

# August 2025

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

- TOPIC WISE CURRENT AFFAIRS
- 150 QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE
- ANALYSIS OF IMPORTANT EVENTS



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# PREFACE

This is our special edition of Current Affairs Magazine for various Central & State level Competitive Examinations, covering content from the month of August 2025.

**The Magazine is divided into three sections:**

## **Section 1: Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short**

The first section is dedicated to Topic Wise Current Affairs with a short description to provide information about all major happenings this month.

## **Section 2: Practice Questions with Answers**

The Second Section contains 150 Multiple Choice Questions based on daily current affairs.

## **Section 3: Detailed Analysis of important Event**

The Third Section covers some major happenings in this month along with analysis. The content has been covered from various online & offline sources including reputed newspapers like The Hindu, Indian Express etc. All the news topics have been explained keeping in mind their underlying issues. Every issue has been covered comprehensively. Some of the information provided may not be directly relevant for the examination. As the content is very wide, we have only covered a limited set of issues. You can utilize it smartly along with Daily Study of News Papers as well as other sources.



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## Section 1

Topic Wise Current Affairs

## Section 2

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# SECTION 1

## Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short





## 1: Important Days



### World Lung Cancer Day : 01 August :-

World Lung Cancer Day is observed annually on August 1st to raise global awareness about lung cancer, its risk factors, prevention strategies, and the importance of early diagnosis and treatment. The day was first initiated in 2012 by the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS), in collaboration with the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) and the American College of Chest Physicians. Lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer-related deaths worldwide, often detected at an advanced stage due to minimal early symptoms. The theme for World Lung Cancer Day 2025 as "Breaking Barriers: Championing Early Detection and Equal Care".



### World Wide Web Day : 01 August :-

World Wide Web Day is celebrated on August 1st each year to recognize the transformative impact of the internet on communication, education, commerce, and society at large. This day marks the anniversary of the first-ever website going live on August 1, 1991, created by British computer scientist Sir Tim Berners-Lee at CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research). He had

earlier proposed the idea of the World Wide Web in 1989, envisioning it as a system for sharing information globally through hyperlinks. World Wide Web Day celebrates this digital revolution, reflecting on how the web has democratized knowledge, fueled innovation, and transformed social interactions.



### Hiroshima Day : 06 August :-

Hiroshima Day is observed annually on August 6 to commemorate the atomic bombing of the Japanese city of Hiroshima by the United States during World War II in 1945. On this day, the first-ever nuclear weapon used in warfare, nicknamed "Little Boy," was dropped on Hiroshima, instantly killing tens of thousands and leaving many more to suffer from radiation-related illnesses in the aftermath. The bombing marked a turning point in global military history and highlighted the devastating impact of nuclear weapons.



### National Handloom Day : 07 August :-

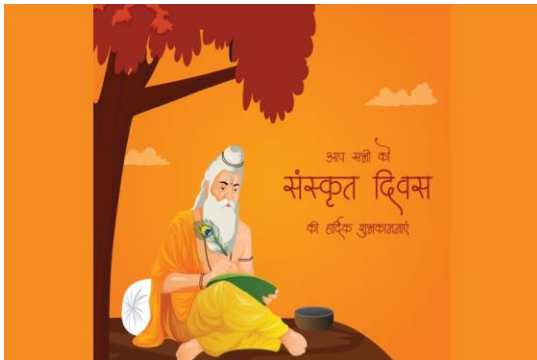
National Handloom Day is celebrated annually on August 7 to honor the handloom weavers of India and promote the country's rich textile heritage. The date commemorates the Swadeshi Movement launched on 7

August 1905, which encouraged the use of indigenous goods, especially handwoven fabrics, as a form of resistance to British colonial rule. Instituted in 2015 by the Government of India, the day recognizes the contribution of the handloom sector, which plays a key role in rural employment, sustainable fashion, and preserving traditional crafts. "Weaving Innovation into Tradition" Is the theme for the National Handloom Day 2025.



#### **Quit India Movement Day : 08 August :-**

Quit India Movement Day is observed every year on August 8 to commemorate the launch of the historic Quit India Movement in 1942. Initiated by Mahatma Gandhi during the struggle for India's independence, the movement called for the British to "Quit India" and marked a decisive shift in the freedom fight. Gandhi's clarion call of "Do or Die" resonated with millions of Indians, leading to mass protests, arrests, and demonstrations across the country. Despite heavy suppression by the British, the movement intensified nationalistic fervor and strengthened India's resolve to attain complete independence.



#### **World Sanskrit Day 2025 : 09 August :-**

World Sanskrit Day 2025 will be observed on August 9, coinciding with Shraavan Purnima as per the Hindu calendar. This annual observance is dedicated to promoting the Sanskrit language, one of the oldest known languages in human civilization and the root of many modern Indian languages. It is celebrated with cultural programs, recitations, and seminars across India. The day recognizes Sanskrit's immense contribution to India's spiritual, philosophical, and literary heritage.



#### **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples : 09 August :-**

Observed on August 9 every year, the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples commemorates the first meeting of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations in 1982. The day raises awareness about the rights, cultures, and struggles of indigenous communities worldwide. It highlights issues such as land rights, discrimination, linguistic preservation, and environmental challenges disproportionately affecting indigenous groups. Events such as cultural exhibits, policy discussions, and educational programs are organized globally to honor the resilience and diversity of these communities.



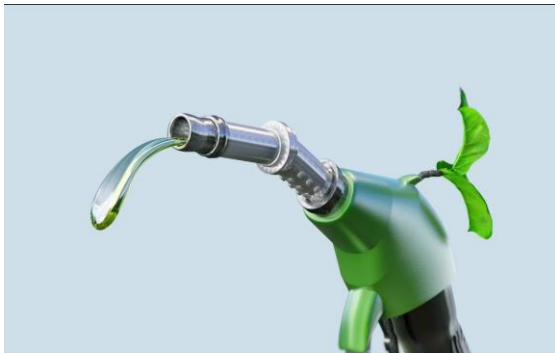
#### **Nagasaki Day : 09 August :-**

Nagasaki Day is observed on August 9 to remember the devastating atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Japan, by the United States in 1945 during World War II. This act, which followed the bombing of Hiroshima three days earlier, led to the deaths of over 74,000 people and caused long-term radiation-related suffering. The day serves as a somber reminder of the destructive power of nuclear weapons and reinforces the global call for disarmament. Memorial services are held in Japan and around the world.



#### **World Lion Day : 10 August :-**

World Lion Day is observed every year on August 10 to raise awareness about the conservation of lions and their dwindling population across the globe. The day aims to highlight the importance of preserving this majestic species, which plays a vital role in maintaining the balance of ecosystems. It was first launched in 2013 by wildlife filmmakers Dereck and Beverly Joubert, who are also co-founders of the Big Cat Initiative with National Geographic. The celebration sheds light on the threats lions face, including habitat loss, human-wildlife conflict, poaching, and climate change, urging individuals and governments to work towards their protection.



#### **World Biofuel Day : 10 August :-**

World Biofuel Day is observed annually on August 10 to promote the use of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional energy sources, highlighting the role of biofuels in achieving sustainable energy goals. The date commemorates Sir Rudolf Diesel, who on August 10, 1893, successfully ran an engine using peanut oil, demonstrating the potential of bio-based fuels. The day emphasizes the environmental, economic, and energy security benefits of biofuels, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, decreasing dependence on imported crude oil, and providing new income sources for farmers. The theme for this year's World Biofuel Day is "Biofuels: a sustainable pathway to net zero."



#### **World Elephant Day : 12 August :-**

World Elephant Day is observed every year on August 12 to raise awareness about the urgent need to protect elephants and their habitats. It was first celebrated in 2012, founded by Canadian filmmaker Patricia Sims in collaboration with Thailand's Elephant Reintroduction Foundation, and has since gained support from over 100 wildlife conservation organizations worldwide. The day highlights threats such as poaching for ivory, habitat destruction, and human-elephant conflict, which endanger both Asian and African elephant populations.





**International Youth Day : 12 August :-**

International Youth Day is marked annually on August 12 to celebrate the potential of young people as partners in shaping a better future. The observance was proposed at the 1998 World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in Lisbon and officially declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 1999, with the first celebration held in 2000. This day focuses on the challenges faced by youth worldwide, including unemployment, education gaps, mental health issues, and inequality, while promoting initiatives that empower and engage them in decision-making. The theme for 2025 International Youth Day is "Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond".

**World Organ Donation Day :13 August :-**

World Organ Donation Day is observed every year on August 13 to promote awareness about the life-saving potential of organ donation and encourage more people to pledge their organs for transplantation. The day's history traces back to initiatives led by various health advocacy groups and medical organizations, with the World Health Organization (WHO) playing a key role in promoting organ donation awareness on a global scale. The concept gained momentum in the early 2000s as part of worldwide campaigns to bridge the gap between organ demand and availability. The theme for World Organ Donation Day 2025 is "Answering the Call".

**Independence Day 2025 : 15 August:-**

India will celebrate its 79th Independence Day on 15 August 2025, marking the nation's liberation from British colonial rule in 1947. The day commemorates the historic moment when India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, hoisted the tricolour at the Red Fort, symbolising the country's hard-fought freedom after decades of struggle. It serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by countless freedom fighters and is celebrated with flag hoisting ceremonies, cultural programmes, and patriotic events across the nation. The 79th Independence Day celebrations is themed 'Naya Bharat.'

**World Photography Day : 19 August :-**

World Photography Day is celebrated every year on August 19 to honor the art, craft, and impact of photography. The day marks the invention of the daguerreotype process, the first practical photographic method announced in 1839 by the French government, which gifted it to the world. Photography has since evolved from black-and-white prints to digital imaging, becoming a powerful medium of storytelling,

documentation, and cultural preservation. The official theme for World Photography Day 2025 is “My Favorite Photo.”



#### **World Humanitarian Day : 19 August :-**

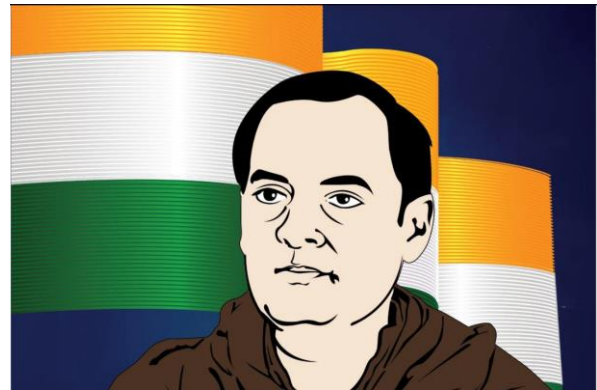
World Humanitarian Day is observed on August 19 each year to pay tribute to humanitarian workers who risk their lives to provide aid in crisis situations. The day was designated in memory of the 2003 bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, where several UN staff members, including Sergio Vieira de Mello, lost their lives. Its history is deeply tied to acknowledging the dangers faced by aid workers and recognizing their role in saving lives during natural disasters, armed conflicts, and emergencies. The theme for World Humanitarian Day 2025 is Strengthening Global Solidarity and Empowering Local Communities.



#### **Akshay Urja Diwas : 20 August :-**

Akshay Urja Diwas, observed every year on August 20, is dedicated to promoting the use of renewable energy sources in India. The day was first celebrated in 2004 to create awareness about sustainable energy and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. The Government of India initiated this observance to highlight the importance of solar, wind, hydro, and other renewable energy options

as an alternative to conventional sources. The day is also used to educate the public about energy conservation and to encourage individuals, institutions, and industries to adopt cleaner technologies.



#### **Sadbhavana Diwas : 20 August :-**

Sadbhavana Diwas is observed annually on August 20 to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The day was established to promote national integration, peace, and communal harmony among all citizens of India, regardless of caste, creed, or religion. Rajiv Gandhi is remembered for his vision of a united and progressive India, with emphasis on youth empowerment, science, and technology. On this day, people take a pledge to work towards harmony and goodwill in society, and various cultural and educational programs are organized across the country.



#### **World Mosquito Day : 20 August :-**

World Mosquito Day is observed every year on August 20 to commemorate the discovery by British doctor Sir Ronald Ross in 1897 that female Anopheles mosquitoes transmit malaria. This breakthrough laid the foundation for malaria prevention and control measures globally. The day is marked to raise awareness about the dangers mosquitoes pose, as they are vectors for several deadly



diseases such as malaria, dengue, chikungunya, Zika, and yellow fever. The theme for World Mosquito Day 2025 as "Accelerating the Fight Against Malaria for a More Equitable World."



#### **International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition : 23 August :-**

The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is observed on August 23 every year. It marks the anniversary of the 1791 uprising in Santo Domingo (present-day Haiti and the Dominican Republic), which was a decisive turning point in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) established this observance in 1998 to honor the memory of the millions of men, women, and children who suffered due to slavery, while also celebrating the struggle and resilience of enslaved people. The day highlights the importance of teaching about the legacy of slavery and racism.



#### **National Space Day : 23 August :-**

National Space Day in India is celebrated every year on August 23, a date chosen to commemorate the success of ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 mission in 2023, when the Vikram lander made a historic soft landing near the Moon's south pole. This achievement marked India as the first country to successfully reach that region of the Moon and the fourth nation overall to achieve a lunar landing. Following this milestone, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared August 23 as National Space Day to honor India's advancements in space science and technology. The theme is 'Leveraging Space Technology for Viksit Bharat 2047' to celebrate ISRO's role in national growth.



#### **National Small Industry Day (India) : 30 August :-**

National Small Industry Day is observed in India every year on 30 August to recognize the vital role of the Small-Scale Industries (SSIs) and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector in strengthening the Indian economy. The observance began in 2001, when the Government of India decided to dedicate a day to appreciate and promote small industries that generate large-scale employment opportunities, support rural and semi-urban development, and contribute significantly to exports.



## 2: Agreements



### India and Morocco Sign Agreement to Enhance Judicial Cooperation :-

India and Morocco have signed a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty and a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen judicial and legal cooperation. These agreements focus on civil and commercial matters, facilitating legal modernization and knowledge exchange. The partnership aims to enhance institutional linkages and contribute to the rule of law, reflecting a commitment to international collaboration. This development marks a significant step in deepening bilateral relations and fostering mutual understanding in the judicial sphere.



### FSSAI and Ministry of Ayush Release Ayurveda Aahara Product List :-

The FSSAI, in collaboration with the Ministry of Ayush, unveiled a comprehensive list of Ayurvedic food preparations under the Food Safety and Standards (Ayurveda Aahara) Regulations, 2022. This initiative integrates ancient dietary wisdom into modern regulations, promoting traditional Ayurvedic nutrition.

The list ensures authenticity and serves as a reference for manufacturers, enhancing public trust. This move aligns with India's cultural heritage and aims to improve public health through the adoption of Ayurveda Aahara as part of preventive healthcare.



### India-Philippines Strengthen Scientific Ties with New Cooperation Programme :-

India and the Philippines signed a Programme of Cooperation to enhance bilateral scientific collaboration, focusing on geo-spatial technologies and the blue economy. The agreement fosters joint research and capacity-building in areas like disaster management and biotechnology. This initiative reflects a commitment to advancing science and technology partnerships in the region.



### India, Russia Sign Protocol to Enhance Industrial Cooperation :-

India and Russia have signed a protocol to boost industrial cooperation in sectors such as aluminium, fertilizers, and railways. The agreement, reached during

the 11th session of the India-Russia Working Group on Modernization and Industrial Cooperation, reflects the countries' commitment to deepening their strategic partnership. The discussions focused on modernization, mining technology, and emerging areas like aerospace and additive manufacturing. This collaboration highlights the potential for technological exchange and joint development projects between the two nations.



#### **NLCIL signs MoU with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre for extraction of rare earth elements from fly ash :-**

Public sector enterprise NLC India Limited (NLCIL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) to develop a process for extracting valuable rare earth elements from fly ash generated in thermal power plants. Rare earth elements are critical for manufacturing advanced technologies, including electronics, renewable energy equipment, and defense systems. The collaboration aims to not only utilize industrial waste productively but also boost India's self-reliance in critical minerals.



#### **IIT Bombay, Rolls-Royce Sign MoU for Innovation :-**

The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Rolls-Royce to foster innovation and research in engineering and

technology. The collaboration will focus on developing advanced solutions in areas such as clean energy, propulsion systems, artificial intelligence, and sustainable manufacturing. By combining IIT Bombay's academic and research expertise with Rolls-Royce's industrial experience, the partnership aims to nurture future technologies that can have a global impact. The MoU also includes provisions for student internships, joint projects, and technology incubation initiatives.



#### **Tamil Nadu inks MoU with Hikoki Power Tools for ₹700 crore investment in Mahindra World City :-**

Tamil Nadu has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hikoki Power Tools India Private Limited, paving the way for an investment of ₹700 crore in Mahindra World City, Chengalpattu. This collaboration aims to boost the state's manufacturing sector, create job opportunities, and enhance industrial growth in the region. The investment is expected to strengthen Tamil Nadu's position as a preferred destination for high-quality industrial production and encourage further foreign and domestic investments in the state's emerging industrial hubs.



#### **IOB Signs MoU with Mumbai Metro One for Ticketing Solutions :-**



Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mumbai Metro One to provide innovative ticketing solutions for metro commuters. Under this collaboration, IOB will offer digital payment systems that simplify ticket purchases and recharge options, integrating banking services with public transportation. This initiative reflects a push towards enhancing urban mobility by promoting cashless transactions and improving passenger convenience. The tie-up also highlights IOB's efforts to expand its digital footprint while supporting smart city infrastructure.



#### **IIT Bhubaneswar, Tata Steels signs MoU to launch TomorrowLAB Accelerator Programme for startups :-**

In a major boost to innovation and entrepreneurship, IIT Bhubaneswar has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tata Steel to jointly launch the "TomorrowLAB Accelerator Programme." This initiative is aimed at nurturing startups and providing them with the resources, mentorship, and industrial support needed to scale their ideas. The program will act as a bridge between academic research and industry needs, fostering technological advancement and sustainable business models. By bringing together a premier academic institution and one of India's leading corporations, the accelerator is expected to create a strong ecosystem for startups, especially in eastern India.



#### **UP inks MoU with CEL for smart industrial infra :-**

The Government of Uttar Pradesh has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Central Electronics Limited (CEL) to develop smart industrial infrastructure across the state. This partnership aims to integrate advanced technology-driven solutions such as smart energy systems, modern surveillance, and digital connectivity into upcoming industrial areas. The initiative is expected to boost ease of doing business, attract investments, and provide industries with modern facilities for sustainable growth. By collaborating with CEL, the state envisions enhancing productivity and building globally competitive industrial hubs.



#### **South Southeast Asian Nations Forge Health Research Collaboration :-**

Representatives from Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, and India gathered in New Delhi to strengthen regional collaboration in health research. Hosted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Department of Health Research, the dialogue focused on aligning scientific work with policy and creating sustainable health research frameworks. The meeting emphasized cooperation in tackling regional challenges such as antimicrobial resistance and non-communicable diseases. Countries agreed to collaborate on medical technology innovation, training, ethics, and quality assurance, setting up structured mechanisms for joint capacity-building programmes.

### 3: Appointments



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

IndusInd Bank has announced the appointment of Rajiv Anand as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for a tenure of three years, subject to regulatory approval. Anand, who has been associated with the bank for several years, currently serves as the Deputy Managing Director and has played a significant role in shaping the bank's strategic direction, particularly in digital banking and corporate lending. His elevation to the top post follows the retirement of the previous MD CEO and reflects the bank's intent to ensure continuity in leadership and maintain its growth trajectory.



#### **India's Olympic Champion Abhinav Bindra Named IOC Mental Health Ambassador :-**

India's Olympic gold medalist Abhinav Bindra has been appointed as the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Mental Health Ambassador. In this role, he will promote initiatives to support athletes' mental well-being, raise awareness about psychological challenges in sports, and advocate for integrating mental health support into training programs. Bindra's own journey in competitive sports and his post-retirement work in athlete development make him a strong voice for the cause, ensuring mental health gets as much attention as physical fitness in the sporting world.



#### **Ravi Narayanan Appointed CEO of SMFG India Credit :-**

Ravi Narayanan has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of SMFG India Credit, formerly known as Fullerton India Credit Company. Bringing extensive experience in the financial services industry, Narayanan is expected to lead the company's growth, enhance its lending portfolio, and strengthen its position in the non-banking financial sector. His appointment aligns with the company's strategy to expand customer reach, improve digital capabilities, and cater to the growing credit needs of individuals and businesses in India.





#### **Duleep Trophy: Kiran Powar appointed coach of West Zone :-**

Former cricketer Kiran Powar has been appointed as the coach of the West Zone team for the prestigious Duleep Trophy tournament. A domestic cricket veteran and younger brother of ex-India spinner Ramesh Powar, Kiran brings years of experience as a player and mentor. His appointment is expected to provide West Zone players with tactical guidance and motivation as they compete in one of India's oldest inter-zonal cricket competitions. The decision underscores the importance of nurturing young talent with experienced leadership to keep domestic cricket competitive and aligned with international standards.



#### **Abhijit Kishore appointed Vodafone Idea CEO :-**

Vodafone Idea Limited, one of India's largest telecom operators, has announced the appointment of Abhijit Kishore as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Kishore, who has served in various leadership roles within the company, brings with him decades of experience in the telecommunications sector. His elevation to the top post comes at a critical time when Vodafone Idea is working on improving its financial health, expanding 4G coverage,

and preparing for 5G rollout. Industry observers see his leadership as pivotal in steering the company's transformation and strengthening its competitive position in the Indian telecom market.



