

Date : 2025-07-28

Weekly Current Affairs

English

## National

### 1. Accelerated Delivery of Amethi-Made AK-203 Rifles

The Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) is poised to complete the delivery of 6.01 lakh AK-203 rifles almost 22 months ahead of its initial schedule. This contract, valued at a substantial amount, signifies a major milestone in India's indigenous defense manufacturing capabilities and its strategic partnership with Russia in the defense sector. The early delivery underscores the efficiency and accelerated production efforts at the Amethi facility.

### 2. Government of India Increases Reserve Prices for Wheat and Rice

The Government of India has increased the reserve prices of wheat and rice from its strategic foodgrain reserves for the fiscal year 2025-26. This move aims to manage food inflation and ensure fair prices for farmers while maintaining stable supply in the open market. The increase in reserve prices reflects adjustments in the minimum support prices (MSP) and broader economic considerations for food security.

### 3. US Enacts Genius Act to Regulate Use of Stablecoins

On July 18, 2025, President Donald Trump signed into law the GENIUS Act, making it the first U.S. federal legislation to regulate payment stablecoins — digital assets pegged to the U.S. dollar. It mandates 100% reserves in cash or short-term Treasuries, monthly public audits, and prohibits interest payments to holders. The Act defines permissible issuers, preempts conflicting state rules, and empowers regulators to franchise banks, fintech firms, and foreign entities under comparable oversight. With bipartisan backing, the law aims to strengthen consumer protection, financial stability, and U.S.

leadership in digital currency.

### 4. West Bengal Secures First Conviction in Digital Arrest Fraud Case

In a landmark judgment on July 17, 2025, a Kalyani court in West Bengal convicted nine members of an interstate cybercrime gang for orchestrating a "digital arrest" scam. Using calls from Cambodia with Indian SIMs, they coerced over 108 victims across India into transferring roughly 1 crore Rupees to avoid supposed legal charges. This marks India's first successful prosecution and sentencing in such a scam, with the court labeling it "economic terrorism." The accused face life imprisonment, setting a strong precedent in combating sophisticated cyber fraud.

### 5. Lok Sabha Speaker Underscores Importance of Social Bodies in National and Societal Growth

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla emphasized that vibrant social institutions—like urban local bodies, civic organizations, and parliamentary committees—are pivotal for India's democratic strength and societal progress. Addressing conferences of Urban Local Bodies and Estimates Committee chairpersons in July 2025, he highlighted reduced disruptions in Parliament, greater productivity, and the importance of regular meetings, strong committee systems, and citizen engagement. Birla urged adoption of digital tools and structured governance processes to enhance public service delivery, citing nearly 50% women representation in local governance as a transformative milestone.



Date : 2025-07-28

Weekly Current Affairs

English

## 6. Centre Constitutes Panel to Settle Issues in Polavaram-Banakacherla Link Project

On July 16–17, 2025, the Union Jal Shakti Ministry constituted a high-level technical committee to address inter-state disputes over the Rupees 81,900 cr Polavaram-Banakacherla Link Project (PBLP). Chaired by both Andhra Pradesh CM Naidu and Telangana CM Reddy, the panel includes senior officials and experts from both states and the Centre. It will study technical concerns related to Krishna and Godavari river waters, deploy telemetry devices for real-time monitoring, and propose equitable, technically sound solutions to ensure transparent water-sharing.

## 7. Supreme Court Grants Equal Inheritance Rights to Tribal Women

On July 17, 2025, the Supreme Court delivered a landmark judgment affirming that tribal women in India possess equal inheritance rights to ancestral property when no specific custom prohibits it. The bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Joymalya Bagchi applied the principles of justice, equity, and good conscience—drawing from the Central Provinces Laws Act, 1875—to uphold the case of a tribal woman named Dhaiya. The Court urged Parliament to amend the Hindu Succession Act to extend its benefits to Scheduled Tribes, emphasizing constitutional equality under Articles 14 and 15.

## 8. CARA Directs States to Strengthen Adoption Counseling at Every Stage

On July 7, 2025, the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) instructed all State Adoption Resource Agencies to ensure structured adoption counseling at every stage—pre-adoption, during, and post-adoption—as outlined in the Adoption Regulations, 2022. Qualified counselors must be empaneled at state and district levels to support prospective adoptive parents, adopted children, and biological parents surrendering children.

Counseling covers home studies, adjustments, roots-search, or disruption risks and legally final decisions. Detailed documentation of all sessions is mandatory. This aims to provide critical psychosocial support throughout the adoption journey.

## 9. India Embarks on Major Skilling Infrastructure Overhaul with New National Policy and ITI Upgradation Initiative

India has recently undertaken significant reforms to enhance its skilling infrastructure. In July 2025, a National Steering Committee (NSC) was established to spearhead this transformation. The primary focus of this initiative is on modernizing Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across the country to align them with contemporary industry demands and improve the employability of the youth. This policy aims to create a more robust and responsive skilling ecosystem in India, ensuring that the workforce is equipped with the necessary skills for economic growth.



