with the Indian Air Force, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Navy, and Indian Coast Guard.**



- India's first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission, G1, will conduct its test flight in December with the half-humanoid robot Vyommitra on board.

About Gaganyaan Mission

- India's human spaceflight - launching crew of 3 members to an orbit of 400 km (Low Earth Orbit) for a 3 days mission and bring them back safely to earth, by landing in Indian sea waters.
- Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM-3): Formerly known as the GSLV Mk-III, it is a three-stage

rocket About Vyommitra

- Combination of 2 Sanskrit words Vyoma (Space) and Mitra (Friend).
- It is a female robot designed and developed by the ISRO to fly aboard unmanned test missions ahead of the Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission.
- It is referred to as a half-humanoid robot as she doesn't have legs.
- She will accompany astronauts on manned missions too.

Ex-Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal Launches AI Startup 'Parallel' to Build a Web for Machines

- Parag Agrawal is back with a new venture that is focused on AI Called Parallel Web Systems,
- Agrawal's new startup intends to build tools and infrastructure that enables AI systems to interact with the open web in real-time.



Bloom Syndrome

NEWS: A 12-year-old girl diagnosed with the Bloom Syndrome, underwent a bone marrow transplant using stem cells from her younger brother at a private hospital in Chennai.

- Bloom Syndrome or BSyn is a genetic disorder, in which the BLM gene, a protein-coding gene, does not function as it should.
- It leads to growth delays, increased vulnerabilities to infections, sensitivity to the sun and an increased risk for certain cancers.
- The BLM gene is a gene that makes a protein involved in maintaining the structure of DNA, when DNA is copied in a cell, and in repairing damaged DNA.
- Mutations in the BLM gene may cause cells to lose their ability to repair damaged DNA, which may lead to abnormal cell growth.
- Other names for Bloom Syndrome are Bloom-Torre-Machacek syndrome and congenital telangiectatic erythema.
- It is seen most commonly in the Eastern European (Ashkenazi) Jewish population.



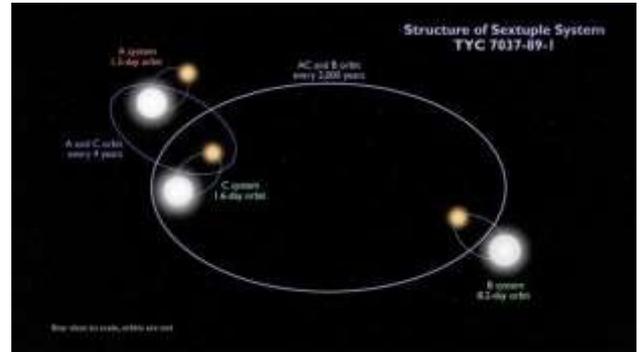
Signs and Symptoms

- Poor growth is a common clinical feature — this happens during the development of the foetus and after birth.
- Below normal average height and head circumference may be seen - long arms and legs and high-pitched voices.
- Skin lesions: The skin is very sensitive to sunlight and red rashes may develop after exposure. Insulin resistance leads to an increased risk of diabetes, while other issues include immune deficiencies.
- In adults, male sterility and female infertility may occur.
- Bloom Syndrome increases the risk of developing cancer, and at an early age.
- Treatment: It involves a multi-disciplinary approach. Since there is no specific treatment, the goal is to manage symptoms.

UPM J1040–3551 AabBab

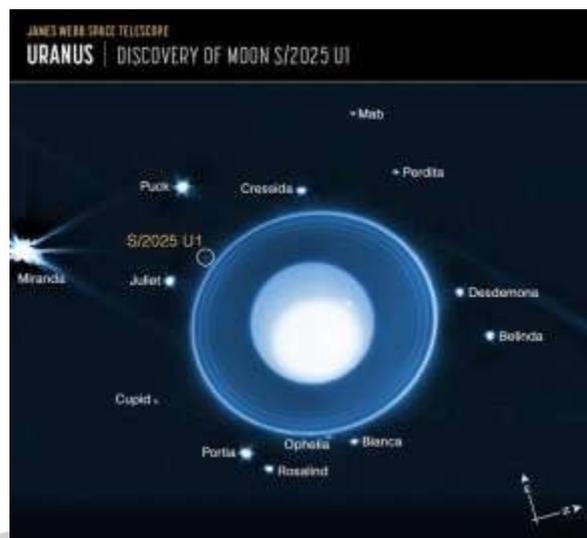
- Scientists have discovered a rare quadruple star system in our Milky Way galaxy called UPM J1040–3551 AabBab.
- International research team led by Professor Zenghua Zhang, of Nanjing University.

- It is the **first known system** where **two brown dwarfs orbit around two red dwarf stars**.
- A **unique 4-star system**: 2 Red dwarf stars (small, common stars that shine faintly but live very long).
- 2 **Brown dwarfs** (objects between stars and planets, called “failed stars” because they cannot fuse hydrogen like stars)



NASA Discovers 29th Moon of Uranus, Named S/2025 U1

- Discovered using **NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope**
- **Uranus** known satellite family - 29.



PixxelSpace India-led consortium to establish India’s first commercial earth observation satellite constellation

- A **private consortium of four space start-ups led by Bengaluru-based PixxelSpace** has won a bid to **build and run the country’s fully-indigenous commercial earth observation satellite constellation**
- the consortium **will invest Rs 1,200 crore over next five years to set up the 12-satellite constellation**.
- It will own, manufacture, launch, develop ground infrastructure, operate the satellite constellation as well as commercialise the data generated.
- The satellites will be equipped with panchromatic, multispectral, hyperspectral, and microwave SAR sensors — which can produce images of the Earth in varying degrees of detail.
- The data would be used in the fields of agriculture, infrastructure development and urban planning, disaster management, security, as well as climate change monitoring.

Orbiting Carbon Observatories (OCO) Program

- Recently, the **Trump administration asked to shut down NASA’s Orbiting Carbon Observatories (OCO) program**.
- **OCOs** are a **series of dedicated Earth remote sensing satellites** that were designed specifically **to observe atmospheric CO2 from space** in order to better understand the characteristics of climate change.



Timeline of Observatories

- The first mission of the series failed soon after launch in February 2009.
- A replacement satellite, **OCO-2, was launched in July 2014**.
- In **2019, a third mission, OCO-3, was sent to the International Space Station (ISS) to further enhance the observation** of atmospheric CO2.

CATCH Grant Program

- **IndiaAI** Independent Business Division (IBD), in collaboration with the **National Cancer Grid (NCG)**, has announced the **launch of the Cancer AI & Technology Challenge (CATCH) Grant Program**.
- It seeks to **support the development and deployment of innovative Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions** to strengthen **cancer screening, diagnostics, treatment support, and healthcare operations** across India.
- **Grants:** This Program will provide **up to ₹50 lakh per project** to selected teams comprising technology innovators and clinical institutions.
- A total of up to 10 proposals will be selected for piloting under this round, based on technical maturity, feasibility, and alignment with healthcare delivery needs.
- Successful pilot projects **may also be eligible for an additional scale-up grant of up to ₹1 crore**

**Who is eligible for the CATCH Grant Program?**

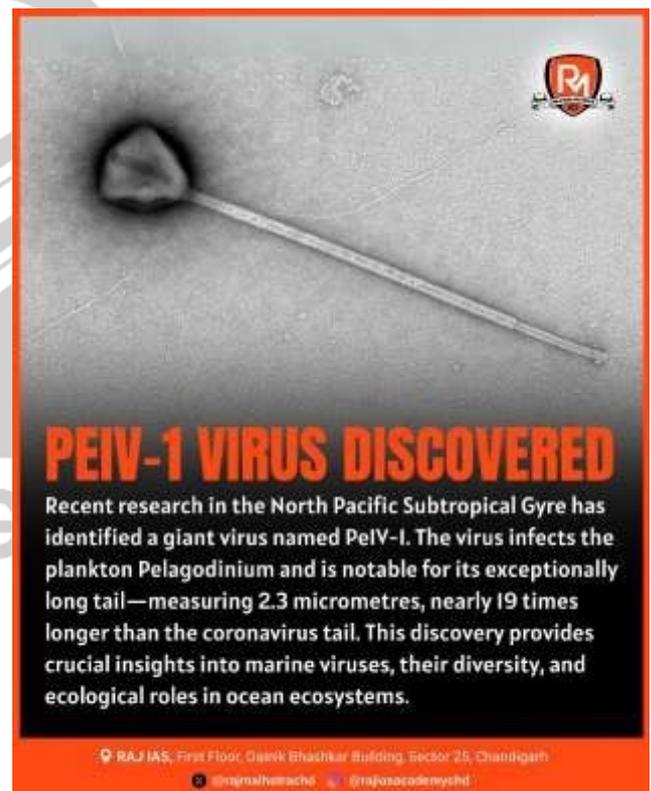
- Applicants may include startups, health technology companies, academic institutions, and public or private hospitals.

Key Facts about IndiaAI

- An **Independent Business Division** under the Digital India Corporation (DIC) of the **Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY)**.
- It is the **implementation agency of the IndiaAI Mission**

PeIV-1

- Recent research in the **North Pacific Subtropical Gyre** has identified a **giant virus named PeIV-1**.
- The virus **infects the plankton Pelagodinium** and is notable for its **exceptionally long tail—measuring 2.3 micrometres**, nearly 19 times longer than the coronavirus tail.
- This discovery provides new vital information about marine viruses and their ecological roles.
- PeIV-1 was **found at Station ALOHA, north of Hawaii**, by sampling seawater **25 metres below the surface**.



Environment

Indri Lemur Microbiome

- Joint research has, for the first time, ascertained the composition of the intestinal microbiome of the **indri, a critically endangered lemur only found in the north-east of Madagascar**
- Indri, or babakoto** in the local language, is the largest of the **surviving lemur species**.
- Scientific Name:** *Indri indri*
- It is classified as **'Critically Endangered'** under the IUCN Red List.



Blue Pinkgill Mushroom Discovered in Telangana Forests

- Recently, a burst of rare and colourful Blue Pinkgill fungi has been documented **in the Kagaznagar forest division of the Komaram Bheem Asifabad district, of Telangana**
- It is referred as **"sky-blue mushroom,"** (scientific name: *Entoloma hochstetteri*) this genus of mushrooms has pink to purplish hues in their gills.
- It a species **native to New Zealand** and famously featured on the **country's \$50 note**.
- Its **colour derived from rare azulene pigments**.



Operation Falcon

NEWS: The **Assam government's Operation Falcon** has **successfully arrested 42 rhino poachers**, dismantled six major poaching gangs, and foiled nine poaching attempts, ensuring zero rhino killings in the state so far in 2025.

- A **joint anti-poaching initiative launched in 2024 by the Assam Police and Assam Forest Department** to eliminate **rhino poaching** networks and curb illegal wildlife trade.

Organisations Involved:

- Assam Police** – Law enforcement, intelligence gathering, and operations.
- Assam Forest Department** – Habitat monitoring, patrolling, and wildlife protection.

Sea of Galilee Turns Red

- Israel's largest freshwater lake**, changed **colour to red** due to an algal bloom
- The **green algae *Botryococcus braunii***, common in the lake, **produces red (carotenoid) pigments under sunlight**.
- It lies 209 metres below sea level, making it the **lowest freshwater lake on Earth**.
- Fed mainly by the Jordan River**, it sits in the Jordan Rift Valley formed by tectonic plate movements.
- The lake is known by several names, including **Lake Tiberias** and **Yam Kinneret**.



Great Barrier Reef has recorded its largest Coral Bleach

- The Great Barrier Reef, located off the eastern coast of Australia, in the state of Queensland, has recorded its largest annual coral cover decline in nearly 40 years, driven by severe coral bleaching, cyclones, and crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks (coral eating starfish).

Coral Bleaching?

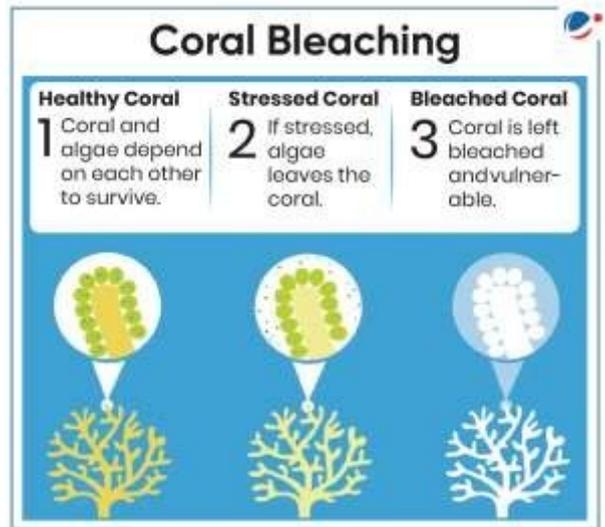
- A **stress response in corals when symbiotic algae (zooxanthellae) are expelled from coral tissues**.



- Loss of algae removes the coral’s main food source and colour, leaving it pale or white.
- Bleaching does not always kill coral, but prolonged stress can lead to mortality.

Causes of Coral Bleaching:

- **Increased Sea Temperatures** – Often from climate change and El Niño events.
- **Pollution & Runoff** – Nutrient-rich runoff from agriculture promotes harmful algal blooms and reduces water quality.
- **Overexposure to Sunlight** – High solar irradiance during heat events.
- **Extreme Low Tides** – Exposes shallow corals to air and heat stress.



Barbados Threadsnake

- Recently, the **world’s smallest known snake Barbados threadsnake** was rediscovered after vanishing for decades.
- It is a tiny snake belonging to the family **Leptotyphlopidae**.
- It reaches a maximum adult length of only 10.4 cm and an average weight of 0.6 g
- The snake is blind, nocturnal, burrows in the ground, eats termites and ants and lays one single, slender egg
- **Conservation Status: Critically Endangered** (IUCN Red List)



Alpine Musk Deer Conservation

- A Central Zoo Authority report reveals a mix-up in identifying the Alpine musk deer for conservation breeding, mistakenly initiating programs for the Himalayan musk deer instead.
- The **Alpine musk deer (Moschus chrysogaster)** is a musk deer species **found only in Asia**.
- It is **not a true deer**, but rather its **family is closely related to Bovidae**, the group that contains antelopes, bovines, sheep, and goats.
- **Distribution:** It is mainly found in India, Nepal, Bhutan and China.



Conservation Status

- **IUCN: Endangered**
- **CITES: Appendix I**
- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I**

Under threat

Sewage discharged by industries and houseboats have severely polluted the lake



Ashtamudi Lake

- The **Ker ala High Court recently directed** the State government and the State Wetland Authority Kerala (SWAK) **to constitute an Ashtamudi Wetland Management Unit** for the conservation of the wetland within two months of a notification being issued for this.
- It is a **freshwater lake located in the Kollam District of Kerala**.
- It is the **second largest lake in Kerala, after Vembanad Lake**.
- It is often referred to as the **gateway to the backwaters of Kerala**. It is a **large palm-shaped** (also described as **octopus-shaped**) water body.

- The name 'Ashtamudi' is adapted from the topography of the lake. 'Ashta' means eight, and 'mudi' means coned.
- The lake is fed by several rivers, including the Kallada River. It eventually drains into the Arabian Sea through the Neendakara estuary.
- It was designated as a Ramsar site in 2002.
- Historical records of the Moroccan explorer Ibn Battuta highlights Quilon city, on the banks of Ashtamudi Lake as one of the major trading centers in the ancient period.

Sabarmati River

NEWS: Thirteen stretches of rivers in Gujarat have been officially classified as polluted, with the Sabarmati emerging as the most contaminated, according to data tabled by the Union govt in the Lok Sabha recently.

Sabarmati River

- It is a **monsoon-fed, west-flowing river**.
- Course: It originates in the Aravalli Mountain Range in the Udaipur district of the northern Indian state of Rajasthan.
- The river flows in a southwesterly direction across Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- It finally empties into the Gulf of Khambhat of the Arabian Sea.
- It is about 371 km in length. In Gujarat, the river extends to a length of about 323 km, while in Rajasthan the river has a length of about 48 km.
- **Major Tributaries:** Wakal River, Harnav River, Hathmati River, Watrak River, and Madhumati River.



The population of Nilgiri Tahr, Tamil Nadu's state animal, recorded a 21% increase in 2025

- A **synchronized bi-annual survey** to assess the population of Nilgiri Tahr across their habitat range.
- **Conducted by:** Tamil Nadu and Kerala Forest

Departments Key Findings:

- Population rose from 1,031 (2024) to 1,303 (2025).
- Akkamalai Grass Hills (Anamalai Tiger Reserve) recorded 334 individuals.
- [Mukurthi National Park](#) recorded 282 individuals (approx. 50% of total in TN).

About Nilgiri Tahr:

- **Scientific Name:** *Nilgiritragus hylocrius*
- **IUCN Status:** Endangered
- **Legal Protection:** Schedule I, Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- **Common Names:** Varaiaadu (Tamil), Varayadu (Malayalam)

Habitat:

- Endemic to **Southern Western Ghats** (Tamil Nadu and Kerala)
- Occupies steep **montane grasslands** and **shola forest edges** at elevations between 1,200 to 2,600 m
- Current distribution confined to a **400 km stretch** from Nilgiris to Kanyakumari

NTCA Limits Definition of Tiger Corridors

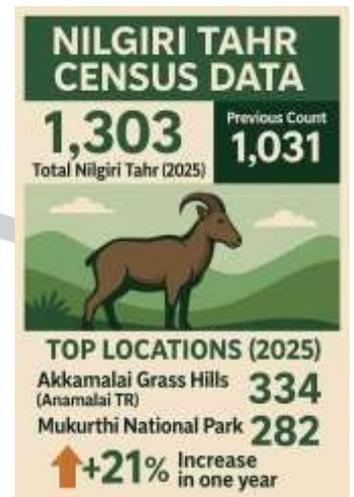
- **National Tiger Conservation Authority NTCA** restricts the definition of tiger corridors to the **32 "least cost pathways"** identified in its 2014 report.

Impact:

- Excludes newer scientific data and studies.
- Could allow development projects in some areas previously considered tiger corridors.

Significance:

- Tiger corridors are essential for **safe movement between habitats and maintaining genetic diversity**.
- Conservationists fear this **may weaken tiger protection** and affect biodiversity.



About NTCA:

- A **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**.
- Created in **2005** under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** through its 2006 amendment.

Chaired by

- Headed by the **Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.
- Vice-Chairperson: **Minister of State for Environment**.
- Apex authority for **tiger conservation and management of tiger reserves** in India.

Nepal officially joins India-led International Big Cat Alliance

- The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) **officially became** a treaty-based intergovernmental organization and **international legal entity on 23rd January 2025** with headquarters in India.
- IBCA was **launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2023** during the **50th anniversary of Project Tiger**, and was formally approved by the Union Cabinet in February 2024.
- **Implementation:** IBCA established through the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC)**.
- It functions as a global platform to **share conservation expertise, fund conservation initiatives, and create a repository of technical knowledge**.
- **Objective:** The initiative's main objective is the **conservation of seven major big cat species: the Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma**.

**First artificial incubation of Asian Giant Tortoises succeeds in Manipur**

- The first experiment to artificially incubate the largest tortoise in mainland Asia has succeeded in Manipur.
- **The Manipur Zoological Garden in Imphal** and the India Turtle Conservation Program (ITCP) recorded **28 hatchlings** from a nest of the Asian giant tortoises.
- The Asian giant tortoise (*Manouria emys phayrei*) is a **critically endangered species native to five northeastern States — Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland**.

**Rhisotope Project**

- The **University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa** has launched an innovative anti-poaching campaign.
- It uses **radioactive isotopes injected into rhino horns**.
- This method aims to **make horns traceable** and deter illegal trafficking.
- It is **supported by** the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
- The Rhisotope Project began with injecting radioactive isotopes into five rhinos at the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve.
- The radioactive tagging is claimed to be **harmless to the animals and detectable by global customs radiation monitors**.

**National Designated Authority (NDA) to Enable Carbon Emissions Trading Regime****What Is the NDA?**

- India has constituted a **21-member National Designated Authority (NDA)**, headed by the **Union Environment Secretary**, under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC)**. This move seeks to **oversee carbon trading** and other market-based mechanisms in alignment with the **Paris Agreement**.
- The **NDA is a mandatory institutional requirement under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement**, which sets the framework for international and domestic carbon credit trading.

Composition & Leadership

- It's a **21-member committee** chaired by the **Union Environment Secretary**.
- **Members represent key ministries** including External Affairs, Renewable Energy, Steel, Power, NITI Aayog, among others.
- This expansion **supports the launch** of India's compliance carbon market **by 2026** and strengthens India's positioning for **hosting COP 33 in 2028**.

Core Functions of NDA

- **Evaluating, approving, and authorizing projects** that generate emission reduction units or carbon credits under Article 6.
- **Recommending eligible activities** for inclusion in carbon trading aligned with national sustainability goals.
- **Monitoring and updating eligible activities** in line with India's evolving climate priorities.
- **Issuing permissions** for using emission reduction units to meet India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- **Representing India** in international Article 6 dialogues, facilitating credit transfers and cooperative climate action.

Strategic Significance & NDC Alignment

- **India's NDC commitments** include:
 - **Reducing GDP emission intensity by 45% by 2030** (from 2005 levels).
 - Achieving **50% electric power capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030**.
 - Creating additional **carbon sinks of 2.5–3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent** through **afforestation**.
- The NDA is integral to facilitating India's carbon market infrastructure and enabling compliance with these targets.

Additional Facts:

- Carbon credits were born under the **Kyoto Protocol (1997)** and later refined under the **Paris Agreement (2015)**.
- **Now credits are issued as ITMOs (Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes)**.
- **UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) Oversees the global carbon credit system**.
- **Each country** designates a **National Authority** (like India's new **NDA**) to approve and track which projects generate carbon credits.
- **Credits are only valid internationally if UNFCCC (or UN body called the Article 6.4 Supervisory Body) approves them.**

Biochar

- The **Indian carbon market set to be launched in 2026**, CO₂ removal technologies such as **biochar** are expected to play a crucial role.
- **Biochar is a type of charcoal rich in carbon** and is **produced from agricultural residue and organic municipal solid waste**.
- It is granular material obtained by **heating crop residue at 400°C to 600°C** in a kiln-shaped structure in the **absence of oxygen**.
- **Advantage of Biochar:** It can hold carbon in the soil for **100-1,000 years** due to its strong and stable characteristics, making it an **effective long-term carbon sink**.

Potential Applications of Biochar

- **Agriculture:** Applying biochar **can improve water retention**, particularly in semi-dry and nutrient-depleted soils. This, in turn, can abate nitrous oxide emissions by 30-50%.
- Biochar can also enhance soil organic carbon, helping restore degraded soils.
- **Construction sector:** Biochar can be explored as a low-carbon alternative to building materials and makes building materials a stable carbon sink.
- **Wastewater Treatment:** Biochar offers a low-cost and effective option to reduce pollution.

In India, *Euglena* and its relatives are now widespread indicators of deteriorating water quality

- A unicellular, flagellated microorganism
- These are commonly found in stagnant or slow-moving freshwater ponds, ditches, and urban lakes.
- **Characteristics:** These protists are highly adaptable, capable of both photosynthesis (like plants) and feeding on organic matter (like animals).
- This flexibility helps them thrive in nutrient-rich, oxygen-poor environments.



Impact of Euglena on Biodiversity

- **Oxygen depletion:** *Euglena* photosynthesises, but at night it consumes oxygen, leading to diurnal oxygen fluctuations. This can result in hypoxia (low oxygen levels), which is dangerous for fish and other aquatic life.
- **Dense surface scums:** Euglenoid blooms form thick mats on the water surface, which block sunlight from reaching submerged plants. This reduces the lake's productivity and alters its ecological balance.
- **Fish mortality:** Euglenophyte blooms can stick to fish gills, making it hard for them to breathe. Some species also produce toxins like euglenophycin, which directly kill fish or indirectly affect them by disrupting the food chain and oxygen levels.

Two new species of damselflies have been discovered

- Two new species of damselflies named **Konkan Shadowdamsel** and **Crimson Shadowdamsel** have been discovered in the **Western Ghats** by researchers from **Maharashtra and Kerala**
- They are two new species of damselflies.
- The species — **Konkan Shadowdamsel, discovered in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district, and Crimson Shadowdamsel, discovered in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram district** — belong to the group commonly called 'Shadowdamsels' because of their affinity for well-shaded forest habitats.



Aug 15, 06:18 pm IST • 2 min read

Two new damselfly species, Konkan and Crimson Shadowdamsels, discovered in Western Ghats of Maharashtra and Kerala. Unique characteristics identified through microscopy and molecular analysis, highlighting their restricted habitats and potential as forest health indicators.

Heptapleurum assamicum

- It is a new plant species.
- Scientists have recently identified it in **Assam's Dima Hasao and West Karbi Anglong districts** — a lush, evergreen shrub now named ***Heptapleurum assamicum***.
- For now, it has been categorised as "Data Deficient" under IUCN criteria.
- It belongs to the family Araliaceae, which also includes the familiar ornamental "umbrella plant" (*H. arboricola*).