#### **Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla appointed acting Governor of Nagaland :-**

Ajay Kumar Bhalla, the current Governor of Manipur, has been given additional charge as the acting Governor of Nagaland. The appointment follows the end of tenure of the previous office bearer, ensuring that constitutional duties in the state continue without interruption. Bhalla, a seasoned administrator with long experience in government service, will now oversee responsibilities in both northeastern states. This decision highlights the practice of assigning additional charge to sitting governors as an interim arrangement until a permanent appointment is made. His role will be crucial in addressing governance matters and supporting ongoing developmental initiatives in Nagaland.



#### **Prof. Sandeep Shukla appointed as new director of IIIT Hyderabad :-**

Professor Sandeep Shukla, a renowned academic in the field of computer science and engineering, has been

appointed as the new director of the International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Hyderabad. He is widely recognized for his expertise in areas such as cyber security, embedded systems, and formal verification, and has contributed significantly to research and teaching over the years. Before this appointment, Prof. Shukla was associated with leading institutions and has built a strong reputation for his work in advancing technology and academic excellence.



#### **Satish Golcha appointed Delhi Police Commissioner :-**

Senior IPS officer Satish Golcha has been appointed as the new Delhi Police Commissioner, succeeding Sanjay Arora. Golcha, a 1989-batch officer of the AGMUT cadre, brings decades of experience in law enforcement and has previously held important roles in the Delhi Police, including serving as Special Commissioner. His appointment comes at a crucial time as Delhi faces challenges such as rising cybercrime, law and order management, women's safety, and maintaining security during high-profile national and international events. Golcha is known for his administrative acumen and people-friendly policing approach.



#### **Lt Gen Harpal Singh (Retd) appointed as advisor to govt :-**

Retired Lieutenant General Harpal Singh, who earlier served as the Engineer-in-Chief of the Indian Army, has been appointed as an advisor to the Government of India. Singh has had a distinguished military career, overseeing major engineering, infrastructure, and logistics projects within the armed forces. His expertise in strategic planning, project execution, and national security-related infrastructure is expected to strengthen policymaking and implementation in the defense and infrastructure sectors. As an advisor, he will guide the government on critical projects involving border infrastructure, sustainable engineering, and disaster management preparedness.



#### **Trevor Manuel appointed chair of 2027 ICC World Cup organising committee :-**

Former South African Finance Minister Trevor Manuel has been appointed as the chair of the organising committee for the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, which will be jointly hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia. Manuel, a respected statesman with extensive experience in governance and administration, is expected to bring strong leadership to the committee. His appointment underscores the importance of hosting the tournament successfully in Africa, showcasing the region's capacity to organize major global sporting events. The 2027 World Cup will be crucial for promoting cricket in Southern Africa, boosting tourism, and strengthening sports diplomacy.



## 4: Awards



### 71st National Film Awards: Shah Rukh Khan and Rani Mukerji Shine :-

The 71st National Film Awards celebrated Indian cinema's excellence, with Shah Rukh Khan and Vikrant Massey sharing the Best Actor award for 'Jawan' and '12th Fail', respectively. Rani Mukerji won Best Actress for 'Mrs. Chatterjee Vs Norway'. '12th Fail' was named Best Feature Film, while 'Flowering Man' and 'God Vulture and Human' won in the non-feature and documentary categories. The awards highlight India's diverse cinematic talent and contributions to the film industry.



### SEIL Energy administrative building in Nellore gets IGBC Platinum Award :-

The administrative building of Sembcorp Energy India Limited (SEIL) in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh, has been awarded the prestigious IGBC Platinum certification for its green and sustainable design. The Indian Green Building Council's Platinum rating is the highest

recognition for environmentally responsible construction, acknowledging energy efficiency, water conservation, waste management, and use of eco-friendly materials. The SEIL facility incorporates features such as advanced energy monitoring systems, rainwater harvesting, and optimized natural lighting, setting a benchmark for sustainable corporate infrastructure in the energy sector.

### Gallantry Awards: Honoring Bravery and Sacrifice



### Over 1,000 Received Gallantry Awards On 15 August :-

On the occasion of Independence Day 2025, over 1,000 gallantry awards were conferred upon members of the armed forces, paramilitary, and police for acts of exceptional bravery, service, and sacrifice. The awards recognize both peacetime and wartime heroism, honoring those who have risked or given their lives in the line of duty. Such acknowledgments not only celebrate individual courage but also reinforce the nation's respect and gratitude towards its defenders, inspiring future generations to serve with dedication.



**Kader Mohideen presented with 'Thagaisal Thamizhar' Award; ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan receives Abdul Kalam Award :-**

At a recent felicitation ceremony, Kader Mohideen was honored with the 'Thagaisal Thamizhar' Award for his contributions to Tamil society and culture, while ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan received the Abdul Kalam Award for his achievements in space research and technological innovation. The awards, presented by the Tamil Nadu government, highlight contributions in diverse fields ranging from literature and community service to science and innovation. Such recognitions celebrate excellence and inspire future generations by honoring individuals who have dedicated their lives to advancing knowledge, technology, and cultural pride in the state and nation.



**National Anubhav Awards 2025 Honored Retired Government Employees :-**

On August 18, 2025, the National Anubhav Awards were conferred in New Delhi to honor retired government employees for their contributions. The awards, initiated in 2015, recognize memoirs documenting administrative experiences. This year, 15 awardees from 11 Ministries highlight diverse government roles, with a notable increase in female recipients. The awards underscore the importance of preserving administrative history and the valuable insights retired officials provide in shaping future governance and policy-making.



**Six eminent personalities honored with Karma Yogi Award 2025 :-**

The Karma Yogi Award 2025 has been conferred upon six distinguished individuals for their exceptional service, dedication, and contributions in diverse fields of public life. The award recognizes individuals who embody the spirit of selfless service and ethical responsibility while creating meaningful impact in society. The honored personalities come from different backgrounds, including social service, education, healthcare, culture, and governance. This recognition not only celebrates



**Neeraj Ghaywan's 'Homebound' wins top honours at Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2025 :-**

Acclaimed filmmaker Neeraj Ghaywan's film 'Homebound' has won top honors at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2025, reaffirming his reputation as one of India's most powerful storytellers. Known for socially relevant and emotionally layered narratives, Ghaywan's latest work explores themes of family, displacement, and belonging. The recognition at IFFM, a prominent global platform celebrating Indian cinema, showcases the rising international appeal of meaningful films from India. This award not only boosts Ghaywan's stature in world cinema but also highlights the growing acceptance of independent Indian cinema abroad.



their achievements but also highlights the importance of values-driven leadership in nation-building and inspires future generations to adopt similar ideals.



#### **Delhi Education Department announced the commencement of Applications For State Teachers' Award 2025 :-**

The Directorate of Education, Delhi, has announced the commencement of applications for the prestigious State Teachers' Award 2025. This award aims to recognize outstanding educators who have made significant contributions in shaping young minds and improving the quality of education. Teachers from government and recognized private schools can submit their applications highlighting innovative teaching practices, community involvement, and overall excellence in pedagogy. The awards will be presented on the occasion of Teachers' Day to honor their dedication and inspire the teaching community to continue striving for academic excellence and holistic student development.



#### **ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Wokha, Nagaland, Awarded Best KVK :-**

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has recognized Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Wokha,

Nagaland, as the Best KVK for its outstanding contribution to agricultural development, farmers' training, and rural innovation. KVKs act as vital institutions for transferring scientific research into practical applications for farmers, thereby enhancing productivity and sustainability. The award highlights Wokha KVK's successful implementation of advanced techniques in crop production, livestock management, and sustainable farming practices that have significantly benefitted local farming communities.



#### **CM Nitish Kumar Honours 12 Hindi Litterateurs with Seva Samman Awards 2023-24 in Patna :-**

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar conferred the prestigious Seva Samman Awards 2023-24 upon twelve eminent Hindi litterateurs at a special ceremony held in Patna. The award recognizes the contributions of authors, poets, and literary figures who have enriched Hindi literature through their writings, research, and cultural promotion. By honoring these personalities, the state government aims to celebrate the literary heritage of Hindi and encourage new generations of writers to continue the tradition.



### Rajnath Singh Honors Gaganyatris, Highlights Space Ambitions :-

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh felicitated the astronauts selected for ISRO's Gaganyaan mission, highlighting India's growing role in space exploration. He praised

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla for his successful ISS mission and emphasized the mission's significance in advancing India's self-reliance and technological capabilities. The Gaganyaan mission represents a new chapter in India's space journey.

## 5: Banking



### India Post Payments Bank Launches Aadhaar-based Face Authentication :-

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) introduced Aadhaar-based face authentication for digital transactions, enhancing financial inclusion for the elderly and differently-abled. Developed under UIDAI's framework, the feature allows banking services using facial recognition, eliminating the need for physical biometrics. This initiative aligns with the government's Digital India mission, making banking more accessible and inclusive across rural and urban areas.



### ICICI Bank to charge payment aggregators for UPI transactions from August 1 :-

Starting August 1, ICICI Bank will begin imposing charges on payment aggregators for UPI (Unified Payments Interface) transactions, marking a significant shift in how digital payments are handled in India. Payment aggregators—platforms like Razorpay, PhonePe, and others that process online payments for merchants—will now be required to pay a fee for transactions conducted via UPI using ICICI Bank's systems. While this fee will not directly affect consumers, it may influence how these platforms manage their pricing and operations.



### Rs 2,000 notes worth Rs 6,017 cr still in circulation: RBI :-

According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), ₹2,000 denomination currency notes amounting to ₹6,017 crore are still in public circulation, despite being withdrawn from active usage. The RBI had earlier initiated the withdrawal of ₹2,000 notes as part of its currency management strategy, encouraging people to deposit or exchange them. The recent update reflects the remaining unreturned notes even after extended deadlines. This figure highlights how a segment of the population continues to hold onto high-denomination notes, possibly due to delay, ignorance, or deliberate choice amid regulatory transitions.





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

The Reserve Bank of India has granted approval for the merger of New India Co-operative Bank Ltd. with Saraswat Co-operative Bank Ltd., marking a significant move in the consolidation of India's cooperative banking sector. This strategic merger aims to enhance financial stability and expand services for customers of both institutions. Saraswat Bank, being one of India's largest urban cooperative banks, is expected to bring greater technological integration and operational efficiency to New India Co-operative Bank's existing customer base. The decision aligns with RBI's broader push for strengthening governance and viability in the cooperative banking ecosystem.



### **Bank of Baroda launches digital foreign exchange platform bob FxOne for instant transactions :-**

Bank of Baroda has launched a new digital platform named 'bob FxOne' to streamline and digitize foreign exchange transactions for its customers. This platform is designed to offer real-time, seamless forex services including rate booking, trade settlements, and instant currency conversion. Targeting corporate clients,

exporters, and importers, FxOne aims to improve transaction speed, transparency, and user convenience. The platform integrates advanced analytics and risk management tools, enabling businesses to manage their international trade and currency exposure more efficiently.



### **HDFC Bank issues urgent alert on new Android malware targeting customers :-**

HDFC Bank has issued a serious cybersecurity warning to its customers about a new Android malware that is attempting to steal sensitive banking credentials. This malware, often disguised as legitimate apps or updates, can take control of users' devices and extract information such as passwords, SMS-based OTPs, and banking login details. The bank has urged customers not to download apps from unknown sources, avoid clicking on suspicious links, and always verify the authenticity of messages claiming to be from the bank.



### **AU Small Finance Bank gets RBI's 'in-principle' approval to become a universal bank :-**

AU Small Finance Bank has received 'in-principle' approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to transition into a universal bank. This marks a significant development for the Jaipur-based financial institution,

which started as a non-banking finance company before becoming a small finance bank in 2017. With this approval, the bank can now explore offering a full range of banking services similar to other universal banks, such as corporate banking, treasury services, and broader loan and deposit products.



#### **ICICI Bank raises minimum balance for savings accounts from ₹10,000 to 50,000 :-**

ICICI Bank has sharply increased the monthly minimum average balance (MAB) required for new urban/metro savings accounts. The requirement has gone up from ₹10,000 to ₹50,000—a five-fold rise. This change came into effect on August 1, 2025 and only applies to newly opened accounts; existing account holders remain unaffected. This steep hike has sparked criticism, especially as many public sector banks are moving toward eliminating minimum balance requirements to promote financial inclusion. ICICI's move stands in contrast and may affect accessibility for middle- and lower-income customers.



#### **Equirus Group receives RBI approval to launch NBFC :-**

Financial services firm Equirus Group has received approval from India's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), to launch its non-deposit-taking Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), named Equirus Finance. The

new NBFC plans to offer a variety of secured lending solutions, including Loan Against Securities (LAS), ESOP financing, Market-Linked Debentures (MLDs), structured finance, and other customized lending products. The group aims to build a loan book of approximately ₹3,000 crore.



#### **Karur Vysya Bank expands footprint in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh :-**

Karur Vysya Bank has recently strengthened its presence in western and southern India by opening new branches in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. This expansion is part of the bank's strategy to enhance accessibility and serve a larger customer base in key regions. The move aims to tap into growing economic activity in these states, provide better financial services to local communities, and attract new customers in both retail and business segments. By increasing its branch network, the bank is positioning itself to compete more effectively in the Indian banking sector while contributing to regional economic development.



#### **RBI issues payment aggregator licence to Paytm Payments Services :-**

The Reserve Bank of India has granted a payment aggregator licence to Paytm Payments Services, allowing



the company to continue offering digital payment services to merchants across India. A payment aggregator enables businesses to accept various forms of online payments, including credit cards, UPI, and wallets, through a single platform. The approval comes after earlier regulatory scrutiny that required Paytm to reapply for the licence. This development strengthens Paytm's position in India's rapidly expanding digital payment ecosystem, providing assurance to millions of its merchant partners.



#### **ICICI Bank removes Rs 50000 minimum balance requirement after backlash :-**

ICICI Bank has withdrawn its recently introduced requirement of maintaining a minimum balance of ₹50,000 in certain savings accounts following public backlash. The move had sparked criticism for potentially excluding middle-income customers and small savers. By reversing this decision, the bank aims to address customer concerns, retain loyalty, and ensure accessibility of its banking services to a wider demographic. The episode also reflects the increasing influence of public feedback on major financial policy changes in the banking sector.



#### **Bank of Baroda Introduces Global UPI Services via bob ₹ Pay App :-**

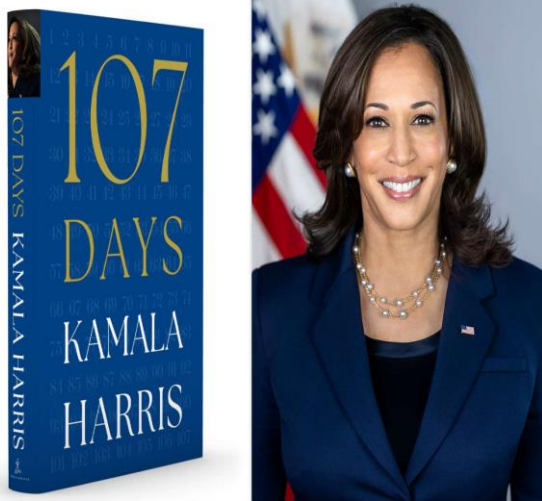
Bank of Baroda has introduced a global Unified Payments Interface (UPI) service through its bob ₹ Pay app, enabling customers to make instant digital payments internationally. This initiative aims to simplify cross-border transactions, promote the use of India's UPI system abroad, and provide seamless financial services to travelers, NRIs, and businesses. The move also supports the Indian government's vision of expanding UPI as a globally accepted payment platform, thereby strengthening India's position in the digital payments ecosystem worldwide.



#### **RBI announce result of underwriting auction for government securities worth Rs 36,000 crore :-**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the results of its underwriting auction for government securities valued at ₹36,000 crore. Underwriting auctions involve selecting primary dealers who commit to subscribe to government securities if they remain unsubscribed during the auction. This process ensures the government's borrowing program runs smoothly without disruptions in fundraising. The announcement reflects the RBI's ongoing efforts to manage liquidity and support fiscal stability in the economy. Such auctions are a crucial part of India's debt management strategy, as they help maintain investor confidence and ensure that the government's financing needs are met efficiently.

## 6: Books and Author



### '107 Days': Kamala Harris to publish book this September :-

U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris is set to release a new book titled 107 Days in September 2025. The book will chronicle the critical period between the 2020 U.S. presidential election and the inauguration of President Joe Biden, offering a behind-the-scenes look at the challenges, decisions, and emotional weight of that historic transition. Harris, who made history as the first woman, first Black American, and first South Asian American to become Vice President, is expected to reflect on both personal and political aspects of that time.



### Legendary actor Anupam Kher launched his book 'Different But No Less' :-

Veteran Bollywood actor Anupam Kher has launched his latest book titled 'Different But No Less', adding another title to his growing list of authored works. Known for his contributions to Indian cinema and motivational speaking, Kher's new book is a tribute to children with special needs, aiming to promote understanding, inclusivity, and empathy. The book shares real-life stories of children who, despite their challenges, have shown remarkable resilience and achievements. By highlighting their journeys, Kher hopes to inspire both readers and society at large to recognize the unique potential in every individual.



### Coffee Table Book 'Threaded Tales of Vidarbha' Launched :-

The coffee table book titled 'Threaded Tales of Vidarbha' was officially launched in Nagpur, Maharashtra, in a ceremony that highlighted the region's vibrant textile culture and rich artisan heritage. The book showcases the intricate handloom traditions of Vidarbha, including the region's signature cotton and silk weaving practices, and tells the stories of local weavers who have preserved these crafts across generations. The event was graced by Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, who served as the chief guest. The book was launched by Sudhir Mungantiwar, Maharashtra's Minister for Forests, Cultural Affairs and Fisheries.





### The Hindu's coffee table book on Tamil Nadu's temple architecture released :-

A new coffee table book titled "Evolution of Temple Architecture in Tamil Nadu", authored by Vrinda Ramanan and J. Ramanan, has been published by The Hindu Group Publications. This visually rich publication explores the heritage, history, and symbolism behind the majestic temples of the state, including renowned landmarks like Brihadeeswara Temple in Thanjavur, Meenakshi Temple in Madurai, and Shore Temple in Mahabalipuram. The book showcases detailed photographs, expert commentary, and historical insights, aiming to preserve and promote awareness of South India's Dravidian architectural excellence.



### Priyambada Jayakumar launched her book "MS Swaminathan: The Man Who Fed India" :-

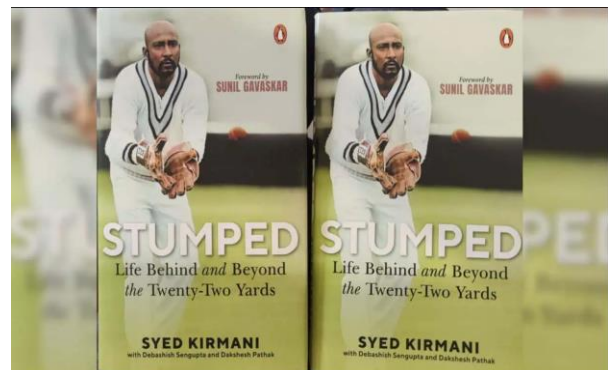
Author and journalist Priyambada Jayakumar launched her book "MS Swaminathan: The Man Who Fed India" in Delhi on August 6, 2025. The event, held at the India International Centre (IIC), paid tribute to the late Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, the legendary agricultural scientist credited with leading India's Green Revolution. The book provides a detailed narrative of his life, vision, and

tireless efforts to ensure food security and sustainable agriculture in the country. The launch ceremony was attended by prominent dignitaries including Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, former WHO Chief Scientist and daughter of Dr. Swaminathan, who served as the chief guest.



### Chhota Bheem Comic Book Launched to Promote Reading Among Children :-

A new Chhota Bheem comic series has been launched with the aim of encouraging reading among young audiences, leveraging the beloved Indian animated character to foster literacy and cultural connection. The comic series is published by the Publications Division of the Ministry of Information Broadcasting, Government of India, in collaboration with Green Gold Animation Pvt. Ltd., the creators of Chhota Bheem. The launch took place at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, coinciding with the 29th Delhi Book Fair.



### Syed Kirmani's Autobiography 'Stumped' launched in Hyderabad :-

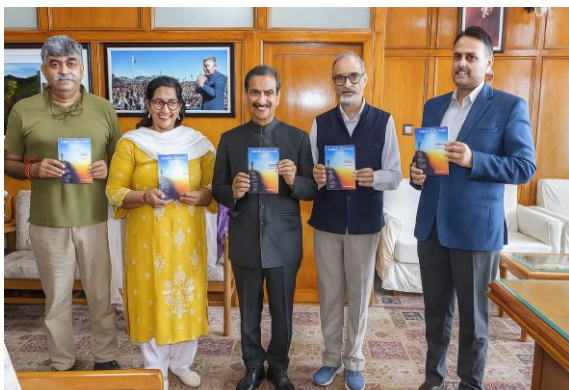
Former India wicketkeeper and 1983 World Cup champion Syed Kirmani has launched his autobiography titled 'Stumped: Life Behind and Beyond The Twenty-Two Yards' in Hyderabad. The event was attended by

several cricketing icons, including Mohinder Amarnath, Mohammed Azharuddin, and Mohammed Siraj, along with dignitaries from the state. The book offers an in-depth account of Kirmani's cricketing journey, personal experiences, and the challenges he faced during his career. The launch celebration reflected the admiration and respect Kirmani commands in the cricket community.



#### **Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry is set to launch his new photo book, 'Shot Ready,' in September :-**

NBA superstar Stephen Curry is preparing to release his latest project, a photo book titled Shot Ready, scheduled for launch in September 2025. The book will feature a curated collection of photographs capturing key moments from Curry's basketball career, both on and off the court, offering fans a personal and visual journey through his life as an athlete. It is expected to blend behind-the-scenes glimpses, memorable game shots, and personal anecdotes, reflecting his evolution from a promising young player to one of the most influential figures in modern basketball. The project aims to inspire readers with themes of dedication, passion, and perseverance.