## 10. Government of India Launches Enhanced National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutes 2.0 to Modernize Governance Capacity

The Government of India has launched the National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutes 2.0 (NSCSTI 2.0). This upgraded framework aims to modernize and strengthen civil service training across the country. NSCSTI 2.0 introduces enhanced standards and best practices for training institutes, ensuring that civil servants are equipped with the skills and knowledge required to meet the evolving



Date : 2025-07-28

Weekly Current Affairs

English

challenges of public administration and provide effective governance.

### 11. Uttarakhand Initiates Landmark Conservation Program to Revive 14 Critically Endangered Plant Species in Himalayan Biodiversity Hotspot

Uttarakhand, a Himalayan biodiversity hotspot with 69% forest cover, has initiated a pioneering program to revive 14 critically endangered plant species. This effort, led by the Uttarakhand Forest Department, underscores the state's commitment to preserving its unique flora and maintaining ecological balance. The program involves various conservation techniques, including ex-situ and in-situ conservation, to ensure the long-term survival of these vulnerable plant species.

### 12. Uttar Pradesh Government's School Merger Decision Ignites Heated Debate Over Access to Education for Rural Communities

The Uttar Pradesh government's 2025 decision to merge government schools with low enrolment has sparked widespread debate. Opposition leaders and local communities argue the move could restrict access to education, especially in remote or underserved areas, due to increased travel distances for students. Proponents of the merger claim it will optimize resources and improve the quality of education by consolidating infrastructure and teaching staff.

### 13. India Sets Ambitious Target for Tourism Sector to Contribute 10% Towards \$32 Trillion Economy by Vision 2047

The Government of India has set an ambitious target to raise the contribution of tourism to 10% towards achieving a \$32 trillion economy by Vision 2047. This indicates a strong focus on leveraging the tourism sector as a key driver for economic growth and employment generation. To achieve this, strategic investments in infrastructure, promotion, and skill development within the tourism industry are expected, aiming

to make India a global tourism hub.

### 14. India's First Centre of Excellence for Hornbill Conservation Established at Anamalai Tiger Reserve

The Tamil Nadu government has launched India's first Centre of Excellence for Hornbill Conservation at the Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) in the Coimbatore district. This pioneering initiative aims to protect and enhance hornbill populations, particularly the four species native to the Western Ghats: the Great Hornbill, Malabar Pied Hornbill, Malabar Grey Hornbill, and Indian Grey Hornbill. The center will focus on comprehensive activities including habitat mapping, monitoring of nesting sites, scientific research, climate impact assessments, and ecological restoration of degraded forests through the planting of native trees. A sum of Rs 1 crore has been allocated from the Endangered Species Conservation Corpus Fund for this project.

### 15. Indian Parliament Passes The Bills of Lading Bill, 2025, Modernizing Maritime Law

The Indian Parliament recently passed The Bills of Lading Bill, 2025, which replaces the 169-year-old Indian Bill of Lading Act of 1856. This new law modernizes and simplifies rules for maritime shipping documentation in India, aligning them with international standards. A significant feature of this legislation is the legal recognition of electronic bills of lading, which will facilitate digital trade, reduce logistics costs, and enhance export efficiency. The bill aims to streamline rights and obligations for carriers, shippers, and lawful holders, reducing ambiguity and litigation risks in shipping documentation.

### 16. India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) Inflation Eases to 2.1% in June 2025 Amid Favorable Monsoon and Crop Surplus

India's consumer price index (CPI) inflation in June 2025 fell to 2.1% year-on-year, marking its

Date : 2025-07-28

Weekly Current Affairs

English

lowest level in over six years. This rate is lower than the United States' 2.7% and the United Kingdom's 3.6%. The significant decline is primarily attributed to a strong monsoon season and a surplus in crop production, leading to negative food inflation. Food inflation, which often drives household expenses, recorded a deflation of 1.06% in June. While food prices eased, certain core categories like housing, education, and health expenses showed moderate increases. This easing inflation provides significant relief to households and offers policymakers more room to focus on economic growth.

### 17. Understanding India's Parliamentary System: An Overview of the Three Annual Sessions

India's Parliament conducts three main sessions annually: the Budget Session, the Monsoon Session, and the Winter Session. The Budget Session, typically the longest, starts in late January and concludes by the end of April or early May, with a recess for committee discussions on budgetary proposals. The Monsoon Session usually runs for three weeks from July to August, while the Winter Session, also about three weeks long, is held from November to December. These sessions are crucial for legislation, budget approval, and ensuring government accountability. The Constitution mandates that there should not be more than a six-month gap between two sessions, meaning Parliament must meet at least twice a year.