National News

79th Independence Day

- PM Modi led the 79th Independence Day celebrations from the historic Red Fort in New Delhi.
- Theme : Naya Bharat**
- This year, the Indian Air Force (IAF) is the coordinating service for the national event
- Flying Officer Rashika Sharma** will assist the Prime Minister in raising the tricolour.
- Invitation cards carry the Operation Sindoor logo, and the watermark of the Chenab bridge depicting the rise of 'Naya Bharat'.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a **103-minute Independence Day speech** from the ramparts of the Red Fort, the **longest by any prime minister in India's history**.
- PM Modi also broke Indira Gandhi's record by **delivering 12 consecutive speeches from Red Fort** to stand next only to **Jawaharlal Nehru**, who **delivered 17** Independence Day addresses in a row.
- Special mention : Operation Sindoor**
- Firm stance on Indus Water Treaty and water diplomacy**



Major Announcements :

- Indigenous semiconductor chips by year-end:**
- Nuclear Energy Capacity to Grow Tenfold by 2047**
- GST Reforms – A Diwali Gift**
 - Next-generation GST reforms will be unveiled on Diwali, reducing taxes on essential goods and providing relief to MSMEs, local vendors, and consumers.
- Dedicated Reform Task Force for Bharat**
 - Its mandate: accelerate economic growth, cut red tape and modernise governance.
- ₹1 Lakh Crore PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana**
 - PM Modi launched** Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana - will provide a one-time incentive of ₹15,000 to first-time private-sector job seekers, targeting approximately 3.5 crore beneficiaries.
- High-Powered Demography Mission**
 - He announced the launch of a *High-Powered Demography Mission* to address dangers of demographic imbalance due to infiltration and illegal migration in border areas - ensuring the unity, integrity, and rights of India's citizens are safeguarded.
- Energy Independence – Samudra Manthan Begins**
 - PM Modi pointed out that a large share of India's budget still goes toward importing petrol, diesel, and gas.
 - He **announced the launch of the National Deepwater Exploration Mission** to tap ocean resources, alongside major expansions in solar, hydrogen, hydro and nuclear power.
- Made in India Jet Engines – A National Challenge**
 - PM Modi made a dramatic announcement that just like how we made vaccines during COVID, and UPI for digital payments, we should build **our own jet engines too for our fighter aircrafts** and asked our scientists and youth to take it up as a direct challenge.



'Rs 15,000 on first job in private sector': PM Modi announces Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana

- **‘Sudarshan Chakra’ project to boost defence shield**
 - Announced the launch of "Mission Sudarshan Chakra" - aimed at neutralising enemy threat and enhancing India's offensive capabilities.

What is S-400 ‘Sudarshan Chakra’? (static)

- The **S-400 Triumpf**, codenamed **SA-21 Growler** by NATO, is a long-range, multi-layered **surface-to-air missile system** developed by **Russia’s Almaz-Antey**.
- In Indian service, it is named **‘Sudarshan Chakra’**, reflecting its swift and precise defensive power.



Developed By:

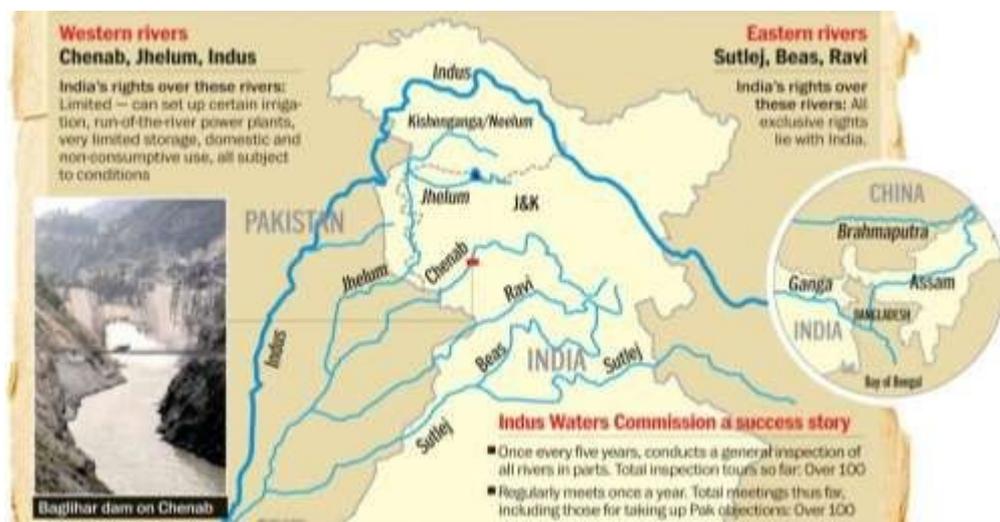
- Almaz-Antey Air and Space Defence Corporation, Russia.
- Entered Russian service in **2007**, with India procuring it under a **2018 bilateral agreement**.

Range & Tracking:

- Detects threats up to **600 km**.
- Engages targets at **four different missile ranges**, up to **400 km**.
- **Multi-Target Capability:**
 - Simultaneously tracks and engages **80 aerial targets**.
 - Counteracts stealth aircraft, drones, [hypersonic weapons](#).
- **Already deployed in Pathankot, Siliguri Corridor, and Western Front.**
- Played a crucial role during [Operation Sindoor](#) by intercepting over 15 aerial threats.

Indus Water Treaty (static)

- Indus Waters Treaty was **signed on September 19, 1960**, between **India and Pakistan** and was **brokered by the World Bank**.
- The treaty sets out a **mechanism for cooperation and information exchange** between the two sides on the **use of the water of the Indus River** and its **five tributaries Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Jhelum, and Chenab**.
- It allocated the **three western rivers Indus, Chenab and Jhelum to Pakistan** for unrestricted use, barring certain non-consumptive, agricultural and domestic uses by India and the **three Eastern rivers Ravi, Beas and Sutlej** were allocated to **India for unrestricted usage**.
- This means that **80% of the share of water** went to **Pakistan** while leaving the rest 20% of water for use by India.
- Under the Indus Waters Treaty, both countries must set up a **Permanent Indus Commission, mandated to meet annually**.



Indus River and its Tributaries

- **Indus (In Tibetan called Sengge Chu/'Lion River', originates in Tibet near Mansarovar Lake in the Trans-Himalaya.**
- The river flows **through Tibet, India and Pakistan**
- It **enters India through Demchok region in Ladakh** and flows through Jammu and Kashmir before reaching Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan region.
- **Major left-bank tributaries** of the Indus River - Zaskar, Suru, Soan, **Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, Satluj**, and Panjnad rivers.
- **Major right-bank tributaries** - Shyok, Gilgit, Hunza, Swat, Kunnar, Kurram, Gomal, and Kabul rivers.
- The Indus River **empties into the Arabian Sea** near the city of Karachi in southern Pakistan.

Patriotic Film Festival under Har Ghar Tiranga campaign begins in New Delhi

- The Patriotic Film Festival, which is being **organised by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** and the **National Film Development Corporation**, has **begun in New Delhi** at Siri Fort Auditorium. .
- This film festival is being celebrated as a run-up to Independence Day **under the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign from 11th to 13th August**



Ministry of Culture organises Tiranga Bike Rally under Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign in New Delhi

- **Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, along with Union Ministers **Kiren Rijiju and Sanjay Seth**, and **Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta**, led the rally.
- The rally is part of the annual celebrations leading up to Independence Day.



PAHAL (Direct Benefit Transfer for LPG) Scheme

NEWS: The Indian government has deactivated more than 4 crore duplicate or inactive domestic LPG connections under its PAHAL direct benefit transfer scheme, the Petroleum Minister told parliament recently.

- **Pratyaksh Hanstantrit Labh/Direct Benefits Transfer For LPG (PAHAL) scheme**, launched by the **Ministry Of Petroleum and Natural Gas**, is India's **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system for LPG subsidies**.
- Instead of subsidized cylinders being delivered directly, the consumer pays the full market price for LPG and the government transfers the subsidy amount to the registered bank account.
- It **covers over 17 crore LPG consumers nationwide**, making it the **largest cash transfer program globally**.



Eligibility:

- The applicant must be an LPG user.
- The combined taxable income of the applicant and their spouse should not exceed ₹10,00,000 in the previous financial year, as per the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Union Cabinet Approved Grant in Aid to National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) Scheme

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme** with an **outlay of ₹2, 000 crore** for a period of four years from **2025-26 to 2028-29** (₹500 crore each year from FY 2025-26).
- The approved grant **will enable NCDC to raise ₹20,000 crore from the open market** over the next four years.

- These funds will be utilised by NDCDC for granting loans to Cooperatives for setting up new projects/expansion of plants, and loans for meeting the working capital requirements.
- India has more than 8.25 lakh cooperatives with more than 29 crore members and **94 percent farmers are associated with cooperatives in some form or the other.**
- **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NDCDC)**
 - Established by an Act of Parliament in 1963 as a **statutory Corporation** under the Ministry of Cooperation.
 - NDCDC's aim is to develop and strengthen cooperatives to enable them to serve their members, besides enhancing their income, while contributing to improvement of their livelihoods and growth of the economy as a whole.



Cabinet approves ₹6,520 crore outlay for Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

- The Union Cabinet has approved a major increase in the budget for the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY), raising its allocation by ₹1,920 crore to a total of **₹6,520 crore.**
- **Originally allocated ₹4,600 crore for the extended period till 2025-26**, the scheme will now receive an additional ₹1,920 crore to implement new projects announced in the 2024-25 budget.
- **Approval includes** (i) **Rs.1000 crore** to support setting up of 50 Multi Product Food Irradiation Units and 100 food testing labs.
- The remaining **₹920 crore** will be used to sanction projects under other PMKSY component schemes during the 15th Finance Commission Cycle (2021-22 to 2025-26).
- The move aims to give a significant boost to India's food processing sector by creating modern infrastructure and ensuring better food safety standards.
- The **Central Sector Scheme - Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana, launched in 2017**, seeks to create modern infrastructure and efficient supply chains for the food processing sector.
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Food Processing Industries.**



PM Modi to disburse ₹20,500 Cr under PM-KISAN scheme in Varanasi

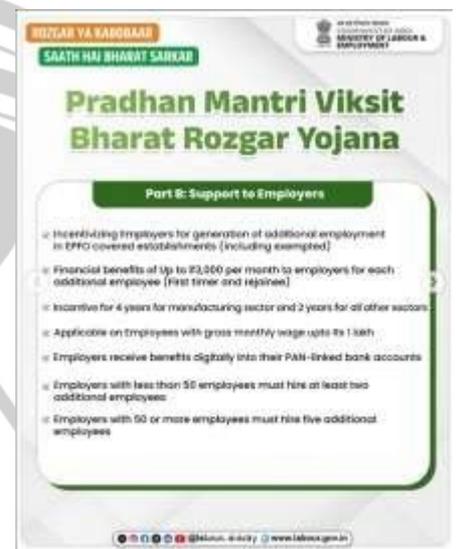
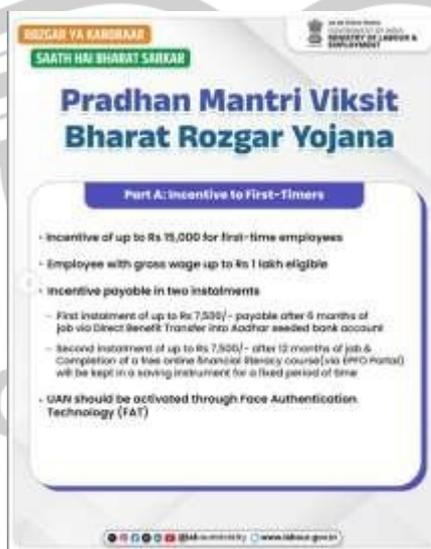
- The **20th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme** will be released on August 2, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi set to lead the event in Varanasi
- **Launched:** December 2018
- **Type:** Central Sector Scheme
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- **Objective:** Provide financial assistance to **land-holding farmer families across India**
- **Income Support:** Rs **6,000** annually (3 equal installments of Rs **2,000** each)





MERITE Scheme

- The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for implementation of the **Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education (MERITE) Scheme** to enhance the quality across 275 institutions nationwide, aligning with the [National Education Policy 2020](#).
- MERITE is a **Central Sector Scheme**, with an outlay of **₹4,200 crore for five years**, and aims to develop guidelines for multidisciplinary programmes in technical courses, and increase learning and employability skills
- The total **budget of Rs. 4200 crore for 2025-26 to 2029-30**, includes Rs. 2100 crore [World Bank](#) loan assistance.
- It targets **engineering institutions and polytechnics**, including National Institutes of Technology (NITs), State Engineering Institutions, and Affiliating Technical Universities.
- The scheme **aims to benefit about 7.5 lakh students** across all States and Union Territories.
- **Implementation:** MERITE involves **collaboration with premier institutions** like Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, and regulatory bodies such as [All India Council for Technical Education](#) and [National Board of Accreditation](#).
- **MERITE Focus Areas Include:** Aims to digitalize education, develop multidisciplinary programs, and boost students' learning and employability.
- It **strengthens research**, improves quality assurance, and expands accreditation.
- The scheme also **focuses on creating labor-market aligned curricula** and supporting future academic leaders, **especially women**.



Govt launches PM Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojna portal for employers, first-time employees

- **Outlay:** It is a Central Sector Scheme outlay - ₹99,446 crore
- **Objective** - to support employment generation, enhance employability and social security across all sectors, with special focus on the manufacturing sector.
- **Aims** - formalise the workforce and extend social security (EPFO benefits, provident coverage, etc.) to millions of youth entering the organised labour sector
- **Target:** Generate **3.5 crore formal sector jobs**, including **1.92 crore first-time workers over a period of 2 years**
- **Timeline:** Benefits applicable to jobs created **from August 1, 2025 to July 31, 2027**

Part A: Incentive to First-Time Employees registered with EPFO

- **Benefit:** a one-time incentive will be given to first-time employees, which would be equivalent to the **average one-month wage (Basic plus DA) up to Rs 15,000** - capped to EPF wages ≤ ₹1 lakh/month
- **Disbursement:** Two installments **after 6 months and 12 months** of employment, contingent on **completing a financial literacy program**
- **Savings Feature:** A part of the amount is held in a fixed deposit to encourage savings

Part B: Support to Employers registered with EPFO

- Provides employers with support for providing job opportunities to people including the first-timers and re-joiners
- The establishments will get an **incentive of up to Rs 3,000 per month for each additional employee**, for a sustained period of at least six months
- Establishments will be required to hire **at least two additional employees** (for employers with less than 50 employees) **or five additional employees** (for employers with 50 or more employees), on a sustained basis **for at least six months**.
- **Duration:** 2 years for all sectors; **extended to 4 years in manufacturing**
- The establishments that are exempted under the Employees’ Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, are also included in the scheme.

Government Launched Apna Ghar Resting Facilities For Truck Drivers

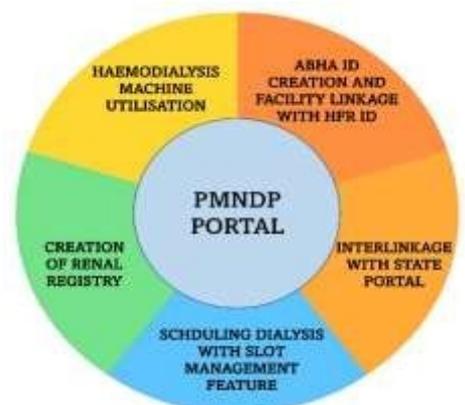
- The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** has launched an ambitious initiative named **‘Apna Ghar’**
- The programme aims to provide **comfortable and hygienic resting spaces for truckers** across **major highways** in the country.
- As on 01.07.2025, 368 ‘Apna Ghar’ with 4611 beds besides other facilities, have been set up by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) at Retail Outlets (ROs) along Highways across the country.

The facilities at ‘Apna Ghar’ include:

- Dormitories (10-30) beds
- Restaurants/Dhabas
- Self-cooking areas
- Clean toilets
- Dedicated bathing areas (Houdas)
- Purified drinking water facilities

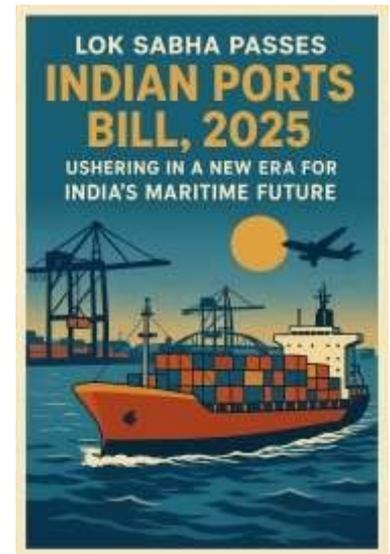
PM National Dialysis Programme

- The **Government of India** has extended the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme (**PMNDP**) to **751 districts across all 36 States and Union Territories**, with over 1,700 functional dialysis centres as of June 30, 2025.
- It is **flagship scheme under National Health Mission (NHM)** launched to provide **free dialysis** services to economically vulnerable patients **suffering from end-stage renal disease (ESRD)**.
- **Initiated in April 2016** under Union Budget 2016–17
- **Implemented via Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** and hybrid models
- **Ministry:** Implemented by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**



Lok Sabha Passes Indian Ports Bill, 2025

- The Lok Sabha passed the Indian Ports Bill, 2025, on August 12, 2025, a landmark **reform aimed at modernizing port governance, streamlining trade processes, and aligning India's maritime sector with global best practices.**
- **Introduced by** Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Shri **Sarbananda Sonowal**, the **bill replaces the Indian Ports Act, 1908**, a colonial-era law, with a future-ready legal framework supporting the Prime Minister's vision of "Ports for Prosperity."



Key Objectives of the Indian Ports Bill, 2025

- **Replace archaic legislation** with modern, transparent, and efficiency-focused port governance.
- **Boost cooperative federalism** via the State Maritime Boards and the Maritime State Development Council (MSDC).
- Enhance **ease of doing business (EODB)** by digitizing port procedures.
- Ensure **environmental sustainability** through green port initiatives and pollution control.
- **Promote investment** through clear Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and FDI provisions.
- **Standardize safety and operational protocols** across all Indian ports.

LS Passes Mines and Minerals (Amendment) Bill, 2025 to Boost Transparency and Expand Mineral Exploration

- The **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2025** seeks to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.
- Passed on August 12
- Tabled in the Lok Sabha by the Union Minister for Coal and Mines, G. Kishan Reddy



Inclusion of other minerals in a mining lease:

- The Bill provides that lease holders may apply to the state government for adding other minerals to an existing lease.
- For inclusion of critical and strategic minerals, and other specified minerals, no additional amount needs to be paid.
- These include minerals such as lithium, graphite, nickel, cobalt, gold, and silver.

Expanded scope of National Mineral Exploration Trust:

- The Act establishes the National Mineral Exploration Trust to fund mineral exploration in the country. The Bill widens the scope of the Trust to also fund development of mines and minerals.
- The Bill also renames the Trust as the **National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust.**

Removal of limit on sale for captive mines:

- Under the Act, captive mines are **allowed to sell up to 50% of minerals produced in a year**, after meeting end-use requirements.
- The Bill removes the limit on sale of minerals. The Bill also empowers state governments to allow sale of mineral dumps stacked in the leased area up to a date specified by the central government.

Inclusion of contiguous area in mining lease for deep-seated minerals:

- The Bill allows for a **one-time extension** of the area under a mining or composite lease.
- This will be applicable for deep-seated minerals. Deep-seated minerals are minerals which occur at a depth of more than 200 metres from the surface of land.
- Mining area **may be extended by up to 30%** of the existing leased area under a **composite licence**, and by **up to 10%** of the existing leased area **under a mining lease.**
- A composite licence provides rights for both prospecting and mining.

Mineral exchanges:

- The Bill provides for establishing an authority to register and regulate mineral exchanges.
- The Bill defines mineral exchange as a registered electronic trading platform or marketplace for trading minerals and metals.

**National Sport Governance Bill and National Anti-Doping Amendment Bill passed in Lok Sabha**

- The Bills were **moved by** Sports Minister **Mansukh Mandviya**
- Passed on August 11, 2025
- The **National Sports Governance Bill** seeks to **regulate the various sports administrators in India**.
- The Bill constitutes a National Sports Board (NSB) which will oversee all sports federations, including India's richest sports body – the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- **National Anti-Doping Amendment Bill 2025** provides greater “operational independence” to the country's Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) as prescribed by World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

Key Provisions of the Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025 to come into effect from 1st August 2025

- The *Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025* was notified on 15th April 2025
- **The Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025** seeks to:
 - improve governance standards in the banking sector,
 - ensure enhanced protection for depositors and investors,
 - improve audit quality in public sector banks, and
 - increase the tenure of directors (other than the chairperson and whole-time directors) in cooperative banks.
- It contains a total of 19 amendments across five legislations—the *Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934*, *Banking Regulation Act, 1949*, *State Bank of India Act, 1955* and *Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980*.

The amendments aim to:

- Redefine the **threshold of 'substantial interest'** from ₹5 lakh to ₹2 crore, revising a limit that has remained unchanged since 1968.
- Increasing the maximum tenure of **director in cooperative banks from 8 years to 10 years** (excluding the chairperson and whole-time director).
- Public sector banks (PSBs) will now be permitted to transfer unclaimed shares, interest, and bond redemption amounts to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF), bringing them in line with practices followed by companies under the Companies Act.
- The amendments also **empower PSBs to offer remuneration to statutory auditors**, facilitating the engagement of high-quality audit professionals and enhancing audit standards.

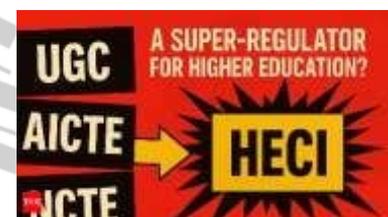
Revised Income Tax Bill passed in Lok Sabha

- **Full replacement of the 1961 Act:** The new bill will supersede the six-decade-old Income Tax Act, 1961, **consolidating all income-tax laws into a modern framework. Parliament (August 12, 2025) passed a new Income Tax Bill to replace the six-decade-old Income Tax Act, 1961, that will come into force from April 1, 2026.**
- **Based on Select Committee inputs:** It incorporates nearly all of the **285 recommendations** made by the Parliamentary Select Committee along with stakeholder suggestions for clearer legal language.
- **Aim:**
 - **Simplify compliance** by removing outdated provisions and improving drafting clarity.
 - **Enhance transparency** in tax administration.
 - Incorporate **stakeholder inputs** for fairer tax practices.
 - Facilitate **ease of doing business** through clear, consistent, and modern **legal language**.
- **S.I.M.P.L.E principles:** Structured around being **Streamlined, Integrated, Minimised litigation, Practical, Transparent, Learn and adapt, Efficient**, to make tax laws more taxpayer-friendly.
- **Section reduction:** The number of sections is slashed **from 819 to 536**, and chapters are limited to 23, simplifying complexity
- There will now be a **single concept of “Tax Year”** instead of “Previous Year” and “Assessment Year”.
- **Compliance & Governance Reform:** Unnecessary provisions removed, **CBDT empowered for digital-era rule-making**
- **Rs 12 lakh exemption retained:** The basic exemption limit remains unchanged at ₹12 lakh annually.
- **Streamlined refunds & notices:** Taxpayers can now claim TDS refunds even if they file ITR late; tax officials must issue notices before enforcement action
- **UPS–NPS parity:** Tax treatment of the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) is aligned with the National Pension System (NPS)



Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) to replace UGC, AICTE, and NCTE

- The **government has announced the formation of the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) to replace UGC, AICTE, and NCTE with a unified, tech-driven regulator.**
- To create a globally competitive, innovation-driven higher education ecosystem that ensures equitable access, high-quality learning, and strong industry-academia integration.



Objectives:

- **Unify fragmented regulation** into a single, transparent, and accountable authority.
- **Shift from input-based to outcome-based governance.**
- Foster **institutional autonomy** with rigorous accountability.
- **Integrate technology**—AI, blockchain, predictive analytics—into quality assurance.
- Position **India as a global education hub by 2030.**

Structure & Verticals of HECI

- **HECI will be an umbrella regulator consisting of four independent verticals**, each focused on distinct functions:
- These verticals aim to streamline functions previously dispersed among multiple bodies:

Vertical	Function
NHERC – National Higher Education Regulatory Council	Unified regulation across higher education
NAC – National Accreditation Council	Outcome-linked quality assurance
HEGC – Higher Education Grants Council	Performance-based funding
GEC – General Education Council	Curriculum and academic standard setting

Challenges & Concerns

- **Excessive centralization** may reduce state-level representation and autonomy.
- **Risk to rural institutions:** Stricter standards could lead to closures in under-resourced areas and promote privatization.
- **Implementation complexities:** Merging three distinct regulators requires careful change management and retraining.

M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference

- August 7, 2025 marks centenary of M.S. Swaminathan’s birth anniversary
- PM Modi inaugurated M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference at ICAR PUSA in New Delhi.
- Theme of the conference “Evergreen Revolution, The Pathway to Biohappiness”
- To honour his legacy, the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) and The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) launched the **M.S. Swaminathan Award for Food and Peace**.
- The first recipient of the newly instituted award is Professor Adenle of Nigeria, the first recipient of the award



About M.S. Swaminathan:

- Born on **August 7, 1925, in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu.**
- Hailed as the **father of India’s Green Revolution**, Swaminathan passed away on **September 28, 2023**, at the age of 98.
- In **2024**, he was conferred the **Bharat Ratna posthumously**.
- He was recognised as “**Father of Economic Ecology**” by the United Nations Environment Programme.

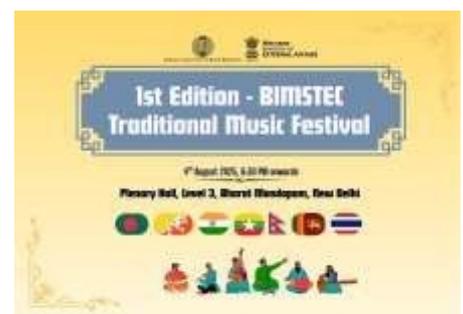
Extra Facts:

- Term “**green revolution**” coined by **William S Gaud**, administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- **Father of the Green Revolution** - Norman Borlaug

Revolution in India	Sectors
White Revolution	Operation Flood , launched in 1970, transformed the dairy sector in India.
Yellow Revolution	Launched in the early 1990s to achieve self-sufficiency in Oilseed production
Blue Revolution	Launched in 2015-26, to transform the Fisheries sector
Black Revolution	Self-sufficiency in the crude/petroleum sector
Golden Revolution	Increase in the production of honey and horticulture
Silver Revolution	Launched in the 1970s and 1980s to increase egg production and the growth of the poultry sector

First-Ever BIMSTEC Traditional Music Festival Begins in New Delhi

- Held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi
- **Inaugurated by** External Affairs Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar**
- The festival called ‘**SaptaSur: Seven Nations, One Melody**’
- **Organised by** the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (**ICCR**)
- Witnessed the celebration of the distinct musical traditions of the **seven BIMSTEC countries**.
- Artists from India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand will perform at the musical evening.



About Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

- Headquarters : Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Established : 6 June, 1997, in Bangkok.
- Members : 7 countries Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.
- BIMSTEC initially had four-members : Bangladesh, India, Sri-Lanka and Thailand
- Myanmar joined in 1997, Nepal and Bhutan joined in 2004.



Union Panchayati Raj Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan' launched SabhaSaar

- 'SabhaSaar' tool **automatically generates structured minutes from Gram Sabha meeting videos and audio recordings using advanced AI and Natural Language Processing (NLP) technologies**
- It is **rolled out in Tripura** and thereafter made available to other states.
- **Developed by:** Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj, **integrated with Bhashini** – the National Language Translation Mission.



Objective:

- Streamline and standardize Gram Sabha
 - Enhance governance efficiency by reducing manual workload.
 - Promote transparency and timely record-keeping in Panchayat functioning.
- **BHASHINI - Launched by PM Modi in July 2022**, BHASHINI, under the National Language Technology Mission, aims to provide **translation services in 22 scheduled Indian languages**

PM Modi inaugurates Kartavya Bhavan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **Kartavya Bhavan**, the **first of the ten upcoming Common Central Secretariat buildings** to house the bureaucracy.
- The ambitious project is **aimed at bringing Ministries and Departments under one roof for efficiency**.
- Many key Ministries currently function from ageing buildings constructed between the 1950s and 1970s, which are now "structurally outdated and inefficient,"
- The Union Housing and Urban Affairs (**HUA**) **Ministry has plans to construct ten buildings** as part of the Common Central Secretariat under the government's Central Vista redevelopment project.
- Under the Central Vista redevelopment plan, the Government has already constructed a new Parliament building and the Vice President Enclave, and redeveloped the Kartavya Path that spans from Vijay Chowk to India Gate.



PM Modi Inaugurates 184 Newly Constructed Type-VII Multi-Storey Flats For MPs In New Delhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 184 newly constructed Type-VII multi-storey flats for Members of Parliament **at Baba Kharak Singh Marg in New Delhi**.
- He also planted the Sindoor sapling
- The four towers are named **Krishna, Godavari, Kosi, and Hooghly**.
- Each residential unit offers approximately 5,000 square feet of carpet area, providing ample space **for both residential and official functions**.



PM Ekta Malls

- The Union government has **approved the establishment of PM Ekta Malls in 27 states** under the 'One District, One Product' (ODOP) initiative.
- PM Ekta Malls provide permanent retail platforms for artisans and producers. They showcase ODOP products and GI-tagged goods.
- The **scheme is part of the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) framework and was announced in the Union Budget 2023-24, under Ministry of Finance**
- Nearly ₹4,796 crore was sanctioned for these projects in the fiscal year 2023-24.
- **Uttar Pradesh received the highest allocation of ₹370.25 crore** for three malls in Agra, Lucknow, and Varanasi.



Indian Railways announces Mahalaya Paksha special train from September 9

- Indian Railways has announced the launch of the **Bharat Gaurav Train – Mahalaya Paksha Special Saptha Moksha Kshetra Yatra**, coinciding with the auspicious fortnight of Mahalaya Paksha in September.
- The tour will cover prominent spiritual destinations such as **Ujjain, Omkareshwar, Dwarka, Sidhpur, Mathura, Ayodhya, Prayagraj, Varanasi, and Gaya**.
- A key highlight of the pilgrimage is the **opportunity to perform 'pinda daan' at Gaya** on the occasion of Mahalaya Amavasya.
- **Mahalaya Paksha**, also known as **Pitru Paksha**, is a 15-day period in the Hindu lunar calendar in the month of Bhadrapada
- People honor their deceased ancestors by performing rituals like **Shradh and Tarpanam** to seek their blessings.
- This period ends with Mahalaya Amavasya, which marks the **transition into Devi Paksha and the start of the Navratri festivities**.

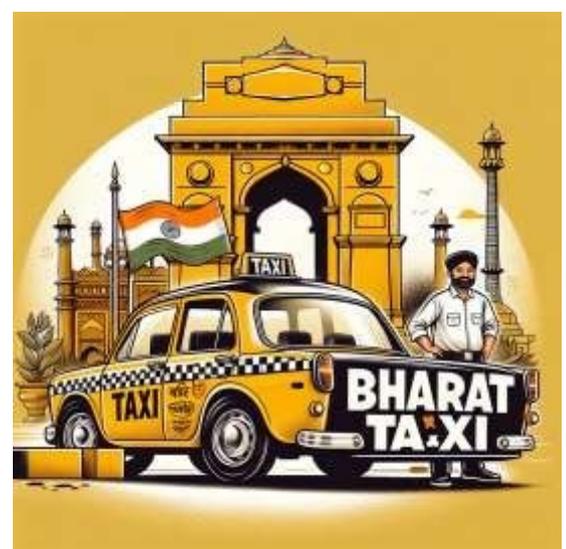
Indian Railways Conducts Trial Run of Asia's Longest Freight Train 'Rudrastra'

- The trial run was conducted from the **Ganjkhwaja railway station in Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh to Garhwa in Jharkhand** covering a distance of 209 km in 5 hours 10 minutes at an average speed of 40.50 km per hour.
- The **4.5 kilometres long freight train** was sent from the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Division (DDU) to the Dhanbad Division for quick loading and transportation of goods.
- The **354-wagon 'Rudrastra'** is not only the **longest freight train operated by Indian Railways** but also the **largest in Asia**



'Bharat' Taxi: Cooperatives to launch ₹300-Crore Ride-Hailing Platform to Rival Ola and Uber

- **India's cooperative sector** to challenge ride-hailing giants Ola and Uber with the **launch of a taxi service under the brand Bharat by the end of this year**, backed by Rs 300 crore authorised capital and having already onboarded 200 drivers across four states.
- The **Multi-State Sahakari Taxi Cooperative Ltd**, registered on June 6, represents a **consortium of eight prominent cooperatives** - backed entirely by **eight founding cooperative institutions**: National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO), Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation **GCMMF (Amul)**, KRIBHCO, NABARD, NDDDB, NCEL, and others—without any government equity involved.



ICMR Launches SHINE Program to Inspire Next Generation of Health Scientists

- The **Department of Health Research (DHR)** and the Indian Council of Medical Research (**ICMR**) organized a **nationwide open day titled S.H.I.N.E. – Science, Health and Innovation for Nextgen Explorers** across its institutes and DHR- Model Rural Health Research Units (MRHRUs) **on 7th and 8th August 2025.**
- The initiative **aimed to introduce students to the field of health and biomedical research**



Talaq-E-Hasan

- The Supreme Court recently agreed to hear a batch of petitions challenging the practice of talaq-e-hasan as unconstitutional.
- It is a **type of extrajudicial form of divorce mentioned under Islam that only men can practice. It is a revocable form of divorce.**
- A traditional form of divorce, ‘Talaq-e-Hasan is considered to be **approved by Prophet Mohammad** and is valid as per all schools of Muslim law.
- To practice ‘Talaq-e-Hasan, **a man needs to pronounce talaq on his wife three turns at intervals of one month.**
- The period of the gap between the three consecutive talaqs is called the **period of abstinence or ‘iddat’** and its duration is 90 days.
- **Can be revoked before the third pronouncement,** either verbally or by resuming marital relations.

How is it Different from Triple Talaq?

- **Triple talaq or Talaq-e-Biddat was banned by the government in 2019.** In this, a man can divorce his wife by **pronouncing “talaq” thrice in one go.**
- The divorce is **instant and irrevocable.**
- This is different from ‘Talaq-e-Hasan as it does not have any waiting period and irrevocably terminates the marriage.



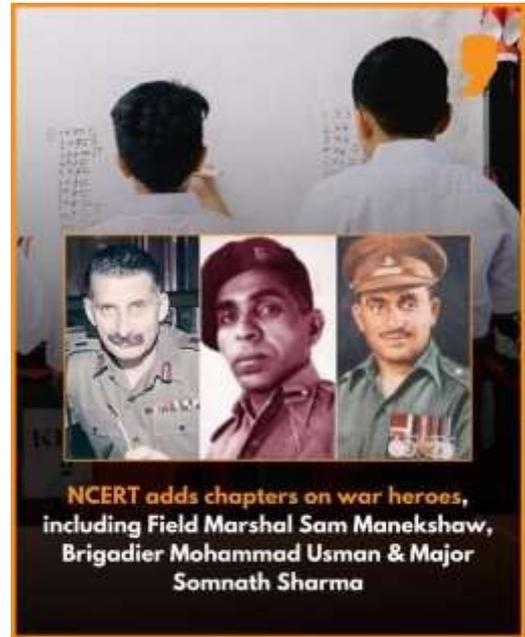
‘Green & Digital Maritime Corridors Dialogue’ at JNPA Sets Stage for India Maritime Week 2025 in Mumbai

- The **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)** and the **Indian Ports Association (IPA)**, under the aegis of the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)**, organized the **“Leaders’ Dialogue on Green & Digital Maritime Corridors”** in **Mumbai**, setting the stage for **India Maritime Week in October, 2025 in Mumbai.**
- The **event drew over 300 delegates**, including senior government officials, international dignitaries, and maritime industry leaders **from India and abroad.**
- **Singapore’s Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong** praised the **60-year partnership between India and Singapore**, emphasizing collaboration in green shipping, renewable energy, and maritime innovation as key to a sustainable future.



Chapters on war heroes Manekshaw, Usman, Somnath added to NCERT textbooks: Defence Ministry

- **Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw MC**, also known as Sam Bahadur, was an Indian Army general officer who was the **Chief of the army staff during the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971**
- He was awarded the **Padma Vibhushan, the second highest civilian award of India, in 1972** for his services to the nation. Manekshaw was **promoted to the rank of field marshal in January 1973**, the **first of the only two officers** to be ever promoted to the post, **second being K.M. Cariappa**, who was promoted to the same rank **in 1986**.
- **Brigadier Mohammad Usman** - known as the **“Lion of Naushera**, at the **age of 36** was killed during the defense of Jhangar in the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947-48. He was the highest-ranking Indian Army official to be **martyred in the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947-48**. He was the posthumous recipients of the **Mahavir Chakra**
- **Major Somnath Sharma** at the young age of **25 years** laid down his life for the nation in the **Battle of Badgam in November 1947**. He became the **recipient of first “Param Vir Chakra” of Independent India**. He belonged to the **4th Kumaon Regiment**.



HM Amit Shah inaugurates All India Speakers' Conference 2025 in New Delhi

- The two-day national event held at the Delhi Assembly **commemorated the centenary of Veer Vitthalbhai Patel's election as the first Indian Speaker of a legislative body**.
- The event was, where the Home Minister hailed Veer Vitthalbhai Patel for laying the foundation of the democracy based on Indian values.



About Veer Vitthalbhai Patel:

- Vithalbhai Patel, born on 27 September 1873, was an Indian legislator and political leader, co-founder of the Swaraj Party, and elder brother of Sardar Patel.
- Known as “Veer Vitthalbhai Patel” for his bold and fearless role in politics.
- After the incident of Chauri Chaura and the end of the Non-cooperation Movement in 1922, Vithalbhai left Congress and established his own party called Swaraj Party, along with Chittaranjan Das and Motilal Nehru.
- In **1925**, he was elected President (Speaker) of the Central Legislative Assembly, becoming the **first Indian to preside over a legislative body in India**.
- Before him, British officials had always occupied this position. He died in Geneva, Switzerland, on October 22, 1933.

Fortified Rice Scheme Extended till 2028

- The Fortified Rice Scheme is a **government initiative aimed at combating micronutrient deficiencies**, particularly **iron, folic acid, and vitamin B12**, among vulnerable populations in India - **to combat anaemia & malnutrition**
- The Union Cabinet has approved the **continuation of universal supply of fortified rice under all government schemes till December 2028** with **100% central funding of ₹17,082 crore**.
- **Initiation and Expansion:** The **pilot phase began in 2019 across 15 states**, and by **March 2024**, the distribution of **fortified rice was extended nationwide** across all government schemes, including the Public



Distribution System (PDS), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), and PM POSHAN (formerly Mid-Day Meal Scheme)

- **Funding:** 100% by Government of India under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)

Nodal Ministry & Agency

- **Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD)** under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.**
- **Technical standards framed by FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India).**

Union Minister of Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh inaugurated the “The Kunj”

- “The Kunj” a **flagship retail and cultural destination** dedicated to celebrating and **promoting** the diverse heritage of **Indian handicrafts and handlooms** located at **Vasant Kunj, New Delhi**
- The Kunj is India’s first such initiative dedicated to promoting crafts at this large scale, empowering artisans, enhancing market access in lines with the **vision of Central Govt to take artisans “from gaon to global.**

Made in India Label Scheme

- This is a **voluntary certification scheme** to help manufacturers demonstrate that their **products are manufactured in India** and are of **good quality.**
- The **label displays a QR code and a logo** with the information around location of **manufacturing, validity** of the label and other **product specific information.**
- The initiative is being **led by** the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**).
- The Quality Council of India (**QCI**) and the India Brand Equity Foundation (**IBEF**) are actively **collaborating with DPIIT** in an advisory capacity.
- For the success of the scheme, the **government proposed ₹995 crores for three years** and anticipates that the scheme will be self-sustaining in the future years.



Core Objectives

- Establish a **trustworthy, authentic identity** for Indian-made products.
- **Differentiate Indian goods** in both domestic and international markets.
- **Build consumer confidence** through traceability and quality assurance.
- **Empower domestic industries**—including MSMEs—and boost export competitiveness
- Create a **global brand** identity for India (Made in India)

Eligibility & Certification Process

- Open to products that are **wholly or substantially manufactured or assembled in India** and meet **industry-specific quality** standards
- Requires a **minimum of 50% value addition in India**, with possible industry-specific exceptions

130th Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2025

- The **Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha** by Union Home Minister **Amit Shah on 20 August 2025.**
- It was immediately referred to a **Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)** for detailed review.

Key Provisions

- **Automatic Removal on Custody**
If the Prime Minister, Chief Minister, or any other minister is **arrested and detained for 30 consecutive days** on charges punishable by **five years or more**, they must be **removed from office.** Removal is via constitutional authority—President at the Centre, Governors in states.

Procedure Detail

- The **President removes** Union ministers **based on PM’s advice**; if **advice isn’t given by the 31st day**, the minister **automatically ceases.**



- At the **state level**, the **Governor** acts on CM's advice under similar conditions.
- For Delhi** (under Article 239AA), the **President** acts on the CM's advice.
- No Bar on Reappointment**
A removed minister **may be re-appointed after release from custody.**

Articles & Laws Amended

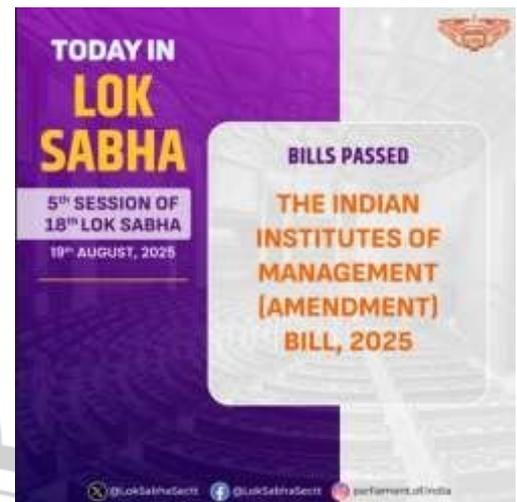
- Article 75 (Union Ministers):** Automatic removal of PM/Ministers in custody ≥ 30 days.
- Article 164 (State Ministers):** Same rule for CM/State Ministers.
- Article 239AA (Delhi NCT):** Applies to Delhi CM/Ministers.
- Govt of Union Territories Act, 1963:** Applies to UTs with legislatures (e.g., Puducherry).
- J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019:** Applies to J&K CM/Ministers.

Legislative Requirements

- Being a constitutional amendment, it must be **passed in both houses by a two-thirds majority** of members present and voting, and may require **ratification by state legislatures as per Article 368.**

Parliament passes Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill 2025, with Rajya Sabha approving it

- The **Rajya Sabha** on (August 20, 2025) **passed a bill to set up an IIM in Guwahati** with the **Union government providing a capital support of ₹555 crore over 5 years.**
- The bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on (August 19, 2025).
- IIM Guwahati to become the 22nd IIM in India** and the **second in the Northeast, after IIM Shillong.**
- A permanent campus is planned at **Palasbari in Kamrup district.**
- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan introduced the legislation, which seeks to include IIM Guwahati under the IIM Act of 2017 - **granting it full statutory and institutional status.**



Lok Sabha passed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill 2025

- Lok Sabha **passed it on August 20, 2025**
- Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw moved the Bill

Key Provisions

- Focus on e-Sports and Skill-Based Games:** e-Sports, social games, and educational games (**all without monetary stakes**) are **encouraged and regulated** under the Bill, with **support for infrastructure, awareness programs, and integration into sports policy**
- The bill seeks to **promote e-sports and online social games** while **imposing a complete ban on harmful online money gaming services, advertisements, and related financial transactions.**
- Ban on real-money games:** The Bill prohibits all forms of online gaming where monetary stakes or deposits are involved—**regardless of whether the game is based on skill or chance**
- This is an expansive definition, and is **likely to cover all major gaming platforms like Dream11, Winzo, MPL etc.**
- National Security & Social Concerns:** The government cited issues like addiction, fraud, money laundering, terror financing, and mental health risks—particularly among youth and minors—as key drivers for the sweeping prohibition



Penalties:

- Offering such games can attract up to **3 years imprisonment** and/or fines up to **₹1 crore.**
- Promoters**, including influencers, face **up to 2 years imprisonment and/or fines up to ₹50 lakh.**
- Repeat offenses attract harsher penalties—up to **5 years imprisonment** and fines up to **₹2 crore**

- Banks and payment platforms facilitating money games may also be penalized similarly
- **Offences** under key provisions will be **cognizable and non-bailable**.
- **Regulatory Authority:** A central authority will be established to categorize games, issue licenses, handle grievances, and enforce compliance

Centre Implements “Anna-Chakra” Supply Chain Tool in 30 States to Optimize PDS Efficiency

- The Centre has rolled out the “Anna-Chakra” Supply Chain Optimisation Tool in 30 States/UTs under the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- A **digital optimisation platform for efficient movement of foodgrains** under the PDS.
- **Aim:** To **minimise costs**, reduce leakages, and ensure **timely delivery** of foodgrains.



Features:

- **Route Optimisation** – Uses algorithms to cut fuel use and time.
- **Cost Efficiency** – Estimated savings of **₹250 crore annually** in transport.
- **Climate Alignment** – Reduces carbon emissions, supporting India’s climate commitments.

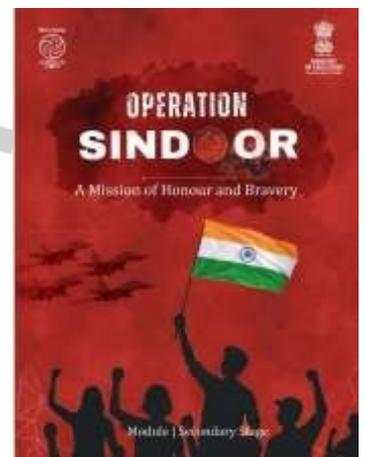
Former President Ram Nath Kovind to be Chief Guest at RSS’ ‘Vijayadashami’ event on October 2

- **Shri Vijaya Dashami Utsav of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)** to be held at Reshimbagh Ground in Nagpur on October 2.
- **RSS Sarsanghchalak - Dr Mohan Bhagwat**
- **RSS marks the completion of 100 years since its founding on the Vijaya Dashami festival in 1925.**



Operation Sindoor now part of NCERT Module

- **NCERT has introduced two new modules on ‘Operation Sindoor** — A saga of valour’ for Classes 3 to 8 and ‘Operation Sindoor — A mission of honour and bravery,’ for Classes 9 to 12.
- Under Operation Sindoor **undertaken by the three defence forces along with the BSF on the border**, India targeted terrorist and military facilities in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir from **May 7 to 10 in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack**



India’s Deep Ocean Mission Achieves Record 5,002m Human Dive in North Atlantic

- On **August 5 and 6, 2025**, two aquanauts—**Raju Ramesh** and **Commander (Retd.) Jatinder Pal Singh**—descended aboard the **French submersible Nautilie**:
- **Raju Ramesh** reached **4,025 m**, and the very next day, **Cdr (Retd.) Jatinder Pal Singh** set the new record at **5,002 m**.
- These **historic dives were part of an Indo-French collaboration**, offering vital operational experience as India gears up for its own indigenous deep-sea mission.
- These dives are **crucial prep for Samudrayaan**, a flagship initiative under the Deep Ocean Mission.
- **India aims to deploy the Matsya-6000**, an indigenously built submersible, to **6,000 m with a three-person crew by 2027**—all made from titanium and designed for long-duration missions
- The **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** will be the **nodal Ministry** implementing this multi-institutional Mission.



Cabinet approves restructuring & extension of lending period of PM Street Vendors AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme

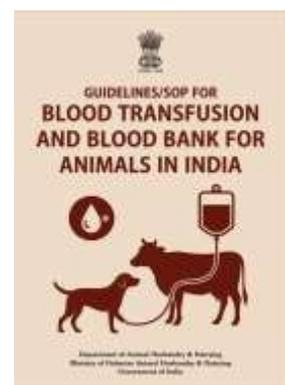
- The Union Cabinet has approved the lending period of the **PM Street Vendors AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme** to be extended from December 31, 2024, to March 31, 2030.
- **Total outlay: ₹7,332 crore.**
- Coverage: Approximately 1.15 crore beneficiaries, including 50 lakh new street vendors.
- **PM SVANidhi Scheme on 1st June 2020** to support street vendors who faced unprecedented hardships during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Enhanced Loan Tranches**
 - **First tranche:** Increased from ₹10,000 to ₹15,000.
 - **Second tranche:** Raised from ₹20,000 to ₹25,000.
 - **Third tranche:** Unchanged at ₹50,000.
- **Vendors who repay their second loan on time** will become **eligible** for a **UPI-linked RuPay credit card**, offering immediate credit access for both business and personal needs.
- **Street vendors** can now receive **up to ₹1,600 cashback** on retail and wholesale digital transactions to promote financial inclusion and digital adoption
- The scheme will be **co-implemented** by the **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** and the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**. DFS will oversee facilitation of loans and credit cards via banks and financial institutions.
- The scheme also focuses on **building the capacity** of the street vendors with a focus on entrepreneurship, financial literacy, digital skills, and marketing through convergence.
- **Standard hygiene and food safety trainings** would be conducted for street food vendors, in partnership with FSSAI.
- Enhancements under the **“SVANidhi se Samridhhi”** initiative **via monthly Lok Kalyan Melas**, to connect vendors and their families with additional government benefits.



Aspect	Details
Extension Period	December 31, 2024 → March 31, 2030
Total Outlay	₹7,332 crore
Beneficiaries	1.15 crore total (including 50 lakh new)
Loan Tranches	1st: ₹15,000; 2nd: ₹25,000; 3rd: ₹50,000
Credit Card	UPI-linked RuPay card for timely second-tranche repayment
Cashback Incentives	Up to ₹1,600 for digital transactions
Institutional Roles	MoHUA & DFS lead implementation
Capacity Building	Training in digital skills, hygiene, marketing; “SVANidhi se Samridhhi”
Scheme Launch	June 1, 2020

India Launches First Veterinary Blood Transfusion Guidelines 2025

- India’s first national **Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** for animal blood transfusion and veterinary blood banks.
- Released by the **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.**
- Aim: Provide a **structured framework** for donor selection, blood donation, storage, transfusion, and post-transfusion monitoring.
- India has **537 million livestock** and **125 million companion animals**, crucial for rural livelihoods and national GDP.



Key Features

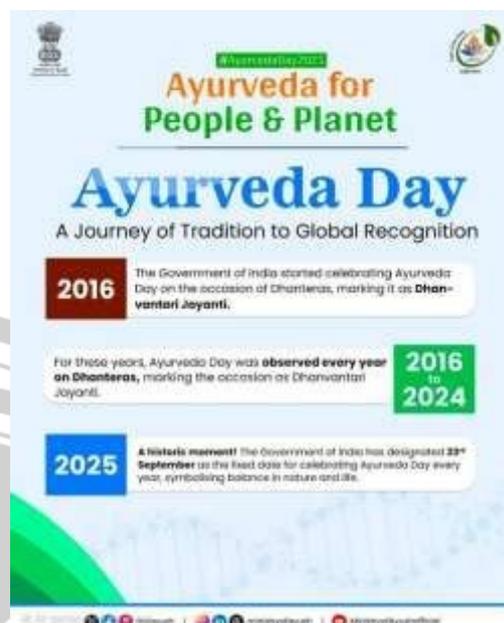
Feature	Details
Donor Selection	Health check, vaccination, age, weight, and disease-screening criteria mandatory.
Blood Compatibility	Requires blood typing and cross-matching to avoid transfusion reactions.
Donation Ethics	Voluntary , non-remunerated donations with written owner consent via a Donor Rights Charter .
State-Regulated Blood Banks	Veterinary blood banks to be established at colleges/hospitals with biosafety compliance.
Digital Infrastructure	Roadmap for a National Veterinary Blood Bank Network (N-VBBN) with real-time inventory tracking and emergency helpline.
One Health Approach	Integrates animal health with human health to mitigate zoonotic risks.
Training & Education	Modules for veterinary students, postgraduate programs, and professional training.
Future Innovations	Mobile collection units, cryopreservation of rare blood types, mobile apps for donor-recipient matching.