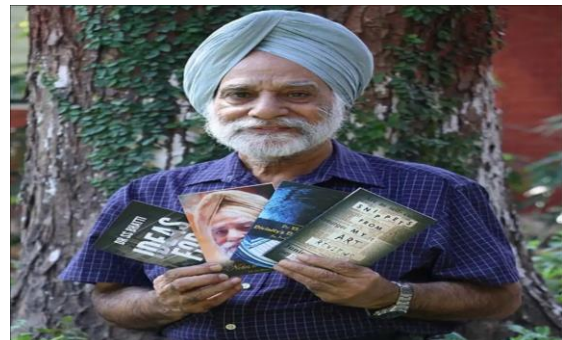
#### **Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhu releases book titled 'Sangharsh se Shikhar tak' :-**

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has released a book titled Sangharsh se Shikhar tak. The book narrates the journey of overcoming challenges to achieve success, with a focus on inspiration, determination, and leadership lessons. The launch reflects the state's encouragement of literary contributions that capture personal and political journeys, while also motivating readers through stories of resilience.



#### **'[In] Complete Justice? The Supreme Court at 75' Book Set To Launch On August 27 :-**

A new book titled '[In] Complete Justice? The Supreme Court at 75' is set to be launched on August 27 to mark the 75th year of India's Supreme Court. The book, published by Juggernaut Books, presents a collection of 24 essays contributed by leading legal minds. It also reflects on landmark judgments and controversies that shaped the court's image. With contributions from leading legal minds and scholars, the book aims to provide readers with a balanced analysis of how the judiciary has evolved since 1950 and the challenges it continues to face in modern governance.





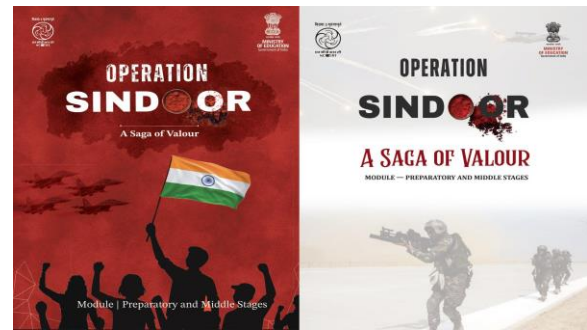
### Five new books by Dr SS Bhatti launched at Punjab Kala Bhawan :-

Renowned architect, educationist, and writer Dr. SS Bhatti recently unveiled five of his latest books during a special event held at Punjab Kala Bhawan, Chandigarh. Dr. Bhatti, who is also a former principal of Chandigarh College of Architecture, is known for his extensive contributions in literature, poetry, and academic writings. The book launch drew scholars, artists, and admirers of his work, celebrating his versatility across disciplines. His latest works are expected to explore themes of culture, creativity, and social thought, further enriching the literary landscape of the region.



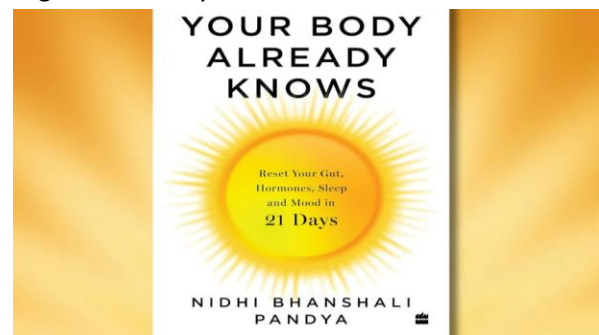
### Veteran author Vivek Singhal marks India's 79th Independence Day with the release of his latest book, Dominion and Dharma :-

Veteran author Vivek Singhal has chosen a symbolic occasion to release his latest book "Dominion and Dharma", aligning the launch with India's 79th Independence Day celebrations. The book reportedly explores India's journey of freedom, sovereignty, and its moral responsibilities as a nation, blending historical perspectives with philosophical reflections. By launching it on Independence Day, the author emphasizes the continuing relevance of values such as justice, duty, and collective identity in shaping the country's future.



### NCERT Launches Educational Modules on Operation Sindoor :-

NCERT has introduced new modules on Operation Sindoor, highlighting it as a military and technological success. Designed for middle and secondary students, the modules cover India's precision strikes on terror camps in Pakistan following a terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir. The content emphasizes India's commitment to peace and development, showcasing the role of Made-in-India defence systems. These educational resources aim to foster understanding of India's strategic defence initiatives and their impact on national security and regional stability.



### Akshay Kumar At Book Launch Of "Your Body Already Knows" By Nidhi Bhanshali Pandya :-

Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar recently attended the launch of the book "Your Body Already Knows" written by Nidhi Bhanshali Pandya, an author and wellness expert known for her work in Ayurveda and holistic health. The event highlighted the growing importance of health-conscious living and the need to reconnect with the body's natural rhythms. The book focuses on how individuals can use ancient Ayurvedic wisdom to better understand their bodies and improve overall well-being.

## 7: Defence



### Indian Army Signs Rs 223 Crore Deal for Tank Transporter Trailers :-

The Indian Army has signed a Rs 223.95 crore contract with Axiscades Aerospace and Technologies for 212 next-generation 50-ton Tank Transporter Trailers. These trailers feature hydraulic and pneumatic loading ramps, enhancing logistical efficiency in battle conditions. Aligned with the 'Aatmnirbhar Bharat' initiative, the indigenous contract boosts local defense manufacturing and employment. This procurement will significantly improve the Army's operational mobility, supporting India's defense readiness and self-reliance goals in the defense sector.



### Indian Army Launches 'Agnishodh' Research Cell at IIT-Madras :-

Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi inaugurated 'Agnishodh', the Indian Army Research Cell at IIT-Madras, aimed at integrating academic research with operational applications. This initiative aligns with

the Army's modernization goals and emphasizes self-reliance in defense technology. The research center will collaborate with IIT Madras Research Park and focus on innovations in domains like cybersecurity and unmanned systems. This development marks a significant step in fostering academic-military partnerships and enhancing India's defense capabilities.



### Philippines and India Conduct First Joint Naval Exercise in South China Sea :-

The Philippines and Indian navies conducted their first joint sail in the South China Sea, enhancing maritime cooperation amidst regional tensions. The exercise, coinciding with President Marcos' visit to India, aims to counter expansive territorial claims and strengthen defense ties. This joint passage reflects deepening strategic relations and shared commitments to regional security.



### ITBP and NDRF Rescue 413 Pilgrims from Kinnaur Kailash Trek Amid Heavy Rains :-

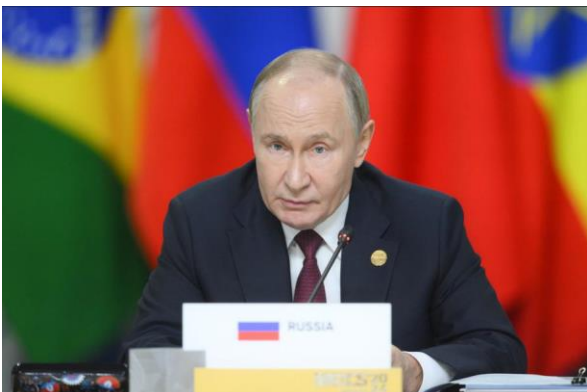


The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) rescued 413 pilgrims stranded on the Kinnaur Kailash trek in Himachal Pradesh after heavy rains washed away makeshift bridges. The operation involved a rope-based traverse crossing technique, with ITBP deploying specialized mountaineering equipment to navigate the challenging terrain. The region has faced severe monsoon havoc, with significant losses reported due to rains and landslides.



#### **Indian Navy to Commission Two Stealth Frigates on August 26 :-**

The Indian Navy is set to commission two advanced stealth frigates, INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri, at Visakhapatnam. Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders and Garden Reach Shipbuilders, these vessels showcase India's commitment to domestic defense production and maritime capability enhancement. Equipped with cutting-edge technology, they feature supersonic missiles, anti-submarine weapons, and reduced radar signatures, bolstering India's naval strength and strategic presence in the Indian Ocean region.



#### **Putin Prepares Missile Test Amid Upcoming Talks with Trump :-**

As Russian President Vladimir Putin prepares for talks with U.S. President Donald Trump, Russia appears set to test its new nuclear-armed cruise missile, the 9M730 Burevestnik. Analysts from the Middlebury Institute and CNA noted increased activity at Russia's Pankovo test site, indicating preparations for a missile test. This development comes amidst heightened tensions as the leaders discuss the Ukraine conflict. The missile, dubbed 'invincible' by Putin, boasts an almost unlimited range. The test could overshadow the Trump-Putin summit, raising questions about Russia's strategic capabilities and signaling a significant move in the ongoing geopolitical dynamics.



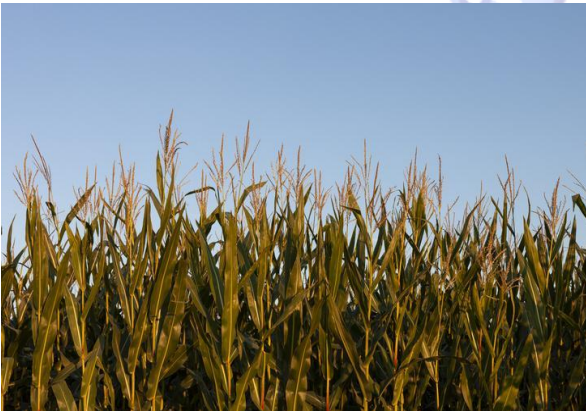
#### **PM Modi Unveils 'Mission Sudarshan Chakra' for National Security :-**

In a bold move to enhance national security, PM Modi announced 'Mission Sudarshan Chakra,' aiming to protect India's critical establishments using indigenous technology. The mission, inspired by India's cultural heritage, will integrate advanced surveillance and cyber protection to counter emerging threats. This initiative aligns with the government's push for Aatmanirbhar Bharat, reducing reliance on foreign technology. Modi's announcement underscores a commitment to proactive security measures, ensuring comprehensive protection and strategic autonomy for India.



#### Israeli Military Plans Relocation for Gaza Residents :-

The Israeli military is preparing to relocate Gaza residents to the southern enclave to ensure their safety ahead of a planned offensive in northern Gaza City. Israel intends to provide tents and shelter equipment in collaboration with the UN and international organizations. This move follows international concerns over civilian safety amid ongoing hostilities, with the UN expressing apprehension about the increasing humanitarian crisis in Gaza.



#### Unidentified Object Explosion in Poland Raises Security Concerns :-

An unidentified object exploded in a cornfield in Osiny, eastern Poland, near the Ukraine border, causing property damage but no injuries. The incident prompted air raid alerts in Ukraine's Volyn and Lviv regions, although no attacks were reported. Authorities are investigating the cause of the explosion, with police and firefighters at the scene. This event highlights ongoing regional tensions and the need for heightened security measures. It underscores the importance of cross-border cooperation in addressing potential threats, as both countries remain vigilant amid geopolitical uncertainties.



#### Trump Hints at US Air Support in Ukraine Peace Deal :-

President Donald Trump has indicated the possibility of US air support in a Ukraine peace deal, excluding ground troops. Following a White House summit with Ukrainian President Zelenskiy, Trump emphasized security guarantees for Ukraine, exploring options for military aid. These developments come amid ongoing tensions and air assaults by Russia on Ukraine. The potential US involvement underscores the complexities of international diplomacy in conflict resolution, highlighting the strategic balance between military support and peace negotiations.



#### HAL Secures ₹62,000 Crore Order for Tejas Fighter Jets :-

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) announced a ₹62,000 crore order for 97 LCA Mk-1A fighter jets from the Indian Air Force, with deliveries starting this year. Approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security, the order is a significant boost for indigenous defence manufacturing, phasing out older MiG-21 jets. The LCA Mk-1A features upgraded combat capabilities. This marks HAL's second major order for Tejas, supporting the government's push for 'Make in India' in defence.





### DRDO's Successful Test of Indigenous Air Defence System :-

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted maiden flight-tests of the Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS) off the Odisha coast. The fully indigenous system demonstrated its capability to counter aerial threats, marking a significant advancement in India's defence infrastructure. The IADWS integrates Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles, Very Short Range Air Defence System missiles, and a high-power laser-based Directed Energy Weapon. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh lauded the achievement as a testament to India's growing self-reliance in advanced defence technologies.



### Indian Navy Commissions Stealth Frigates INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri :-

The Indian Navy has commissioned two state-of-the-art stealth frigates, INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri, at Visakhapatnam. These warships, built with over 75% indigenous content, are part of India's push towards self-reliance in defence manufacturing. The commissioning of these frigates marks a significant milestone in enhancing India's maritime capabilities and underscores the

strategic importance of the eastern seaboard. Equipped with advanced weapons and sensors, the frigates are designed to execute a wide range of maritime missions, boosting the Navy's operational readiness.



### Indian Army Aviation Conducts High-Risk Rescue in Flood-Hit Punjab :-

In a daring operation, Indian Army Aviation rescued civilians and CRPF personnel stranded in a flood-affected building in Punjab. The mission, executed under challenging weather conditions, highlighted the Army's readiness and precision. Rising waters from the Ravi River necessitated the urgent evacuation, showcasing the Army's commitment to safety and disaster response.



### India to Deploy Over 700 Troops to Exercise Bright Star 2025 in Egypt :-

India has announced the deployment of over 700 soldiers to participate in Exercise Bright Star 2025, one of the world's largest multinational military exercises, held in Egypt. This participation underscores India's commitment to strengthening international military cooperation and interoperability with partner nations. It also provides the Indian Armed Forces an opportunity to practice large-scale operations, counter-terrorism



strategies, and disaster response mechanisms alongside global counterparts. The move reflects India's increasing willingness to engage in strategic defense diplomacy, positioning itself as a responsible regional power capable of contributing to global security frameworks.



#### **Mission Sudarshan Chakra Missile Defence Programme to Begin Trials in 2026 :-**

India has announced that the Mission Sudarshan Chakra missile defense programme will commence trials in 2026, with the objective of achieving a multi-layered, AI-enabled missile defense system by 2035. The mission envisions an advanced shield capable of intercepting ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and hypersonic weapons. This project reflects India's growing focus on indigenous defense technologies and self-reliance in strategic security systems. Once operational, the system is expected to significantly enhance India's deterrence capabilities against regional threats.



#### **India Successfully Test-Fires Agni-5 Ballistic Missile :-**

India has successfully conducted a test of its Agni-5 ballistic missile, reaffirming its status as a nuclear-capable state with long-range strike capability. The missile, which has an estimated range of over 5,000 kilometers, enhances India's strategic deterrence posture, particularly against potential adversaries like China. The test was carried out with indigenous technology and underlines India's progress in strengthening its defense sector. It also demonstrates the credibility of India's nuclear doctrine of "credible minimum deterrence" while sending a strong message about self-reliance and preparedness in the face of emerging security challenges.



#### **India-Saudi Arabia Expand Defence Cooperation :-**

India and Saudi Arabia concluded the 7th Joint Committee meeting on Defence Cooperation, aiming to enhance collaborations in training, industrial partnerships, and military exercises. Co-chaired by officials from both nations, the meeting reviewed past progress and explored new areas such as cybersecurity and disaster management. India showcased its defence manufacturing capabilities under the 'Make in India' initiative, proposing joint production opportunities. The expanded partnership reflects growing strategic ties, as evidenced by the recent establishment of a Ministerial Committee on Defence Cooperation.

## 8: Economy



### Tata Motors Announces €3.8 Billion Acquisition of Iveco Group :-

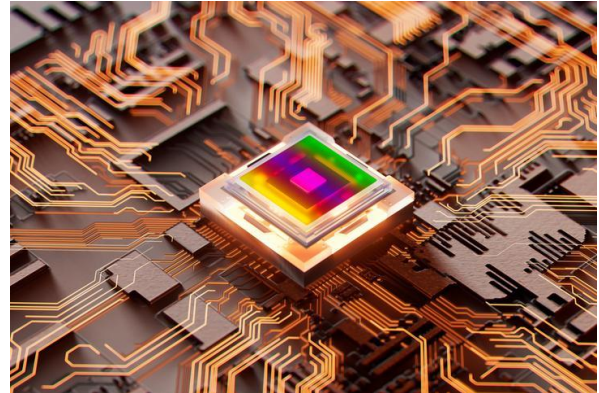
Tata Motors plans to acquire the European commercial vehicle company Iveco Group for €3.8 billion. The all-cash offer aims to create a global powerhouse in the commercial vehicle industry, combining complementary capabilities and a shared commitment to sustainable mobility. The acquisition, pending regulatory approvals, will enhance Tata Motors' market presence and innovation in zero-emission transport. This strategic move underscores Tata Motors' ambition to expand its global footprint and leverage synergies in the commercial vehicle sector.



### India's Forex Reserves Increase by \$2.7 Billion :-

India's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$2.7 billion, reaching \$698.19 billion as of July 25. The increase was driven by foreign currency assets and gold reserves, which grew by \$1.31 billion and \$1.2 billion, respectively. The Reserve Bank of India's interventions aimed at

maintaining market stability contributed to this growth. The rise in reserves reflects India's strong economic fundamentals and its ability to manage liquidity and exchange rate volatility effectively.



### India's Chip Market Poised for \$100 Billion Growth by 2030 :-

India's semiconductor market is projected to reach \$100-110 billion by 2030, driven by digitalization and government initiatives. The India Semiconductor Mission aims to boost domestic production and global integration. Recent developments, including new semiconductor units and startup investments, highlight India's emergence as a key player in the global chip industry.



### RBI Keeps Repo Rate Unchanged at 5.5% Amid Easing Inflation :-

The Reserve Bank of India has decided to maintain the repo rate at 5.5% during its August Monetary Policy



Committee meeting, citing favourable economic indicators and easing inflation. The decision follows a detailed assessment of macroeconomic developments, with retail inflation reaching its lowest level in over six years. The RBI remains optimistic about domestic growth prospects, supported by a positive monsoon and upcoming festival season. The central bank's decision signals confidence in India's economic stability amid global uncertainties.



#### **Trump's Tariff Hike on Indian Imports Sparks Economic Concerns :-**

US President Donald Trump has announced an additional 25% tariff on Indian imports, raising concerns about its potential impact on India's GDP growth. Economists estimate a possible 0.2-0.4% reduction in growth, with sectors like garments, precious stones, and electronics expected to be affected. The tariff increase, linked to India's oil imports from Russia, has sparked fears of a competitive disadvantage and potential job losses. The situation underscores the complexities of international trade relations and their economic implications.



#### **Centre Releases 3 Lakh Tonnes of Onion Stock to Stabilize Prices :-**

The Indian government announced the release of 3 lakh tonnes of onion buffer stock from September to ensure price stability during the monsoon. This move, under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, comes as essential vegetable prices remain controlled due to high production levels in 2024-25. Despite a temporary spike in tomato prices due to heavy rainfall, the buffer stock release aims to mitigate short-term price volatility. The National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India has also been active in procuring and selling tomatoes at controlled prices across Delhi. This initiative reflects the government's commitment to managing food inflation and supporting consumers during seasonal fluctuations.



#### **Cabinet Approves ₹30,000 Crore Compensation for PSU Oil Firms :-**

The Union Cabinet approved a ₹30,000 crore compensation for public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to offset losses from selling domestic LPG at regulated prices. This package supports IOCL, BPCL, and HPCL, ensuring uninterrupted LPG supplies despite elevated international prices. The compensation will be disbursed in 12 installments, aiding the companies in meeting operational needs and maintaining consumer welfare. This decision reflects the government's focus on shielding consumers from global energy market volatility while supporting PSU financial health.





### Cabinet Approves Continuation of LPG Subsidy for PMUY :-

The Union Cabinet sanctioned the continuation of a targeted LPG subsidy for Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) beneficiaries for the fiscal year 2025-26, involving an expenditure of ₹12,000 crore. The subsidy supports up to nine refills per year, making LPG more affordable for economically disadvantaged households. This initiative aims to alleviate the impact of global LPG price fluctuations on consumers, promoting clean cooking fuel access. The decision underscores the government's commitment to energy security and consumer welfare.



### India's Tribal Empowerment Budget Triples in a Decade

India's spending on tribal development has nearly tripled over the past decade, reflecting a commitment to inclusivity and empowerment. The budget for tribal affairs has grown significantly, with increased allocations across key sectors such as education, health, and livelihoods. Initiatives like the PM Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan aim to bridge developmental gaps in tribal-majority regions. This comprehensive approach aligns with the United Nations' goals for indigenous peoples, highlighting India's proactive stance on tribal welfare.



### India Imposes Port Restriction on Jute Goods from Bangladesh :-

The Indian government has restricted the import of certain jute-based goods from Bangladesh, allowing entry only via the Nhava Sheva Seaport in Maharashtra. This decision, enforced under the Foreign Trade (Development Regulation) Act, 1992, aims to address quality control and trade balance concerns. Previously, these imports were allowed through land ports along the India-Bangladesh border. The move could protect domestic industries from competitive pricing pressures, impacting Indo-Bangladesh trade relations, especially in the sensitive jute sector.



### India Achieves 100 GW Solar PV Milestone, PM Modi Applauds Clean Energy Push :-

India has reached a significant milestone in its solar energy journey, achieving 100 GW in solar PV module manufacturing capacity under the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM). This marks a substantial increase from just 2.3 GW in 2014 and aligns with the national vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat. Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated this achievement, emphasizing its role in promoting self-reliance and clean

energy. The milestone is attributed to the success of initiatives like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for High-Efficiency Solar Modules, reinforcing India's commitment to achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 and playing a vital part in global decarbonization efforts.