### 18. NABARD Celebrates 44th Foundation Day with New Initiatives to Expand Financial Inclusion and Rural Transformation

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) recently celebrated its 44th Foundation Day, reaffirming its commitment to rural transformation and financial inclusion. The celebrations in Chennai marked the rollout of several new initiatives

aimed at accelerating rural development. Among these were the launch of the Graduated Rural Income Generation Programme (GRIP), a livelihood intervention for ultra-poor rural households, and the inauguration of NABARD's new sub-office in Leh, Ladakh, to enhance outreach in frontier regions. Additionally, NABARD introduced NIVARAN, a digital grievance redressal system for rural cooperative banks, and a radio jingle campaign to raise awareness about financial literacy.

### 19. India Unveils Largest Cooperative Grain Storage Plan

The Government of India has introduced the "World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in the Cooperative Sector" to upgrade rural agricultural infrastructure through Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS). The initiative focuses on constructing godowns, processing facilities, and Fair Price Shops, along with implementing ERP-based digital systems and expanding PACS across the country. Backed by central schemes and key institutions, the plan aims to enhance storage capacity, minimize grain loss, boost farmer earnings, and create rural employment, with completion targeted by December 2026.

### 20. SASCI Scheme to Transform India's Iconic Destinations

The Ministry of Tourism has issued guidelines for the SASCI scheme, aimed at globally developing iconic tourist centres through state-led projects. It focuses on enhancing the entire tourism value chain, sustainability, and branding. Projects, selected based on parameters like connectivity, capacity, and impact, must be completed within two years. The Government of India will fund the scheme until March 31, 2026, while state governments handle implementation. The Ministry will promote these sites through ongoing domestic and international tourism campaigns, both online and offline.



Date : 2025-07-28

Weekly Current Affairs

English

## 21. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar Resigns Mid-Term

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned from his position due to health reasons and medical recommendations, with his resignation becoming effective immediately under Article 67(a) of the Constitution. He submitted his resignation to President Droupadi Murmu on the opening day of the Monsoon Session. Dhankhar expressed gratitude towards the President, Prime Minister, and members of Parliament, reflecting proudly on his tenure. His exit will prompt a Vice-Presidential election, and until a new Vice President is appointed, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha will preside over its sessions.

## 22. Modi Honors Birth Anniversaries of Azad and Tilak

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid homage to freedom fighters Chandra Shekhar Azad and Lokmanya Tilak on their birth anniversaries. He lauded Azad's exceptional bravery and commitment to India's independence, inspiring young people to uphold justice with courage. Modi also recognized Tilak as a trailblazing leader who sparked the freedom movement and championed Swaraj. Renowned for his nationalist newspapers Kesari and Mahratta, Tilak's legacy as a visionary thinker and patriot remains a source of inspiration for the nation.

## 23. National Mission Screens Millions for Sickle Cell Disease

Under the National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission, India has screened 6 crore people to enable early detection and management of this genetic blood disorder, primarily affecting tribal communities. Launched in 2023, the mission plans to screen 7 crore individuals by 2025-26 and aims to eradicate sickle cell anemia by 2047. To date, more than 2.15 lakh patients and 16.7 lakh carriers have been identified, supported by digital monitoring and rapid Point-of-Care Testing. Ongoing efforts prioritize follow-up

treatment and awareness programs.

## 24. India Launches 'Dhruva' Policy for Digital Addresses

The Centre has introduced the 'Dhruva' Policy, featuring a geo-coded grid system assigning unique DIGIPIN codes to every 4x4 metre location for precise digital addressing. Combining DIGIPIN with traditional address details enables personalized, easy-to-share digital addresses, enhancing navigation and service delivery. Built on indigenous, open-source technology, the policy supports sectors like postal services and telecom, especially in remote areas. Currently in proof-of-concept, the policy aims to boost digital inclusion, reduce costs, and aligns with the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat vision.

## 25. Narendra Modi Sets New Prime Ministerial Record

On July 25, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi became India's second-longest-serving Prime Minister in an unbroken term, surpassing Indira Gandhi with 4,078 consecutive days in office. Since first taking office in 2014, Modi has become the only non-Congress leader to complete two full terms with a majority and win three successive general elections. As the first post-Independence-born and longest-serving PM from a non-Hindi-speaking state, his tenure has strengthened political stability, transformed governance, and reinforced the BJP's dominance in Indian politics.

## 26. National Cooperation Policy Targets Inclusive Economic Growth

Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the National Cooperation Policy 2025, designed to revitalize India's cooperative sector as a major force for economic growth and social inclusion by 2047. Centered on the principle of inclusivity, the policy aims to triple the sector's GDP contribution, boost employment, and empower

Date : 2025-07-28

Weekly Current Affairs

English

disadvantaged communities. Key highlights include grassroots-level cooperatives, youth and tech-focused initiatives, expansion into sectors like tourism and green energy, and a strong legal framework. It promotes professionalism, accountability, and export readiness, advancing the vision of "Sahkar Se Samridhi."