NHAI Launches ‘Project Aarohan’ for Education of Toll Workers’ Children

- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
- The project aims to cover **500 students from Class 11 to the final year of graduation**.
- Each student will receive an **annual scholarship of 12000 rupees during the financial year 2025-26**.
- Additionally, **50 bright students** aspiring for **postgraduate and higher studies** will be supported with scholarships of **50000 rupees each**.

The government has officially designated 23rd September as Ayurveda Day.

- Marks a significant shift from the **earlier practice of observing Ayurveda Day on on Dhanvantari Jayanti (Dhanteras)**.
- The **2025 theme, ‘Ayurveda for People & Planet’**
- **Ayurveda Day celebrated since 2016**



Lok Sabha Speaker to Lead India at 68th CPC in Barbados

- Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla will lead an Indian Parliamentary Delegation at the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC), in Bridgetown, Barbados from 5-12 October 2025**.
- **Theme of ‘The Commonwealth: A Global Partner’**.
- Apart from *Lok Sabha Speaker* and *Deputy Chairman*, *Rajya Sabha Shri Harivansh* and *Presiding Officers and Secretaries of State and Union Territory* and the *secretaries of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)* will represent India Region at the conference.



Birla to lead India at 68th CPC in Barbados



LS Speaker Om Birla chairs an inter-ministerial meeting regarding the 68th CPC, to be held in Bridgetown, Barbados, from Oct. 5 to 12, at LS Secretariat in New Delhi. IG by Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh, IJ Moolg, IAS Singh were present.

Death sentence can be challenged under Article 32 on ground of breach of procedural safeguards, says Supreme Court

- **Article 32 of the Constitution empowers the court to reopen sentencing in cases of capital punishment on grounds of breach of procedural safeguards**

Case Context

- The plea was from **Vasant Sampat Dupare, convicted in 2008** for the brutal rape and murder of a 4-year-old in Nagpur.

First India Bureau New Delhi

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will lead the Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) to be held in Bridgetown, Barbados from 5th to 12th October 2025.

In this regard, a ministry-wise briefing meeting was held on Sunday under the chairmanship of the Lok Sabha Speaker to brief the Presiding Officers of the Legislative Bodies of India on the various programmes of

the Conference.

Apart from the LS Speaker and the Rajya Sabha Dy Chairman, Harivansh, the Presiding Officers of Legislatures of States & UTs and the Secretaries of CPA India Region will represent the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association India Region. Birla will address the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association General Assembly on the theme ‘Commonwealth: Global Partner’. Members of Indian Parliamentary Delegation will participate in the seven workshops.

- The Court set aside its 2017 verdict—upholding the death sentence—and required a fresh hearing on sentencing, citing lapses in adhering to mandatory guidelines.

Aspect	Details
Legal Provision Used	Article 32 (Right to constitutional remedies)
Applicable Cases	Capital punishment (death penalty)
Trigger for Reopening	Breach of procedural safeguards (e.g., missing psychiatric evaluation)
Key Judgment Referenced	Manoj vs. Madhya Pradesh (2022) – mandates psychological evaluation before death sentencing
Constitutional Rights Ensured	Articles 14 (Equality) and 21 (Right to Life & Personal Liberty)
Use of Power	Must remain exceptional, not routine

Jitendra Singh launches India’s first National Biofoundry Network

- On 27 August 2025, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh (Ministry of Science & Technology) inaugurated India’s first National Biofoundry Network, alongside the BioE3 Challenge for Youth, marking one year since the launch of the BioE3 Policy
- Nodal Ministry: Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology.
- Both initiatives fall under the BioE3 Policy—an ambitious portfolio aimed at boosting Biotechnology for Economy, Environment, and Employment. It was approved in August 2024
- Bioeconomy target of \$300 billion by 2030.
- A national-level collaborative platform of six premier institutions.
- The Biofoundry Network and BioE3 initiatives aim to position biotechnology at the core of India's sustainable growth by fostering innovation, youth engagement, and start-up development.



About BioE3 Challenge for Youth

- Theme: “Design Microbes, Molecules & More”.
- Open to: School students (Classes 6–12), university students, researchers, startups, Indian nationals.

Awards:

- ₹1 lakh cash award to top 10 monthly winners.
- Funding up to ₹25 lakh for 100 selected innovators

Export Promotion Mission

- The government is considering support measures worth about Rs 25,000 crore for exporters under the Export Promotion Mission, announced in the Budget, for six financial years (2025-2031)
- It is a flagship initiative announced in the Union Budget 2025-26.
- It seeks to enable broad-based, inclusive, and sustainable export growth over six years (FY 2025-31) by exploring approaches beyond conventional mechanisms to address key bottlenecks faced by Indian exporters, especially MSMEs.

- It is driven jointly by the Ministries of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, and the Ministry of Finance to enhance export competitiveness by facilitating improved access to export credit, enabling cross-border factoring, and assisting MSMEs in addressing non-tariff barriers in global markets.
- The Department of Commerce is the lead department for the Mission.
- The mission is proposed to be implemented through two sub-schemes – Niryat Protsahan (over Rs 10,000 crore) and Niryat Disha (over Rs 14,500 crore)

Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) Scheme

NEWS: India has achieved a record-low price of **₹55.75/kg for Green Ammonia** in the first SECI auction **under** the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (**SIGHT**) Scheme, marking a **major step in the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM)**.

- SIGHT - Operational from 2023 under NGHM, with implementation period FY 2025–26 to 2029–30.
- It's designed **to build and strengthen the green hydrogen ecosystem** by providing **market-enabling incentives** across the value chain—from electrolyser manufacturing to green hydrogen production and its derivatives.
- Ministry:** Implemented **by** Ministry of New and Renewable **Energy (MNRE)** along with Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (**MoPNG**).

Scheme Components:

- Component I: Electrolyser Manufacturing Incentives**
- Financial support spans **FY 2025–26 to FY 2029–30**, with a **budget of ₹4,440 crore**.
- Component II: Green Hydrogen Production Incentives**
- Budget: **₹13,050 crore**, running through **FY 2025–26 to FY 2029–30**

What is Green Ammonia?

- Green Ammonia is ammonia (NH_3) produced from green hydrogen (via electrolysis using renewable power), a key derivative used in fertilisers, shipping fuel, and chemical manufacturing.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana completes 11 years

- PMJDY completes 11 years on August 28, 2025**, emerging as the **world's largest financial inclusion programme**.
- Nearly **100% households** and over **90% adults** in India now have a bank account.
- Launched in 2014**, PMJDY was designed to provide **universal access to banking for the unbanked**.
- Its objectives include **zero-balance accounts, RuPay debit cards, insurance, pensions, and Direct Benefit Transfers (DBTs)**.
- The scheme has reduced reliance on moneylenders and informal credit networks, historically a trap for the poor.



Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has extended the special registration drive for the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) till 15 August, 2025.
- It is a **centrally sponsored scheme under Mission Shakti's sub-scheme 'Samarthya'**, providing direct financial assistance through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.
- It is designed **to support pregnant women and lactating mothers**.
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) into effect from **1st January 2017**.



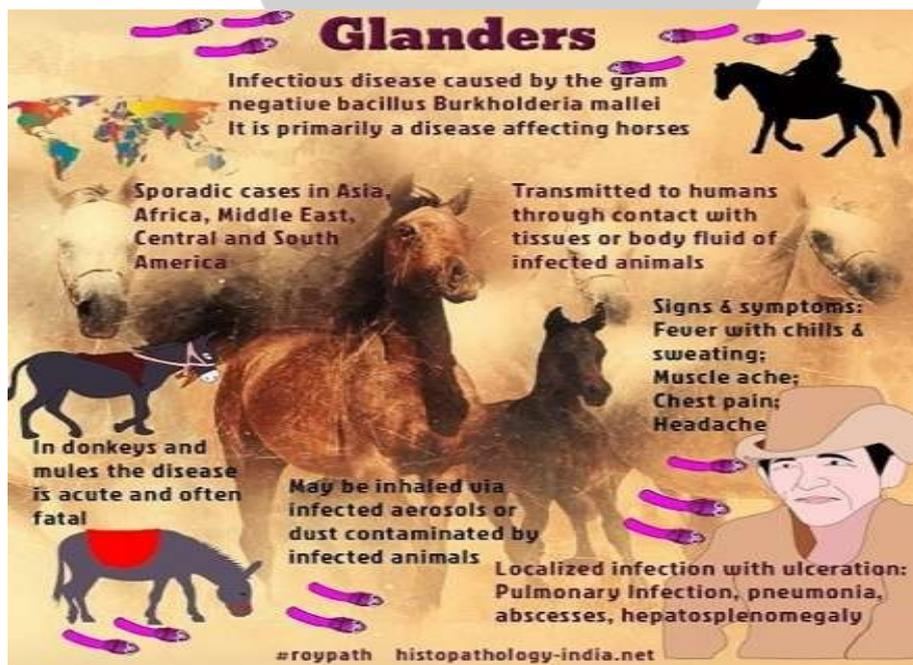
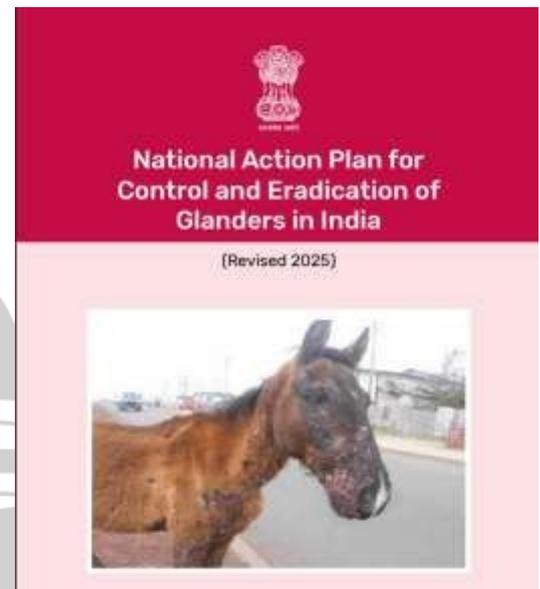
- The PMMVY Scheme is being implemented as per **provisions under Section 4** of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 which provides for **financial support for pregnant and lactating mothers** is to improve the health and nutrition for mother and child as well as **compensation for wage loss, if any.**
- Further, **all pregnant women and lactating mothers** in regular employment with the **central Government or State Government or public Sector Undertaking** or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law for the time being in force **shall not be entitled to benefits** under PMMVY.
- The benefit is available to a woman **for the first two living children provided the second child is a girl.**
- **In case of the first child the amount of ₹5000 in two instalments**
- **For the second child, the benefit of ₹6000 will be provided subject to second child is a girl child in one instalment after the birth.**
- In case of miscarriage/still birth, the beneficiary would be treated as fresh beneficiary in event of any future pregnancy.
- The scheme is to provide maternity benefits to women **belonging to socially and economically disadvantaged sections** of society.

Glanders

- Recently, the **Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD)** under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying has **issued the Revised National Action Plan on Glanders.**
- It is **caused by** the bacterium *Burkholderia mallei*.
- It **primarily affects equines** such as horses, mules, and donkeys, and poses risks to other animals as well as humans.
- **Signs:** The disease causes **nodules and ulcerations** in the **respiratory tract and lungs** in animals. A **skin form, known as 'farcy', also occurs.**

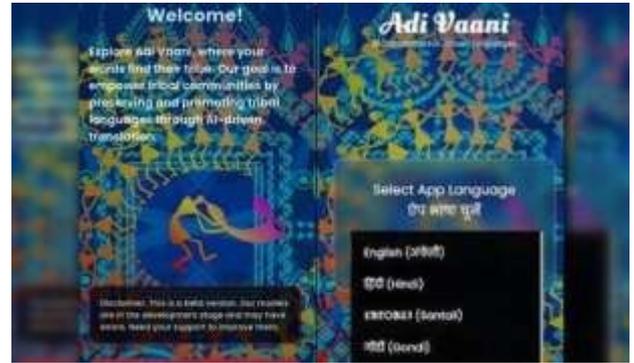
Glanders is commonly contracted via the following routes:

- Ingestion of food or water contaminated with nasal discharge from infected (carrier) animals
- Contact with contaminated harness components
- Ingestion of infected horse meat.



Govt to launch Beta version of Adi Vaani for translation in tribal languages

- The **Tribal Affairs Ministry** will soon launch "**Adi Vaani**", India's first artificial intelligence (AI)-powered translator for tribal languages,
- **Developed by IIT Delhi, BITS Pilani, IIIT Hyderabad and IIIT Nava Raipur**, in collaboration with Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)
- The app will be available on the Play Store with an iOS version coming soon.
- It will **initially support Santali** (Odisha), **Bhili** (Madhya Pradesh), **Mundari** (Jharkhand) and **Gondi** (Chhattisgarh). Languages such as Kui and Garo will be added in the next phase.
- According to the Census 2011, Scheduled Tribes in India speak 461 languages and 71 distinct mother tongues.
- Of these, 81 are classified as vulnerable and 42 critically endangered.



UPSC Marking 100 Years of Commitment to Merit and Public Service

- The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) will mark its centenary year from **1 October 2025 to 1 October 2026**, celebrating 100 years.
- The UPSC is India's premier constitutional authority for recruiting top-level government officers through a fair, competitive examination process.
- **Established in: 1 October 1926**, following the recommendations of the **Lee Commission (1924)** and provisions of the **Government of India Act, 1919**.

Historical Evolution of Civil Services in India

Pre-1854 – Patronage System

- **East India Company civil servants** were **nominated, trained at Haileybury College (London)**, and sent to India.

1854 – Macaulay Reforms

- Introduction of **competitive exams** for the Indian Civil Service (ICS) held in London (from 1855).
- **First Indian to succeed: Satyendranath Tagore (1864)**.

1922 – Exams in India

- Civil Service exams began in **Allahabad and later Delhi**, alongside London exams.

1926 – Public Service Commission Established

- **First Chairman: Sir Ross Barker**.
- Initially had **4 members + chairman** and functions under **Public Service Commission (Functions) Rules, 1926**.

1937 – Federal Public Service Commission

- Created under **Government of India Act, 1935** for the Federation of India.

1950 – Union Public Service Commission

- **Came into existence** with the Constitution of India; powers defined in **Articles 315–323**.

Creamy Centre Plans Uniform OBC Creamy Layer Policy Across Jobs

NEWS: The Centre is considering introducing "equivalence" in applying the creamy layer condition for OBC reservation across central/state institutions, PSUs, universities, and aided bodies to remove anomalies and ensure fairness.

Background

- The **Mandal Commission (1980)** recommended **27% reservation** in government jobs and educational institutions for **OBCs**.
- But the **Supreme Court (Indra Sawhney vs Union of India, 1992)** ruled that "advanced sections" within OBCs (the so-



called *creamy layer*) should be excluded from reservation benefits, to ensure that only the genuinely disadvantaged get the benefits.

- **Creamy Layer Criteria (as per DoPT, revised time to time)**
- **Currently (2025), families with an annual income above ₹8 lakh** are considered **creamy layer** and thus **excluded from OBC reservation benefits**.
- **Also, children of certain high-ranking officials** (e.g., IAS/IPS, Class I officers, high-ranking PSU employees, constitutional posts) are **automatically excluded, regardless of income**.
- **“Equivalence” Issue**
- The problem is that **different sectors interpret and apply the creamy layer criteria differently**, leading to **non-uniformity**:
- **PSUs, Universities, and State Governments** sometimes use varying parameters.
- **Certain occupational classes** (eg – farmers) are **debated**—whether their income should be included/excluded.

Ensuring Uniformity

- The **Rangarajan Commission (2008)** and later committees suggested **clear, uniform income/occupation thresholds** across sectors.
- The idea of **“Creamy Layer Equivalence”** is that **all OBC subgroups must face the same yardstick**, so that benefits flow equitably to the needy, not to the advanced sections repeatedly.

e-Sushrut@Clinic

- **e-Sushrut@Clinic** is a **lightweight, cloud-based Health Management Information System (HMIS)** developed by C-DAC and **launched in collaboration with the National Health Authority (NHA)**.
- It is tailored specifically for **small and medium healthcare providers**, including outpatient clinics and sub-centres.
- The platform is an **agile, simplified version of the existing e-Sushrut HMIS** already in use across **17 AIIMS hospitals** and over **4,000 health facilities nationwide**.
- It is **fully integrated with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**, enabling interoperable digital health service delivery
- It is **tailored for outpatient management, pharmacy, and nursing modules**, and delivers essential functionalities at a low per-user cost.
- This will make it **much easier for doctors** in both public and private clinics to access and **update patient health** records, offer **telemedicine services**, and streamline diagnostics and prescriptions.



Bharat Forecast System

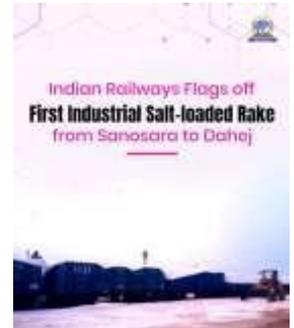
- Recently, the union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences Jitendra Singh informed the Rajya Sabha about the Bharat Forecast System
- It is an **indigenously built advanced weather forecasting system**.
- It is **based on** the newly implemented **Triangular Cubic Octahedral (TCO) dynamical grid** that enables the model to **operate at 6 km horizontal resolution**, surpassing its predecessor (GFS T1534 ~ 12km) and typical global operational models having horizontal resolution of 9–14 km.
- The BharatFS was **developed by** a team of scientists from Indian institutions like **IITM-Pune**, with support from the **NCMRWF-Noida** and the India Meteorological Department (**IMD**).
- Supercomputing facilities **Arka (IITM-Pune)** and **Arunika (NCMRWF-Noida)**, enabled the model to be used **for real-time weather prediction**.
- The BharatFS was developed with the objective of **generating forecasts at the cluster of panchayats level** and improving the prediction of extremes.



Indian Railways flags off first industrial salt-loaded rake from Sanosara (Bhuj - Naliya section) to Dahej

It will boost the region's salt industry and increase freight revenue.

The first rake carried 3851.2 tonnes of industrial salt, covering 673.57 km and generating ₹31.69 lakh in earnings.



Prasar Bharati Launches Magazine Store on Waves OTT Platform

- Prasar Bharati has launched a **new Magazine Store within its Waves OTT platform**, offering a collection of over **50 titles across 8 languages for a monthly subscription and annual subscription**
- This initiative expands Waves' content **to include written publications**, in addition to its existing audio and video streaming services, making Prasar Bharati's content more accessible to a wider audience.



Supreme Court (SC) issues modified directions to control the menace of stray dogs

- SC's earlier order to shift all stray dogs to shelters, without return, was referred to a **three-judge bench**.

Supreme Court's Modified Directions

- Prohibition on Public Feeding:** It is now **illegal to feed stray dogs on streets and in public places**.
- Dedicated Feeding Spaces:** To be created by municipal authorities in **each municipal ward**.
- Relocation After Treatment:** **Sterilized, dewormed, and vaccinated** dogs must be **returned to their original pick-up location**.
- This policy excludes dogs with **rabies, suspected rabies, or aggressive behavior**.
- National Policy:** SC has expanded the case to include all States and Union Territories, consolidating related High Court cases for a **final national policy**.
- Adoption:** Animal lovers are permitted to **apply to municipal bodies for the adoption of street dogs**.

Provisions related to Stray Dogs in India

- Constitution: Article 243W** mandates municipalities to control stray dog population.
 - Article 51A(g):** Fundamental Duty **"to have compassion for living creatures"**.
- Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023** under **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960** seek to control stray dog through **sterilisation and vaccination**.

Lok Sabha Speaker inaugurates national conference of SC-ST Parliamentary Committee in Bhubaneswar

- Om Birla inaugurated the **National Conference of Chairpersons of the Committees on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of Parliament and State Legislatures** in Bhubaneswar, Odisha,
- The two-day Conference (**29–30 August 2025**)
- Theme** of the Conference is **"Role of Parliamentary and Legislature Committees in Welfare, Development and Empowerment of SCs and STs."**
- The First such Conference held way back in 1976 in New Delhi.**
- Being organized outside Delhi for the first time



Creamy Centre Plans Uniform OBC Creamy Layer Policy Across Jobs

NEWS: The Centre is considering introducing **"equivalence"** in applying the **creamy layer condition for OBC reservation** across central/state institutions, PSUs, universities, and aided bodies to remove anomalies and ensure fairness.

Background



- The **Mandal Commission (1980)** recommended **27% reservation** in government jobs and educational institutions for **OBCs**.
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Ensuring Uniformity

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Salina aurantiamaculata and Salina pseudomontana

- Scientists at the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** have identified two new **Collembola (springtail)** species from West Bengal - ***Salina aurantiamaculata*** and ***Salina pseudomontana***
- These are the **first new Salina species recorded in India since 1979**, raising the national count to **17 species**
- Collembola improves soil structure, aid nutrient cycling, and serves as indicators of ecosystem health.



What are Collembola Springtails?

- These are **among the oldest land-dwelling hexapods on Earth**, dating back hundreds of millions of years.
- **Habitat:** They are found in leaf litter, decaying wood, and soil.
- **Significance:** Their abundance and sensitivity make them invaluable in monitoring pollution, climate change, and agricultural sustainability.

Google Launches ‘Nano Banana’ AI Photo Editing Tool in Gemini app

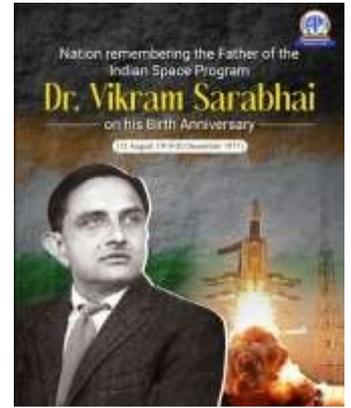
- Google has rolled out a new image generation and editing AI model, **Gemini 2.5 Flash Image or Nano Banana**



Eminent Personalities in the News

Nation remembers Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, Father of India's Space Programme, on his birth anniversary.

- Vikram Sarabhai was **born on August 12, 1919**.
- Based on his persuasion, the Indian government agreed to set up the **Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR)** in 1962. He was **the first chairman of the committee**.
- The **INCOSPAR** was restructured and **renamed as Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** in 1969.
- **Sarabhai founded the Physical Research Laboratory in Ahmedabad in 1947**.
- He also **set up India's first rocket launch site in Thumba**, a small village near **the Thiruvananthapuram airport in Kerala**.
- Vikram Sarabhai was also **responsible for bringing cable television to India**. His constant contact with NASA paved a way for the **establishment of Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE) in 1975**.
- Sarabhai was **the mastermind behind building India's first satellite, Aryabhata**.
- He was **one of the founding members of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA)**.
- Vikram Sarabhai received **the Padma Bhushan in 1966** for his contribution to India's progress. He was also awarded **the Padma Vibhushan in 1972, posthumously**.



President Droupadi Murmu pays floral tribute to former President V V Giri on his birth anniversary

- **On 10th August 1894**, Varahagiri Venkata Giri was **born in Berhampur, Odisha**.
- VV Giri served as the **4th president of India from 24 August 1969 to 24 August 1974** and **3rd vice president of India from 13 May 1967 to 3 May 1969**.
- He is the **first president to be elected as an independent candidate**.
- **Bharat Ratna in 1975**.
- Giri died on 24 June 1980.
- He gave up his successful legal career and plunged into the freedom movement during the non-cooperation movement led by M K Gandhi in 1922.
- He was **one of the founding members and a General Secretary of the All India Railwaymen's Federation in 1923**.
- Giri represented the workers in the Indian delegation that was sent to the International Labour Conference of the International Labour Organisation in 1927.



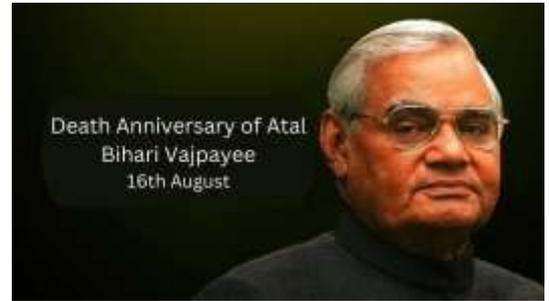
PM pays tributes to the courage of patriotic Indians at Kakori on its centenary

- PM Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath commemorated the **100th anniversary of the Kakori Rail Conspiracy on 9th August 2025**, recalling the courage, sacrifice, and vision of the revolutionaries who carried out one of the most daring acts of the Indian freedom movement.
- Recently, the **Government of Uttar Pradesh has renamed 'Kakori Kand', an important movement in the history of India's freedom struggle, to 'Kakori Train Action'**.
- The **Kakori Rail Conspiracy** — often referred to as the Kakori Train Robbery — took place **on August 9, 1925**, when **members of the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)**, including Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan, Chandrashekar Azad, Rajendra Lahiri, and Roshan Singh, **stopped the 8-Down train on the Saharanpur–Lucknow line near Kakori railway station** in Uttar Pradesh.
- **Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan, Rajendra Lahiri, and Roshan Singh were executed in 1927**, while others received long prison sentences. Chandrashekar Azad managed to evade capture and continued the struggle until his death in 1931.



7th Death Anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Observed on August 16, 2025

- **Born: 25 December 1924**, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh (then British India)
- **Died: 16 August 2018**, New Delhi
- **Entered national politics during Quit India Movement of 1942**.
- In 1947, Vajpayee started working as a journalist for newspapers of **Deendayal Upadhyaya**
- Later, influenced by **Syama Prasad Mookerjee**, Vajpayee joined the **Bharatiya Jana Sangh in 1951**.