#### OpenAI Launches Affordable ChatGPT Subscription Plan in India :-

OpenAI has introduced ChatGPT Go, a new subscription plan priced at ₹399 per month, exclusively for the Indian market. This affordable plan aims to increase OpenAI's presence in its second-largest market by user base. The plan offers users the ability to send more messages and generate more images compared to the free version, with faster response times. India, with its nearly one billion internet users, represents a significant opportunity for OpenAI to expand its user base. This strategic move aligns with CEO Sam Altman's vision to create a low-cost AI ecosystem in India, potentially making it OpenAI's largest market.



#### India Eyes Export Diversification Amid US Tariff Hike :-

In response to the US increasing tariffs on Indian goods to 50%, India is exploring export diversification to

mitigate impacts on its MSMEs. The Crisil report highlights the importance of leveraging the India-UK FTA and potential EU trade deals. MSMEs, contributing 45% to India's exports, face challenges, especially in textiles, gems, jewellery, and seafood sectors. The report advises strategic market expansion and highlights the supportive role of the India-UK FTA in enhancing competitiveness against countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam. This development emphasizes the need for adaptive trade strategies to maintain economic stability amid global tariff shifts.



#### E-commerce Sector Leads Refund Grievances, Says NCH

The e-commerce sector recorded the highest number of refund-related grievances in July 2025, with 3,594 cases resulting in refunds worth Rs 1.34 crore. The National Consumer Helpline's technological transformation has enhanced its efficiency, successfully facilitating refunds across multiple sectors. The helpline's role in safeguarding consumer rights and promoting fair trade practices underscores the government's commitment to consumer protection.



#### India Suspends Postal Services to US Amid New Customs Duty Rules :-



India's Department of Posts announced a temporary suspension of most postal services to the United States following a US executive order introducing new customs duties. The order eliminates the duty-free exemption for goods valued up to USD 800, requiring all postal items to be subject to customs duties. The suspension, effective August 25, applies to all postal articles except letters, documents, and gift items valued up to USD 100. The Department is engaging with stakeholders to resolve the issues and restore full postal services to the US as soon as possible.



#### **Delhi Metro Implements First Fare Hike in Eight Years :-**

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has revised fares for the first time in eight years, effective from August 25. The fare hike ranges from ₹1 to ₹4, with the Airport Express Line seeing an increase of up to ₹5. The adjustments aim to ensure operational sustainability. Despite some public backlash, DMRC emphasizes the necessity of the hike to maintain service standards.



#### **PLI Scheme Boosts India's Manufacturing and Job Growth :-**

India's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme has attracted ₹1.76 lakh crore in investments and created over 12 lakh jobs across 14 sectors. The scheme aims to increase manufacturing's GDP share to 25%, with

significant growth seen in electronics, pharmaceuticals, and automotive sectors. The PLI scheme is a cornerstone of India's industrial transformation under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.



#### **Suzuki to Invest Rs 70,000 Crore in India's Auto Market**

Suzuki Motor Corporation has announced a substantial investment of Rs 70,000 crore in India over the next five to six years to expand production and launch new car models. The investment will also focus on enhancing Suzuki's position in India's rapidly growing automobile market. This commitment was marked by the launch of Maruti Suzuki's first electric SUV, the e-Vitara, which will be manufactured at the Hansalpur plant in Gujarat and exported to over 100 countries. This initiative aligns with India's push towards sustainable mobility and underscores Suzuki's long-standing partnership with India in the automotive sector.



#### **PM Modi Launches Maruti Suzuki's Electric Vehicle Export Initiative :-**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the export of Maruti Suzuki's first global Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV), the e-VITARA, from Ahmedabad. This initiative positions India as Suzuki's global manufacturing hub for electric vehicles, with exports planned to over 100 countries. PM Modi also inaugurated the TDS Lithium-



Ion Battery plant, emphasizing India's progress in the EV and battery ecosystem. These developments align with the government's vision of promoting green mobility and self-reliance in advanced manufacturing, contributing to India's clean energy goals.



### **U.S. Implements 50% Tariffs on Indian Products Amid Trade Tensions :-**

The U.S. has issued a draft notice to implement 50% tariffs on Indian goods starting August 27, 2025. The decision, part of President Donald Trump's executive order, aims to address perceived trade imbalances and geopolitical concerns. The increased tariffs are expected to impact India's export market, prompting Indian trade bodies to express disappointment and explore diversification opportunities. This development underscores the challenges of international trade relations and the need for strategic economic adjustments in response to global policy shifts.

## **9: International**



### **Trump Imposes 50% Tariff on Brazilian Goods, Excludes Key Sectors :-**

US President Trump has imposed a 50% tariff on most Brazilian goods, citing a 'witch hunt' against former President Bolsonaro. The tariffs exclude sectors like aircraft and energy. The move follows tensions over Bolsonaro's trial and aims to influence Brazilian politics. Brazil's government has condemned the sanctions, signaling potential retaliation. Despite exemptions, industries like beef and coffee face significant impacts. The tariffs reflect ongoing diplomatic and trade challenges between the US and Brazil.



### **Trump Imposes 25% Tariff on Indian Goods, Citing High Trade Barriers :-**

US President Trump announced a 25% tariff on Indian imports, citing high tariffs and trade barriers. The move aims to pressure India in ongoing trade negotiations. India's government expressed commitment to securing a fair trade deal, emphasizing national interests. The tariff announcement underscores the complexities of Indo-US trade relations, with potential impacts on sectors like textiles and agriculture. The Indian government has responded to US President Trump's recent trade statement, emphasizing its commitment to protecting national interests. Ongoing negotiations aim for a fair bilateral trade agreement.



### **Pakistan Jails Over 100 Members of Imran Khan's Party for Riots :-**

A Pakistani anti-terrorism court sentenced over 100 members of former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party to prison terms for their involvement in the 2023 riots targeting military sites. Sentences range from one to ten years, affecting senior officials and parliamentarians. The government accuses Khan of inciting the protests, which he denies as politically motivated. This ruling is part of a broader crackdown on Khan's party, impacting its parliamentary strength. The PTI party plans to challenge the verdict and organize new protests demanding Khan's release.



### **CBI Secures Deportation of Fugitive Udit Khullar from UAE :-**

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) successfully deported Udit Khullar, wanted for a Rs 4.55 crore bank fraud, from the UAE. Khullar's deportation was facilitated through INTERPOL cooperation, highlighting international collaboration in combating financial crimes. The case involved fraudulent bank loans obtained with forged documents. The CBI's efforts underscore India's commitment to addressing financial

fraud and strengthening global law enforcement partnerships.



### **Trump Orders Nuclear Submarines Moved Amid Russia Tensions :-**

US President Donald Trump ordered the repositioning of two nuclear submarines following provocative statements from former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. The move, seen as a rhetorical escalation, underscores heightened US-Russia tensions amid ongoing conflicts in Ukraine. Security analysts noted the strategic importance of nuclear deterrence, while emphasizing the risks of nuclear saber-rattling. The situation highlights the complexities of international diplomacy and security in the nuclear age.



### **Volcanic Eruption in Russia's Far East Triggers Aviation Alert :-**

Russia's Klyuchevskoy Volcano has intensified its eruptive activity, prompting authorities to raise the aviation alert level to red. The volcano, located in the Kamchatka Peninsula, poses a significant threat to international and low-flying aircraft due to potential ash explosions. The eruption follows a recent massive earthquake in the region, leading to concerns about



mudflows and transportation disruptions. The situation highlights the challenges of managing natural disasters and ensuring safety in affected areas.



#### **Tesla Focuses AI Chip Development on Inference Technology :-**

Tesla CEO Elon Musk announced a strategic shift to focus on developing inference chips for AI, following reports of disbanding the Dojo supercomputer team. The decision aims to streamline Tesla's AI chip design efforts, optimizing resources for the production of next-generation chips. This move aligns with Tesla's broader focus on AI-driven self-driving technology and robotics. Musk's announcement highlights the company's commitment to advancing AI capabilities while navigating industry challenges and restructuring.



#### **Australia to Recognize Palestinian State at UN Assembly :-**

Australia announced its decision to recognize a Palestinian state during the upcoming United Nations General Assembly, aligning with similar moves by other Western nations. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese emphasized the importance of a two-state solution to end the ongoing conflict. Australia seeks commitments

from the Palestinian Authority for governance reforms, excluding Hamas from any future state. This diplomatic shift aims to support peace efforts in the Middle East, amidst criticism of Israel's expansion policies in Palestinian territories.



#### **Myanmar Announces General Election Phase One for December 28 :-**

Myanmar will hold the first phase of its general election on December 28, 2025, amid ongoing conflict and international scrutiny. Critics have dismissed the election as a means for the military to consolidate power following the 2021 coup. With 55 political parties registered, the election is expected to be dominated by military-backed candidates. This development underscores the ongoing political turmoil in Myanmar and the international community's concerns over democratic processes and human rights in the country.



#### **Nationwide Protests in Israel Over Gaza War and Hostage Crisis :-**

On August 18, 2025, massive protests erupted across Israel, demanding a ceasefire in Gaza and the release of hostages held by Hamas. The demonstrations, among the largest since the conflict began, reflect public



discontent with Prime Minister Netanyahu's military strategies. Protesters, including families of hostages, clashed with police, highlighting the intense domestic pressure to resolve the ongoing conflict. The situation underscores the complex geopolitical dynamics in the region and the urgent need for diplomatic solutions.



#### **Bolivia Faces Historic Election Defeat for Ruling Party :-**

Bolivia's presidential election on August 18, 2025, saw the ruling Movement for Socialism (MAS) party facing its worst defeat in decades. Centrist senator Rodrigo Paz led with 32.18% of the vote, while MAS candidate Eduardo del Castillo garnered only 3.16%. The results signal a demand for political change amid economic challenges and high inflation. The upcoming runoff in October marks a pivotal moment for Bolivia's political landscape, with potential shifts in governance and policy direction.



#### **Dubai Launches 'One Freezone Passport' to Simplify Business Licensing :-**

Dubai has introduced the 'One Freezone Passport,' a unified licensing system allowing companies to operate across all free zones in the emirate under a single license. This initiative aims to reduce costs and simplify operations for investors and entrepreneurs. The reform

supports the Dubai Economic Agenda D33, which targets doubling the emirate's GDP by 2033. By removing administrative barriers, the 'One Freezone Passport' enhances Dubai's business-friendly environment and positions it as a competitive global business hub. The system is expected to attract more foreign direct investment and facilitate business expansion across sectors.



#### **Hurricane Erin Threatens the Bahamas with Dangerous Seas :-**

Hurricane Erin, a dangerous Category 4 storm, is approaching the Bahamas, posing a threat of rough seas and prompting evacuation orders in parts of North Carolina. The storm is likely to maintain its force as a major hurricane, with maximum sustained winds of 130 mph. While Erin is not on track to make direct landfall, its size and intensity are causing significant concern. Authorities have warned that the seas could become extremely rough and dangerous during the storm. The situation is being closely monitored, and residents are advised to take necessary precautions to ensure their safety.



### PM Modi to Visit Japan and China for Bilateral and Multilateral Engagements :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Japan and China from August 29 to September 1, attending the India-Japan Annual Summit and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit. Discussions will cover strategic partnerships, regional security, and economic cooperation. Modi's visit aims to strengthen India's diplomatic ties and enhance collaboration on global issues, reflecting India's active role in regional and international affairs.



### Vietnam Prepares for Impact as Typhoon Kajiki Approaches :-

Vietnam is taking extensive precautions as Typhoon Kajiki nears its coast, with gusts up to 166 km/h. Authorities have initiated mass evacuations, closed schools, and shut down airports to mitigate the storm's impact. Kajiki is expected to bring heavy rains, flooding, and landslides upon landfall. The government has mobilized thousands of soldiers to aid in evacuation and search and rescue operations.



### Canadian PM Announces Military Aid for Ukraine :-

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney announced a new military assistance package for Ukraine during his visit to Kyiv. The aid totals over two billion Canadian dollars and includes armoured vehicles, medical equipment, and air defense capabilities. This commitment comes amidst ongoing tensions with Russia and underscores Canada's support for Ukraine's defense and sovereignty.



### India and Japan to Enhance Strategic Ties during PM Modi's Visit :-

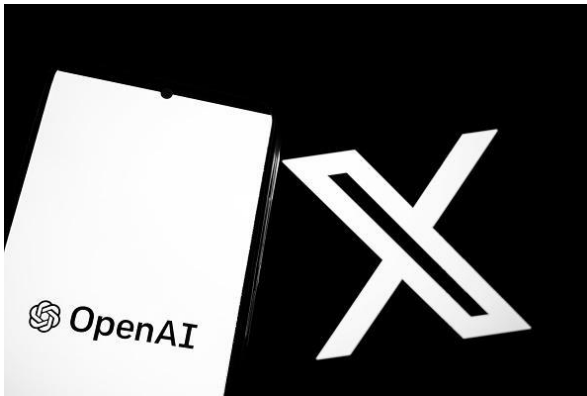
Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit Japan for the 15th India-Japan Annual Summit, focusing on strengthening the strategic partnership between the two nations. This visit aims to discuss key issues including trade, defence, technology, and regional stability in the Indo-Pacific region. The summit represents the highest-level dialogue mechanism between India and Japan, emphasizing their commitment to peace and prosperity. The visit is expected to consolidate bilateral relations and explore new avenues for cooperation, reinforcing the shared values and strategic outlook between the two democracies.



### Denmark Summons US Diplomat Over Alleged Greenland Influence Operations :-



Denmark's Foreign Minister summoned the US diplomat in Copenhagen over claims of US influence operations in Greenland. Reports suggest US citizens with ties to the Trump administration are involved. Denmark views this as unacceptable interference. The US embassy in Copenhagen is led by Charge d'affaires Mark Stroh. This diplomatic friction arises amid US interests in Greenland's strategic and mineral-rich assets, which have been previously highlighted by President Trump.



#### **Musk's Legal Battle with OpenAI Over Meta Documents Continues :-**

Elon Musk's lawyers seek to prevent OpenAI from accessing Meta documents related to a \$97.4 billion bid. OpenAI claims Musk attempted to involve Mark Zuckerberg in the bid. The legal tussle escalates with OpenAI seeking document disclosures, while Musk's team argues against the relevance of these requests. The case highlights tensions in the tech industry over AI development and ownership.



#### **India Pivots Toward China and Russia Amid Looming U.S. Tariffs :-**

Amid escalating trade tensions with the United States, India has intensified diplomatic engagement with both

China and Russia. This comes after Washington announced hefty tariffs on Indian exports due to New Delhi's continued imports of Russian oil. India is attempting to balance relations by diversifying trade partners and strengthening ties within the BRICS framework. The development highlights India's strategic approach of multipolar diplomacy, where it seeks to safeguard economic interests while avoiding excessive dependence on any single global power.



#### **India Issues Humanitarian Flood Warning to Pakistan :-**

India has issued an urgent flood warning to Pakistan amid heavy monsoon rains, marking the first official bilateral contact in several months. The warning was transmitted through diplomatic channels to alert Pakistani authorities about potential flooding risks due to rising river levels. This gesture underscores the importance of humanitarian cooperation between the two countries, even during periods of political strain. It also reflects India's broader disaster-management responsibilities as an upstream country in South Asia, highlighting how natural calamities can create opportunities for dialogue in otherwise tense bilateral relations.



**South Korea's Former First Lady Indicted for Bribery :-**

Kim Keon Hee, spouse of South Korea's ousted President Yoon Suk Yeol, faces bribery charges amid broader investigations into the couple's alleged misconduct. Both are detained, with Yoon on trial for insurrection. The indictment adds to Kim's history of controversies, impacting her husband's political party. The unfolding legal proceedings highlight the challenges facing South Korea's political landscape amidst these high-profile cases, with potential implications for future governance reforms.

**UN Security Council Extends Lebanon Peacekeeping Mission :-**

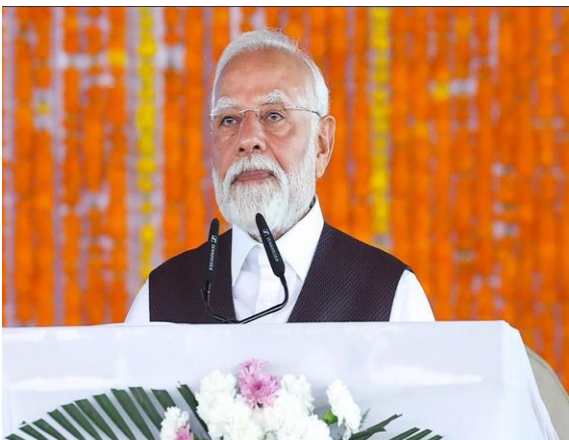
The UN Security Council has extended the UNIFIL peacekeeping mission in Lebanon until 2026, marking its final term. Established in 1978, UNIFIL patrols Lebanon's

border with Israel. This decision aligns with plans for Lebanon to assume sole security responsibility. The extension underscores ongoing regional tensions and the need for stabilized governance in southern Lebanon. The mission's conclusion will require careful transitions to ensure continued peace and security in the area.

**Missile Attacks in Ukraine Kill 23, EU HQ Damaged :-**

Russia launched missile and drone strikes in Ukraine, resulting in 23 deaths and damage to EU headquarters in Kyiv. The attack, one of the largest since the 2022 invasion, undermines peace efforts led by former US President Donald Trump. Ukrainian President Zelenskiy calls for new sanctions against Russia. The strikes highlight the tense geopolitical climate and the ongoing humanitarian impact, with global diplomatic efforts continuing to seek resolution.

## 10: Miscellaneous

**PM Modi to Inaugurate New Central Secretariat Building in Delhi :-**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Kartavya Bhavan as part of Delhi's Central Vista redevelopment project. This new building aims to centralize government functions, enhancing efficiency and reducing costs. The state-of-the-art facility aligns with sustainability goals, featuring energy-saving systems and modern infrastructure to support India's administrative needs.





### India Welcomes Back Sacred Buddhist Relics After 127 Years :-

India has successfully repatriated the sacred Piprahwa relics, considered highly significant in Buddhist culture, after 127 years. These relics, believed to be associated with Lord Buddha, were unearthed in 1898 and recently returned from an international auction with the help of the Ministry of Culture and Godrej Industries Group. Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized the cultural importance of these relics, underscoring India's commitment to preserving its heritage. The relics will soon be unveiled to the public, strengthening India's ties with global Buddhism and enhancing cultural diplomacy.



### Chandigarh Hosts First National Young Chef Competition :-

Chandigarh has hosted India's inaugural National Young Chef Competition, celebrating the country's rich culinary heritage. The event, organized by the Ministry of Tourism and PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, aims to preserve traditional flavors while encouraging innovation among young chefs. The competition provides a platform for hospitality students to showcase their skills and connect with industry leaders. The

initiative reflects efforts to promote Indian gastronomy and create opportunities for aspiring chefs in the hospitality sector.



### Foundation Laid for Janki Mata Temple in Sitamarhi :-

Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of the Janki Mata Temple in Sitamarhi, Bihar. The initiative, attended by Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, aims to enhance religious tourism and infrastructure development in the region. The project is part of broader efforts to preserve cultural heritage and improve connectivity for devotees. The temple's redevelopment underscores the government's commitment to promoting religious and cultural tourism as a catalyst for regional growth.



### Jammu and Kashmir's Doda Hosts Record-Setting 1,508-Metre Tiranga Rally :-

In a stunning display of patriotism, Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district hosted a mega Tiranga Rally with a 1,508-metre-long national flag. Organized by the local administration, the event saw participation from students, officials, and residents, filling the streets with chants of unity and nationalism. The rally, part of the Independence Day celebrations, highlights the region's

commitment to national pride and the spirit of togetherness, setting the tone for nationwide festivities.



#### **Delhi CM Rekha Gupta Attacked During Public Hearing :-**

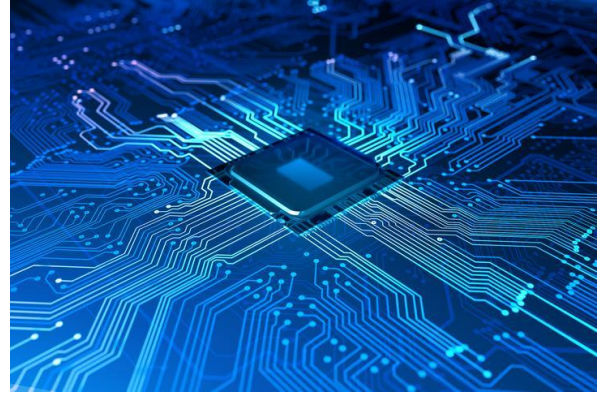
Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta was allegedly attacked during a public hearing at her residence. The assailant, who approached with papers, was quickly apprehended, and Gupta was unharmed. The incident has sparked political reactions, with Delhi BJP condemning the act and attributing it to political conspiracy. This event highlights concerns about public safety and political tensions in Delhi. It underscores the need for stringent security measures during public engagements, reflecting broader challenges in maintaining civility and safety in political discourse.



#### **Indian Railways to Operate Record Ganpati Special Trains :-**

Indian Railways has announced a record 380 special train trips for the Ganpati festival, marking the highest number of services for the occasion. This increase aims to accommodate the surge in travel demand, especially in Maharashtra and the Konkan region. The services, primarily operated by Central Railway, highlight

Railways' commitment to facilitating passenger movement during major festivals by ensuring connectivity across key stations in the coastal belt.



#### **India's Semiconductor Industry Advances with New Design Projects :-**

India's semiconductor industry is set to advance with the approval of 23 new chip-design projects under the Design Linked Incentive (DLI) scheme. These projects aim to boost domestic chip-making capabilities and reduce reliance on imports. The government's support for indigenous semiconductor development reflects India's ambition to become a global leader in technology innovation and manufacturing.