## 27. Indian Railways Tests First Hydrogen-Powered Coach

Indian Railways has successfully tested its first hydrogen-powered coach at the Integral Coach Factory in Chennai, marking a significant advancement in sustainable transportation. Under the "Hydrogen for Heritage" initiative, 35 hydrogen-powered trains are planned for heritage routes, each costing ₹80 crore. A pilot project is also underway to retrofit a DEMU with hydrogen fuel on the Jind-Sonipat route. While current operational costs are high, hydrogen's zero-emission benefits support India's clean energy goals. The country is also promoting hydrogen mobility in other sectors, including buses.

## International

### 1.WHO Declares Senegal Trachoma-Free

Senegal has been officially declared free of trachoma by the World Health Organization (WHO) in July 2025. This significant achievement marks a monumental victory in global public health efforts and disease elimination campaigns. The declaration reflects years of dedicated work, including mass drug administration, improved sanitation, and health education initiatives, showcasing the effectiveness of comprehensive public health interventions.

### 2. China's GDP Growth Exceeds Expectations Amidst Global Challenges

China's economy expanded by 5.2% in the second quarter of 2025, surpassing global analysts' expectations despite ongoing trade tensions and tariffs imposed by the United States. This robust growth showcases China's economic resilience and the effectiveness of its internal stimulus measures and diversified trade strategies. The performance indicates a continued recovery and expansion, defying a challenging global economic environment.

### 3.Ramsar Convention Secretariat Launches Global Wetland Outlook 2025

On July 15, 2025, the Ramsar Convention launched its flagship Global Wetland Outlook 2025 at the UN Office in Nairobi ahead of COP15 in Zimbabwe. The report reveals a 22–35% decline in wetland area since 1970—with 400+ million ha lost and 25% of remaining wetlands degraded. Wetlands now deliver ecosystem services valued at up to USD 39 trillion annually, yet face severe underfunding. The Outlook proposes integrating wetlands into planning, deploying publicprivate finance, and scaling restoration to avert a potential 20% further loss by 2050.

### 4. Australia Launches Pioneering Climate Migration Visa Scheme for Tuvalu Residents

Australia has launched a pioneering migration visa for Tuvalu residents, offering a legal pathway for climate-induced migration. This scheme, a world-first, allows up to 280 Tuvaluans to permanently move to Australia each year. Unlike other visa schemes for Pacific peoples, a job offer in Australia is not required. Over 5,000 Tuvaluans applied within a month, highlighting the urgent need for such pathways as Tuvalu faces existential threats from rising sea levels and climate change. The visa is part of the Falepili Union agreement between the two nations, which also includes Australia's commitment to assisting Tuvalu against natural disasters and public health emergencies.



Date : 2025-07-28

Weekly Current Affairs

English

**5. China Begins Construction of World's Largest Hydropower Dam on Tibetan Plateau, Raising Regional Concerns**

China has initiated construction of the world's largest hydropower dam on the eastern edge of the Tibetan Plateau. The project, officially known as the Motuo Hydropower Station, is estimated to cost over USD 170 billion and is set to become significantly larger than the Three Gorges Dam. This ambitious undertaking on the Brahmaputra River (Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet) has raised considerable concerns in downstream countries like India and Bangladesh regarding its potential impact on water security and ecology. While China frames the project as a source of clean energy and regional development, neighboring nations view it as a significant geopolitical and environmental threat.

**6. U.S. Withdraws From UNESCO Citing Ideological Concerns**

Under President Donald Trump, the United States has once again exited UNESCO, citing ideological conflicts and perceived anti-Israel bias. This decision reflects the "America First" foreign policy and mirrors Trump's 2017 withdrawal, which had been reversed by President Biden in 2023. Critics argue the move undermines global cooperation and may boost China's influence within the agency. Although the U.S. provides 8% of UNESCO's funding, the withdrawal carries major symbolic weight, affecting efforts in global education, cultural heritage, and Holocaust education.

**7. Gita Gopinath to Step Down as IMF Deputy Chief**

Indian-American economist Gita Gopinath will resign as the IMF's First Deputy Managing Director in August 2025 to return to Harvard University as a professor. She joined the IMF in 2019 as its first female Chief Economist and was promoted to the second-highest position in 2022. Throughout her tenure, Gopinath played a

vital role in shaping the Fund's response to major global challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Her leadership in fiscal, monetary, and trade policy marks a significant transition for the IMF with wide-reaching effects on global economic policy and multilateral cooperation.