Political Career

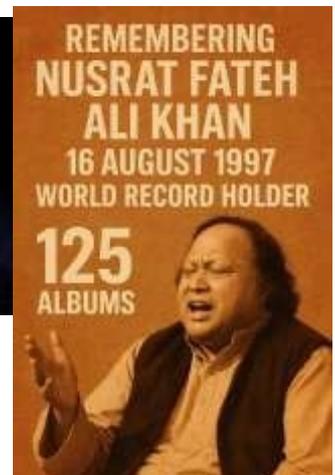
- **Parliamentary Career:** Elected to Lok Sabha **10 times** between 1957 and 2009.
- **Foreign Minister (1977–79)** in the Morarji Desai government → remembered for his speech in **Hindi at the UN General Assembly** (1977), a first for an Indian minister.
- **Prime Minister of India:**
 - **May 1996** → First BJP PM; government lasted only 13 days.
 - **1998–1999** → Formed government but lost majority after 13 months.
 - **1999–2004** → Full 5-year term, first non-Congress PM to complete a full tenure.

Awards & Recognition

- **Bharat Ratna** (2015) – India's highest civilian award.
- **Padma Vibhushan** (1992).
- **Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant Award for Best Parliamentarian** (1994).
- His birthday, **25 December**, is observed as **Good Governance Day** in India since 2014
- His birthday, December 25, is observed as the Good Governance Day by the government.

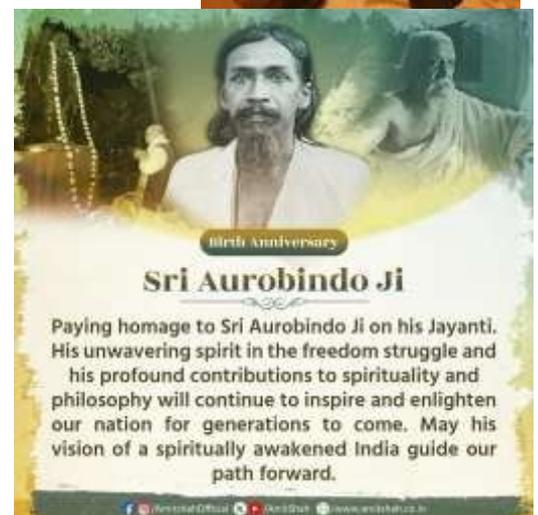
Remembering Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan: The Legend of Qawwali

- On **16th August 1997**, the world lost **Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, the Pakistani maestro of qawwali**.
- **Born on 13th October 1948 in Faisalabad, Pakistan**, Nusrat belonged to a family with a long lineage of qawwali singers.
- According to the **Guinness Book of World Records**, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan holds the world record for the **largest recorded output by a Qawwali artist** -- a total of **125 albums as of 2001**.



PM paid tributes on Sri Aurobindo's Birth Anniversary

- **Sri Aurobindo** was a yogi, **philosopher, spiritual leader, and freedom fighter** who linked nation-building with spiritual evolution.
- **Full Name: Aurobindo Ghose**
- **Born: 15 August 1872, Kolkata** (then Calcutta)
- **Died: 5 December 1950**, Pondicherry (now Puducherry)
- **Education: Studied in England** (Manchester, London, Cambridge).
- **Returned to India in 1893** and worked in Baroda as an academic and administrator before entering nationalist politics.
- One of the **early leaders of Indian nationalism** against British colonial rule.
- **Advocated Purna Swaraj** (complete independence) much before it became the Congress demand.



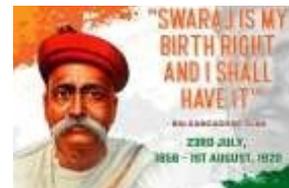
- After 1910, withdrew from politics and settled in **Pondicherry**
- **Founded Sri Aurobindo Ashram in 1926** with Mirra Alfassa ("The Mother")
- **Developed Integral Yoga, blending material progress with spiritual growth.**
- Advocated **spiritual nationalism**, linking India's freedom with cultural renaissance.

Literary Contributions:

- **Philosophical Works** – The Life Divine, The Synthesis of Yoga, Essays on the Gita.
- **Poetry and Epics** – Savitri: A Legend and a Symbol.
- **Political and Cultural Writings** – The Human Cycle, The Ideal of Human Unity.

1st August - Lokmanya Tilak Death anniversary

- **Birth:** He was born on **23rd July 1856** in **Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.**
- **Death:** He died on **1st August 1920.**
- Freedom fighter and lawyer, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, is also known as **Lokmanya Tilak.**
- **Founder of the Deccan Education Society (1884)** along with his associate Gopal Ganesh Agarkar and others.
- **Slogan: "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it!"**
- A book '**Indian Unrest**' written by **Valentine Chirol**, an English journalist, **stated Tilak the 'father of Indian unrest'.**
- **Popularised the Ganesh Chaturthi festival** in the Maharashtra region.
- **Propounded the celebration of Shiv Jayanti** on the birth anniversary of the monarch Chhatrapati Shivaji.
- Along with **Lala Lajpat Rai and Bipin Chandra Pal**, he was part of the **Lal-Bal-Pal trio** of leaders with extremist outlooks.
- **All India Home Rule League:** Founded by Tilak in April 1916 at Belgaum
- **Newspapers:** Weeklies Kesari (Marathi) and Mahratta (English)
- **Books:** Gita Rhasya and Arctic Home of the Vedas.



The Prime Minister paid tributes to Pingali Venkayya on his birth anniversary (2nd August)

- **Born on 2nd August 1876** in a village near **Machilipatnam in Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh.**
- **In 1916**, Pingali Venkayya published a **booklet titled A National Flag for India**, featuring nearly 30 designs for a **potential Indian flag**, inspired by flags of other nations.
- **Venkayya's design for the National Flag** was finally **approved by Mahatma Gandhi** in a **Congress meeting in Vijayawada in 1921.**
- In 2009, a **postage stamp** was released for his contribution.



PM Modi Pays Tribute to Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur on Birth Anniversary

- Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur was a **king of Tripura State - born on 19th August 1908** in Tripura
- He is known as "**the architect of modern Tripura**".
- He was **succeeded by his son, Maharaja Kirit Bikram Kishore Debbarman**, who was the nominal king for two years till the **state's merger into India in 1949**
- He **established the first higher educational institution**, advocated for **land reforms**, and **reserved land for the indigenous people**, leading to the formation of the **Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC).**
- He was the **first ruler of Tripura to visit Europe and America (1931-1939).**
- He **passed away at the young age of 39 in 1947** untimely death impacted the development of Tripura.
- **Agartala airport**, earlier known as **Singerbhil Airport**, was **renamed after Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur in July 2018.**



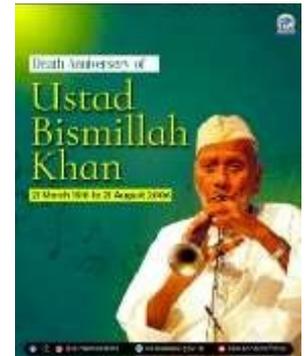
Tripura:

- Capita: Agartala
- Tripura is the **2nd most populous in the northeast region (after Assam)**, sharing borders with **Bangladesh, Mizoram and Assam.**
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Gumti Wildlife Sanctuary, Rowa Wildlife Sanctuary, Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary and Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary
- **National Parks:** Bison (Rajbari) NP and Clouded Leopard NP.
- **CM - Manik Saha**
- **Governor - Indrasena Reddy Nallu**



Death anniversary of Shehnai maestro and Bharat Ratna awardee Ustad Bismillah Khan

- Ustad Bismillah Khan, the legendary shehnai maestro, belonged to the **Banaras Gharana**
- **Originally known as Qamruddin Khan**, Bismillah Khan was **born on 21st March 1916 in Dumraon, Bihar and Orissa province**, British India.
- **Died : 21 August 2006**
- He has **played at the first Republic Day celebration in 1950.**
- Bismillah Khan was the **first Indian to be invited** to perform at the prestigious **Lincoln Centre Hall** in the United States of America.

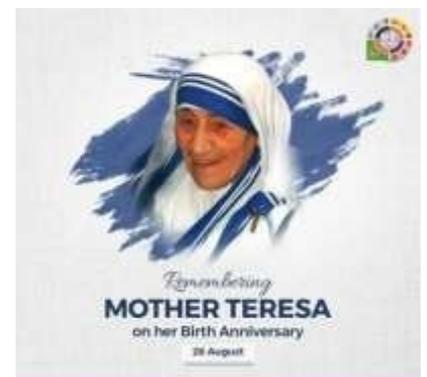


Year	Award
1956	Sangeet Natak Akademi Award
1961	Padma Shri
1980	Padma Vibhushan
1992	Talar Mausiquee from Republic of Iran
2001	Bharat Ratna, the nation's highest civilian award

- **Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puruskar** was instituted by the **Sangeet Natak Akademi** in the name of Bharat Ratna Ustad Bismillah Khan **for young performing art practitioners up to the age of 40 years** in 2006.
- The **Yuva Puraskar carries a purse of Rs 25,000/-** (Rupees twenty-five thousand only), a plaque and an angavastram.

26 August - Mother Teresa Birth Anniversary

- **Born on August 26, 1910, in Skopje, Macedonia**
- Her original name, **Anjeze Gonxhe Bojaxhiu**
- **On October 7, 1950, Mother Teresa established the Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata**
- Mother Teresa garnered numerous awards, including the **Ramon Magsaysay Peace Prize in 1962** and the **Nobel Peace Prize in 1979**
- **Passed away on September 5, 1997.**



Govt Forms Panels to Mark 150th Birth Anniversaries of Sardar Patel, Birsa Munda & Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Centenary

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:

- Freedom fighter, statesman, **India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister.**
- Known as the **"Iron Man of India"** for his role in uniting princely states.

Born in:

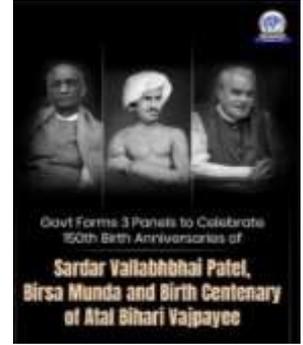
- **October 31, 1875, in Nadiad, Gujarat**, into a humble Lewa Patidar agricultural family.
- **On 15 December 1950** – passed away

Background:

- Deeply influenced by **Mahatma Gandhi** during Kheda Satyagraha (1918).
- Rose as a mass leader through **Bardoli Satyagraha (1928)**, earning the title *Sardar*.

Contribution to Freedom Movement:

- Key organiser of **Kheda and Bardoli Satyagrahas**, mobilising peasants against unjust taxation.
- Active role in **Civil Disobedience and Quit India Movements**, enduring multiple imprisonments.
- Presided over the **1931 Karachi Session of Congress** that endorsed the Gandhi-Irwin Pact.

**Works in Post-Independence India:**

- Architect of **Integration of 565 princely states** into the Union of India, reducing them to 26 administrative units.
- Played a crucial role in handling **Partition violence** and refugee rehabilitation.
- Strengthened Indian administration by creating the **Indian Administrative Service (IAS)**.
- Known for his efficiency in restoring law and order and building the **framework of a unified India**.
- **Bharat Ratna - the country's highest civilian award - posthumously in 1991**
- **October 31** as 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' or National Unity Day since 2014

Atal Bihari Vajpayee

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- **Died: 16 August 2018, New Delhi**
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Birsa Munda

- **Born in Ulihatu Khunti district, Jharkhand on 15th November, 1875**
- Belonged to the **Munda tribe** of the **Chhotanagpur plateau area**, present day Jharkhand.
- He spent some time in the company of a **prominent Vaishnav preacher Anand Panre**.
- **Founded a new sect** known as the **Birsait**.
- It believed in **one God**, and aimed for **reforming tribal society** by observing a **code of**

conduct. Munda Rebellion

- Under the movement, Birsa Munda **mobilized tribes belonging to Chhotanagpur, Bengal and Odisha** against the **Dikus** (outsiders) and Europeans (referred to as **Ravanas**) from **1895 onwards to establish an independent Munda Raj**.

Banking

RBI Approves Merger of New India Co-operative Bank with Saraswat Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the **voluntary amalgamation of New India Co-operative Bank Ltd., Mumbai, with Saraswat Co-operative Bank Ltd., Mumbai** - the largest urban co-operative bank in the country.
- As per the scheme, **all branches of New India Co-operative Bank will function as branches of Saraswat Co-operative Bank.**
- The merger will officially take effect from August 4, 2025.



KSFE Becomes First Miscellaneous NBFC in India to Cross ₹1 Lakh Crore Turnover

- **Kerala State Financial Enterprises** has become the first miscellaneous non-banking financial company in India to achieve a business turnover of ₹1 lakh crore
- This is a **specific type of NBFC** — technically called Miscellaneous Non-Banking Company in RBI language.
- These are companies that **receive deposits from members of the public under any scheme or arrangement** (by way of subscription, installments, or otherwise) and utilize it for investments or giving loans to members



IDFC FIRST Bank Launches RemitFIRST2India

- IDFC FIRST Bank announces the launch of RemitFIRST2India, a next-generation **digital remittance platform** that **allows Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to send money to their families in India quickly, securely, and with zero transfer fees.**
- NRI customers of IDFC FIRST Bank can simply log in to the Mobile Banking App and make the transaction.
- For non-IDFC FIRST Bank NRI users, the platform offers a simple, paperless onboarding journey through a dedicated web portal.



Axis Bank Launches 'Lock FD' Feature to Protect Customers from Digital Banking Fraud

- Axis Bank announced the launch of an **industry-first feature** – 'Lock FD'
- The 'Lock FD' functionality **enables customers to restrict premature withdrawals of FDs through Internet and Mobile Banking.**
- Once locked, the FD **can only be closed by physically visiting a branch**, ensuring that any closure is subject to in-person verification and stringent identity checks.

IEPFA Launches Saksham Niveshak Campaign

- The **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)** under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs launched the Saksham Niveshak campaign in 2025.
- This **100-day national drive ran from 28th July to 6th November.**



- It focused on empowering shareholders by **raising awareness about unclaimed dividends** and guiding them to update KYC and nomination details and prevent transfer of shares to the IEPFA.
- Saksham Niveshak sought to bridge this gap by **encouraging companies to reach out proactively**.
- **IEPFA is an Indian statutory body established under the Companies Act, 2013**. It operates under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- The IEPFA plays a crucial role in **safeguarding investor interests** in India by providing a mechanism for investors to recover their unclaimed investments and by **promoting financial literacy and investor awareness** across the country.

UPI New Rules from 1 August

- UPI was **launched in 2016** by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- **Beginning August 1, 2025**, a **new set of UPI rules** will come into effect. These updated regulations are **part of NPCI's broader strategy to improve the performance, reliability, and security** of the UPI ecosystem, and enhance the overall user experience across **platforms like PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm**.
- **UPI Balance Enquiry** - UPI app can be used **up to 50 times in 24 hours** for balance check.
- **Transaction Status Checks**: Allowed the status check only 3 times, each at a gap of 90 seconds. This prevents apps from hammering the system with rapid-fire retries during network delays.
- **Autopay Mandate Execution** - Auto payments like bills, and OTT subscriptions will be processed during the non-peak hours (before 10:00 am, between 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm, and after 9:30 pm).
- **View Bank Account** - Now, the customers can view their bank accounts **only 25 times per app in 24 hours**.
- The available balance will be shown after each transaction.

S&P Global Upgrades India's Sovereign Credit Rating to 'BBB'

- **S&P Global** has upgraded **India's long-term unsolicited sovereign credit rating to 'BBB' from 'BBB-' after 18 years**, citing strong economic resilience, fiscal consolidation, and stable policy outlook.
- A 'BBB' rating is considered "investment grade," meaning it is a reasonably safe investment
- **S&P Global Ratings** is one of the **world's leading credit rating agencies**, providing independent opinions on credit risk.
- **Headquarters**: New York City, USA.
- **Aim**: To offer transparent, credible, and independent assessments of the ability and willingness of borrowers to meet their financial commitments.



About India Rating Increase by S&P:

- Upgrade from **BBB- to BBB** in long-term sovereign rating.
- Short-term rating raised from **A-3 to A-2**.
- Transfer and convertibility assessment upgraded from **BBB+ to A-**.
- First sovereign upgrade for India by S&P since January 2007.

Cheque Truncation System

What is it?

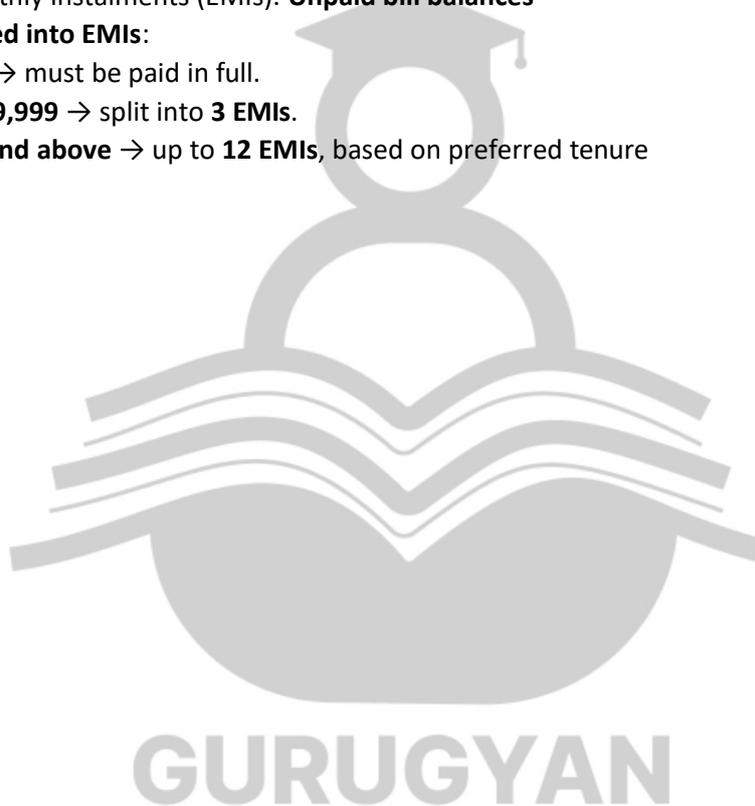
- The **Cheque Truncation System (CTS)** is an **image-based cheque clearing system** introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Instead of physically moving paper cheques between banks, an **electronic image of the cheque** (with key data like MICR code, date, payee, amount, drawer's signature, etc.) **is transmitted**.
- **Implemented** nationwide in **phased manner since 2010**.



- From 2021, CTS-2010 standard cheques made compulsory across banks.
- Now, RBI is transitioning its Cheque Truncation System (CTS) from batch processing to continuous clearing with settlement on realization in two phases, starting October 4, 2025 with Phase 1 and completing with Phase 2 on January 3, 2026
 - The new system will drastically reduce the time it takes to clear a cheque, moving from a 1-3 day cycle to potentially just a few hours.
 - Once a cheque is settled, customers can expect to receive funds within an hour.

India's First EMI-Based Credit Card on RuPay Network

- BharatPe and Unity Small Finance Bank (Unity Bank) recently launched the Unity Bank BharatPe Credit Card—India's first EMI-driven credit card on the RuPay network.
- Developed in association with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- Allows customers to either pay in full or convert their spends into equated monthly instalments (EMIs). Unpaid bill balances are auto-converted into EMIs:
 - ₹1–₹999 → must be paid in full.
 - ₹1,000–₹9,999 → split into 3 EMIs.
 - ₹10,000 and above → up to 12 EMIs, based on preferred tenure



International News

Moldova Becomes 107th Member of International Solar Alliance

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an intergovernmental organization that was launched in 2015, by the Prime Minister of India and the President of France, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Paris.
- As of August 2025, the Director General of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) is Mr. Ashish Khanna.
- **Headquarter:** National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gurugram, India.



STATE VISIT OF PRESIDENT Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. To India



- President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. of the Philippines will visit India from 04–08 August 2025.
- The visit is at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The visit will include engagements in New Delhi and Bengaluru.
- He will be accompanied by First Lady Madame Louise Araneta Marcos.
- Cabinet Ministers, senior officials, dignitaries, and business representatives will join the delegation.

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India–Philippines Strategic Partnership

- During the state visit of **President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.** to India in August 2025, both nations signed a **Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership**, expanding cooperation in **defence, maritime security, and space technology**.
- **Diplomatic ties established in 1949**, among the earliest in India’s post-Independence foreign policy.
- The year **2024 marked 75 years of diplomatic relations**, with a renewed focus on high-level exchanges, institutional dialogues, and capacity-building projects.
- India and the Philippines **commenced formal negotiations for a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)** to boost bilateral trade.
- **Direct flights between India and the Philippines** to begin by end of 2025.
- India announced a **free e-tourist visa facility for Filipino nationals** for one year starting August 2025.
- **BrahMos missile system delivered in 2024**, making Philippines the first foreign recipient.
- ISRO to assist Philippines in **satellite launches, capacity building, and weather/agriculture monitoring**.
- Philippines was the **first ASEAN country to approve Covaxin**.



- **Bangladesh's first National MPI reveals stark child poverty: UNICEF**
Bangladesh's first National Multidimensional Poverty Index uncovers harsh realities for children and the people living in the country, especially in the eastern divisions
- With almost **three out of ten children (28.9%) living in multidimensional poverty**, which is significantly higher than the rate for adults (21.44%)
- **Factors** such as high inflation, lack of coordination across sectors, and the recent civil unrest are hindering progress by limiting critical investments needed to address child poverty in all its dimensions.

India to participate in 38th Bogota International Book Fair 2026 as 'Guest of Honour'

- Organized since 1988
- India's National Book Trust showcased a collective exhibit of books from India for the first time at the 37th Bogota International Book Fair 2025 held from April 25 to May 11, this year.

U.S. designates Balochistan Liberation Army as Foreign Terrorist Organisation

- The **U.S designated** Pakistan-based Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and its alias, **The Majeed Brigade, as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation.**
- BLA was designated as a **Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) in 2019** following several terrorist attacks



Nüshu Script Conservation

- **Nüshu, a 400-year-old "women's script" from Jiangyong, Hunan province**, is witnessing a revival among **Gen Z Chinese women**, who see it as a cultural symbol of sisterhood and empowerment.
- Nüshu is a **17th-century phonetic script** created by women in Jiangyong, China, as a private communication system when they were excluded from formal education.
- **Traditionally passed between women through letters, songs, and embroidery**, it symbolises resilience and sisterhood.

WHO Declares Kenya Free of Sleeping Sickness, A Major Public Health Victory

- WHO certified Kenya as having eliminated **human African trypanosomiasis, also known as sleeping sickness**, as a public health challenge, making it the **10th country** to reach this critical milestone.
- The disease is **caused by protozoan parasites transmitted by infected tsetse flies**
- It is **endemic in sub-Saharan Africa.**
- **Symptoms** include fever, headaches, joint pain, and, in advanced stages, neurological symptoms like confusion, disrupted sleep patterns, and behavioral changes.
- Human African trypanosomiasis is the **second neglected tropical disease** to be **eliminated in Kenya**, following the country's certification as **Guinea worm disease-free in 2018.**

Australia to Recognise Palestinian State at UN in September

- Australia will recognise the State of Palestine at the **80th Sessions** of the United Nations General Assembly **in September**, to contribute to international momentum towards a two-state solution, a ceasefire in Gaza and the release of hostages

TikTok slangs like skibidi, broligarchy find a new home in Cambridge Dictionary

- **"Skibidi", "tradwife", and "delulu"** are among a wave of new words added this year, confirming that TikTok isn't just shaping pop culture; it's rewriting the dictionary, too.



“Skibidi”

- “skibidi” is now officially a word.
- The **Cambridge Dictionary** defines it as: “A word that can have different meanings, such as ‘cool’ or ‘bad’, or can be used with no real meaning as a joke.”
- Example: “What the skibidi are you doing?”

The screenshot shows a dictionary interface with three entries:

- brologarchy**: noun [U] • informal usually disapproving /brɒlɒːɡɑːki/
- skibidi**: adjective • humorous slang UK /ˈskɪ.bi.di/
- tradwife**: noun [C] (also trad wife) UK /ˈtræd.waɪf/ US /ˈtræd.waɪf/ plural tradwives

Additional text from the screenshot includes: "a small group of men who are extremely rich and powerful, and who have or want political influence.", "a married woman, especially one who does cooking, cleaning, etc. and has short for traditional wife:", and "Believing things that are not real or true, usually because you choose to."

“Tradwife”

- Meet the tradwife, **short for “traditional wife.”**
- The dictionary defines a tradwife as: “A woman who chooses to live a traditional lifestyle, especially one who posts on social media.”

“Delulu”

“Delulu” is **short for “delusional”**

- The official definition: “Believing things that are not real or true, usually because you choose to.”

“Broligarchy”

- Broligarchy — **a mash-up of “bro” and “oligarchy.”**
- Definition - small group of men, especially men owning or involved in a technology business, who are extremely rich and powerful, and who have or want political influence.