#### **International Big Cat Alliance Granted UN-Style Privileges :-**

The Indian government has extended UN-style privileges and immunities to the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), enabling it to function effectively as a global platform for big cat conservation. The IBCA, launched by Prime Minister Modi in 2023, brings together countries and partners to promote conservation efforts for seven big cat species. The move reflects India's commitment to environmental protection and wildlife conservation.





### Cheteshwar Pujara Announces Retirement from Indian Cricket :-

Veteran batter Cheteshwar Pujara has announced his retirement from all forms of Indian cricket, marking the end of a distinguished career. With 7,195 runs in 103 Test matches, Pujara is renowned for his grit and patience. He played a pivotal role in India's historic Test series triumphs in Australia. Pujara expressed gratitude to the BCCI, Saurashtra Cricket Association, and his mentors for their support. Despite retiring, Pujara will continue to contribute to cricket through commentary, sharing insights from his illustrious career. His departure marks the end of an era in Indian Test cricket.



### UP Schools Celebrate National Space Day with New NCERT Module :-

Uttar Pradesh schools celebrated National Space Day by introducing a new NCERT educational module, 'India – A Rising Space Power.' The module highlights India's journey in space science and key missions like Chandrayaan, Mangalyaan, and Gaganyaan. Special events, including science exhibitions and interactive sessions, were organized to inspire students to pursue careers in STEM fields. Digital platforms like DIKSHA and

NISHTHA featured space science content, emphasizing India's scientific heritage and future ambitions. National Space Day, initiated in 2024, honors ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 success and aims to motivate the younger generation.



### ECI Receives 1.4 Lakh Voter Claims in Bihar SIR :-

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has received approximately 1.4 lakh voter claims under Bihar's Special Intensive Revision (SIR). Of these, 14,374 claims have been resolved. The CPI(ML) Liberation party has submitted 10 objections, while other political parties have shown limited engagement. A month-long opportunity remains for voters to file claims and objections. The EC urges eligible voters to ensure their names are correctly listed to maintain robust electoral rolls.



### Deadly Landslide Near Vaishno Devi Shrine Kills 32 Pilgrims :-

A massive landslide near the Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu and Kashmir has claimed the lives of at least 32 pilgrims and injured many others. The incident occurred amid heavy rains, leading to large-scale rescue and relief operations by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and local authorities. The tragedy has raised concerns about environmental degradation,

construction activities in sensitive Himalayan zones, and the need for stricter disaster-risk management strategies in pilgrimage areas.



### Relief Operations Continue as Water Recedes in J Floods :-

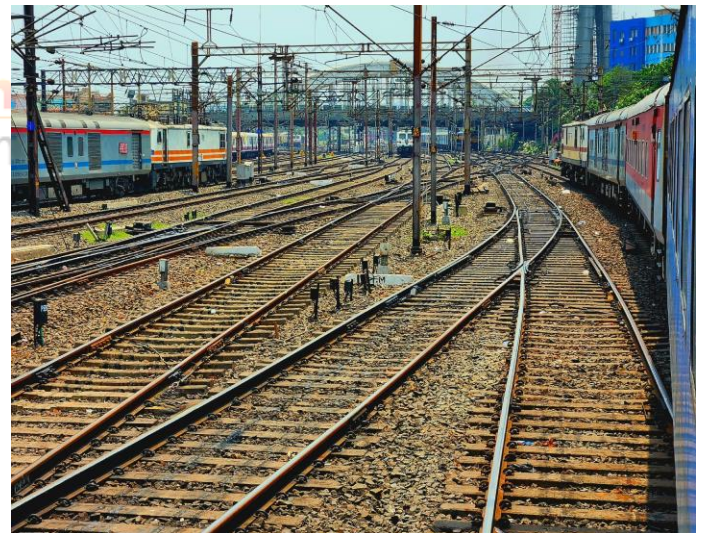
Jammu division rivers have receded below danger levels, allowing ongoing relief operations to progress. The Army, NDRF, and local agencies continue efforts to assist flood-affected residents. Educational institutions remain closed, and major highways and rail routes face disruptions due to landslides. The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage is temporarily suspended. Despite challenges, the region anticipates erratic weather until early September, emphasizing the need for continued vigilance and support.

## 11: National



### All Accused Acquitted in 2008 Malegaon Blast Case by NIA Court :-

A special NIA court acquitted seven individuals, including BJP MP Sadhvi Pragya Thakur, in the 2008 Malegaon blast case. The verdict, citing lack of evidence, comes after 17 years of legal proceedings. The blast had occurred during Ramzan, killing six and injuring over 100. The case saw extensive investigation, with 323 witnesses examined, but 34 turned hostile. Initially probed by Maharashtra ATS, the case was later handled by NIA, which dropped charges against several accused.



### Cabinet Approves ₹11,169 Crore for Railway Multitracking Projects :-

The Indian Cabinet approved four railway multitracking projects totaling ₹11,169 crore, expanding the network by 574 km across six states. These projects aim to alleviate congestion and improve operational efficiency, supporting both freight and passenger services. The initiative aligns with the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, emphasizing multi-modal connectivity. The projects are expected to boost economic activity, generate employment, and contribute to India's climate goals by reducing oil imports and CO2 emissions.





### Prime Minister Modi to Unveil ₹2,200 Crore Development Projects in Varanasi :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation for projects worth ₹2,200 crore in Varanasi on August 2. The initiatives cover infrastructure, education, healthcare, tourism, and cultural preservation, aiming to transform urban and rural areas. Key projects include road development, railway overbridges, and water schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission. The event will also see the release of the 20th PM-KISAN installment, reflecting the government's focus on holistic development and improving quality of life for residents.



### India Marks 15th Organ Donation Day with Record Transplants :-

India celebrated its 15th Organ Donation Day with a record 18,900 organ transplants in 2024, highlighted by Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda. The event, organized by NOTTO, emphasized the country's significant progress in transplantation, ranking third globally and leading in hand transplants. The Aadhaar-based NOTTO online pledge platform, launched in 2023, has seen over 3.30 lakh citizens pledging to donate

organs. The government provides financial aid for transplants, aiming to bridge the gap between organ demand and supply. This milestone reflects India's commitment to promoting organ donation awareness and improving healthcare infrastructure.



### Pension Fund Regulatory Authority Launches Improved Digital Platform :-

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority unveiled a revamped website under the PFRDA CONNECT initiative, enhancing digital engagement in the pension sector. The platform offers streamlined access to regulatory updates and pension schemes, aligning with PFRDA's commitment to transparency and stakeholder empowerment. This digital transformation marks a milestone in modernizing pension services.



### India's Vice-Presidential Election 2025 Schedule Announced :-

The Election Commission of India has released the schedule for the Vice-Presidential Election 2025, with polling set for September 9 if necessary. The last date for filing nominations is August 21, with scrutiny on August 22. The election process involves a detailed nomination and withdrawal timeline, with P.C. Mody appointed as

the Returning Officer. The election will be conducted under the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974, ensuring transparency and adherence to established protocols.



#### **PM Modi Inaugurates 184 Multi-Storey Flats for MPs in New Delhi :-**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 184 multi-storey flats for Members of Parliament at Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi. This project, built with earthquake-resistant materials, aligns with GRIHA 3-star green building standards, promoting energy efficiency and waste management. The complex, named after Indian rivers, aims to inspire MPs in their public service. Modi highlighted the importance of sustainable development and inclusivity, emphasizing the project's role in easing accommodation issues for MPs and reducing public expenditure.



#### **India's Metro Expansion: A Modern Transit Revolution**

India's metro rail network has expanded rapidly, transforming urban commuting across over 20 cities. From just 248 km in 2014, the network now spans 1,013 km as of May 2025, reflecting a significant infrastructure

advancement. The government's policies such as the Metro Rail Policy, 2017, and the Make in India initiative have bolstered local production and sustainability in urban transit solutions. The metro has become an integral part of India's urban growth, offering a reliable and environmentally friendly transportation option.



#### **Rajya Sabha Passes Key Bills for Tribal Representation and Shipping Reform :-**

In a significant legislative session, the Rajya Sabha passed two key bills: the Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of Goa Bill and the Coastal Shipping (Amendment) Bill. These bills aim to enhance tribal representation and modernize maritime regulations, respectively. The passage marks a step toward inclusive democracy and aligns with international maritime standards, reflecting the government's commitment to social justice and economic progress.



#### **Centre Launches SHRESTH Index for Drug Regulatory Systems :-**

The Union Health Ministry has unveiled the State Health Regulatory Excellence Index (SHRESTH) to strengthen



state drug regulatory systems. This initiative aims to identify gaps, promote cross-learning, and enhance regulatory capacity across states. The index evaluates states based on parameters like human resources, infrastructure, and responsiveness. By fostering collaboration and standardization, the SHRESTH Index seeks to ensure the availability of safe, effective medicines, reinforcing India's commitment to pharmaceutical credibility and public health.



#### **PM Modi to Inaugurate ₹11,000-Crore Highway Projects in Delhi :-**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate two significant highway projects in Delhi, valued at approximately ₹11,000 crore, on August 17, 2025. The projects include the Delhi section of the Dwarka Expressway and the Alipur-Dichaon Kalan stretch of Urban Extension Road-II. These developments aim to decongest the capital, improve connectivity, and reduce travel time across the National Capital Region. The expressway will enhance industrial connectivity and boost economic activity in the area.



#### **Indian Ports Bill 2025 Passed by Rajya Sabha, Modernizing Maritime Sector :-**

The Rajya Sabha has passed the Indian Ports Bill, 2025, replacing the colonial-era Indian Ports Act of 1908. The new legislation aims to modernize India's maritime governance, improve Centre-State coordination, and create an investor-friendly framework to boost port-led growth. With this reform, India moves from a catch-up mode to global maritime leadership, reflecting the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to shed colonial legacies and align India with global standards. The bill provides for the creation of the Maritime State Development Council to coordinate between the Centre and coastal States and prepare a National Perspective Plan for integrated development.



#### **Lok Sabha Passes Jan Vishwas Bill 2025, Decriminalizing 288 Provisions :-**

The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025, was introduced in the Lok Sabha by Union Minister Piyush Goyal. The bill seeks to expand the government's reform agenda by decriminalizing 288 provisions across 16 Central Acts. The amendments aim to improve ease of doing business and promote ease of living by replacing imprisonment clauses with monetary penalties or advisory warnings. The bill reflects the government's vision of 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance' and is expected to contribute to sustainable economic growth while creating a more business-friendly environment. The bill will be referred to a Select Committee for further review.



### **Lok Sabha Passes IIM Amendment Bill for IIM Guwahati Recognition :-**

The Lok Sabha has passed the Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025, recognizing IIM Guwahati as an institute of national importance. The Bill provides a Rs 555 crore corpus over five years to ensure financial sustainability. IIM Guwahati will operate under IIM Ahmedabad's mentorship, beginning classes this year. This legislative move marks a significant milestone in expanding India's premier management education network, reinforcing the commitment to regional development and educational excellence.



### **Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill 2025 Passed to Boost Production :-**

The Rajya Sabha has passed the Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill, 2025, promoting sustainable mining and aligning with the National Critical Mineral Mission. The bill enhances transparency, allows mineral trading through exchanges, and facilitates the extraction of deep-seated minerals. These reforms are crucial for reducing import dependency and securing stable supplies amid global supply chain challenges, reinforcing India's strategic focus on mineral resource development.



### **INDIA Bloc VP Candidate B Sudershan Reddy Files Nomination :-**

B Sudershan Reddy, former Supreme Court Judge and INDIA bloc's Vice-Presidential nominee, filed his nomination in the presence of senior Congress leaders, including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. Reddy emphasized his commitment to constitutional values and parliamentary democracy. The election, scheduled for September 9, 2025, comes after the Vice President's post became vacant. Reddy's candidature is seen as a reaffirmation of the opposition's commitment to protect democratic institutions.



### **Supreme Court Modifies Stray Dog Policy in Delhi-NCR**

The Supreme Court of India has modified its earlier order mandating the confinement of stray dogs in shelters, now allowing their return to original habitats post-sterilization and vaccination, except for rabid or aggressive dogs. This decision aims to balance public safety with animal welfare. The court has directed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to establish dedicated feeding areas for strays. This ruling comes amid ongoing debates about humane treatment and management of stray dogs across the country.





### Key Projects in Kolkata Inaugurated :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated multiple infrastructure projects in Kolkata, including the extension of the Metro Rail network and the Kona Expressway. These developments aim to improve urban mobility and economic growth. The metro expansion adds 14 km of new lines and seven new stations, enhancing connectivity. The six-lane Kona Expressway will link the city more effectively with major routes, boosting trade and commerce.



### PM Modi Lays Foundation for Sardardham Kanya Chhatralaya :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for the Sardardham Phase-II Kanya Chhatralaya in Ahmedabad. The new hostel aims to empower young women through education, providing opportunities for self-reliance and nation-building. Modi highlighted initiatives in Gujarat to improve girls' education and condemned female foeticide. The project is part of broader efforts to enhance educational facilities and promote gender equality.



### Supreme Court Orders SIT Probe into Vantara Wildlife Centre Allegations :-

The Supreme Court has constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate allegations against the Vantara wildlife facility in Gujarat. The facility, supported by Reliance Industries, faces accusations of illegal wildlife transfers and violations of the Wildlife Protection Act. The SIT will examine animal acquisition processes, compliance with wildlife laws, and allegations of private collection misuse. The investigation underscores the importance of wildlife protection and regulatory compliance in conservation efforts. The findings, due by September 12, will be crucial in determining the facility's adherence to legal and ethical standards.



### Ayurveda Day to Be Observed Annually on September 23 :-

The Indian government announced that Ayurveda Day will now be celebrated annually on September 23. This change aims to provide a fixed date for global recognition of Ayurveda. The 2025 theme, 'Ayurveda for People Planet,' emphasizes the system's holistic approach to

health and environmental harmony. The initiative seeks to advance Ayurveda's global reach and impact.



### **Defence Minister Unveils Joint Doctrine for Multi Domain Operations and Technology Roadmap 2025 :-**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has released India's first Joint Doctrine for Multi Domain Operations (MDO) along with the Technology Perspective and Capability Roadmap 2025. The doctrine emphasizes integrating capabilities across land, air, sea, cyber, space, and the cognitive domain to prepare India for modern hybrid warfare. The roadmap outlines the adoption of artificial intelligence, drones, space assets, and advanced communication networks for future wars. This reflects a shift in India's defense policy from traditional combat readiness to technologically driven warfare.

preparedness, strengthening coordination among the Army, Navy, and Air Force.



### **Goldman Sachs Appointed as Transaction Advisor for Government's PSU Bank Stake Sale :-**

The Government of India has appointed Goldman Sachs as the sole transaction advisor for its plan to divest up to 5% stake in four public sector banks. This move is part of the larger disinvestment program aimed at generating revenue and increasing efficiency in the banking sector. By involving a global investment bank, the government seeks to ensure transparency and maximize returns from the stake sale. The decision also signals continued reforms in India's financial sector, aiming to reduce fiscal burden and promote privatization where feasible.

## **12: Obituaries**



### **Malayalam actor and mimicry star Kalabhavan Navas passes away at 51 :-**

Kalabhavan Navas, a prominent figure in Malayalam entertainment, has passed away at the age of 51. Known for his exceptional mimicry skills and comic timing, Navas began his career at the famed Kalabhavan troupe and later carved out a significant space in film and television. He was widely respected for his impersonations and contributions to stage shows and reality programs, becoming a beloved performer across Kerala. His death marks a major loss to the mimicry and comedy arts community, as he had played a crucial role in popularizing the genre during the 1990s and 2000s.





#### **Acclaimed academician Vasanthi Devi passes away at 87 :-**

Renowned academician and social reformer Dr. Vasanthi Devi has passed away at the age of 87, leaving behind a rich legacy in education and public service. A former Vice-Chancellor of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University in Tamil Nadu, she was known for her advocacy of women's education, progressive values, and inclusivity in academia. Dr. Devi also played an active role in social and political movements, especially those related to civil rights and democratic values. Over her decades-long career, she influenced both policy and public thought through her writings, lectures, and activism. Her passing has been widely mourned by the educational and intellectual community.



#### **Shibu Soren, former Jharkhand CM, passes away :-**

Shibu Soren, the former Chief Minister of Jharkhand and a towering figure in Indian tribal politics, has passed away at the age of 80. Born on January 11, 1945, in Nemra village of present-day Jharkhand (then Bihar), he dedicated his life to fighting for the rights and dignity of tribal communities. Soren entered politics in the 1960s after witnessing the exploitation of tribal laborers by

moneylenders and landlords in coal-rich areas. Over his long career, he served multiple terms as a Member of Parliament and as Jharkhand's Chief Minister.



#### **Satya Pal Malik, former Jammu and Kashmir Governor, passes away at 79 :-**

Satya Pal Malik, a senior Indian politician and former Governor of multiple states including Jammu and Kashmir, passed away at the age of 79. Born in 1946 in Uttar Pradesh, Malik began his political journey with the Bharatiya Kranti Dal before joining the Janata Dal and later the BJP. He held several key positions during his career, including MP, Rajya Sabha member, and Union Minister. He served as Governor of Bihar, Goa, and notably Jammu and Kashmir during the critical period leading to the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019. Known for his outspoken nature and independent views, Malik often made headlines for voicing concerns on public and farmer-related issues even after leaving office.



#### **Japan football legend Kunishige Kamamoto passes away aged 81 :-**

Kunishige Kamamoto, widely regarded as Japan's greatest footballer, has passed away at the age of 81 due

to pneumonia. Known for his exceptional scoring ability, he remains the all-time top goal scorer for the Japan national team, with 75 goals in 76 appearances. Kamamoto played a pivotal role in securing Japan's bronze medal at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics, where he was also the tournament's top scorer. Following his playing career, he contributed to the sport as a coach, football administrator, and even served in Japan's national legislature.



#### **Italian athlete Mattia Debertolis passes away at World Games in China :-**

Italian cyclist Mattia Debertolis tragically passed away while participating in the World Games 2025 held in Chengdu, China. Reports indicate that the 27-year-old athlete collapsed during a competition event, and despite immediate medical attention, could not be revived. Debertolis was a rising talent in European cycling circuits and had represented Italy in several international competitions. His sudden demise has shocked the global sporting community, prompting tributes from teammates, officials, and fans.



#### **Veteran actress Nazima, known for Arzoo, passes away at 77 :-**

Renowned yesteryear actress Nazima, best remembered for her roles in iconic Hindi films such as Arzoo (1965), has passed away at the age of 77. Nazima was a familiar face in Bollywood during the 1960s and 1970s, often portraying supporting yet impactful characters, especially as the heroine's friend or sister. Her gentle on-screen persona earned her the affectionate title of "Resident Sister" of Hindi cinema in that era. She worked alongside legendary actors and directors, leaving a lasting mark in the golden age of Indian films. The film fraternity has expressed deep grief over her loss.



#### **Vece Paes, Olympic bronze medallist, father of Leander Paes, passes away :-**

Dr. Vece Paes, a distinguished Indian sports personality, has passed away, leaving behind a legacy in both athletics and sports medicine. He was part of the Indian hockey team that won the bronze medal at the 1972 Munich Olympics, marking a proud chapter in the nation's sporting history. Beyond his achievements as a player, he contributed extensively to sports as a physiotherapist and trainer, working with various athletes to improve performance and recovery. As the father of tennis legend Leander Paes, he was a source of inspiration and guidance, shaping the values of discipline and sportsmanship in his son. His passing is mourned by the sports fraternity and fans alike.





### **Nagaland Governor and former BJP leader L. Ganesan passes away at 80 :-**

L. Ganesan, the Governor of Nagaland and a veteran BJP leader, passed away at the age of 80. Known for his long political career, Ganesan played a significant role in strengthening the BJP in Tamil Nadu and later served as Governor of several states, including Manipur and West Bengal in additional charge. His leadership was marked by a focus on organizational discipline and grassroots politics. His passing marks the end of a career dedicated to both governance and party-building, leaving behind a legacy of service in Indian politics and public administration.



### **Veteran Marathi Actress Jyoti Chandekar Passes Away At 68 :-**

Marathi cinema and theatre mourn the loss of veteran actress Jyoti Chandekar, who passed away at the age of 68. Over the years, she became a beloved figure through her memorable performances in Marathi films, television serials, and plays, carving out a special place in the hearts of audiences. Known for her strong screen presence and ability to portray diverse roles with depth and authenticity, she played significant characters that left

lasting impressions. Her demise has left a void in the regional film and theatre industry, with fans and colleagues paying tribute to her legacy.



### **British Actor Terence Stamp Passes Away at 87 :-**

Renowned British actor Terence Stamp died at 87 on August 18, 2025. With a career spanning six decades, Stamp was celebrated for roles in films like 'Billy Budd' and 'The Limey.' His portrayal of General Zod in 'Superman' remains iconic. Stamp's diverse roles showcased his versatility, earning accolades at Cannes and contributing significantly to cinema. His passing marks the end of an era in British film, leaving a lasting legacy for future generations of actors and filmmakers.