**8. Strong Earthquake Hits Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula Coast**

A series of strong earthquakes, the most powerful measuring 7.4 magnitude, recently hit Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula. The epicenter was located 144 km east of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, offshore at a shallow depth of 20 km. Although a tsunami warning was briefly issued, it was later lifted. Situated along the Pacific Ring of Fire, Kamchatka is highly vulnerable to seismic activity due to tectonic plate interactions. These quakes, while not causing a major tsunami, underscored the region's seismic risks and the need for robust early warning and preparedness systems.

**9. Ashoka Pillar Replica Deepens Spiritual India-Sri Lanka Ties**

A replica of the Ashoka Pillar was inaugurated at Waskaduwa Sri Subhuthi Viharaya in Sri Lanka, reflecting the deep-rooted cultural and spiritual bonds between India and Sri Lanka. Funded by Kyabje Ling Rinpoche, the project pays tribute to Emperor Ashoka's pivotal role in the spread of Buddhism to the island. This initiative is part of India's wider efforts to preserve and promote Buddhist heritage through support for temples, sacred sites, and cultural conservation, further reinforcing bilateral ties and shared Buddhist traditions.

**10. China Builds World's Largest Dam in Tibet**

China has commenced building the Motuo Hydropower Station on the Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet, set to become the world's largest dam with energy output three times that of the Three

Date : 2025-07-28

Weekly Current Affairs

English

Gorges Dam. While advancing China's energy goals, the project has sparked significant environmental and geopolitical concerns for downstream countries like India and Bangladesh. Key issues include potential water scarcity, seismic vulnerability, and ecological damage. Its construction in a fragile, earthquake-prone region has drawn criticism from local communities and neighbouring nations.

## 11. Strategic India-UK Vision 2035 Targets Economic Growth

India and the UK introduced the India-UK Vision 2035, a detailed plan to strengthen their partnership in trade, technology, defence, education, and climate initiatives. Expanding on their 2021 Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, this vision focuses on accelerating economic growth, improving defence collaboration, fostering innovation in AI and clean energy, and enhancing cultural and educational ties. Major efforts include trade deals, joint research hubs, climate partnerships, and increased people-to-people engagement, positioning both countries as global leaders in cooperation and sustainable progress.

## 12. Thailand-Cambodia Tensions Rise Over Preah Vihear Temple

Tensions between Thailand and Cambodia have escalated over the century-old dispute surrounding the 11th-century Preah Vihear Hindu temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site located on their shared border. Built during the Khmer Empire, the temple is an architectural masterpiece dedicated to Lord Shiva. While the International Court of Justice ruled the temple belongs to Cambodia in 1962 and reaffirmed this in 2013, Thailand contests ownership of the surrounding land, fueling ongoing conflicts and diplomatic strains between the two nations.

## 13. India-UK Sign Landmark CETA to Double Trade

### by 2030

India and the UK have signed the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), targeting a doubling of bilateral trade to USD120 billion by 2030. The agreement removes tariffs on 99% of Indian exports and cuts UK tariffs by 90%, benefiting industries such as textiles, engineering, and agriculture. It improves market access for UK goods and allows Indian MSMEs to participate in UK government procurement. Additionally, CETA simplifies visa rules for professionals, encourages technology transfer, strengthens digital services, and supports diversified supply chains, establishing a benchmark for modern trade deals.

### Sports

#### 1.Venus Williams Becomes Oldest WTA Match Winner Match Since 2004

Venus Williams, 45, became the oldest WTA singles match winner since 2004 with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Peyton Stearns at the Washington Open. Returning after a 16-month break, Williams expressed she still has the fire to compete and aims to regain her natural form. She will face Polish fifth seed Magdalena Frech next. Meanwhile, Emma Raducanu defeated Marta Kostyuk and will play Naomi Osaka, calling it a great challenge for her game.

#### 2. India to Host 2025 FIDE Chess World Cup

India is set to host the 2025 FIDE Chess World Cup from October 30 to November 27, with the host city to be revealed later. The tournament will follow a knockout format featuring 206 players, with the top three advancing to the 2026 Candidates Tournament. Each round will consist of two classical games and tie-breaks if necessary. Following India's recent successful chess events, FIDE expects strong public interest and will organise side events to further boost the nation's vibrant chess scene.



Date : 2025-07-28

Weekly Current Affairs

English

## Summits/MoUs/Conferences/Agreement

### 1. US Designates The Resistance Front as Terrorist Entity

The US Department of State officially designated The Resistance Front (TRF) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) in July 2025. This significant move underscores the United States' commitment to countering terrorism and highlights the collaborative efforts with international partners, particularly India, in addressing threats posed by such groups. The designation aims to disrupt TRF's financial networks and limit its operational capabilities globally.