Typhoon Podul: Flights cancelled, mass evacuations ordered in Taiwan

- Typhoon Podul makes landfall in Taiwan, impacting southern regions - southeastern city of Taitung and passing through the southern tip of the island and then passing into the Taiwan Strait
- It is expected to next make landfall on China’s southern coast



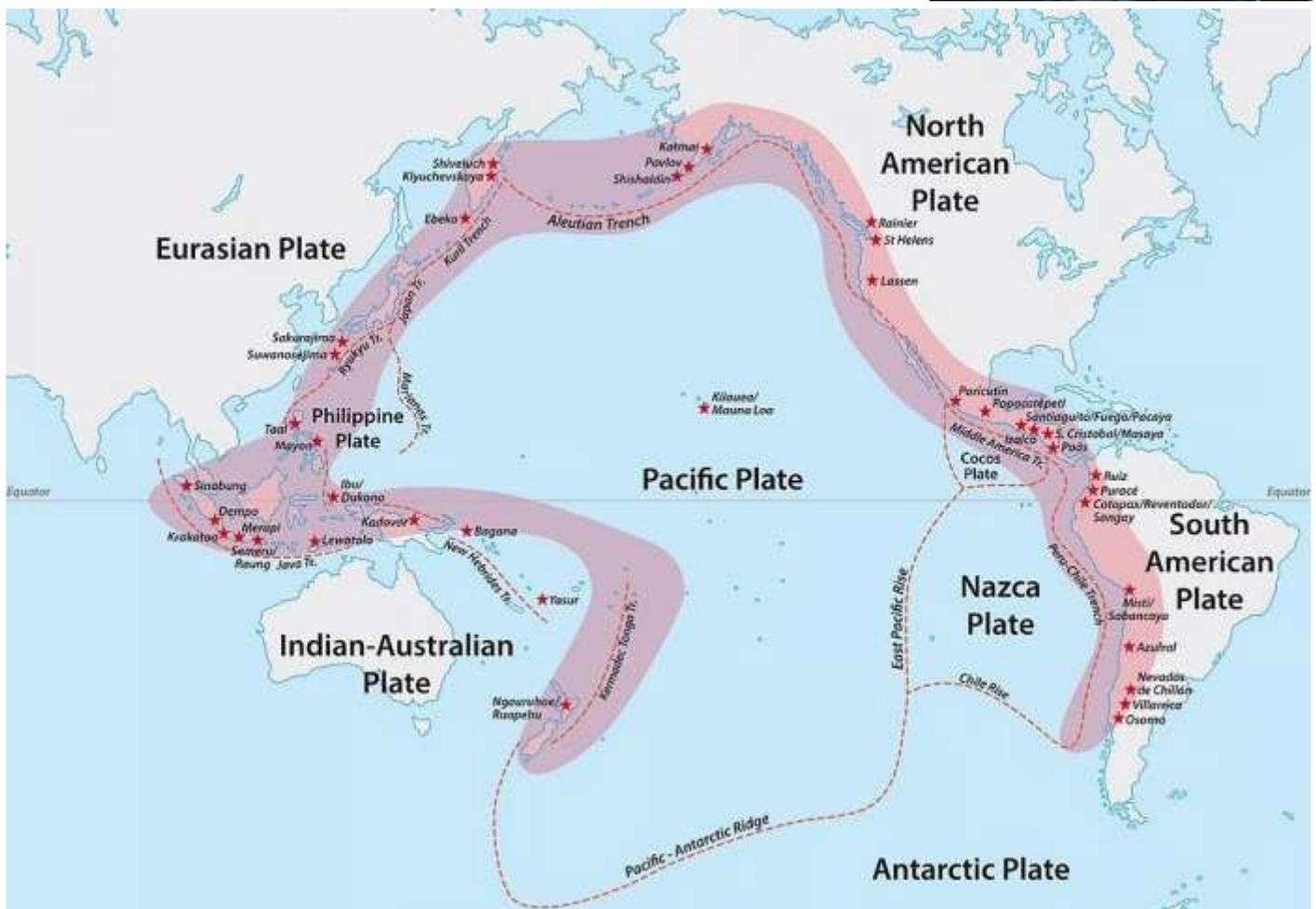
Hurricane Erin explodes in strength to a Category 5 storm in the Atlantic near Caribbean Islands

- The **first Atlantic hurricane of 2025**, Erin ramped up from a tropical storm to a Category 5 hurricane in a mere 24 hours
- it threatened to dump flooding rains in the northeast Caribbean



Krasheninnikov Volcano

- The eruption of the Krasheninnikov volcano **was recently recorded for the first time**
- 2025 Eruption: Krasheninnikov volcano **erupted on 2 August 2025**, three days after a nearby magnitude 8.8 earthquake. Ash emissions reached an altitude of 20,000 ft.
- It is an **active complex volcano** located in the **Eastern Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia.**
- The Kamchatka Peninsula lies along the Pacific “Ring of Fire.”
- There are **114 volcanoes on the Kamchatka Peninsula**
- Krasheninnikov is a **stratovolcano** and reaches a height of **1,886 meters.**
- Its last eruption took place about **400 or 600 years ago.**



US President Donald Trump nominated 38-year-old Sergio Gor as the new US ambassador to India.

US President Donald Trump has chosen Sergio Gor, head of the White House Presidential Personnel Office, as his pick for the new ambassador to India.



Fiji Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka arrives in New Delhi for first official visit

- Fiji Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka is on a **three-day visit to India from 24-26 August 2025**
- **Location:**
 - Republic of Fiji - Sovereign island nation in Melanesia, Oceania



- Lies in the **South Pacific Ocean**, about **2,000 km northeast of New Zealand**.
- **Capital:** Suva
- **Major Islands:** Viti Levu & Vanua Levu (home to 87% of the population).
- **Currency:** Fijian Dollar (FJD).
- **President:** Naiqama Lalabalavu
- **Prime Minister:** Sitiveni Rabuka
- **India's links with Fiji began in 1879** when Indian labourers were taken to Fiji under the indenture system by the British.

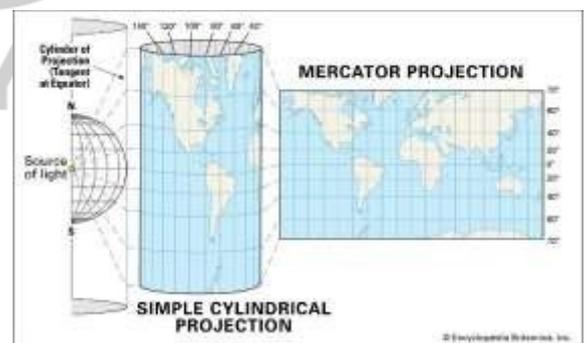
List of Outcomes of the Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of China and India

- **Mr. Wang Yi**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China held **bilateral talks** with **Dr. S. Jaishankar**, External Affairs Minister of India in **New Delhi**.
- The two sides had positive, constructive and forward-looking **discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues** of common interest.
- The **Chinese side welcomed** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's **attendance** at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit to be held in **Tianjin - from August 31 to September 1, 2025**
- Both sides agreed to **support each other in hosting successful diplomatic events**. The Chinese side will support **India in hosting the 2026 BRICS Summit**. The Indian side will support **China in hosting the 2027 BRICS Summit**.
- Both sides agreed to **resume direct flight connectivity between Chinese mainland and India** at the earliest and finalize an updated Air Services Agreement. Both sides also agreed on the facilitation of visas to tourists, businesses, media and other visitors in both directions.
- Both sides agreed to continue and further expand the scale of **Indian pilgrimage to Mount Gang Renpoche/Mt. Kailash and Lake Mapam Yun Tso/Manasarovar** in Xizang Autonomous Region of China in **2026**.
- Both sides agreed to **facilitate trade and investment flows** between the two countries through concrete measures.
- Both sides agreed to **jointly maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas** through friendly consultations.
- Both sides agreed to **uphold multilateralism**, enhance **communication on major international and regional issues**



Mercator Projection Map

- The African Union (AU) has endorsed a global **“Correct The Map”** campaign to replace the Mercator projection map with one that depicts Africa's true size.
 - A **cylindrical map projection**, introduced in **1569**.
 - Designed for **navigation** — allows sailors to follow a straight line of constant compass bearing.
- **Developed by:** **Gerardus Mercator (1512–1594)**, Flemish mathematician and cartographer.
- cylindrical projection mathematically derived to project the spherical Earth on a flat surface.
- The **Mercator projection dramatically distorts the size of continents, especially those near the poles**. This warps perspective—making **Greenland appear nearly as big as Africa**, while the latter is actually much larger.
- The African Union has officially endorsed the **“Correct The Map”** campaign, urging a shift to the Equal Earth projection, which preserves area accuracy and better reflects Africa's true scale.



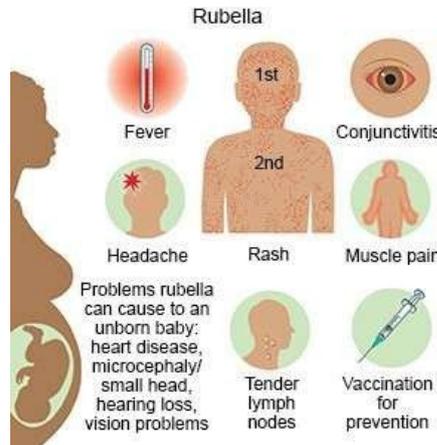
Dubai Launches ‘One Freezone Passport’ to Streamline Business Licensing and Attract Global Investment

- Dubai (United Arab Emirates (UAE))has introduced ‘One Freezone Passport’, a new scheme that allows **companies licensed in one free zone to expand operations into other free zones** across the emirate **without requiring an additional licence.**
- Globally renowned luxury brand, **Louis Vuitton, has become the first corporate member under this scheme.**



Nepal declared free of rubella

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** declared **Nepal free of rubella as a public health problem** on August 18, 2025, making it the **first country in WHO’s Southeast Asia Region** to achieve this milestone.
- Also called **German measles**, rubella is a **highly contagious viral disease** caused by the rubella virus.
- It **spreads through respiratory droplets** when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- **Particularly dangerous during pregnancy**, as it can cause miscarriage, stillbirth, or **congenital rubella syndrome (CRS)** in infants.



Symptoms

- **Mild fever, rashes** starting on the face and spreading across the body.
- Swollen lymph nodes, joint pain, conjunctivitis, and general malaise.
- Many infections are **asymptomatic**, complicating detection.

Treatment: No specific antiviral treatment is available.

- **Prevention** is through immunisation with **MMR vaccine (Measles, Mumps, Rubella).**

India Elected Chair of the AIBD Executive Board for 2025–2027 at 23rd General Conference in Phuket, Thailand

Asia-pacific Institute of Broadcasting Development (AIBD):

- **Established in 1977** under the aegis of UNESCO
- Headquarter - **Kuala Lumpur**; hosted by Government of Malaysia.
- Aim - to achieve a vibrant and cohesive electronic media environment in the Asia-Pacific region through policy and resource development.
- **India is one of the founding members of AIBD.** **Prasar Bharati**, India’s public service broadcaster, is the **representative body** of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, at AIBD.



China Issues Level-IV Emergency as Typhoon Kajiki Nears Hainan

Cyclones Type	Location
Typhoon	China Sea and Pacific Ocean
Hurricane	West Indian islands, Caribbean Sea, Atlantic Ocean
Tornado	Guinea lands of West Africa, southern USA
Willy-willies	North-western Australia
Tropical Cyclone	Indian Ocean Region



The Lithuanian parliament approves the appointment of Social Democrat Inga Ruginiene as Lithuania's new Prime Minister



- **Capital: Vilnius**
- Official languages: Lithuanian
- Currency: Euro (€) (EUR)
- **President: Gitanas Nausėda**
- Lithuania, country of northeastern Europe
- Bounded by Latvia to the north, Belarus to the east and south, Poland and the detached Russian oblast of Kaliningrad to the southwest, and the Baltic Sea to the west.



Trump's 50% tariffs kick in, export of textiles, gems and jewellery worst hit

- From 27th August, most Indian goods entering the US attract a 50% tariff.
- The 50 per cent tariff imposed on the majority of Indian goods exported to the US includes the 25 per cent tariff rate announced by Trump late July, and an additional 25 per cent tariff announced early August as a "penalty" for New Delhi's purchases of Russian oil, apart from its defence imports from Moscow.
- Trade experts estimate that the value of India's merchandise exports to the US could drop by as much as 40-45% in 2025-26 compared with the previous year.
- Around 30% of exports to the US — valued at \$27.6 billion in FY25 — will remain duty free as product categories like pharmaceuticals, electronics, and petroleum products have been exempt from Trump's tariffs,
- 4% of the exports — mainly auto parts — will face a 25 per cent tariff rate.
- Meanwhile, competitors like Vietnam, Bangladesh, Cambodia, and even China and Pakistan, which



GOODS SUBJECT TO 50% U.S. TARIFF	
Product Group	Exports to US in 2024-25
Textiles and apparel	\$10.9 bn
Diamonds, gold and jewellery	\$10 bn
Machinery and mechanical appliances	\$6.7 bn
Agriculture, meat and processed food	\$6.0 bn
Steel, aluminium, copper	\$4.7 bn
Organic chemicals	\$2.7 bn
Shrimps	\$2.4 bn
Handicrafts	\$1.6 bn
Carpets	\$1.2 bn
Leather and footwear	\$1.2 bn
Furniture, bedding, mattresses	\$1.1 bn

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, GTRI analysis

currently face lower tariffs from the Donald Trump administration, are set to benefit from India’s potential losses in various export-oriented sectors.

US demand and sectoral impact

- The impact of the tariffs could be broad-based, as the **US accounts for 20 per cent of merchandise exports from India** and **2 per cent of the GDP**.
- The **US accounts for 48 per cent of revenue for shrimp exporters**, which means that the marine exports sector would also see a sharp decline in volumes.
- Of this, the **US accounts for 60 per cent of exports for home textiles** and **50 per cent for carpets**, according to a Crisil estimate.

Necropolitics

- **Necropolitics** is a concept coined by **Achille Mbembe**, a Cameroonian philosopher, in his 2003 essay “*Necropolitics*”.
- It refers to the **use of social and political power to dictate who may live and who must die**.
- **Necropolitics** is about the dark side of political power — where states or regimes decide whose lives are worth protecting and whose lives can be sacrificed, either through direct violence or through policies that lead to suffering and slow death.

Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project

- The **1020 MW Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project in Bhutan** has been successfully completed with the Power Grid, the Embassy of India in Thimphu said recently.
- It is a run-of-the-river hydroelectric power generating facility located in the **Wangdue Phodrang district of Bhutan**.
- It is **located on the right bank of the Punatsangchhu River**.
- The project is being **developed by the Punatsangchhu II Hydroelectric Project Authority**, under an Inter-Government Agreement (**IGA**) between the Royal Government of **Bhutan** and the Government of **India**.



Feature	Details
Location	Wangdue Phodrang District, Western Bhutan
Capacity	1,020 MW (6 × 170 MW Francis turbines)
Type	Run-of-the-river hydropower
Funding	India: 30% grant + 70% loan (10% interest, repayable over 30 half-yearly installments)
Bilateral Tie-Up	Implemented under a 2010 India–Bhutan Inter-Governmental Agreement
Construction Timeline	Foundation laid in 2010; faced delays (geology, floods, COVID); commissioning achieved in phases between Dec 2024 – Aug 2025
Current Status	Fully commissioned in August 2025; increased Bhutan’s capacity by 40%
Implementing Agencies	India: BHEL (electro-mechanical equipment), WAPCOS, NIRM, Jaiprakash Associates; Bhutanian Authority overseeing execution

WHO officially classified Hepatitis D virus as carcinogenic

- The World Health Organization (**WHO**) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (**IARC**) have **officially classified Hepatitis D virus (HDV) as carcinogenic**, placing it in Group 1 — known causes of liver cancer, alongside **Hepatitis B and C**.

Hepatitis D Virus (HDV)

- **Hepatitis D is a blood-borne viral infection that requires the presence of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) to replicate**.
- HDV cannot exist independently and occurs as co-infection (simultaneous with HBV)

Key Features of Hepatitis D and HBV Infection:

- Affects nearly **12 million people, ~5% of chronic HBV carriers globally**.
- High prevalence in **Asia, Africa, and the Amazon Basin**. It also affects **injection drug users and dialysis patients**.

- **Transmission:** Through infected blood, unprotected sex, unsafe injections, and vertical transmission (mother-to-child).
- **Symptoms:** Fatigue, jaundice, nausea, abdominal pain, dark urine — often ignored or misdiagnosed.

Treatment

- **No HDV-specific vaccine and HBV vaccine is the only preventive measure for both.**
- HBV managed with **lifelong antivirals**

PM Modi, Japanese PM Ishiba Attended 15th India-Japan Summit in Tokyo

- At the invitation of the Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Ishiba Shigeru, the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi paid Visit to Japan on 29-30 August 2025 for the 15th India-Japan Annual Summit.



The leaders adopted:

- (i) a **Joint Vision for the Next Decade** - to steer the **partnership in eight pillars** such as economy, economic security, mobility, environment, technology and innovation, health, people-to-people ties and state-prefecture engagement;
- (ii) a **Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation**
- (iii) an **Action Plan for India-Japan Human Resource Exchange and Cooperation**, which lays out a roadmap for **talent mobility** and deepening people-to-people ties through **exchanges of more than 5,00,000 personnel in five years.**

- They appreciated the successful celebrations of the **India-Japan Tourism Exchange Year (April 2023-March 2025)** under the theme of "**Connecting Himalayas with Mount Fuji**".
- The newly launched **industry-academia collaborations** through the provision of internship opportunities in Japanese companies, **in collaboration with the LOTUS Programme, and Sakura Science Exchange Program.**
- The two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction the **progress made in the Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) Mission** between the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)

PM Modi Receives Auspicious Daruma Doll in Japan Visit

- The Prime Minister was presented a Daruma doll (symbol of good luck) by Rev Seishi Hirose, Chief Priest of the Shorinzan Daruma-Ji temple
- Takasaki City in Gunma is the birthplace of the famous Daruma dolls.



PM Modi's gifts to Prime Minister of Japan and his wife

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted **Ramen Bowls with Chopsticks** to his Japanese counterpart and a **Pashmina Shawl in Papier mache box**
- Large brown moonstone bowl - The **moonstone, sourced from Andhra Pradesh**
- The main bowl's base is **Makrana marble** inlaid with semi-precious stones in the traditional **parchin kari style**
- **Pashmina Shawl** Handwoven from Changthangi goat wool (Ladakh)



Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)

- India and Japan have signed a **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)** to implement a **Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)**, advancing **low-carbon technology projects**.
- A **Japanese initiative** that invests in **low-carbon technologies in developing nations**.
- **Emission reductions achieved are credited partly to Japan's account**, helping it meet its **emission-reduction commitments**.

Objectives

1. **Promote Technology Transfer** – Facilitate flow of Japanese low-carbon technologies to India.
2. **Mobilise Investment** – Encourage financial flows for green projects and infrastructure.
3. **Carbon Credit Trading** – Enable India to trade credits with Japan under Article 6.2 of Paris Agreement.
4. **Sustainable Development** – Support India's shift towards clean energy and climate resilience.

Features of the Indo-Japan Pact

- First-of-its-kind MoC on low-carbon cooperation.
- Covers **equipment, machinery, systems, and infrastructure** localisation.
- Overseen by India's **National Designated Authority** for Carbon Markets.

Aligns with India's NDC goals:

- Cut emission intensity by **45% by 2030** (from 2005 levels).
- Achieve **50% installed power capacity from non-fossil fuels** by 2030.
- Create **2.5–3 billion tonnes CO₂ sink** through afforestation.

About Japan:

- Capital: Tokyo
- Official Language: Japanese.
- Currency: Japanese Yen.
- **Main Islands (north to south):** Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu.
- **Maritime borders:**
 - East: Pacific Ocean.
 - North: Sea of Okhotsk.
 - West: Sea of Japan (East Sea).
 - Southwest: East China Sea.



PM Modi Participated In 2 day's SCO Summit On August 31 in Tianjin, China

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** attended the **25th SCO Heads of State Council Summit in Tianjin, China, on August 31, 2025**.

2025 SCO Summit Highlights (Tianjin, China)

- **Hosted by:** China (its 5th time hosting).
- **Theme:** "Upholding the Shanghai Spirit: SCO on the Move".
- **Focus Areas:** Adoption of a **ten-year development strategy (2025–2035)**.
- Review of **25 years of SCO achievements**.



About SCO:

- A **regional intergovernmental organisation** focusing on political, economic, and security cooperation.
- **Established in: 2001 at Shanghai**
- **Headquarters: Beijing, China.**
- **10 Permanent Members:** China, Russia, India (since 2017), Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran and Belarus.
- There are a number of dialogue partners and observers also.
- The official working language of the SCO Secretariat is Russian and Chinese.

Political & Security Dimension

- Unresolved **boundary disputes** in Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh.
- Recent tensions: Doklam (2017), Galwan clash (2020).

Economic & Trade Relations

- China is one of India's largest trading partners (trade > USD 135 bn in 2023).
- Trade deficit in China's favour (electronics, machinery, chemicals).
- India restricts Chinese apps and FDI in sensitive sectors post-2020.

Multilateral Engagements

- Common members in BRICS, SCO, G20.
- Divergences on **UNSC reforms**, climate negotiations, and global governance.

Strategic Concerns

- China's **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** vs India's opposition (esp. CPEC through PoK).
- India's engagement in **Quad and Indo-Pacific strategy** seen as counterbalance.
- Competition for influence in South Asia, Indian Ocean, and Africa.

UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3)

- The third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3) **held in Awaza, Turkmenistan from 5-8 August**
- **Theme - "Driving Progress through Partnerships,"**
- The LLDC3 conference, **held once every ten years**, brings **global attention to the 32 landlocked developing countries**, which collectively house over 600 million people.
- The primary objective of LLDC3 is **to facilitate coordinated international efforts to bridge these development gaps.**
- Serves as a crucial platform to address structural challenges, mobilize investment, and implement the newly adopted APoA - **Awaza Programme of Action (2024–2034).**
- The **APoA was adopted by consensus at the UN General Assembly on 24 December 2024** and offers a comprehensive framework to tackle persistent development challenges faced by LLDCs.



**Third United Nations
Conference on
Landlocked Developing
Countries**

Jeju Island (PLACES IN NEWS)

- **Jejudo (also known as Jeju Island)** is a volcanic island.
- With a surface area of 1,846 sq.km., it is the **largest island 130 km off the coast of the Korean Peninsula** and the **main island of Jeju Province of South Korea.**
- The island contains the **natural World Heritage Site Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes.**
- A central feature of Jeju is **Hallasan, the tallest mountain in South Korea** and a **dormant volcano**, which rises 1,950 m above sea level.

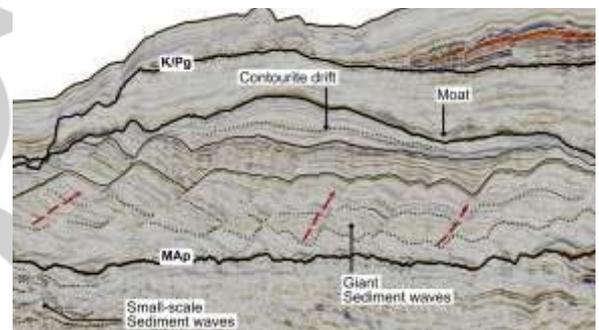


Wallacean Hominids

- Wallacean Hominids were **Homo erectus** populations that inhabited the islands of Wallacea in eastern Indonesia, such as Flores and Sulawesi, at least a million years ago
- Oldest Wallacean Hominid Evidence found in Sulawesi, Indonesia**
- Archaeologists found **7 stone tools** on Sulawesi island (the island zone between Asia and Australia).
- These tools are **1.04–1.48 million years old**.
- Before this**, the oldest human activity in Sulawesi was only **194,000 years old** → this pushes the timeline much earlier.
- Shows that ancient humans were able to **cross seas** and reach islands like Sulawesi.

Mud Wave

- A **2025 study** in Global and Planetary Change **discovered 117-million-year-old mud waves** buried beneath the Atlantic seabed near Guinea-Bissau
- Enormous mud waves**—each over **1 kilometre long** and **hundreds of metres high**—were identified under the Atlantic seabed, about **400 km west of Guinea-Bissau**, buried **roughly 1 km beneath the seafloor**.
- Formed approximately 117 million years ago**, these sediment structures mark some of the **oldest geological signatures** of the Atlantic Ocean's formation.



Dardanelles Strait

NEWS: Turkey recently closed the Dardanelles strait to shipping traffic due to forest fires in the area.

- It is a **narrow strait** in northwestern Turkey, connecting the **Aegean Sea and the Sea of Marmara**.
- It is one of the narrowest straits used for international navigation.



Thai court removed PM Shinawatra over leaked call with Cambodian leader

- Thailand's Constitutional Court dismissed Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra from office for an ethics violation after only a year in power
- Removal - over a leaked telephonic conversation with Cambodia's former leader Hun Sen that spurred outrage in the nation.
- She was suspended last month after the call recording surfaced



- Capital: Bangkok
- Currency: Thai baht (฿)
- The country is surrounded by Myanmar (Burma) to the west,
- Laos to the north and east, Cambodia to the southeast,
- and the Gulf of Thailand to the south.



White House names Jim O’Neill as replacement for director of US CDC

- The White House has named **Jim O’Neill** as the replacement for the director of the **US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

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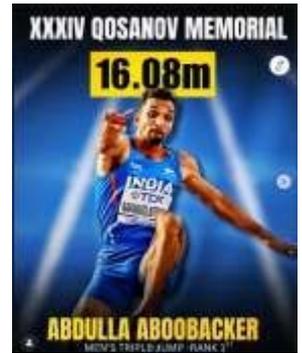
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Sports

National/International Championships & Games

Abdulla Aboobacker wins men’s triple jump title at Qosanov Memorial 2025 athletics meet

- Indian athlete and former Asian champion **Abdulla Aboobacker** from Kerala won the **men’s triple jump title** at the **Qosanov Memorial 2025 athletics meet in Almaty, Kazakhstan**
- World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, scheduled to take place from September 13 to 21.



U17 Wrestling Worlds 2025

- Contested at the Ano Liosia Olympic Hall in **Athens, Greece**
- between **July 28 to August 3**.
- **Indian wrestlers finished with nine medals** - four gold, four silver and one bronze.



Indian wrestler	Event	Medal
Rachana	Women’s freestyle 43kg	Gold
Ashvini Vishnoi	Women’s freestyle 65kg	Gold
Sitender	Men’s freestyle 60kg	Gold
Hardeep	Greco-Roman 110kg	Gold



India’s Namrata Batra scripts history by winning country’s first-ever medal in Wushu at World Games in China

- India’s **Namrata Batra** has scripted history by winning a **silver medal in the women’s 52 kg final** at the **2025 World Games in Chengdu, China**.
- It was **India’s first-ever medal in Wushu at the World Games**



Asian U19 & U22 Boxing Championships Bangkok 2025: India finish with 27 medals in total

- The **Indian boxers from the U19 contingent** returned with **14 medals** – three golds, seven silvers and four bronze, scoring the most in terms of medal count as they finished **second behind Uzbekistan (7) in golds**.
- The **Indian U22 boxers** clinched **13 medals** - one gold, four silvers and eight bronzes.