### **Veteran actor Achyut Potdar passes away at 91 :-**

Veteran film and television actor Achyut Potdar, known for his versatile performances in Hindi cinema, has passed away at the age of 91. A retired Indian Army officer and later an executive at Indian Oil Corporation, Potdar began his acting journey relatively late in life but went on to leave a remarkable mark in the industry. Over the decades, he appeared in more than 125 films and numerous television serials, often portraying supporting yet memorable roles. Some of his most notable

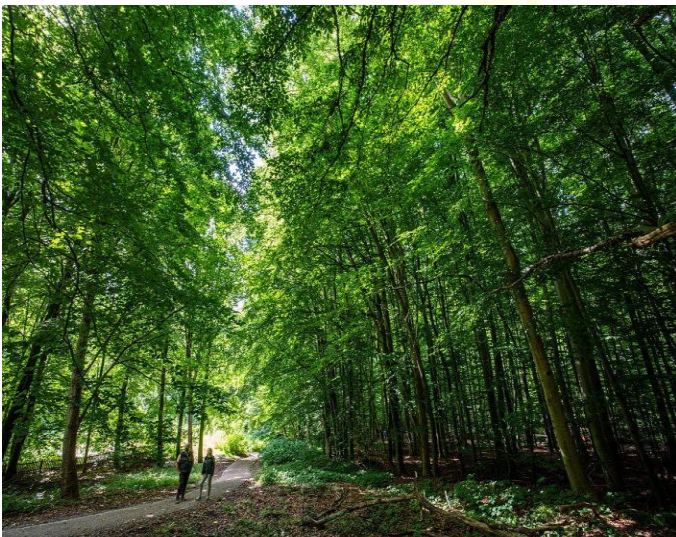
appearances were in films like 3 Idiots, Lage Raho Munna Bhai, Dabangg 2, and Chak De! India, where his natural style and grounded presence earned him widespread appreciation.



### Frank Caprio, beloved judge on Emmy-nominated 'Caught in Providence', passes away :-

Frank Caprio, the widely respected American judge who became a household name through the Emmy-nominated television show Caught in Providence, has passed away, leaving behind a legacy of compassion and fairness in the judicial system. Known for his kind-hearted judgments and ability to balance justice with empathy, Caprio earned global admiration as clips of his courtroom interactions went viral on social media. His unique style of blending law with humanity made him more than just a judge—he became a symbol of how compassion can positively impact lives.

## 13: Ranks & Reports



### EU Climate Goals Threatened by Ailing Forests, Scientists Warn :-

European forests, crucial for carbon absorption, are under threat from increased logging, wildfires, and pests. A study reveals a significant decline in CO2 absorption by forests, jeopardizing the EU's net-zero emissions target by 2050. The findings highlight the urgent need for sustainable forest management practices. The situation poses a challenge for EU governments negotiating new climate targets, emphasizing the complexity of balancing environmental and economic policies.



### DGCA Audit Highlights Findings Across Indian Airlines :-

The DGCA's latest audit report revealed operational and safety compliance findings among Indian airlines, with Alliance Air and Air India under scrutiny. The audit categorized findings into two severity levels, highlighting areas for improvement. The DGCA emphasized that these findings reflect the complexity of airline operations rather than safety lapses. The report underscores the importance of regulatory oversight in maintaining aviation safety standards.





### **Yamuna River Pollution Levels Remain Concerning Despite Progress :-**

The Ministry of Jal Shakti reported significant advancements in efforts to clean the Yamuna River in Delhi, but pollution levels continue to exceed permissible limits. The Central Pollution Control Board monitors key locations monthly, revealing that many sewage treatment plants are non-compliant. Despite infrastructure upgrades under the Namami Gange Programme, the river's water quality remains dire, with high Biochemical Oxygen Demand and Faecal Coliform levels. Continued efforts and stricter enforcement are essential to address this critical environmental issue.



### **India's GST Collections Rise 7.5% in July :-**

India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections increased by 7.5% in July, reaching Rs 1.96 lakh crore. This rise reflects strong economic activity, driven by higher revenue from domestic transactions and imports. Despite a slower growth pace compared to recent months, GST collections have remained robust, contributing to fiscal stability. The consistent performance underscores the resilience of India's economy and its ongoing recovery post-pandemic.



### **India's Economy Gains Momentum with Inflation Easing and Export Surge :-**

India's economy is witnessing robust growth as inflation eases and exports surge, strengthening its global trade position. CPI inflation dropped to 2.10% in June 2025, driven by lower food prices. Meanwhile, India's exports reached \$210.31 billion in the first quarter of FY 2025-26, reducing the trade deficit by 9.4%. Government initiatives like the Make in India program and infrastructure development are bolstering domestic manufacturing and export competitiveness, positioning India as a significant player in the global economy.



### **RBI Retains India's GDP Growth Forecast at 6.5% for FY 2025-26 :-**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has maintained its GDP growth forecast for India at 6.5% for the financial year 2025-26, citing strong rural demand and government infrastructure spending as key factors. RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra highlighted the positive impact of a favourable monsoon and lower inflation on the economy. Despite global uncertainties and geopolitical tensions, India's domestic growth remains stable,

supported by robust government capital expenditure and buoyant services and construction sectors.



#### **WHO Applauds India's Study on Nutrition's Impact on TB Outcomes :-**

The World Health Organization has recognized a study by the Indian Council of Medical Research on the role of nutrition in improving tuberculosis outcomes. Conducted in Jharkhand, the study provides evidence that enhanced nutrition can prevent TB cases and reduce mortality. WHO calls for increased research and innovation in the South-East Asia Region, which bears a high TB burden. The findings support global efforts to combat TB, emphasizing the need for new tools and equitable access to innovations to achieve the WHO's End TB Strategy goals.



#### **Goldman Sachs Cuts India's Growth Forecast on US Tariff Worries :-**

Goldman Sachs has revised India's GDP growth forecast downward for the fiscal year 2025-26, citing concerns over potential U.S. trade tariffs on developing nations, including India. The firm now predicts a growth rate slightly below its earlier estimate, highlighting that uncertainties in global trade, coupled with geopolitical

tensions and protectionist policies, could hamper India's export-driven sectors. The anticipated tariffs may particularly impact technology, textile, and pharmaceutical industries.



#### **World Food Prices Reach Two-Year High, Says FAO :-**

The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported a rise in global food commodity prices in July, reaching the highest level in over two years. The increase is driven by rising meat and vegetable oil prices, despite declines in cereal, dairy, and sugar prices. The FAO Food Price Index reflects ongoing market dynamics, including strong import demand and supply constraints. The data underscores the need for strategic food security measures in response to global price fluctuations.



#### **Union Minister Highlights Rising Lion Population in India :-**

India's Asiatic lion population has reached 891, marking a 32% increase since 2020. Union Environment Minister Bhopender Yadav attributed this success to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's conservation efforts. Celebrating World Lion Day, Yadav emphasized the importance of Project Lion in ensuring the species' survival. The initiative focuses on habitat expansion and



healthcare, reflecting India's commitment to wildlife conservation. The rise in lion numbers is seen as a significant achievement in global wildlife protection.



#### **Inflation Hits 98-Month Low, RBI Rate Cuts Unlikely :-**

India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation has reached a 98-month low of 1.55% in July, primarily due to a reduction in food inflation. Despite the decline, further rate cuts by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) this year appear unlikely, given the expected inflation rise to 2.3% in August. The report by State Bank of India highlights the challenges posed by export-oriented sectors and tariffs, which may impact revenue and margins. The bond yield has also risen, indicating market complexities despite low headline inflation.



#### **TRAI Introduces India's First Property Rating for Digital Connectivity :-**

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has launched a Manual for Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity, establishing a framework to assess buildings' digital readiness. With over 80% of mobile data consumed indoors, this initiative aims to ensure reliable digital access in homes and offices. The manual sets criteria for evaluating connectivity, including fiber readiness and broadband speeds. This move aligns with

India's Digital India vision, recognizing digital connectivity as essential for modern living. It encourages developers to integrate robust digital infrastructure from the design stage, enhancing user experience.



#### **S&P upgrades ratings of 10 financial institutions, including SBI, HDFC Bank :-**

Global ratings agency S&P has upgraded the ratings of ten Indian financial institutions, including major players like the State Bank of India (SBI) and HDFC Bank. The upgrade comes on the back of India's improved sovereign rating outlook, strong economic performance, and the resilience of its banking sector. Better capitalization, asset quality, and profitability of top banks have also contributed to this positive revision. The move is expected to boost investor confidence, improve access to international capital markets, and lower borrowing costs for these institutions, strengthening their ability to finance growth in India's economy.



#### **India Upgrades Sovereign Credit Rating to 'BBB' :-**

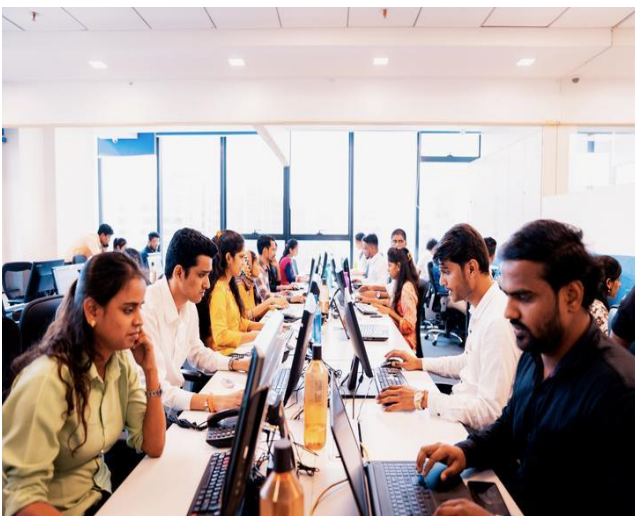
S Global has upgraded India's long-term sovereign credit rating to 'BBB' from 'BBB-' and the short-term rating to 'A-2' from 'A-3', citing strong economic fundamentals

and effective monetary policies. This marks the first upgrade since 2007 and reflects confidence in India's ability to sustain growth, manage inflation, and invest in infrastructure. The improved rating is expected to reduce borrowing costs and attract foreign capital, boosting infrastructure development and economic growth.



#### India Surpasses Japan in Solar Energy Production :-

India has overtaken Japan to become the third-largest solar panel producer, generating 108,494 GWh as per IRENA. This milestone reflects India's commitment to renewable energy, with a current capacity of 119.02 GW and a goal of 500 GW by 2030. Key initiatives like the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana and solar park developments underscore the country's strategic push towards sustainability. This achievement signifies India's growing leadership in clean energy, contributing to global climate goals and enhancing energy security.



#### Indian BPO Export Growth Outpaces IT Services :-

A report by Kotak Institutional Equities reveals that Indian BPO services' export growth has outpaced IT services, driven by global clients' focus on cost optimization. The BPO sector, contributing 20% of overall outsourced spends, has grown at a CAGR of 7.8% over FY2015-25. Indian BPO providers are gaining market share with leaner cost structures and outcome-based models. The report highlights opportunities in data annotation and generative AI, while also noting revenue deflation risks for larger incumbents. The trend is expected to sustain in FY2026, despite macroeconomic uncertainties affecting the broader IT sector.



#### US Tariffs on Indian Goods Expected to Impact American Economy :-

Recent US tariffs on Indian goods could reduce US GDP by 40-50 bps, according to SBI Research. These tariffs are expected to drive inflation above the 2% target until 2026. The move affects sectors like electronics and autos. The Federal Reserve is addressing these inflationary pressures, which are impacting US growth and causing concern among economists about consumer budget pressures.



## 14: Schemes & Committees



### Over ₹11 Lakh Crore Disbursed to Women SHGs: Shivraj Singh :-

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced that over ₹11 lakh crore has been disbursed to women self-help groups (SHGs) under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana. The initiative empowers rural women, fostering financial inclusion and self-reliance. With a repayment rate exceeding 98%, the program reflects the success of government efforts. Chouhan highlighted the role of 'Bank Sakhis' in facilitating financial literacy and enhancing SHG-bank linkages.



### Cabinet Approves ₹2,000 Crore Grant to NCDC for Cooperative Sector :-

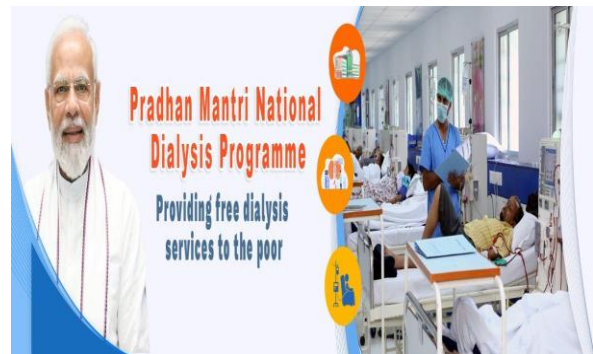
The Union Cabinet approved a ₹2,000 crore grant to the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) to bolster India's cooperative sector. This funding aims to enhance rural economies by supporting new projects, infrastructure expansion, and offering loans to cooperative societies. The initiative aligns with PM Modi's vision of 'Sahkar Se Samridhi', focusing on empowering women and generating employment. The

grant underscores the government's commitment to strengthening cooperatives, a vital component of India's socio-economic framework, particularly in rural areas.



### Cabinet Clears ₹6,520 Crore Outlay for PM Kisan Sampada Yojana :-

The Union Cabinet approved a ₹6,520 crore outlay for the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana, supporting food processing infrastructure through FY26. The funding includes setting up 50 Multi-Product Food Irradiation Units and 100 Food Testing Laboratories. These initiatives aim to extend the shelf life of agricultural produce and ensure food safety. The scheme reflects the government's commitment to enhancing the food processing sector, reducing post-harvest losses, and supporting farmers in achieving better market prices.



### PM National Dialysis Programme Expands to 751 Districts :-

The Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme (PMNDP) has expanded to 751 districts across India, covering all 36 States and Union Territories. The initiative provides free dialysis services to patients with end-stage

kidney failure. Under the National Health Mission, the programme enhances access to kidney care, particularly in remote and tribal regions. This expansion demonstrates the government's commitment to equitable healthcare access and improving public health infrastructure.



#### **Hamara Samvidhan – Hamara Swabhiman Campaign Celebrates 75 Years of Indian Constitution :-**

The Ministry of Culture launched the 'Hamara Samvidhan – Hamara Swabhiman' campaign to commemorate 75 years of the Indian Constitution. The year-long initiative has seen over 13,700 events and participation from more than one crore citizens. The campaign aims to reinforce the Constitution's significance, foster national pride, and enhance public awareness about its principles. This initiative aligns with India's democratic values and celebrates the Constitution's enduring legacy in shaping the nation's governance and identity.



#### **Know Your Weaves Campaign Promotes India's Textile Heritage :-**

The Ministry of Textiles launched the 'Know Your Weaves' campaign ahead of National Handloom Day, promoting awareness of India's diverse handloom traditions. The week-long initiative features exhibitions,

workshops, and educational sessions, showcasing traditional weaves like Banarasi and Kanjeevaram. The campaign aims to preserve and celebrate India's rich textile heritage, encouraging public engagement and fostering pride in indigenous craftsmanship. This effort highlights the cultural and economic significance of the handloom sector in India's identity and development.



#### **ICMR Launches SHINE Initiative to Inspire Young Health Innovators :-**

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has launched the ICMR-SHINE Initiative, a nationwide program aimed at fostering scientific curiosity and innovation among students from Classes 9 to 12. Scheduled for August 8, 2025, the initiative aligns with Prime Minister Modi's vision of nurturing future scientific leaders. The program involves interactive educational activities across all ICMR institutes, commemorating the birth anniversary of Prof. V. Ramalingaswami, a pioneer in Indian medical research. ICMR-SHINE aims to inspire the next generation of health researchers and reinforce India's leadership in health innovation.



#### **Centre Withdraws Income-Tax Bill, 2025 for Amended Legislation :-**



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman withdrew the Income-Tax Bill, 2025, in response to recommendations from a Select Committee chaired by BJP MP Baijayant Panda. The committee's 4,584-page report suggested 566 amendments to simplify the Income Tax Act, 1961, ensuring clarity and reducing disputes. Key recommendations include aligning definitions for micro and small enterprises and addressing taxation rules for non-profits. This move aims to offer relief to taxpayers and streamline the tax framework in line with evolving economic conditions.



#### **Cabinet Approves ₹6,520 Crore for Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana :-**

The Union Cabinet approved a ₹6,520 crore budget for the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY), including an additional ₹1,920 crore. Since its launch, PMKSY has facilitated over 1,601 projects, enhancing food processing infrastructure and reducing post-harvest losses. With a focus on farm-to-market connectivity, the scheme aims to double farmers' income and promote sustainable agricultural practices. The initiative supports economic growth and job creation in rural areas, contributing to India's agricultural development.



#### **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)**

#### **72.22 Lakh Pregnant Women Registered Under Mission Poshan 2.0 :-**

Mission Poshan 2.0 has registered over 72.22 lakh pregnant women as beneficiaries, enhancing maternal health and nutrition across India. The initiative forms part of the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, which extends maternity benefits to vulnerable groups. Key programs under the National Health Mission, such as Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan and Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram, ensure quality healthcare and support for pregnant women. The mission underscores the government's focus on improving maternal and child health outcomes.



#### **Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan Celebrates Five Years of Success :-**

The Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) marks its fifth anniversary with a special event in New Delhi, celebrating achievements in reducing substance abuse. The campaign has sensitized over 18 crore people, including 6 crore youth, through educational initiatives and collaborations with spiritual organizations. NMBA continues to engage communities in the fight against addiction, emphasizing preventive measures and rehabilitation. The event highlights the campaign's impact on creating a drug-free society.



### Aunta–Simaria Ganga Bridge to Boost Connectivity in Bihar :-

The Aunta–Simaria Ganga Bridge, a six-lane structure in Bihar, is set to be inaugurated by PM Modi. Spanning 1.865 km, it connects Mokarma and Begusarai, offering an alternative to the Rajendra Setu. The bridge will enhance connectivity, reduce travel time, and support regional economic growth. Its construction faced challenges due to flooding, highlighting engineering resilience. The project exemplifies commitment to infrastructure development in India.



### Centre Allocates Over ₹284 Crore to Strengthen Rural Local Bodies :-

The Indian government has released more than ₹284 crore to support rural local bodies in Mizoram, Odisha, and Tripura under the 15th Finance Commission Untied Grants. These funds aim to enhance local governance and infrastructure development, excluding salaries and establishment costs. The grants will be utilized for basic

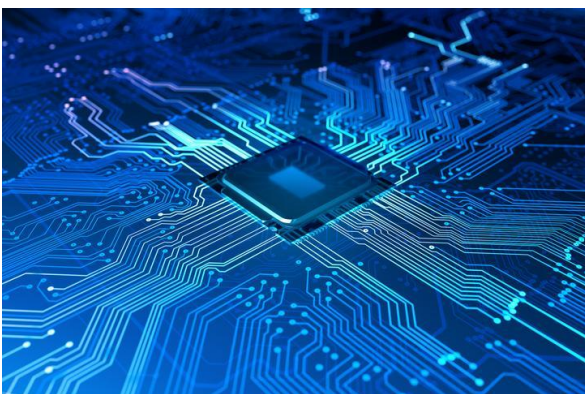
services like sanitation and drinking water supply. This funding initiative underscores the government's commitment to empowering rural communities and improving the quality of life through strategic investments in local development projects.



### Bihar Launches Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana :-

Bihar's government has introduced the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana to enhance women's employment. The scheme, approved by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, provides ₹10,000 to one woman from each family to initiate an employment project. Following six months of work, additional support of up to ₹2 lakh may be granted based on performance. The initiative is expected to generate substantial employment, improve living standards, and curb out-migration. The program complements previous efforts, such as job reservations for women and strengthening Jeevika groups, further empowering women in Bihar.

## 15: Science & Technology



### India Sanctions 23 Chip-Design Projects to Boost Semiconductor Innovation :-

The Indian government has approved 23 chip-design projects under the Design Linked Incentive Scheme, aiming to enhance semiconductor design capabilities. These projects will receive financial support to develop solutions for surveillance, microprocessors, and networking. The initiative is part of the broader ₹76,000 crore 'Semicon India Programme'. The scheme encourages innovation by offering reimbursement and



incentives for project costs and commercialization efforts. Since its launch, 278 academic institutions and 72 startups have participated.



#### **SpaceX Launches Crew-11 Mission to ISS with International Astronauts :-**

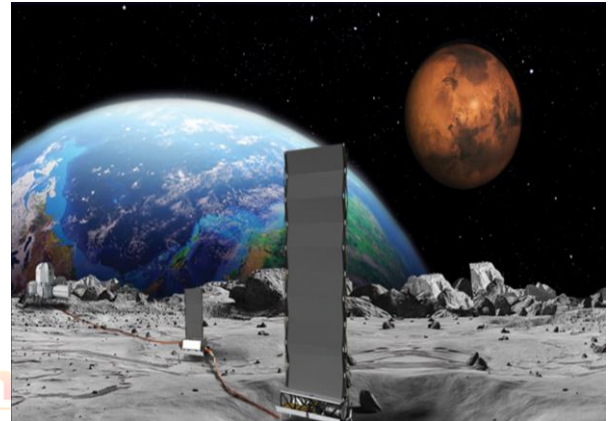
SpaceX successfully launched an international crew of four astronauts aboard the Crew-11 mission to the International Space Station. The crew includes NASA astronauts Zena Cardman and Michael Fincke, Russian cosmonaut Oleg Platonov, and Japanese astronaut Kimiya Yui. This mission may be the first to extend the crew's stay to eight months to better align schedules with Russia. The launch highlights ongoing international cooperation in space exploration, despite geopolitical tensions. The mission aims to further scientific research and enhance collaboration among nations in space endeavors.



#### **PM Modi Praises India's First Green Hydrogen Plant at Kandla Port :-**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the commissioning of India's first green hydrogen plant in the

port sector at Kandla, Gujarat. The facility, developed by the Deendayal Port Authority, represents a major step towards India's Net-Zero emissions target. Inaugurated by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, the plant underscores Gujarat's role in renewable energy. This initiative aligns with India's broader strategy to promote sustainable infrastructure and indigenous technology in achieving environmental goals.