### 2. Government Notifies Offshore Atomic Mineral Rights Rules, 2025

On July 14, 2025, the Indian government notified the Offshore Areas Atomic Minerals Operating Right Rules, 2025 under the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002. The new rules frame procedures for granting exploration and production rights in India's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) specifically for atomic minerals like uranium and thorium. Only central public entities or centrally nominated firms can secure licences, and foreign contractors require prior approval. The rules also mandate environmental safeguards, multisectoral consultation, seabed restoration, and align offshore atomic mining with security and ecological standards.

## Ranks/Reports/Indices

### 1. Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 Results Affirm Cleanest Cities

The results of Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 have once again affirmed Indore, Surat, and Navi Mumbai as India's cleanest cities. These cities

have notably topped the newly introduced 'Super Swachh League,' a recognition that emphasizes their sustained commitment to cleanliness and sanitation over time. This consistent performance underscores effective urban governance, public participation, and robust waste management systems in these leading cities.

### 2. President Presents Awards for Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 Rankings

On July 17, 2025, President Droupadi Murmu presented the Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 awards at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi, recognizing excellence in urban cleanliness and sanitation under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. Indore retained its cleanest city title for the eighth consecutive year, followed by Surat and Navi Mumbai in the newly introduced "Super Swachh League" category. Ahmedabad, Bhopal, and Lucknow were spotlighted as India's "New Clean Cities," while 78 wins across 43 national and 34 promising city awards underscored a surge in grassroots sanitation.

### 3. NIRF Bolsters Research Integrity by Implementing Negative Scoring for Institutions with Retracted Research Papers and Citations

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) has taken a significant step in promoting research integrity by introducing negative scores for higher education institutions with retracted papers and their citations. This new policy aims to deter academic misconduct and encourage ethical research practices across Indian universities and colleges. By penalizing institutions for publishing retracted research, NIRF is reinforcing the importance of credible and original scholarship in academic rankings.

### 4. Henley Index Shows India's Growing Passport Influence

India has climbed eight spots on the Henley Passport Index 2025, rising from 85th to 77th

Date : 2025-07-28

Weekly Current Affairs

English

place, with visa-free access to 59 countries, including recent additions like the Philippines and Sri Lanka. The Index, compiled using data from the International Air Transport Association, ranks passports based on travel freedom. Singapore continues to hold the top position, offering visa-free access to 193 destinations. Although the increase in visa-free countries for India is slight, the improved ranking signals a notable recovery from last year's drop.

Science and  
tech/Space/Defence

### 1. Breakthrough in Photocatalytic Hydrogen Peroxide Production

Recent advancements in photocatalysis have led to a groundbreaking method for producing hydrogen peroxide ( $H_2O_2$ ) using only sunlight and water. Researchers have developed a novel material called Mo-DHTA COF, which stands for dimolybdenum paddlewheel-embedded covalent organic framework. This innovation offers a cleaner, more efficient, and recyclable route for hydrogen peroxide production, potentially transforming industries such as pharmaceuticals, green chemistry, and materials science.

### 2. Detection of Largest Black Hole Merger Event

Recent astronomical observations have unveiled the merger of two exceptionally massive black holes, setting a new record for the largest black hole collision detected through gravitational waves. This groundbreaking discovery significantly challenges existing astrophysical models regarding black hole formation and evolution. The event provides invaluable data for refining our understanding of the universe's most extreme phenomena and the dynamics of spacetime.

### 3. Indian Navy Commissions INS Nistar Diving Support Vessel

The Indian Navy recently commissioned INS Nistar at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam. This vessel is the first of two indigenously designed diving support vessels (DSVs) built by Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. With over 80% indigenous content, INS Nistar is equipped for complex deep-sea saturation diving and submarine rescue operations, making India a preferred partner for submarine rescue in the region.

### 4. India Takes Steps Toward Post-Quantum Security with Quantum Cybersecurity Preparedness

India is proactively preparing for a postquantum cybersecurity era. On July 11, 2025, MeitY, along with CERTIn and cybersecurity firm SISA, unveiled a whitepaper titled "Transitioning to Quantum Cyber Readiness". This roadmap urges public and private sectors—especially BFSI, defence, and healthcare—to audit encryption vulnerabilities, deploy quantum-resistant algorithms, and create sectorspecific transition plans. Electronics and IT Secretary S Krishnan emphasized the need for indigenous cryptographic tools, noting data awaited for protection beyond 2030 is already at risk. Complementing this, DRDO and the Indian Army have advanced postquantum tools and QKD systems.

### 5. India Successfully Conducts Critical Test-Firings of Nuclear-Capable Ballistic Missiles Prithvi-II and Agni-I, Reaffirming Defense Readiness

India recently conducted successful test-firings of two nuclear-capable short-range ballistic missiles, Prithvi-II and Agni-I, from the Integrated Test Range off Odisha's coast. These tests confirmed the missiles' operational readiness and reinforced India's defense capabilities. Such successful tests are crucial for maintaining the



Date : 2025-07-28

Weekly Current Affairs

English

credibility of India's deterrence posture and for validating the technological advancements in its missile program.