Asian U19 Boxing Championships 2025: Indian gold medal:

- **Nisha** (women’s 54kg)
- **Muskan** (women’s 57kg)

- Rahul (men's 75kg)

Ritika (women's 80kg) emerged as **India's lone U22 champion**.

Mascot of Asia Rugby Under- 20 Championship 'Ashoka' Rabbit unveiled

- Nitish Kumar unveiled the mascot of **Asia Rugby Under 20 (Sevens) Championship to be held at Rajgir on 9th and 10th August**.
- To be organised first time in Bihar - at Rajgir Sports Complex.
- The **top eight countries of Asia** (men & women) will participate in the championship which is a seven- member team event.
- Besides India, rugby-playing Asian countries like Hong Kong, China, UAE, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Nepal will play in the Championship.
- The **mascot named Ashoka which is a rabbit** and symbolizes agility which is key requisite of the game.
- **President of the Rugby India - Rahul Bose**

Asia Rugby U-20 Sevens: China win women's title, Hong Kong lift men's crown, India women clinch bronze

- In the Asia Rugby Under-20 Sevens **men's final, Hong Kong defeated Sri Lanka** to claim the championship title.
- In the **Women's category China thrashed Hong Kong** to clinch the title of the championship.
- The finals were played at **Rajgir International Sports Complex in Bihar**.

Logo & Mascot of 1st Khelo India Water Sports unveiled

- The **Himalayan Kingfisher** was unveiled in Srinagar as the mascot for the first-ever **Khelo India Water Sports Festival**, which is to be held at **Dal Lake from August 21 to 23, 2025**.
- The KIWSF will feature **rowing, canoeing and kayaking as medal events**.
- The **demonstration events will be water skiing, shikara race and dragon boat race**.
- This will be the **second Khelo India event for Jammu and Kashmir, after Gulmarg** hosted the snow events of the **Khelo India Winter Games in March**.



India to Host Asian open short track speed skating Trophy 2025 for the first time

- India is going to host the **biggest international winter sports event - Asian Open Short Track Speed Skating Trophy 2025**
- **From 20 to 23 August 2025** at the **Maharana Pratap Sports College, in Raipur, Dehradun**.
- **President of Ice Skating Association of India (ISAI) - Amitabh Sharma**, informed that more than **11 Asian countries will participate**: These include China, Japan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Chinese Taipei, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, and India.



Bihar CM Nitish Kumar Unveils Logo, Mascot, and Trophy of 12th Men's Asia Cup Hockey in Patna

- **Bihar is hosting the tournament for the first time**
- **From 29th of August - 7th of September**
- at the **Rajgir International Stadium in Rajgir**.
- The **mascot is named "Chand,"** is inspired by the national animal, **the tiger**.
- The name **"Chand"** is **inspired by hockey legend Major Dhyhan Chand**
- draws inspiration from the majestic tiger of **Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve**



- The tournament will commence on the **29th of August**, coinciding with **National Sports Day** and the birth anniversary of the hockey legend
- The Asia Cup 2025 will feature **teams from India, China, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Malaysia, South Korea, Oman, and Bangladesh.**
- The **winner** of the Hero Asia Cup **will directly qualify for the Hockey World Cup.**

Khelo India Water Sports conclude in Srinagar; Madhya Pradesh tops with 18 Medals

- **Madhya Pradesh** topped the **Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025** medal tally with a haul of **18 podium finishes - 10 gold, three silver and five bronze.**
- The **inaugural KIWSF** - the latest addition to the **Khelo India** calendar - was held at the iconic **Dal Lake in Srinagar**, Jammu and Kashmir, from **August 21 to 23.**
- **Odisha and Kerala** finished **second and third**, respectively.
- The **Himalayan Kingfisher**, the colourful mascot of the Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025.



Rank	State/UT	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Madhya Pradesh	10	3	5	18
2	Odisha	4	5	1	10
3	Kerala	3	1	3	7
4	Uttar Pradesh	2	0	1	3
5	Delhi	1	2	0	3
5	Punjab	1	2	0	3

The U-20 World Wrestling Championships

- The **U20 World Wrestling Championships 2025** was held in **Samokov, Bulgaria**, from **August 17 to 24.**
- **Indian wrestlers** finished the Bulgaria meet with **nine medals - two gold**, four silver and three bronze medals.
- **Russia** topped the medal table

Indian wrestler	Event	Medal
Kajal	Women's freestyle 72kg	Gold
Tapasya Gahlawat	Women's freestyle 57kg	Gold

Mirabai Clinches Gold at Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2025 in Ahmedabad

- **Tokyo Olympics silver medallist** lifted a **total of 193kg (84kg snatch+109kg clean and jerk)** to set new Commonwealth Championship records in snatch, clean and jerk, and total, finishing atop the **women's 48kg podium.**
- This included **84kg in snatch** and **109kg in clean and jerk**, both **setting new Commonwealth Championship records.**
- The win also secured her **direct qualification for the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games.**



World Archery Youth Championships 2025

- Event: **19th World Archery Youth Championships**
- When: **17–24 August 2025** (actual competition: 20–24 August)
- Where: **Winnipeg, Canada**
- Categories: **Under-18 & Under-21; Recurve & Compound; individual, team, mixed team**



- **India finished with 8 medals**—tied for the most golds (4)—and placing second in gold tally
- South Korea led overall medal count with **17** (7 gold)
- India ranked 2nd, with 8 total medals (4 gold)
- The **USA** was third with **6 medals** (4 gold)

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	South Korea	7	6	4	17
2	India	4	2	2	8
3	USA	4	2	0	6



Sharvari Shende became only the third Indian world champion in the **women’s U18 recurve category**, following in the footsteps of Deepika Kumari (2011) and Komalika Bari (2021).

India wins 26 medals at Belt and Road International Youth Boxing Gala in China

- Indian boxers ensured 26 medals at the **3rd "Belt and Road" International Youth Boxing Gala -- U17/U19/U23 International Training Camp & Tournament** in Xinjiang, China.
- **India have sent** a 58-member contingent only in **under-17 age group**.

World Games 2025: India finish with record haul of three medals

- **India finished the World Games 2025 in Chengdu**, the People’s Republic of **China**, with a record haul of **three medals - one silver and two bronze**. India finished in 65th place in the medal table
- The World Games 2025 took place from 7-17 August.
- **Rishabh Yadav** registered India on the 2025 World Games medal tally by winning the **bronze in individual men’s compound archery**.
- **Namrata Batra** followed up with a **silver medal in the women’s sanda 52kg event** to mark what was **India’s first-ever medal in wushu at the World Games**.
- **Anandkumar Velkumar**, who won a **bronze medal in the men’s 1000m sprint**.



Rank	Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	People's Republic of China	36	17	11	64
2.	Germany	17	14	14	45
3.	Ukraine	16	14	14	44
65.	India	0	1	2	3

India finished on top at 25th Commonwealth Senior weightlifting championship

- The **30th edition of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships** held in Ahmedabad.
- **India finished at the top of the medal tally with 13 medals**
- including **4 gold 6 silver, and 3 bronze** at the 25th commonwealth senior weightlifting championship

Men

- Ajith Narayana (71kg) - gold medal
- Ajaya Babu Valluri (79kg) - gold medal
- Muthupandi Raja (65kg) - silver medal
- Dilbag Singh (94kg) - silver medal

Women

- Mirabai Chanu (48 kg) - gold medal
- Soumya Sunil Dalvi (48 kg) - silver medal
- Sneha Soren (53kg) - silver medal
- Bindyarani Devi (58kg) - silver medal
- Nirupama Devi (63kg) - silver medal
- Mehak Sharma (86+kg) - silver medal

50 gold medals, India creates history at 16th Asian Shooting Championship in Shymkent, Kazakhstan

- With a **final tally of 99 medals**, including 50 gold, India recorded its **most successful campaign at Asian Shooting Championship**
- Host nation **Kazakhstan finished second** while **China finished third** in the medals tally
- **Manu Bhaker** won three bronze medals, with one of them coming in an individual event - the women's 10m air pistol.
- **Neeru Dhanda** secured India's first-ever Asian championship gold in women's trap.
- **Sift Kaur Samra** claimed her first Asian title in women's 50 metre rifle 3-position
- India's **Ankur Mittal** produced a world record-shattering performance to clinch **gold in the men's double trap event**.



Cricket

Oval Test: India Beats England by 6 Runs to Level Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy Series 2-2

- The inaugural Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy between England and India came to a thrilling end with a draw.
- **Mohammed Siraj** was declared the **player of the match**.
- **Shubman Gill** and **Harry Brook** were both named the **players of the series**.



1st ever IPL style T20 cricket championship for women begins in Bengaluru

- The inaugural tournament—named the **Maharani Trophy**
- Mysuru Warriors, Hubli Tigers, Kalyani Bengaluru Blasters, Mangaluru Dragons and Shivamogga Lioness will be vying for the T20 Maharani trophy till August 10th at **M Chinnaswamy stadium**.



ICC Player of the Month – July 2025: Shubman Gill & Sophia Dunkley Shine

- India captain **Shubman Gill** and England batter **Sophia Dunkley** have been declared the ICC men's and women's Players of the Month, respectively, for July 2025



David Warner Overtakes Virat Kohli to Become Fifth-Highest Run-Getter in T20 Cricket

- **Australian veteran David Warner**, who is still active in the T20 circuit following retirement from international cricket, **overtook Virat Kohli** to become the **fifth-highest run-getter in T20 cricket**
- Now, in 419 T20 matches, Warner has scored 13,545 runs; **Virat Kohli has scored 13,543** runs in 414 matches
- This milestone of David Warner came **during London Spirit's match** against Manchester Originals in the **ongoing The Hundred 2025 competition** in England
- The **top run-getter in T20s is West Indies icon Chris Gayle** He has played 463 matches, scoring 14,562 runs



BCCI introduces 'serious injury substitution rule' in multi-day tournaments

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has decided to introduce "serious injury replacement substitute" rule in the multi-day tournaments in the forthcoming domestic season, **starting with the Duleep Trophy.**
- **The replacement player**, barring an exceptional case of a wicketkeeper, **has to be from the nominated substitutes** at the start of the game.
- Under all circumstances, the serious injury replacement player shall be from **nominated substitutes at the time of toss**
- Only in the case where the wicketkeeper is seriously injured and needs a replacement then the match referee may allow a wicketkeeper from a player outside the nominated substitutes if there is no wicketkeeper in the nominated substitutes

Cheteshwar Pujara announces retirement from cricket

- **Cheteshwar Pujara**, one of the foremost **Test specialists** in the 21st century, has **announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.**
- **7195 runs at 43.60**, including 19 hundreds and 35 fifties
- The Saurashtra player who made **his international debut against Australia in 2010**
- He was at his peak during India's maiden Test series triumph in Australia in 2018-19.
- At 14, Cheteshwar scored a triple hundred in a BCCI tournament. Months after turning 18, he was named Man of the Series at the Under-19 World Cup.
- Pujara not only scored 521 runs to emerge as the top-scorer of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy but also faced a whopping 1258 balls.
- His tally of 21301 First Class runs is the fourth-highest by an Indian batter. **No Indian batter has scored more than Pujara's 18 double hundreds.**
- He is also a member of a rare batters' club to have **scored three triple hundreds.**
- he was the 8th most successful run-maker ever. However, there was one achievement that none of the 7 above him – Tendulkar, Dravid, Gavaskar, Kohli, Laxman, Sehwag, Ganguly – could match.



- He scored three hundreds, compiled 521 runs and faced 1,258 balls to be the Man of the Series in India's first-ever Test series triumph Down Under.

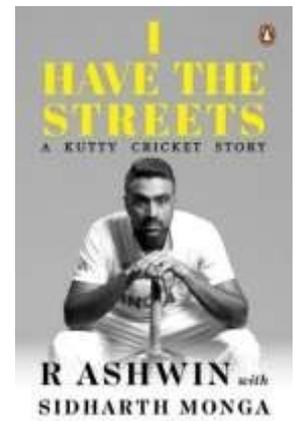
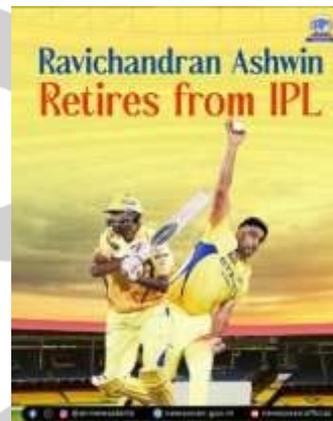
Sourav Ganguly appointed head coach of Pretoria Capitals for SA20 2026 season

- Former India captain Sourav Ganguly has taken up his **first coaching role** after being appointed as head coach of Pretoria Capitals for the SA20 2026 season.
- The appointment comes just a day after **former England batter Jonathan Trott had left** the role.
- After retiring from international cricket in 2008, Ganguly had moved into administrative roles, notably serving as the **BCCI president** and **currently works as Chair of the ICC Men's Cricket Committee**, apart from being **president of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB)**.



Former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has announced his retirement from the IPL

- 38-year-old was **part of the Chennai Super Kings franchise in the 2025 season**.
- Ashwin made his breakthrough into the **international career playing for Chennai Super Kings back in 2009**.
- Ashwin has won the IPL title twice in 2010 and 2011**.
- Book - "**I Have the Streets: A Kutti Cricket Story**", co-authored with Sidharth Monga



Doordarshan launches new weekly cricket show

- Prasar Bharati**, India's public service broadcaster, **launched** a new weekly cricket programme in **collaboration with CricViz**, titled '**The Great Indian Cricket Show**',
- aims to celebrate India's cricketing heritage with the help of enlightening data and effective storytelling.



Golf

Tommy Fleetwood wins Tour Championship for first PGA Tour title and FedEx Cup

- Tommy Fleetwood**, from England, not only secured his **first-ever PGA Tour title**, but he did so by **winning the Tour Championship**, which also awarded him the **FedEx Cup** crown — plus a staggering **\$10 million** prize



Badminton

Badminton: Tanya Hemanth Wins Women's Singles Title at Saipan International 2025

- Tanya Hemanth is from Bangalore
- Saipan International 2025 badminton tournament held in the Northern Mariana Islands**.
- The Saipan International 2025 badminton is a part of the BWF's 3x15 scoring system test events, **where each game is played over 15 points instead of the conventional 21**.
- This was Tanya Hemanth's fourth international series title - She won the India International 2022 tournament, the Iran Fajr International in 2023 and the Bendigo International in 2024



Devika Sihag Clinches First International Challenge Title in Malaysia

- Indian shuttler Devika Sihag claimed her first International Challenge title by winning the **women’s singles** event at the **Malaysia International Challenge 2025 in Ipoh**.
- The tournament is being played under the **BWF’s experimental 3×15 scoring format**, where games are played to 15 points instead of the usual 21.



Tennis

Tennis: Canadian Open: men’s and women’s singles winners

- **Ben Shelton won in men’s singles tennis** becoming the youngest American to win a Masters 1000 trophy since 21-year-old Andy Roddick won in Miami in 2004. He **defeated Karen Khachanov**
- In the women’s singles final, 18-year-old **Victoria Mboko** won her maiden WTA 1000 title at the Canadian Open **defeated Naomi Osaka**



Venus Williams Receives Wild Card for U.S. Open at Age 45

- In Tennis, **Venus Williams will become the oldest singles player at the U.S. Open in more than 40 years** (since 47-year-old Renee Richards in 1981) after receiving a wild card at age 45

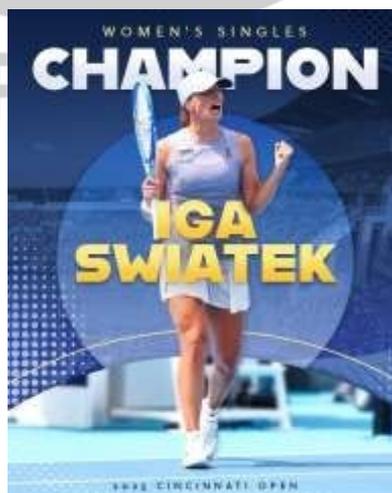


Grand Slam Summary Table (static)

Grand Slam	Venue	Surface	Time of Year
Australian Open	Melbourne, Australia	Hard	January
French Open (Roland Garros)	Paris, France	Clay	May–June
Wimbledon	London, UK	Grass	June–July
US Open	New York, USA	Hard	Aug–Sep

Cincinnati Open 2025

- **Women’s Singles** - Iga Swiatek of Poland captured her first Cincinnati Open title by beating Jasmine Paolini of Italy
- **Men’s Singles** - **Carlos Alcaraz Wins First Cincinnati Open Title 2025**, after top seed **Jannik Sinner retired** as he was feeling unwell



Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori clinch US Open mixed title

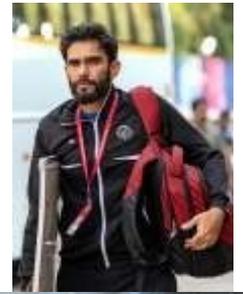
- Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori, clinched the \$1 million top prize at the US Open mixed doubles tournament



Football

Khalid Jamil named Indian men's football head coach

- The All India Football Federation (AIFF) appointed Khalid Jamil as head coach of the Indian men's national football team,
- He is the first Indian to hold the post since Savio Medeira in 2011–12.
- Jamil replaces Manolo Marquez, who stepped down last month



NorthEast United FC retains Durand Cup title beating Diamond Harbour FC

- NorthEast United FC comfortably beat Diamond Harbour FC in the Durand Cup 2025 final played at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata to retain their title.
- The Durand Cup is the oldest active football tournament in Asia and one of the oldest globally.
- This was the 134th edition.
- The inaugural edition took place in Shimla in 1888, when it started off as an Army Cup, open only to the British Indian Army troops in India
- The tournament is named after its founder Sir Henry Mortimer Durand



The Durand Cup tournament is unique where in the winning team walks away with three trophies,

1. The Durand Cup (a rolling trophy and the original prize).
2. The Shimla Trophy (also a rolling trophy and first given by the residents of Shimla in 1904).
3. The President's Cup (for permanent keep and first presented by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, India's first President, in 1956).

Salah and Caldentey voted player of the year at 2025 PFA awards

- Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah and Arsenal midfielder Mariona Caldentey were voted the men's and women's player of the year in English soccer for last season at the Professional Footballers' Association awards



Minerva Academy Wins Historic European Treble in Youth Football

- Sports Minister felicitated Minerva Academy Football Club, Mohali for its achievements
- The Under-14/15 squad of 22 players scripted history in July–August 2025 by completing a never-before-achieved European treble, winning the Gothia Cup (Sweden), the Dana Cup (Denmark), and the Norway Cup (Norway).
- The phrase "Treble" in football means winning three major trophies in a single season.

Hockey

Hockey: Argentina Clinch Double Gold at 2025 Pan American Hockey Cup

- Argentina dominated the 2025 Pan American Cup, winning gold in both the men's and women's hockey tournaments in Montevideo, Uruguay
- The United States took silver in both categories



Jharkhand Women's Hockey Team Wins 15th Junior National Championship for Second Consecutive Year

- Jharkhand Women's Hockey team emerged as Champions in the 15th Junior National Women's Hockey Championship
- Defeating Hockey Haryana in the finals.
- Held at Kakinanda in Andhra Pradesh from August 1-12.
- The Womens Hockey team of Jharkhand has won the National Championship in all three categories viz Senior, Junior and Sub-junior in this year 2025.



Chess

Magnus Carlsen Wins First-Ever Chess Esports World Cup

- Representing Team Liquid, Magnus Carlsen claimed victory at the first edition of the **Chess Esports World Cup (EWC 2025) in Riyadh**,
- **Defeating Alireza Firouzja** of Team Falcons
- Carlsen not only walked away with the \$250,000 prize money, but also helped Team Liquid take a lead in the overall team championship.



Chess: German Grandmaster Vincent Keymer wins Quantbox Chennai Grand Masters 2025

- The **Quantbox Chennai Grand Masters 2025** is the **third edition** of India's premier classical super chess tournament
- **Prize - A record ₹1 crore (~\$85,600)**, with ₹75 lakh for the Masters and ₹25 lakh for the Challengers
- **Masters Section: Champion: GM Vincent Keymer (Germany)** clinched the title **with one round to spare**, becoming the first sole champion in the tournament's history
- **Challengers Section: Winner: GM M Pranesh (India)** secured first, earning promotion to the 2026 Masters



FIDE World Cup 2025 to Be Hosted in Goa

- India will host the FIDE World Cup 2025 in the state of Goa for the **second time** from **October 30 to November 27, 2025**.
- Earlier, **India hosted the World Cup in Hyderabad in 2002**, when Viswanathan Anand became the champion.
- **Prize fund of 2 million dollars**
- **20th July - International Chess Day.**
- In **1924, FIDE was founded in Paris**, formalizing chess as an international sport.



Grand Prix

Lando Norris Clinches Hungarian Grand Prix



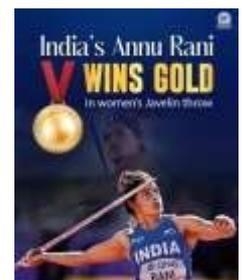
Six-times MotoGP champion Marc Marquez wins Austrian GP for first time

- **Marquez** It was the Spaniard's sixth consecutive grand prix victory



Javelin

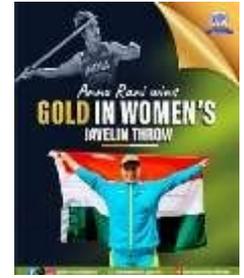
India's Annu Rani Wins Gold In Women's Javelin Throw At International Wiesław Maniak Memorial 2025 in Poland



Annu Rani Wins Gold In Women's Javelin Throw At Indian Open 2025 World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze Meet

- Indian Open 2025 World Athletics Bronze Level Continental Tour organised at the **Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- Annu Rani recorded a best throw of 62.01 meters

- In the **men's javelin throw**, India's **Shivam Lohakare** secured the silver medal
- Sri Lanka's Rumesh Pathirage claimed the gold
- This was the **first-ever** World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze Level meet **hosted by India**.
- **Organised by World Athletics**, the Continental Tour is an annual series of track and field competitions.
- It is the **second tier** of global meetings **after the elite Diamond League**.



Neeraj Chopra finishes second in Diamond League Finals, Weber wins maiden trophy

- **Neeraj Chopra** had to settle for **second place** (85.01m throw on his final attempt) at the **Diamond League Final 2025 in Zurich**, finishing runner-up for the third straight year.
- **Germany's Julian Weber** - two 90m-plus throws - including a world-leading personal best of **91.51m**. clinch his maiden Diamond League trophy.
- Keshorn Walcott settled for third.



Squash

National Squash Championship: Velavan Senthilkumar & Anahat Singh clinch titles

- **81st edition** of India's senior **National Squash Championship** was held from **August 23 to 28**.
- Men: Final: Velavan Senthilkumar
- Women: Final: Anahat Singh



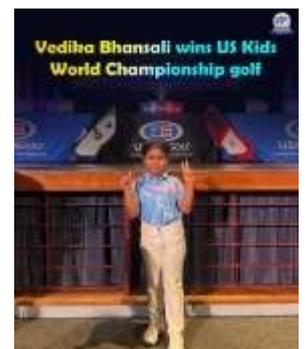
Miscellaneous

Archery Association of India announces first edition of Archery League

- The Archery Association of India (AAI) announced the first-of-its-kind Archery League, which will see **men and women recurve and compound archers from across the world competing in a 6 franchise-styled tournament**.
- The **inaugural edition** of the league is expected to take place over a **11-day period in October** this year at the **Yamuna Sports Complex in Delhi**.

India's Vedika Bhansali Wins US Kids World Championship Golf

Vedika Bhansali, a **nine-year-old golfer from Bengaluru**, has made history by winning the US Kids World Championship held at Pinehurst Village, North Carolina, United States



WTT Star Contender 2025: India creates history as two doubles teams enter finals for 1st time

- In table tennis, India has made history at the WTT Star Contender 2025 in **Foz do Iguaçu in Brazil**, with two Indian doubles teams reaching the finals, a first for the country in this tournament.
- In **mixed doubles**, top seeds **Manush Shah and Diya Chitale** reached the final
- In **men's doubles**, India's top-seeded pair **Manav Thakkar and Manush Shah** also reached the final.

Mascot of Nehru Trophy Boat Race unveiled

- The mascot of the **71st edition of the Nehru Trophy Boat Race (NTBR)** was released.
- The mascot depicting a **drongo (Kakkathampuratti) rowing a canoe** was designed by S. Anupama from Vattayal in Alappuzha.
- The **NTBR will be held on Punnamada Lake in Alappuzha on August 30**.



- The **Nehru Trophy** boat race is amongst the pioneer snake boat races in Kerala.
- The name of the water race was coined following Jawaharlal Nehru's visit to Kerala in 1952.

18th International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO 2025)

- **Rayansh Gupta** from Ludhiana won **1 Gold and 1 Silver** medal at the 18th International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO 2025) in Jining, China.
- An **annual global competition** in earth sciences for high-school students.
- Tests knowledge in **geology, meteorology, oceanography, astronomy, and environmental sciences** through individual and team events.
- Promotes **scientific temper, research skills, and international cooperation**.
- India won **7 medals + 1 special award**.
- The team was supported by the **Union Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**.

Indian team wins 5 medals at International Olympiad on Astronomy & Astrophysics

- India has secured **four gold medals and one silver** at the **18th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA)**.
- **India was the host for the 1st time** – 18th IOAA held in **Mumbai** from **August 11 to 21, 2025**.
- In the medals tally, India was placed in the second position, jointly with the United Kingdom, behind **Iran (5 golds)**.