#### **Nasa to build nuclear reactor on the Moon by 2030 :-**

NASA has announced ambitious plans to construct a nuclear fission power system on the Moon by the year 2030, marking a significant step in sustained lunar exploration and habitation. The project is part of the Artemis program, which aims to establish a long-term human presence on the Moon and eventually prepare for missions to Mars. The space agency is collaborating with the U.S. Department of Energy and private partners to develop this compact, reliable reactor capable of operating in harsh lunar environments. Unlike solar panels, a nuclear system can provide continuous power during the Moon's 14-day-long nights.



### National Seismological Network Expands to 168 Observatories :-

India's National Centre for Seismology has expanded its network to 168 seismic observatories, enhancing the country's earthquake monitoring capabilities. This expansion, facilitated by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, aims to provide real-time data reporting and improve seismic microzonation efforts across various cities. The initiative is part of a broader strategy to enhance disaster preparedness and ensure timely response to seismic activities. The network's growth underscores the importance of scientific infrastructure in mitigating natural disaster risks.



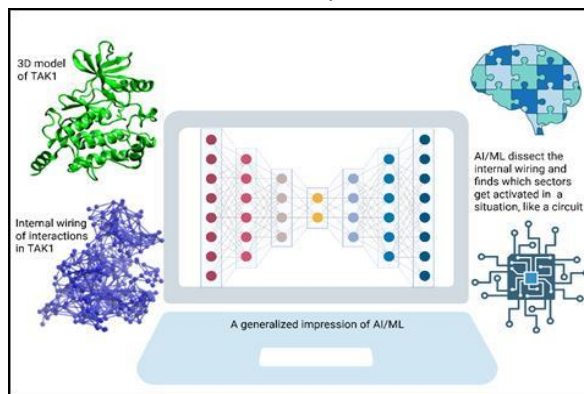
### China completes landing and takeoff test for crewed moon lander :-

China has successfully conducted a crucial landing and takeoff test for its crewed lunar lander "Lanyue", marking a significant milestone in its space ambitions. The test was part of preparations for a future manned lunar mission expected in the early 2030s. The prototype module underwent autonomous landing and vertical takeoff at a simulated moon-like environment within a testing facility. This development signals China's increasing technological readiness to join the ranks of nations capable of human moon landings, following the U.S. and former USSR.



### Delhi Assembly Becomes India's First Legislature to Run Entirely on Solar Power :-

The Delhi Legislative Assembly has achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first legislative building in India to operate entirely on solar energy. The transformation includes the installation of rooftop solar panels with a generation capacity sufficient to meet the assembly's entire electricity demand. This initiative supports the capital's broader push toward renewable energy and climate resilience. The move is expected to reduce the assembly's carbon footprint significantly and serve as a model for other public institutions.



### Bose Institute Discovers 'Pseudo-Intelligence' in Immune Protein :-

Researchers at the Bose Institute discovered that the TAK1 kinase protein, crucial for immune response, exhibits intelligence-like behavior. This protein's intricate atomic interactions allow it to process signals contextually. The study combines biochemistry and machine learning, extending the understanding of molecular behavior. TAK1's ability to sense modifications and trigger responses makes it a potential target for drug



development, offering new therapeutic avenues and deepening insights into protein functions.



### Scientists Discover Ancient Wallacean Hominid Artefacts in Indonesia :-

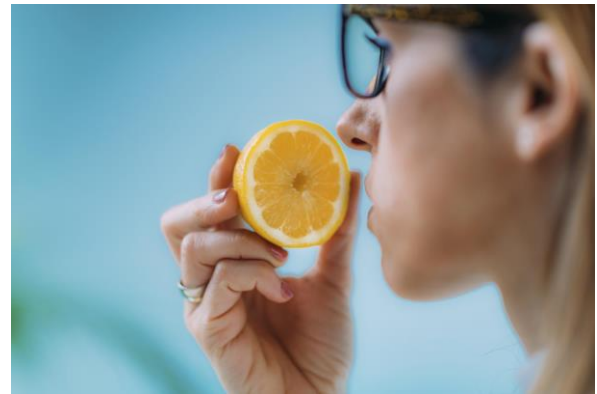
Archaeologists have uncovered stone tools in Sulawesi, Indonesia, suggesting human presence in the Wallacea region 1.5 million years ago. This discovery challenges previous theories of early human migration, indicating that Homo Erectus may have reached Sulawesi much earlier than believed. The artefacts, dated using radioactive tracing, provide new insights into prehistoric human dispersal across islands between Asia and Australia. This finding could reshape our understanding of ancient human migration patterns and capabilities.



### China Hosts 'Robot Olympics' Showcasing AI and Robotics Advances :-

China hosted the World Humanoid Robot Games, featuring 280 teams from 16 countries competing in sports and robot-specific challenges. The event highlighted China's advances in AI and robotics, with robots tackling tasks from sports to material handling. The games provide valuable data for developing practical robotic applications, reflecting China's investment in

robotics amid global tech competition. The event underscores China's commitment to leading in AI and robotics as it grapples with an ageing population and technological rivalry.



### Study Links Loss of Smell to Early Alzheimer's Detection

New research from DZNE and LMU in Germany suggests that the brain's immune response may explain why a fading sense of smell is an early indicator of Alzheimer's disease. The study found that immune cells attack neuronal fibers linked to odor perception. These insights could help develop methods for early diagnosis and intervention, potentially allowing for comprehensive testing before cognitive decline begins.



### Dubai International Airport Launches AI-Powered Immigration Corridor :-

Dubai International Airport has unveiled an AI-powered passenger corridor that allows travellers to clear immigration in seconds without presenting documents. This innovative system represents a major advancement in smart travel technology, combining speed, security, and convenience. The AI corridor enables up to 10 passengers to pass through simultaneously using facial

recognition and pre-registered biometric data. Initially rolled out in Terminal 3's First and Business Class lounges, this initiative is part of Dubai's vision of a frictionless travel experience. The AI corridor sets a new global benchmark for biometric border systems, positioning Dubai as a leader in smart travel innovation.



#### **Rapid Antarctic Ice Loss May Be Climate Tipping Point: Scientists :-**

A study in Nature highlights rapid changes in the Antarctic environment due to global warming, warning of a tipping point in Earth's climate system. Researchers found a significant decline in sea-ice extent, exacerbating global warming by reducing the planet's ability to reflect solar radiation. The changes threaten local wildlife, including emperor penguins and krill, and may weaken the Antarctic Overturning Circulation, affecting global weather patterns. The study underscores the need to curtail carbon emissions to mitigate further irreversible impacts.



#### **OpenAI to Open First India Office Supporting IndiaAI Mission :-**

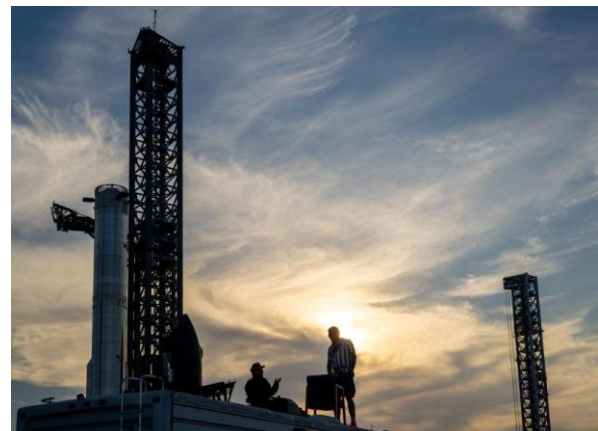
OpenAI, the creator of ChatGPT, has announced plans to establish its first office in India, reflecting its

commitment to the IndiaAI mission. This move is set to enhance collaboration with the Indian government and support the growing AI ecosystem in the country. OpenAI aims to leverage India's tech talent and developer community to advance AI innovation, with the office expected to bolster OpenAI's services to its significant user base in India, including educators, developers, and professionals.



#### **ISRO Completes Successful Air Drop Test for Gaganyaan Mission :-**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has conducted a successful Integrated Air Drop Test for the Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission. The test at Satish Dhawan Space Centre demonstrated the parachute-based deceleration system crucial for safe crew module landing. The collaboration involved the Indian Air Force, DRDO, Navy, and Coast Guard, marking a significant step toward India's first manned space mission.



#### **SpaceX Postpones Starship Launch Due to Weather Conditions :-**

SpaceX has delayed the 10th launch of its Starship rocket due to unfavorable weather conditions in Texas. The launch, crucial for SpaceX's Mars mission plans, aims to



test the reusable design of the Starship system. Despite technical setbacks, SpaceX continues to advance its development efforts, with the goal of utilizing the rocket for NASA's moon missions and the Starlink satellite

internet business. The delay underscores the challenges of space exploration and the importance of addressing technical and environmental factors in achieving successful launches.

## 16: Sports



### India Champions Forfeit WCL Semifinal Against Pakistan Amid Tensions :-

The World Championship of Legends semifinal between India and Pakistan was canceled after India refused to play, citing public sentiment following a terror attack. The decision follows India's earlier forfeit in the group stage. Public anger over the Pahalgam attack has heightened calls to sever sporting ties with Pakistan. The WCL organizers respected both teams' positions, advancing Pakistan to the final. The incident underscores the geopolitical tensions impacting sports diplomacy.



### Magnus Carlsen Wins First-Ever Chess Esports World Cup :-

World chess champion Magnus Carlsen has added another title to his illustrious career by winning the inaugural Chess Esports World Cup. This event blended traditional chess with modern digital competition formats, showcasing how esports and classical board games can converge. Carlsen's victory underscores his adaptability beyond classical and rapid formats, solidifying his dominance even in online, fast-paced arenas. The tournament featured global players and was streamed to massive online audiences, highlighting the growing popularity of chess as a spectator e-sport.



### South Africa crush Pakistan to win WCL 2025 title :-

South Africa has decisively defeated Pakistan to clinch the 2025 World Cricket League (WCL) title, marking a major triumph for the team in the international cricketing landscape. The victory not only highlights South Africa's dominance throughout the tournament but also underscores the team's strategic excellence, balanced squad performance, and high-impact gameplay. Their commanding win in the final signals a resurgence of South African cricket on the global stage. For Pakistan, the loss represents a significant setback after a strong run, raising questions about consistency and execution in high-pressure matches.



### Special Olympics Bharat Launches Initiative for Sports Dentistry :-

Special Olympics Bharat has signed a 10-year memorandum of understanding with the Indian Dental Association (IDA) and the Indian Academy of Sports Dentistry (IASD) to enhance oral health and sports safety for athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This agreement aims to provide advocacy, awareness, and training to dental professionals, ensuring quality healthcare for athletes with disabilities. The partnership will also foster research and innovation in sports dentistry through initiatives like 'Krida Danta Suraksha'. This collaboration marks a significant step toward inclusive care and sports readiness.



### Yu Zidi: China's 12-Year-Old Swimming Prodigy Raises Concerns :-

China's 12-year-old swimming sensation, Yu Zidi, has made history as the youngest medallist at the World Championships. While her talent is undeniable, her young age has sparked debate about the ethics of such early exposure to elite competition. Experts caution about the physical and emotional toll on young athletes, highlighting the need for safeguarding protocols. The global swimming body is reviewing age regulations to

ensure the wellbeing of young athletes like Yu, who has achieved remarkable success in her short career.



### PSG Triumphs Over Tottenham to Win UEFA Super Cup

Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) emerged victorious against Tottenham Hotspur, winning the UEFA Super Cup after a thrilling penalty shootout. Tottenham initially led with goals from Micky van de Ven and Cristian Romero, but PSG leveled the score with late goals from Kang-in Lee and Goncalo Ramos. In the penalty shootout, Nuno Mendes scored the decisive goal for PSG. The win marks a successful start to the season for PSG, highlighting their resilience and competitive edge. The match serves as a reminder of the unpredictable and exciting nature of football.



### Venus Williams to Compete as Oldest US Open Singles Player :-

Venus Williams, a two-time U.S. Open singles champion, has received a wildcard entry for this year's tournament, making her the oldest singles competitor since 1981 at the age of 45. Williams, who returned to competitive tennis after a 16-month hiatus, will also participate in the newly formatted mixed doubles event with Reilly Opelka. This marks a significant milestone in her illustrious



career, showcasing her resilience and passion for the sport. Alongside her, other notable wildcards include France's Caroline Garcia, indicating a diverse and competitive field at this year's U.S. Open.



#### **Himalayan Kingfisher Unveiled as Mascot for Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025 in Srinagar :-**

The Himalayan Kingfisher has been unveiled as the official mascot for the Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025, which will be held in Srinagar, Jammu Kashmir. The bird symbolizes agility, vibrancy, and the rich biodiversity of the Himalayan region, aligning with the spirit of water-based sports. The mascot is expected to boost excitement for the event, promote environmental awareness, and encourage participation in water sports while showcasing the scenic beauty and cultural heritage of the Kashmir Valley on a national platform.



#### **St. Louis Rapid and Blitz chess: Levon Aronian wins title; Gukesh ends tied sixth :-**

In the St. Louis Rapid and Blitz chess tournament, Armenian-American grandmaster Levon Aronian clinched the title after an impressive performance in both formats. Aronian, known for his aggressive style and deep strategic play, secured consistent wins that placed

him ahead of competitors in a strong international field. India's rising star D. Gukesh, despite being in excellent form recently, finished tied for sixth place after facing tough competition. The event, part of the Grand Chess Tour, highlighted the mix of experienced champions and young prodigies shaping the future of world chess.



#### **WTT Feeder Vientiane 2025: Sathiyam Gnanasekaran beats top seed to win men's singles title :-**

Indian table tennis star Sathiyam Gnanasekaran created history by winning the men's singles title at the WTT Feeder Vientiane 2025, defeating the tournament's top seed in the final. Sathiyam displayed remarkable precision, speed, and tactical brilliance throughout the event, marking one of his biggest international victories in recent years. This win not only boosts his global ranking but also strengthens India's standing in world table tennis. His performance will inspire younger players and demonstrates the growing competitiveness of Indian athletes in global sporting events once dominated by East Asian nations.



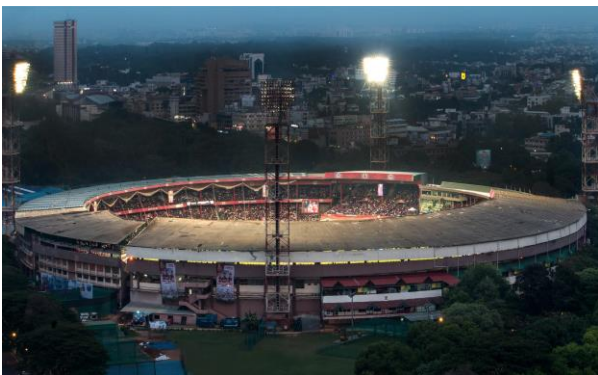
#### **Dal Lake to Host First-Ever Khelo India Water Sports Festival :-**

Dal Lake in Srinagar, Kashmir, will host the inaugural Khelo India Water Sports Festival from August 21-23, 2025, featuring over 400 athletes from across India. The event includes competitions in rowing, canoeing, and kayaking, alongside demonstration events like water skiing and dragon boat racing. Organized by the Sports Authority of India and Jammu Kashmir Sports Council, the festival aims to promote grassroots sports and boost local livelihoods. The festival is part of initiatives to establish Jammu Kashmir as a premier destination for water sports.



#### **Errani and Vavassori Retain US Open Mixed Doubles Title :-**

Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori of Italy defended their US Open mixed doubles title, defeating Iga Swiatek and Casper Ruud 6-3, 5-7, 10-6. The match, featuring top singles players, was part of a revamped format attracting significant attention. The victory highlights the duo's experience and adaptability in high-pressure situations. The event's success underscores growing interest in mixed doubles, combining star power with competitive play.



#### **ICC Relocates Women's World Cup Matches Due to Safety Concerns :-**

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the relocation of five Women's ODI World Cup matches from Bengaluru to Navi Mumbai due to safety concerns. The decision follows a stampede incident at Chinnaswamy stadium, prompting a government review of stadium safety. The relocation aims to ensure player and spectator safety during the tournament, emphasizing the importance of secure sporting venues.



#### **Lionel Messi to Lead Argentina in FIFA Friendly in India**

Global football icon Lionel Messi and the reigning FIFA World Cup champions Argentina are set to play a friendly match in Kerala this November. The match marks the first-ever visit of Messi and his World Cup-winning teammates to India, sparking excitement among football fans across the country. The Kerala Football Association and the All India Football Federation are finalizing logistics for the match, which is part of Argentina's preparation schedule for the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers. Messi's arrival is expected to boost Kerala's international profile and attract fans from around the globe.



#### **BCCI Seeks New Title Sponsor After Dream11 Contract Ends :-**



The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is in search of a new title sponsor following the end of its association with Dream11. The fantasy sports company had a three-year deal worth ₹358 crore starting July 2023. However, the recent passage of the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill 2025 has led Dream11 to suspend money-based gaming contests, affecting its contract with the BCCI. With the Men's T20 Asia Cup approaching, the BCCI is deliberating on alternative sponsorship arrangements.



#### **Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025 Highlights Emerging Talent :-**

The Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025 concluded in Srinagar, showcasing India's growing talent in water sports disciplines like kayaking, canoeing, and rowing. The festival provided a platform for athletes to gain exposure and training ahead of the Los Angeles Olympics 2028. States like Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Kerala performed exceptionally well, demonstrating the potential for India to achieve success in international competitions. The event is part of the Khelo India mission to nurture grassroots sports talent and promote a culture of fitness and sportsmanship across the nation.



#### **India to Celebrate National Sports Day 2025 with Fitness Campaign :-**

India will observe National Sports Day 2025 with a three-day fitness campaign under the Fit India Mission, led by Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. The celebration will honor hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand and promote physical activity across the nation. The event aims to encourage citizens to dedicate at least 60 minutes to fitness activities daily. With participation from various stakeholders, the campaign underscores the importance of sports and fitness in combating lifestyle diseases and fostering a healthier society.



#### **India to Host FIDE World Cup 2025, Boosting Chess Popularity :-**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed pride as India is set to host the FIDE World Cup 2025 after two decades. The event is significant in the chess calendar, attracting elite players worldwide. India's chess stature has grown, producing top-ranking players. The tournament is expected to enhance chess interest among Indian youth and affirm India's position in the global chess community.



**Neeraj Chopra Runner-Up in Diamond League Final :-**

Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra secured second place in the Diamond League final with an 85.01m throw. German athlete Julian Weber won with a 91.51m throw. Despite not defending his title, Chopra remains a

consistent performer, having set a national record of 90.25m earlier this year. His performance keeps him a formidable contender ahead of the upcoming World Championships in Tokyo, showcasing his enduring prowess in the sport.

## 17: State

**Bihar Government Doubles Honorarium for Education Support Staff :-**

Ahead of the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced a significant increase in honorarium for government school staff. Cooks under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme will see their pay rise from Rs 1,650 to Rs 3,300, while night watchmen and health instructors also receive substantial hikes. This move aims to boost morale and dedication among support staff, reflecting the government's commitment to strengthening the education sector. The initiative highlights the importance of compensating ground-level workers in shaping a robust educational framework.

**Flood Threat in Rajasthan's Dholpur as Chambal River Swells :-**

A flood threat looms over Dholpur, Rajasthan, as heavy rainfall leads to a significant rise in the Chambal River's water level, surpassing the danger mark. The district administration has sought Army assistance for relief efforts, with floodwaters entering several villages. Government officials' leaves have been canceled to coordinate emergency responses. The situation highlights the challenges posed by extreme weather events, emphasizing the importance of disaster preparedness and resilient infrastructure to mitigate the impact on affected communities.

**Himachal Pradesh Faces Severe Monsoon Impact :-**

Himachal Pradesh continues to suffer from monsoon-induced disruptions, with a rising death toll and significant infrastructure damage. The State Disaster Management Authority reports 179 fatalities since June 20, with landslides and flash floods causing widespread destruction. Over 296 roads are impassable, and essential services like power and water supply are severely affected. Continuous rainfall hampers relief efforts, with unstable terrain posing additional challenges. Residents are advised to remain vigilant as more rain is expected in the coming days.





### Ashwini Vaishnaw Flags Off New Express Trains from Bhavnagar :-

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated the Bhavnagar-Ayodhya Express, connecting cultural and trade hubs. Alongside, the Rewa-Pune and Jabalpur-Raipur Express trains were also flagged off, enhancing connectivity and promoting regional development. Vaishnaw highlighted the transformative progress in Indian Railways, with new tracks and modernized stations. This initiative aligns with India's broader infrastructural growth, aiming to boost tourism and economic opportunities in connected regions.



### Uttar Pradesh Schools Closed as Heavy Rainfall Triggers Flood Alerts :-

In response to heavy rainfall, all schools in Lucknow are closed, with flood alerts issued in multiple districts. Rising river levels have led to flooding in areas like Ayodhya and Varanasi, disrupting daily life and halting boat services. CM Yogi Adityanath directed relief efforts, emphasizing swift and sensitive crisis management. An 11-member ministerial team oversees relief operations, ensuring timely assistance and monitoring of

embankments. The IMD forecasts continued heavy rains in Uttar Pradesh.



### Chhattisgarh Emerges as Major Ni-Cu-PGE Mineral Belt with Breakthrough Discovery in Mahasamund :-

Chhattisgarh has emerged as a potential hub for mining nickel (Ni), copper (Cu), and platinum group elements (PGE) following a significant geological discovery in Mahasamund district. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) conducted exploratory surveys that confirmed the presence of these high-value minerals, crucial for sectors like electric vehicles, electronics, and renewable energy. This discovery is expected to boost India's self-reliance in critical mineral resources and attract major investments in the state.