## 6. NASA and International Scientists Launch SNIFS Mission to Unravel Mysteries of the Sun's Dynamic Chromosphere

NASA and international solar physicists aim to unlock the mysteries of the Sun's chromosphere with the Solar Eruption Integral Field Spectrograph (SNIFS). This mission targets the highly dynamic and complex region of the Sun, the chromosphere, which plays a crucial role in solar flares and coronal mass ejections. By studying the chromosphere with advanced spectroscopic techniques, scientists hope to gain a deeper understanding of solar eruptive events and their impact on space weather.

## 7. Groundbreaking Discovery of New 'S-Start' Locomotion in Newborn Yellow Anacondas Expands Understanding of Limbless Movement

The discovery of a new escape movement in newborn yellow anacondas has expanded our understanding of limbless locomotion. Known as the 'S-start', this motion is a rapid, non-planar movement that allows the anacondas to quickly escape from threats. This unique form of movement provides new insights into the biomechanics of snake locomotion and could have implications for the development of bio-inspired robotics.

## 8. Turkey Unveils First Hypersonic Missile Tayfun Block-4

Turkey has introduced the Tayfun Block-4, its first hypersonic ballistic missile, created by Roketsan. This upgraded Tayfun missile can reach speeds exceeding Mach 5, is 6.5 meters long, and weighs 2,300 kg. It currently has an operational range of 800 kilometers, with future plans to increase it to 1,000 kilometers. The missile features GPS, GLONASS, and inertial navigation systems for precise targeting, carries a

fragmentation warhead, and uses solid composite fuel for swift and effective attacks on strategic objectives.

## 9. Indian Air Force Retires Iconic MiG-21 Jets

The Indian Air Force is set to retire its MiG-21 Bison jets by September 2025, concluding the legacy of India's first supersonic fighter aircraft. Originally designed by the Soviet Union and produced under license by HAL, 657 MiG-21s have served since 1963. Known by NATO as 'Fishbed,' this iconic jet has been instrumental in numerous conflicts, from the 1965 war to the 2019 Balakot strikes, making it one of the most widely produced and battle-proven fighters in history.

## 10. India Achieves 20% Ethanol Blend Milestone

India has reached 20% ethanol blending in petrol by 2025, achieving the target five years early, enhancing clean energy efforts and cutting oil imports. Ethanol production rose dramatically from 38 crore litres in 2014 to over 660 crore litres in 2025, saving ₹1.36 lakh crore in foreign exchange and boosting farmers' income by ₹1.18 lakh crore. This initiative has reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 698 lakh tonnes, aiding climate objectives and rural development. The Ethanol Blended Petrol programme is expanding with continued policy backing and new raw materials.

## 11. Lumpy Skin Disease Strains Pune's Dairy Output

Over 900 cattle in Pune have been infected with Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), raising concerns over a potential drop in milk supply. LSD is a highly contagious viral illness caused by the lumpy skin disease virus, primarily affecting cattle and occasionally buffaloes. While not transmissible to humans, it spreads through insect bites and contaminated feed or water. Common symptoms include fever, swollen lymph nodes, and skin lumps. With no specific cure,

Date : 2025-07-28

Weekly Current Affairs

English

vaccination remains the main preventive measure, alongside supportive care and symptom management.

### 12. DRDO Successfully Tests Advanced ULPGM-V3 Missile

DRDO successfully conducted flight trials of the UAV-Launched Precision-Guided Missile (ULPGM)-V3 at the NOAR range in Kurnool, marking a significant step forward in India's indigenous defence technology. This lightweight, fire-and-forget missile is equipped with imaging infrared seekers, dual-thrust propulsion, and has a range of 4 km. Developed in collaboration with Indian industry partners such as Adani and BDL, the ULPGM-V3 boosts India's UAV-based precision strike capabilities, highlighting the country's growing self-reliance and focus on advanced unmanned warfare technologies.

### 13. TRACERS Monitors the Strength of Earth's Magnetic Field

NASA's TRACERS mission, launched on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, aims to study how Earth's magnetic field shields the planet from solar storms by investigating magnetic reconnection in the polar cusp area. Two satellites flying closely together will gather over 3,000 measurements to track the effects of space weather on communications, GPS, and power networks. This mission is vital for protecting satellites and infrastructure globally, including India's space assets, and involves collaboration among several U.S. universities and research centers.

#### Miscellaneous

### 1. Alien Plant Invasion Poses Threat to Tropical Biodiversity

Recent studies indicate a rapid and alarming proliferation of alien plant species across tropical ecosystems. This ongoing invasion is

significantly altering native flora compositions and destabilizing the rich biodiversity that characterizes these vital regions. The primary drivers behind this ecological threat are identified as climate change, which creates favorable conditions for non-native species, and various human actions, including habitat fragmentation and the intentional or accidental introduction of foreign plants.