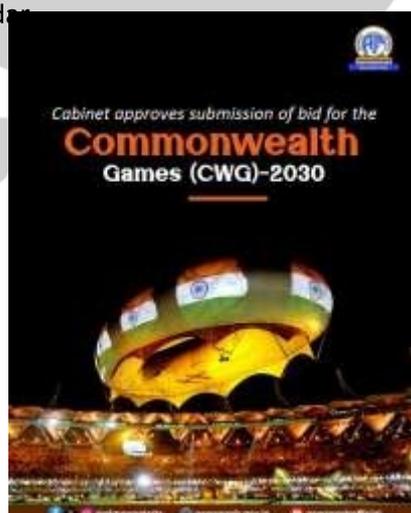
Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Unveils Hockey Men's Asia Cup 2025 Trophy

- Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & Employment, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya unveiled the Hockey Men's Asia Cup 2025 Trophy
- The tournament's **12th edition** to be held from **August 29 to September 7** at the **Rajgir Hockey Stadium in Bihar**.



Union Cabinet Approves Bid Submission for Commonwealth Games 2030

- The Union Cabinet has approved India's bid, **naming Ahmedabad as the proposed host city** (Narendra Modi Stadium, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave).
- India is **also positioning Ahmedabad** as a frontrunner for the **2036 Olympics**.
- An **international multi-sport event** held every four years, featuring athletes from the **Commonwealth of Nations (72 nations and territories)**.



Origin:

- First held in **1930 at Hamilton, Canada**, known then as the *British Empire Games*.
- **Renamed British Empire and Commonwealth Games (1954), British Commonwealth Games (1970), and finally Commonwealth Games (from 1978)**.

India & the Commonwealth Games:

- First participated in **1934 London Games**; **wrestler Rashid Anwar** won India's first medal (bronze in wrestling).
- **Milestones:** Milkha Singh (first Indian gold, Cardiff 1958), rise of wrestling, shooting, weightlifting and badminton in later decades.

- Hosted once in **2010, New Delhi** .
- **Best performance: 2010 Delhi Games** → India won **101 medals (39 golds)**, finishing **2nd overall**.
- Till date, India has won **564 medals (203 golds)** at the Commonwealth Games.

Gulveer Singh betters own national record in non-Olympic event of men's 3000m race in Budapest

- India's Gulveer Singh clocked **7 minutes 34.49 seconds**
- to eclipse his own previous national record time of 7 minutes 38.26 seconds
- At Hungarian Athletics Grand Prix in Budapest.



Suraj Narredu creates history by winning the Shergar Cup Stayers at Ascot

- India's champion jockey **Suraj Narredu** etched his name in the history books by **steering Fireblade**, trained by Dylan Cunha, to a resounding **victory in the Dubai Duty Free Shergar Cup Stayers** at the prestigious **Ascot racecourse**
- **Representing the Asian Team as captain** in the world's foremost international jockeys' competition,



Asian Surfing Championships: Ramesh Budhial becomes 1st Indian to win medal in Open Men's category

- In the Asian Surfing Championships, Ramesh Budhial became the first Indian to win a medal **securing bronze** in the **Open Men's category in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu**.
- Korea took gold



India received its 1st Mondo track on occasion of National Sports Day: Mansukh Mandaviya

- Sports Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** inaugurated India's first-ever **Mondo Track** in **New Delhi at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium**,
- It will host the **World Para-Athletics Championships** from **September 26 to October 5**.
- **India** has become the **25th nation to have a mondo track**
- The new track will provide Indian athletes with world-class facilities.

Index

Deepika Padukone's reel becomes most-viewed on Instagram with 1.9 billion views

- The reel, posted on June 9 as part of a **paid partnership with hotel chain Hilton**, has surpassed all previous viewership records on Instagram.



India Emerges as World's 5th Biggest Aviation Market in 2024.

- International Airport Transport Association (IATA), **India saw 211 million air passengers last year**, a **growth of 11.1 per cent compared to 2023**, ahead of Japan, which handled 205 million passengers with an annual rise of 18.6 per cent
- Among the top 10 airport pairs, **Mumbai-Delhi was the 7th busiest**, carrying 5.9 million passengers in 2024.
- **Asia Pacific** dominated the ranking for the **world's busiest airport pairs**, with **Jeju-Seoul** the most popular route globally.
- **Top 4 biggest aviation markets in the world:**
 1. The US with 876 million passengers in 2024.
 2. China with 741 million passengers
 3. UK was with 261 million passengers
 4. Spain with 241 million



According to APEDA, India exported about 1.295 million metric tons of buffalo meat (carabeef) in FY 2023-24, with shipment value amounting to ₹31,010 crore (approximately \$3.74 billion USD)

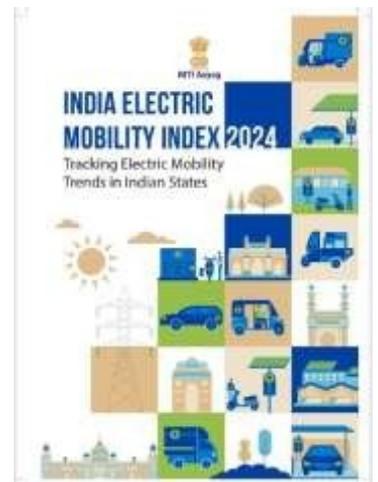


India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI) 2024

- Launched by NITI Aayog
- A first of its kind national benchmarking framework that scores all States and Union Territories out of 100 based on their progress in e-mobility adoption, infrastructure readiness, and innovation efforts.
- and help align them with national decarbonisation targets by 2070.
- Delhi, Maharashtra, and Chandigarh emerged as the top three states/UTs overall in electric mobility readiness and innovation.

IEMI assesses states on 16 indicators under 3 broad categories:

- Transport Electrification**
Progress: Tracks adoption of electric vehicles across passenger, freight, and public transport segments.
- Charging**
Infrastructure Readiness: Assesses deployment of public and private charging stations and policy frameworks supporting EV infra.
- EV Research and Innovation Ecosystem:** Evaluates R&D ecosystem, manufacturing capacity, and technological advancements in EV components.



Key National Trends:

- EV Share in Total Vehicle Sales:** Rose from 5% in 2018 to 7.7% in 2024, marking exponential adoption.
- Total EVs on Road:** Surpassed 5 million by June 2025, with 12 lakh EVs registered in 2024 alone.
- EV Charging Infrastructure:** Over 25,000 public charging stations were installed by October 2024.
 - Karnataka has the highest number of installations.
- Policy Spread:** 29 states/UTs have notified EV policies and 4 more are in the draft stage, ensuring pan-India policy coverage.

Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) City Index 2025

- Bengaluru has secured the 26th rank in the Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) City Index 2025, emerging as India's top AI R&D and data centre hub.
- A global benchmarking report that evaluates cities on their capacity, investment, and innovation in artificial intelligence.
- Published by: Market research firm Counterpoint Research.

India's Performance in AI City Index 2025:

- Bengaluru ranked 26th globally; India's top AI city with a vibrant startup and data ecosystem.
- Mumbai and Delhi leverage AI in traffic and public security, with growth potential.
- Other Indian cities in top national ranks include Chennai and Kolkata.
- Report highlights the need for stronger AI roadmap and regulatory frameworks in India.



Top 5 Global Rankings Global AI City Index:

- Singapore
- Seoul
- Beijing
- Dubai
- San Francisco

SHRESTH: India’s First State Health Regulatory Excellence Index

- The **Union Health Ministry** launched **SHRESTH – State Health Regulatory Excellence Index**, the first national framework to **benchmark and strengthen state drug regulatory systems** through transparent, data-driven evaluation.
- A **virtual gap assessment tool** to evaluate, rank, and improve state drug regulatory authorities, ensuring medicine safety, quality, and efficacy.
- **Ministry:** Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (**Implemented by CDSCO – Central Drugs Standard Control Organization**)



Objective:

- Benchmark state/UT drug regulatory systems.
- Drive targeted improvements in **human resources, infrastructure, and digitisation**.
- Strengthen public trust in medicines manufactured and distributed in India.

Criteria for Evaluation:

- **Manufacturing States:** 27 indicators under **5 themes** – Human Resources, Infrastructure, Licensing, Surveillance, Responsiveness.
- **Distribution States/UTs:** 23 indicators under the same thematic areas.
- Monthly data submission to CDSCO; monthly scoring and feedback loop.

Key Features:

- **Two-tier categorisation** – Manufacturing States and Distribution States/UTs.
- **Data-driven ranking** with monthly updates for continuous improvement.
- **WHO-aligned standards** to move medicines to global benchmark status (ML3-equivalent).
- **Cross-learning platform** – sharing success stories from top performers.
- **Regulatory harmonisation** – uniform implementation of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act across states.

2025 Numbeo Index

- **India ranked 67th globally** in the mid-2025 Numbeo Safety Index with a **score of 55.8**.

The top countries are:

1. United Arab Emirates (UAE) – Score: 85.2
2. Andorra – Score: 84.8
3. Qatar – Score: 84.6

- **Abu Dhabi** capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), leads as the **world’s safest city** with a **score of 88.8 for the ninth year running**.

Rank	City, Country	Safety Index
1	Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates	88.8
2	Doha, Qatar	84.3
3	Dubai, United Arab Emirates	83.9

Global Rank	India Rank	City, State	Safety Index	Crime Index
49	1	Mangalore, Karnataka	74.2	25.8
85	2	Vadodara, Gujarat	69.2	30.8
93	3	Ahmedabad, Gujarat	68.2	31.8
106	4	Surat, Gujarat	66.6	33.4

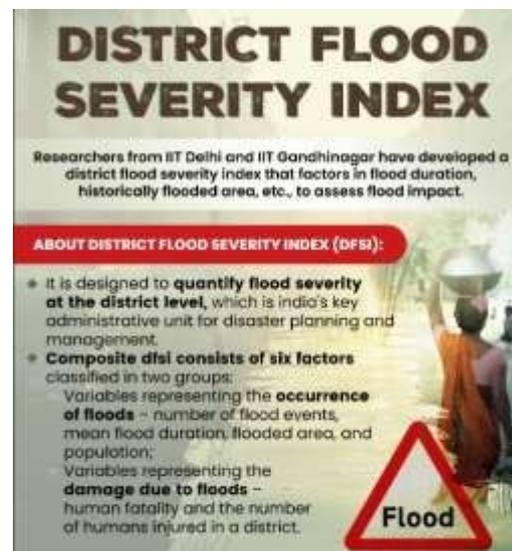
118	5	Jaipur, Rajasthan	65.2	34.8
128	6	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	63.5	36.5

Least Safe Cities in India

- **New Delhi, Noida, and Ghaziabad** rank among the most unsafe Indian cities. Delhi's crime index is 59.03, Ghaziabad's 58.44, and Noida's 55.1.
- Safety concerns, especially for women, remain high. These cities face issues like violent crime, harassment, and property crimes.

District Flood Severity Index

- **Researchers from IIT Delhi and IIT Gandhinagar** have come up with a **District Flood Severity Index (DFSI)**
- that takes into account the **mean duration in days** of all flooding events in a district, **percentage of area** that is historically flooded, total **number of deaths**, number of people **injured**, and the **population in the district**
- Though **Thiruvananthapuram** is number one in terms of **flooding events**, it is absent in the top 30 districts in the flood severity index.
- **Patna** turns out to be number one on the index followed by many districts in the Indo-Gangetic Plain and in Assam



TRAI launches India's first property rating framework for digital connectivity

- TRAI has introduced a **voluntary, star-based rating system for buildings—focused on digital connectivity**.
- It **assesses how well a property supports modern digital needs**.
- A **Manual for Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity** has been published under the **"Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity Regulations, 2024"**
- **Key Features**
- **Transparent, standardized criteria** covering:
 - Fibre readiness & broadband speeds
 - In-building mobile coverage (2G–5G)
 - Wi-Fi infrastructure
 - Overall user experience
 - Indoor network solutions
- **Digital Connectivity Rating Agencies (DCRAs)** conduct assessments using a unified methodology.
- **Rating Platform:** A managed digital portal for property managers to apply, select DCRAs, and receive ratings.
- **Voluntary but strategic:** While not mandatory, TRAI expects industry and government bodies to integrate connectivity planning at the design stage—as essential as electricity or water.
- **Targeted Impact:** Enhances marketability of digitally-ready buildings and aligns with **Digital India** and **Smart Cities** goals

Why This Matters?

- Over **70–80% of mobile data is consumed indoors**, where connectivity is often hampered by building materials and lack of infrastructure.
- This framework ensures property developers and users are aware of—and incentivized to provide—high-quality digital access.
- Embeds **Digital Connectivity Infrastructure (DCI)** in early stages of urban planning.



TRAI RELEASES DRAFT MANUAL FOR RATING PROPERTIES BASED ON DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

About Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI):

- Statutory regulatory body overseeing telecom services, tariffs, and service quality in India.
- **Established:** 20 February 1997, under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India.

Objective:

- Foster telecom sector growth to make India a leader in the global digital economy.
- Maintain a fair, transparent policy environment ensuring healthy competition.

Ambanis Lead 2025 Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses List

- The **Ambani family has topped the 2025 Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses List** for the **second consecutive year**,
- with a staggering **valuation of Rs 28.2 lakh crore**, roughly **one-twelfth of India's GDP**.

Rank	Family Name	Flagship Company	Value (INR, Cr)	Person Heading the Business
1	Ambani Family	Reliance Industries	28,23,100	Mukesh Ambani
2	Bajaj Family	Bajaj Group	8,02,000	Sanjiv Bajaj
3	Kumar Mangalam Birla Family	Aditya Birla Group	6,47,700	Kumar Mangalam Birla
4	Jindal Family	JSW Steel	5,70,900	Sajjan Jindal
5 ↑	Mahindra Family	Mahindra & Mahindra	5,43,800	Anand Mahindra



Smart City Index 2025 Rankings

- Smart City Index 2025 **released by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD)**, Swiss cities continue to dominate.

What is a Smart City?

- **IMD defines a smart city** as “an urban setting that applies technology to enhance the benefits and mitigate the drawbacks of urbanisation for its citizens.”
- The **ranking evaluates cities on five parameters:** health and safety, mobility, activities, opportunities, and governance.



Smart City Rank 2025	City	Country	Smart City Rating 2025	Smart City Rank 2024	Change
1	Zurich	Switzerland	AAA	1	—
2	Oslo	Norway	AAA	2	—
3	Geneva	Switzerland	AAA	4	▲ 1
4	Dubai	UAE	A	12	▲ 8
5	Abu Dhabi	UAE	A	10	▲ 5

- **Indian cities** continue to be part of the global smart city movement, but they **remain outside the top 20**.
- While progress has been made in infrastructure, digital adoption, and citizen services, **challenges in governance, mobility, and human development** still place them lower in the global hierarchy.

City	Smart City Rank 2025	Smart City Rating 2025
Delhi	104	CC
Mumbai	106	CC

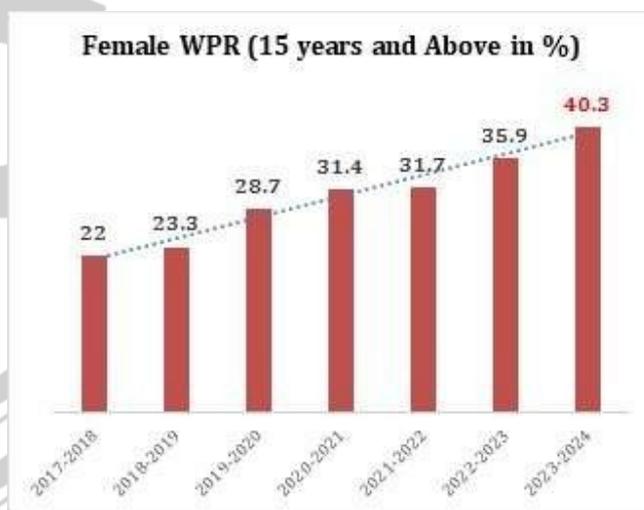
Hyderabad	109	CCC
Bengaluru	110	CC

Chennai city's first City Biodiversity Index conducted

- On **August 25, 2025**, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin released the **City Biodiversity Index of Chennai**, marking it as **the first city in Tamil Nadu** to adopt this globally recognized framework.
- Also known as the Singapore Index**, the framework was developed in 2008 and **endorsed at COP-9** of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Chennai's first-ever City Biodiversity Index (CBI) assessment** reveals that while the city holds significant reserves of native biodiversity.
- The assessment was **conducted by ICLEI South Asia** in **collaboration** with the **Tamil Nadu Forest Department**, the **Greater Chennai Corporation**, among other city and State agencies.
- The index **evaluated Chennai across 23 indicators** grouped into **three components** — native biodiversity, ecosystem services, and biodiversity governance and management.
- Chennai scored 38 out of a possible 72 points**, with its strongest performance in native biodiversity and weakest in governance (17/36).

Women's Employment Rate in India

- One of the key pillars for achieving the vision of **Viksit Bharat by 2047** is **ensuring 70 percent women workforce participation** in the country.
- Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) shows:
 - Women's employment rate in India nearly doubled** from **22% in 2017-18** to **40.3% in 2023-24**
 - Female unemployment fell** from **5.6% to 3.2%**.



Trends (2017-24):

- women's employment rate** doubled from **22% → 40.3%**.
 - Rural women employment** increase by **96%**
 - Urban increase by **43%**.
- Female self-employment** grew from **51.9% → 67.4%**.
- 1.56 crore** women joined the formal workforce and **16+ crore** registered on e-Shram.
- Women-led MSMEs doubled** and **68% Mudra loans** went to women.
- Gender budget increase by **429%** in last decade.
- Nearly 50% startups** have women directors.
- under **PM SVANidhi** has empowered street vendors, around **44% beneficiaries** are women under the scheme.

FAO Food Price Index Increases

- Recently, the **United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization** said that world food commodity prices **rose in July** to their highest in over two years.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) food price index is a **measure of the monthly change in international prices of a basket of food commodities**.
- It consists of the **average of five commodity group** price indices (cereal, vegetable, dairy, meat and sugar), weighted with the average export shares.
- Base year: 2014-16.**
- The index helps monitor global food price trends and assess market conditions.
- FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations** that leads international efforts to **defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security**.

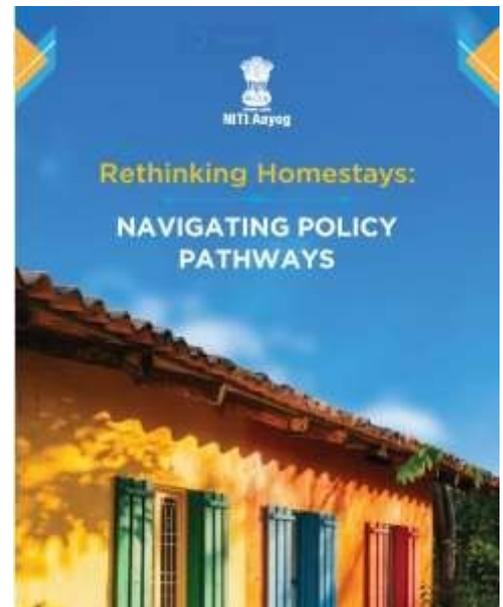
- Its sister bodies are the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
- Headquarter: Rome (Italy)
- **Reports published by the FAO:** The State of the World's Forests (SOFO), The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA), The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO), The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI).

NITI Aayog Releases Report on “Rethinking Homestays: Navigating Policy Pathways”

- The report released by **Suman Bery**, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog under the **Tourism and Culture vertical**
- in **collaboration with** Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMA)
- **Purpose:** To offer a **comprehensive roadmap** for **promoting and regulating the homestay ecosystem in India.**
- **Goal:** Enable an environment that is **sustainable, inclusive, and market-ready**, especially **benefiting local communities** through **tourism-driven economic growth.**

Key Policy Recommendations

- **Fiscal Incentives:** Proposes **tax reliefs and financial support** to make homestays more attractive and viable.
- **Streamlined Procedures:** Advocates **simplifying registration and renewal** mechanisms to encourage formalization.
- **Digital Enablement:** Encourages **adoption of digital tools**—like centralized listings, platform integrations, and ease of booking systems—**to enhance discoverability and efficiency.**



16th Lion Population Estimation Report

- The 16th Lion Population Estimation report (2025) revealed that India's Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*) population has risen **from 674 in 2020 to 891 in 2025.**
- A periodic **wildlife census** that assesses the population, distribution, and demographic trends of the **Asiatic lion**
- **Conducted By: Gujarat Forest Department**
- Supported by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEFCC**) under **Project Lion.**
- **Asiatic Lion - IUCN Status - Vulnerable**



Key Estimations (2025):

- **Total Population** – 891 lions (rise of 32.2% from 2020).
- **Adult Females** – Increased from 260 to 330 (rise of 26.9%)
- **Population Distribution:** 384 lions live inside protected forest and sanctuary areas. **Lions in non-forested areas have risen from 340 in 2020 to 507 in 2025.** 44.22% of the lion population now resides outside traditional protected habitats.
- **Gir National Park** and adjoining sanctuaries (**Gir Wildlife Sanctuary, and Pania Wildlife Sanctuary**) house 394 lions, forming the core population.
 - **Amreli district** has the highest count with **257 lions,**
 - **Mityala Wildlife Sanctuary** doubled its population to 32 lions.
- **Barda Wildlife Sanctuary** near Porbandar has **become a newly established lion population area**

State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2024 Released

- A composite index **to track and compare the energy efficiency progress of Indian states and Union Territories.**
- **Developed by:** Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) in collaboration with the Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE).
- **First Launched: 2018**, with SEEI 2024 being the sixth edition.
- It aligns with India's net-zero by 2070 and 45% emissions intensity reduction by 2030 goals, spotlighting energy efficiency as a cornerstone of the transition.
- **BEE Established:** March 2002 under the **Energy Conservation Act, 2001.**
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Power, Government of India.



Key Findings of SEEI 2024

- **Coverage:** Assessed **36 States/UTs** for FY 2023–24
- **Using 66 indicators** across seven critical sectors.
- **Sectors Covered:** Buildings, Industry, Transport, Agriculture, DISCOMs, Municipal Services, Cross-sector initiatives.
- **Performance Categories:**
 - Front Runners (>60%)
 - Achievers (50–60%)
 - Contenders (30–50%)
 - Aspirants (<30%)
- And grouped by energy consumption:
 - Group 1: >15 MToE
 - Group 2: 5–15 MToE
 - Group 3: 1–5 MToE
 - Group 4: <1 MToE

MToE = Million Tonnes of Oil Equivalent

- **1 tonne of oil equivalent (toe)** is the amount of energy released by burning **1 tonne (1000 kg) of crude oil.**
- It's a **standardized unit** to compare different fuels (coal, gas, renewables, electricity) on a **common energy scale.**

Top Performers:

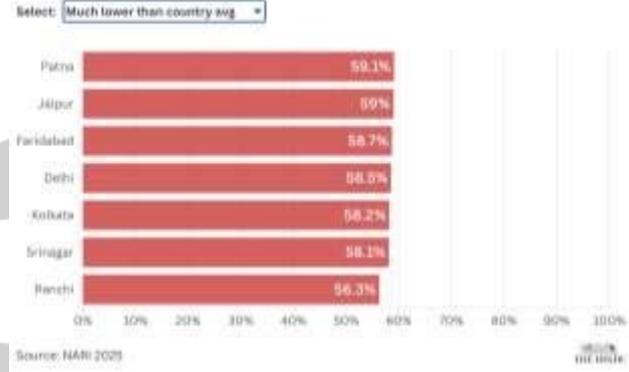
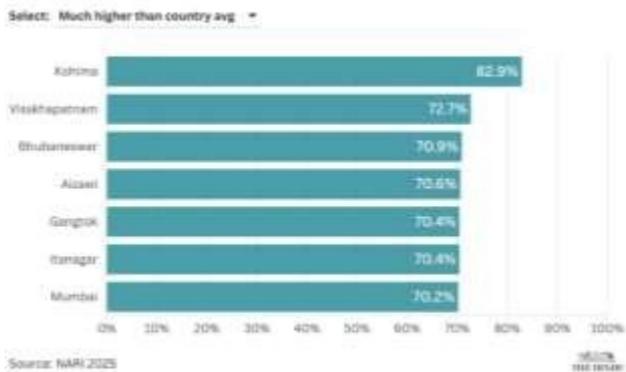
- Maharashtra (>15 MToE group)
- Andhra Pradesh (5–15 MToE group)
- Assam (1–5 MToE group)
- Tripura (<1 MToE group)
- **Front Runners** (high achievers across groups): Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, Tamil Nadu
- **Achievers:** Assam and Kerala
- **Contenders:** Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh

Kohima, Visakhapatnam, Mumbai among safest cities for women: NARI

- The **National Annual Report & Index on Women's Safety (NARI) 2025**
- **Released by the National Commission for Women**, NARI 2025 offers the telling reality of the urban safety landscape.
- **The report**, a collaborative effort by the Group of Intellectuals and Academicians (GIA), Pvalue Analytics, The NorthCap University, and Jindal Global Law School, is based on a **survey of 12,770 women across 31 cities in all states.**
- It placed the **safety score at 65%**, categorising cities as "much above", "above", "below" or "much below" this benchmark.



- Kohima, Visakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Aizawl, Gangtok, Itanagar, and Mumbai have emerged as the **safest cities** in the country for women,
- while Patna, Jaipur, Faridabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Srinagar, and Ranchi were ranked **the lowest**.
- Top-ranked cities were associated with stronger gender equity, civic participation, policing, and women-friendly infrastructure.
- Low ranked cities fared poorly due to weak institutional responsiveness, patriarchal norms, and gaps in urban infrastructure.



1cr teachers across the country in academic year 2024-25 says UDISE + report

- For the first time in any academic year, the total number of teachers in the country has crossed the **one crore mark** in the academic year 2024-25.
- This was revealed in a **report by Ministry of Education** on Unified District Information System for Education Plus (**UDISE +**) on school education in India.
- **UDISE + is an educational management information system** under the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education
- According to the report, this is a **rise of 6.7 percent** compared to 2022-23 in the same period.

Improved Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR)

- The Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) at the Foundational, Preparatory, Middle, and Secondary levels are now reported as 10, 13, 17, and 21 respectively, all significantly improved ratio - NEP’s recommended ratio of 1:30.
- Dropout rates, Student Retention rates and Gross Enrolment Ratio have bettered as well.

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