### 2. Indian Scientists Uncover New Lichen Species, *Allographa effusosoredica*, in Biodiversity-Rich Western Ghats

The discovery of a new lichen species, *Allographa effusosoredica*, in the Western Ghats marks a significant advancement in biodiversity research. Indian scientists used a combination of classical morphological methods and molecular techniques to identify and classify this new species. This finding underscores the rich biodiversity of the Western Ghats and the ongoing need for thorough biological surveys to document and protect unique ecosystems.

### 3. World Brain Health Day 2025: Emphasizing "Brain Health for All Ages" on July 22nd

Observed annually on July 22, World Brain Health Day serves as a global reminder of the need to protect and enhance brain health across all stages of life. The 2025 theme is "Brain Health for All Ages", emphasizing that cognitive well-being is essential from childhood to old age. Organized by the World Federation of Neurology (WFN) since its establishment in 2014, this day draws attention to neurological well-being, the importance of early interventions, and the adoption of brain-friendly lifestyle choices. It aims to empower individuals and communities to make brain health a personal and public health priority, especially with the rising global incidence of neurological disorders like dementia, stroke, and Parkinson's disease.

### 4. Veteran Communist Leader and Former Kerala



Date : 2025-07-28

Weekly Current Affairs

English

## CM V.S. Achuthanandan Passes Away at 101

Velikkakathu Sankaran Achuthanandan, popularly known as VS Achuthanandan, a legendary figure in Indian politics and a veteran leader of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM), passed away at the age of 101. A former Chief Minister of Kerala, Achuthanandan was known for his uncompromising stance against corruption, his advocacy for social justice, and his role as a green activist. His political career spanned over eight decades, making him one of the longest-serving politicians in India. He was instrumental in various social and political movements in Kerala and remained a prominent voice until his health declined.

## 5. Deepak Bagla Appointed as New Mission Director of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)

Deepak Bagla has been appointed as the new Mission Director of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM). Prior to this role, Bagla served as the Managing Director and CEO of Invest India, the government's national investment promotion and facilitation agency. His extensive background in banking, investment promotion, policy advisory, and institutional leadership is expected to bring a unique blend of strategic insight and operational execution to AIM. The Atal Innovation Mission plays a central role in advancing the Government of India's mission on innovation and entrepreneurship, and under Bagla's leadership, it is set to scale its impact through focused, outcome-driven initiatives aligned with national development priorities.

## 6. Income Tax System Celebrates 166-Year Milestone

India marks the 166th Income Tax Day on July 24, celebrating the tax system's evolution since its 1860 introduction. Major reforms include digitalization via PAN, CPC, and faceless assessments, enhancing efficiency and compliance. Recent measures like the Finance Act 2025 extended filing deadlines, while the

2025-26 budget raised tax-free income to ₹12 lakh, easing middle-class burdens. The proposed Income Tax Bill, 2025 aims to simplify laws, reflecting India's commitment to transparent, taxpayer-friendly governance and sustained economic growth.

## 7. SBI Wins World's Best Consumer Bank Award

The State Bank of India (SBI) has been honored as the World's Best Consumer Bank 2025 by Global Finance magazine, acknowledging its customer-centric and technology-driven banking services. As the country's largest public sector bank, SBI has been at the forefront of financial inclusion through digital advancements, vernacular banking, and outreach to rural areas. The award underscores SBI's strengths in customer service, AI-powered personalization, and easy digital accessibility, boosting India's banking reputation and emphasizing the need for inclusive, tech-enabled financial solutions.

## 8. IRDAI Gets New Leadership with Ajay Seth's Appointment

The government has appointed former Finance Secretary Ajay Seth as the new Chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for a three-year term. A 1987-batch IAS officer from the Karnataka cadre, Seth succeeds Debasish Panda, whose tenure ended in March 2025. Known for his deep experience in economic policy and infrastructure, Seth is expected to strengthen regulatory oversight, drive key reforms, expand insurance penetration, encourage innovation, and enhance consumer protection in India's rapidly growing insurance sector.

## 9. Kargil Vijay Diwas Padyatra to Honor 26th Anniversary

On July 26, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports will hold a Kargil Vijay Diwas Padyatra in Drass, Kargil, commemorating the 26th anniversary of India's 1999 victory in the Kargil

Date : 2025-07-28

Weekly Current Affairs

English

War. Union Ministers Mansukh Mandaviya and Sanjay Seth will lead over 1,000 participants in a 1.5 km march, followed by wreath-laying at the Kargil War Memorial and a tree-planting ceremony. The event aims to promote patriotism, involve youth, and honor the courage of Indian soldiers.