### Punjab Becomes First State To Empanel Sign Language Experts Under Juvenile Justice Act :-

Punjab has become the first Indian state to formally empanel sign language interpreters under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act. This progressive step ensures that hearing- and speech-impaired children involved in legal or rehabilitative proceedings receive appropriate communication

support. The initiative aims to uphold the rights of differently-abled minors and promote inclusivity in the juvenile justice system. By enabling better access to justice and welfare services for disabled children, Punjab has set a precedent for other states to adopt more accessible, sensitive, and rights-based approaches in dealing with children requiring special support.



#### **Cabinet Approves ₹4,250 Crore Development Push for Assam, Tripura :-**

The Union Cabinet approved new components under the Special Development Packages for Assam and Tripura with a ₹4,250 crore allocation. These packages aim to enhance infrastructure, livelihood opportunities, and regional stability. In Assam, funds will support Adivasi-inhabited villages and the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council. In Tripura, ₹250 crore is allocated for tribal community welfare. This initiative aligns with Memoranda of Settlement signed with ethnic groups, fostering socio-economic growth and peace in the region.

#### **5. Marakkanam – Puducherry 4-lane highway (Rs 2,157 Cr)**



#### **Cabinet Approves Marakkanam–Puducherry Highway Project :-**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the construction of a four-lane highway between

Marakkanam and Puducherry in Tamil Nadu, with an estimated cost of ₹2,157 crore. The project, part of the Chennai–Puducherry–Nagapattinam Economic Corridor, aims to decongest current road networks and enhance connectivity. The development is expected to boost regional economic activity, improve road safety, and facilitate smoother movement of goods and passengers. This infrastructure initiative underscores the government's focus on improving national transport networks.



#### **Kalahandi's Model of Tribal-Led Development :-**

Kalahandi district in Odisha has transformed from an underdeveloped region to a hub of inclusive development, driven by Vedanta's initiatives. The district's GDP growth outpaces Odisha's average, reflecting successful industrialization and community-rooted interventions. Kalahandi's comprehensive progress across health, education, and livelihoods serves as a benchmark for tribal-led development. The transformation highlights the potential of participatory development models in marginalized regions, offering a roadmap for similar districts across India.





### PM Modi Flags Off Three Vande Bharat Trains in Bengaluru :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated three Vande Bharat Express trains, enhancing connectivity across key regions in India. The new services, including the Bengaluru–Belagavi route, aim to facilitate faster travel and boost regional trade and tourism. He also inaugurated Bengaluru's Yellow Line Metro, connecting key areas of the city. Modi emphasized the role of modern rail infrastructure in India's economic growth, highlighting the government's commitment to improving transport efficiency. The initiative aligns with broader efforts to expand India's high-speed rail network, supporting national development goals.



### UP Assembly Holds Historic 24-Hour Debate on 'Vision 2047' :-

The Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly is conducting a 24-hour debate focused on the 'Vision Document 2047'. This historic session aims to outline the state's roadmap for development, covering economic growth, social justice, and infrastructure. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and senior ministers are leading discussions, emphasizing Uttar Pradesh's goal to become India's most developed state by 2047. The debate reflects the government's commitment to transparency and public engagement in shaping the state's future, with a focus on achieving significant progress in various sectors.



### Haryana Opens All Gates of Hathinikund Barrage Amid Rising Yamuna Levels :-

On August 18, 2025, all 18 gates of the Hathinikund Barrage in Haryana were opened due to rising Yamuna River levels, marking the season's highest inflow of 1.78 lakh cusecs. The action follows heavy rainfall and IMD alerts for thunderstorms and rain in Haryana and Punjab. This development underscores the critical importance of river management and flood preparedness in safeguarding communities and infrastructure. Authorities remain vigilant as heavy rains continue to impact the region.



### Apple to Open Third India Retail Store in Bengaluru :-

Apple announced the opening of its third retail store in India, located in Bengaluru's Phoenix Mall of Asia, on September 2, 2025. This expansion marks a significant step in Apple's strategy to deepen its presence in India. The store will offer Apple's full product lineup and expert support, enhancing customer experience. The move aligns with Apple's focus on India as a critical market for growth in manufacturing and retail.



### Rajasthan Implements Supreme Court Order on Stray Dogs :-

Rajasthan becomes the first state to implement the Supreme Court's directive on stray dogs, mandating the Stray Animal Birth Control Rules 2023. Municipal bodies are tasked with marking feeding points and ensuring rabies management. The initiative aims to balance public safety with animal welfare, involving sterilization and vaccination centers. The state emphasizes transparency and accountability, with compliance reports required from municipal bodies.



### Himachal Pradesh Monsoon Toll Rises Amidst Infrastructure Damage :-

Himachal Pradesh reports 310 deaths this monsoon season, with significant infrastructure damage. Landslides and flash floods have disrupted road connectivity, with over 670 roads blocked. The State Disaster Management Authority urges residents to remain alert. Efforts continue to restore essential services amidst ongoing heavy rainfall and challenging conditions.



### Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show (UPITS) 2025 to Highlight State's Economic Clout :-

Uttar Pradesh is preparing to showcase its industrial and cultural strengths through the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show (UPITS) 2025. The event will focus on the state's MSME sector, the "One District One Product" (ODOP) initiative, women entrepreneurship, and major infrastructure projects such as the Ganga Expressway and the Defence Industrial Corridor. It aims to attract foreign investors while also highlighting digital innovation and sustainable development. This initiative reflects UP's growing role as one of India's fastest-growing state economies, with ambitions to contribute significantly to the national GDP and job creation.



### Uttarakhand Hit by Cloudbursts; Rescue Operations Ongoing :-

Cloudbursts in Rudrapur and Chamoli districts of Uttarakhand have trapped several families and raised the water levels of local rivers. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami confirmed ongoing rescue operations, with constant communication to ensure effective coordination. Rescue teams, including health and disaster management personnel, are on site. The Indian Meteorological Department had previously issued a



yellow alert, emphasizing the urgent need for relocation of residents in vulnerable zones to safer areas.



### Heavy Rainfall Hits Gujarat, IMD Issues Alert :-

Gujarat experienced heavy rainfall, with 148 talukas receiving significant downpours. Umarpada in Surat recorded 7.5 inches, the highest in the state. The Indian Meteorological Department has issued an alert for continued heavy rainfall, with potential for localized flooding. This season, Gujarat has seen above-normal rainfall, with many areas surpassing annual averages. While beneficial for agriculture and reservoir levels, the rain poses challenges, particularly in low-lying regions.

## 18: Summits & Conferences



### President Murmu Addresses IIT (ISM) Dhanbad Convocation :-

President Droupadi Murmu graced the 45th convocation of IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, emphasizing the institute's role in national development. She highlighted the importance of fostering compassionate and innovative professionals to address global challenges. The President called for an interdisciplinary approach in education to nurture creativity and holistic thinking. Her address underscored the significance of education in driving India's technological and social progress.



### Philippines President Marcos Commences State Visit to India :-

Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. began his five-day state visit to India, aiming to bolster bilateral ties. Emphasizing shared democratic values and regional peace, Marcos seeks cooperation in defense, trade, and health sectors. The visit coincides with the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations. Discussions with PM Modi will cover mutual interests and regional issues. This visit underscores the strong partnership between the two nations, promising concrete benefits for both countries.



### Lalit Kala Akademi Launches 64th National Art Exhibition in New Delhi :-

The Lalit Kala Akademi inaugurated its 64th National Exhibition of Art, introducing initiatives to empower artists through the sale of award-winning artworks. Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat praised the exhibition for uniting diverse artistic expressions and

supporting India's creative economy. With over 5,900 submissions, the exhibition features a wide range of mediums, including painting, sculpture, and photography. This initiative aligns with the National Mission on Cultural Mapping, aiming to integrate artists into sustainable economic models while fostering social transformation through art.



#### **PM Modi Highlights Climate-Resilient Farming at Swaminathan Conference :-**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised Dr. M.S. Swaminathan's contributions to climate-resilient agriculture at the M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference in New Delhi. Emphasizing the need for drought-tolerant and heat-resistant crops, PM Modi called for expanded research to address climate change impacts on agriculture. He highlighted the integration of technology, including AI and satellite data, for real-time crop monitoring. The event also saw the release of a commemorative stamp and coin in honor of Dr. Swaminathan, a key figure in India's Green Revolution.



#### **PM Modi Invites President Putin for Annual Bilateral Summit :-**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended an invitation to Russian President Vladimir Putin for the 23rd Annual Bilateral Summit in India. During a telephone conversation, the leaders discussed bilateral cooperation and the Ukraine conflict's latest developments. This invitation underscores the commitment to strengthening the India-Russia Special Strategic Partnership amid global scrutiny over India's purchase of Russian crude oil. The summit is part of a regular dialogue mechanism aimed at enhancing bilateral relations across various sectors.



#### **NSA Doval, Russian Security Chief Shoigu Strengthen Strategic Ties :-**

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval met with Russia's Secretary of the Security Council, Sergei Shoigu, to discuss enhancing the India-Russia strategic partnership. The meeting focused on regional security, defense cooperation, and preparations for the upcoming bilateral summit. This engagement reflects the continuity in India-Russia dialogue amid global shifts, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing international security challenges.



#### **India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable to Strengthen Bilateral Ties :-**

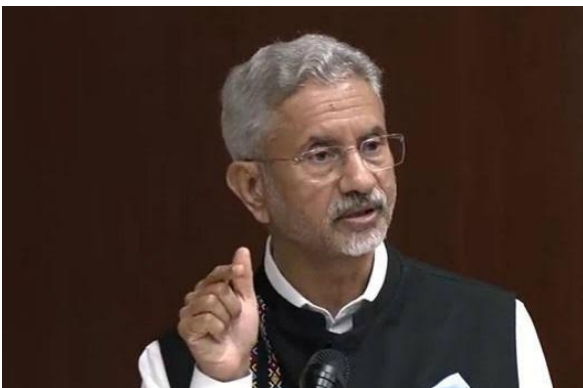


The third India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable will convene in New Delhi, focusing on expanding bilateral relations. Key ministers from both nations will discuss cooperation in semiconductors, trade, digitalization, and more. This strategic dialogue aligns with India's Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with Singapore, aiming to identify new opportunities for collaboration. The roundtable reflects the commitment of both countries to deepen economic and diplomatic ties, enhancing regional and global partnerships.



#### **India-Australia Hold Dialogue on Disarmament and Security :-**

The 7th round of the India-Australia Dialogue on Disarmament, Non-Proliferation, and Export Control was held in New Delhi, focusing on nuclear, chemical, and biological disarmament, outer space security, and military AI. Officials discussed global and regional developments, enhancing mutual understanding and cooperation. The dialogue, part of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, underscores both nations' commitment to advancing security and control measures, contributing to peace and stability in the region.



#### **India-Singapore Strengthen Ties in Third Ministerial Roundtable :-**

India and Singapore's third Ministerial Roundtable in New Delhi focused on expanding bilateral cooperation. The meeting, attended by Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister and other ministers, emphasized the importance of government-industry collaboration. Discussions covered trade, investment, defense, and emerging areas like the green economy. The roundtable reaffirms the strong partnership between the two nations, highlighting Singapore's role in India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific Vision. The event underscores the commitment to deepening ties and fostering economic growth through strategic partnerships.



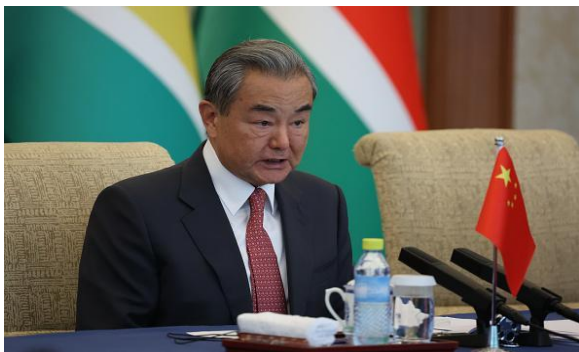
#### **India and South Korea Boost Strategic Partnership :-**

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun to discuss enhancing bilateral cooperation across trade, manufacturing, maritime, AI, semiconductors, clean energy, and defense. Marking 10 years of their Special Strategic Partnership, the ministers emphasized deepening convergences and engagement, with plans to boost exchanges and cooperation for future-oriented ties.



### **Vikram Misri's Visit to Nepal Strengthens Bilateral Relations :-**

Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri is on an official visit to Nepal to enhance bilateral ties between the two countries. The visit underscores India's commitment to the 'Neighbourhood First' policy and includes discussions on various aspects of the Nepal-India partnership, focusing on connectivity, development cooperation, and mutual interests. Misri's engagements aim to further advance the strong and friendly ties shared by the two nations.



### **Chinese Foreign Minister Visited India for Key Talks :-**

On August 18, 2025, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited India for discussions with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and NSA Ajit Doval. The visit aims to restore trust post-Galwan clashes and explore confidence-building measures along the contested border. The talks will address trade, border issues, and bilateral relations, set against the backdrop of U.S. tariffs on Indian goods. This visit reflects ongoing efforts to stabilize Indo-China relations and enhance regional cooperation.



### **India-Russia Strategic Ties Strengthened During EAM Jaishankar's Visit to Moscow :-**

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar's visit to Russia has reinforced the strategic ties between the two nations

as he co-chaired the 26th Session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation. The visit aimed to deepen the longstanding India-Russia strategic partnership and comes shortly after bilateral engagements at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and BRICS Summit. The talks focused on enhancing cooperation in various sectors, reflecting the commitment to strengthen the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership.



### **Amit Shah Chairs Meeting on Disaster Management and Capacity Building :-**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a meeting on disaster management, emphasizing strategies to address cloudbursts and landslides. Shah highlighted the government's shift from relief-centric to rescue-centric frameworks, noting policy reforms that have reduced casualties during cyclones. The meeting underscored the importance of capacity building and technological advancements in disaster response. This approach aims to enhance preparedness, ensuring rapid and efficient disaster management, crucial for safeguarding lives and reducing economic impacts.





### India Hosts Regional Health Research and Innovation Meeting :-

India, through the Department of Health Research and ICMR, hosted a regional meeting on health research and innovation with representatives from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Timor-Leste. The two-day event aimed at strengthening health research systems and fostering cross-border collaboration in addressing public health challenges like anemia and vector-borne diseases. Participants emphasized the need for regional solidarity and investment in capacity building to achieve sustainable health outcomes.



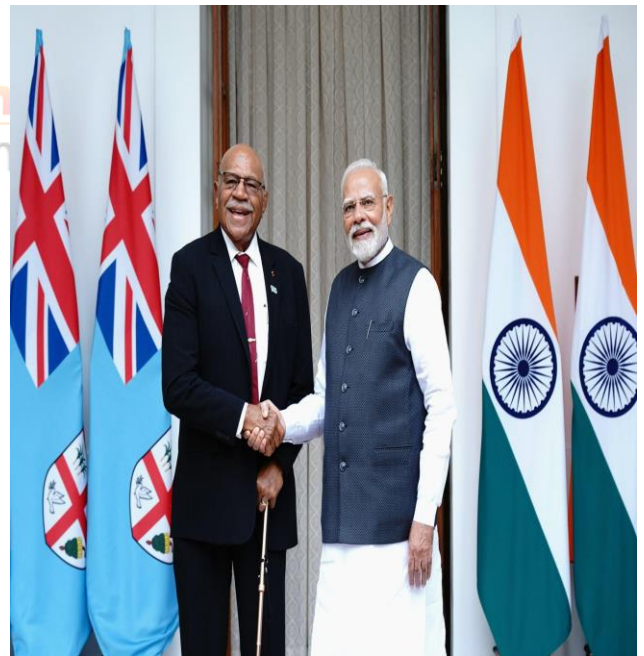
### Amit Shah Highlights National Security and Development at Kerala Conclave :-

Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressed the Manorama News Conclave in Kerala, focusing on India's progress under PM Modi's leadership. Shah emphasized the government's commitment to national security, economic growth, and infrastructure development. He highlighted the need for Kerala to overcome political stagnation and join India's larger growth story, underscoring central government support for state development initiatives.



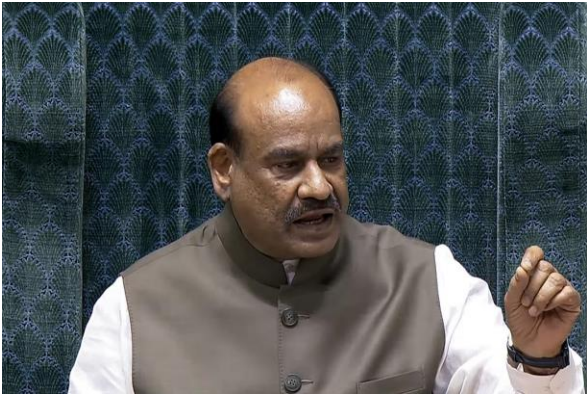
### Young Buddhist Scholars Discuss Wisdom Transmission at Delhi Conference :-

The International Buddhist Confederation hosted the 3rd International Conference of Young Buddhist Scholars in Delhi, focusing on 'Wisdom Transmission in Buddha Dhamma in the 21st Century.' Scholars, monks, and dignitaries from various countries discussed the transmission of Buddha Dhamma values such as compassion and mindfulness through digital tools and intercultural dialogue. The conference emphasized the integration of Buddha Dhamma into education and governance. Panel discussions covered topics like ethical artificial intelligence and youth engagement, underscoring the importance of preserving the sacred continuity of wisdom in the modern world.



### PM Modi Meets Fijian PM Rabuka to Enhance Bilateral Ties :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held delegation-level talks with Fijian counterpart Sitiveni Rabuka in New Delhi. The discussions focused on strengthening the partnership between the two nations, particularly in health, education, and climate change. Rabuka's visit includes a lecture at the Indian Council of World Affairs and meetings with the President of India. This visit builds on President Murmu's 2024 state visit to Fiji, marking a significant step in diplomatic relations.



#### **Bhubaneswar to Host National Conference on SC/ST Welfare :-**

Bhubaneswar will host a national conference on SC/ST welfare, focusing on empowerment and development. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will inaugurate the event, which includes discussions on constitutional safeguards and best practices. The conference aims to enhance accountability and align welfare policies with the vision of an inclusive India.



#### **India and Kuwait Strengthen Strategic Partnership in Bilateral Talks :-**

India and Kuwait held bilateral talks in New Delhi, focusing on enhancing strategic partnerships across various sectors. The discussions, co-chaired by senior diplomats, covered trade, investment, and energy. Both sides aim to implement a roadmap for cooperation, following Prime Minister Modi's visit to Kuwait, underlining strong bilateral ties.



## SECTION 2

# Practice Questions with Answers



**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

**1) Which missile system did DRDO successfully conduct range validation tests for in July 2025?**

- A) Agni-V
- B) Akash
- C) Pralay
- D) Nirbhay

**2) Which Indian state/region has become a new focal point for oil and gas deepwater exploration in 2025?**

- A) Krishna-Godavari basin
- B) Cambay basin
- C) Andaman-Nicobar basin
- D) Rajasthan basin

**3) Which major education event in July 2025 marked five years of the National Education Policy 2020?**

- A) Pravasi Bharatiya Divas
- B) Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS) 2025
- C) Indian Science Congress
- D) Swachh Bharat Summit

**4) Which mission, jointly developed by ISRO and NASA, is set to provide unprecedented Earth observation data?**

- A) Chandrayaan-3
- B) NISAR
- C) RISAT-2BR1
- D) Cartosat-3

**5) Which Indian government mission recently saw its Digital Payments Index (DPI) rise to 493.22, according to RBI?**

- A) Jan Dhan Yojana
- B) Digital India
- C) Startup India
- D) Make in India

**6) Which recently launched satellite marks a historic Indo-US collaboration in Earth observation?**

- A) Chandrayaan-3

B) RISAT-2BR2

C) NISAR

D) Cartosat-3

**7) What percentage tariff did the US announce on Indian imports effective August 1, 2025?**

- A) 10%
- B) 15%
- C) 20%
- D) 25%

**8) Which Indian government scheme is set to release its 20th installment on August 2, 2025?**

- A) PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi
- B) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
- C) PM Awas Yojana
- D) PM Ujjwala Yojana

**9) Which Indian defence project recently began at Goa Shipyard, aiming for indigenous coastal security?**

- A) Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft
- B) Scorpene Submarine
- C) Air Cushion Vehicle (Hovercraft)
- D) INS Vikrant

**10) Who recently passed away, remembered for deepening India-UK ties and economic thought?**

- A) Amartya Sen
- B) Montek Singh Ahluwalia
- C) Meghnad Desai
- D) Kaushik Basu

**11) Which Indian government scheme recently received an outlay of ₹6,520 crore to enhance food processing infrastructure and food safety labs till FY26?**

- A) PM Fasal Bima Yojana
- B) PM Kisan Sampada Yojana
- C) PM Garib Kalyan Yojana
- D) PM Awas Yojana

**12) What is the primary objective of India's newly launched Research, Development and Innovation**



**(RDI) scheme with a financial outlay of ₹1 lakh crore?**

- A) Developing rural roads
- B) Promoting private sector participation in sunrise sectors
- C) Subsidizing agricultural fertilizers
- D) Expanding digital literacy

**13) Which two countries recently signed a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) and an MoU to deepen judicial cooperation?**

- A) India and UAE
- B) India and Morocco
- C) India and Bangladesh
- D) India and France

**14) Which company announced the €3.8 billion acquisition of Europe's Iveco Group in July 2025?**

- A) Mahindra & Mahindra
- B) Ashok Leyland
- C) Tata Motors
- D) Maruti Suzuki

**15) What major infrastructure initiative was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in July 2025, costing approximately ₹11,169 crore?**

- A) Metro rail projects in Tier-2 cities
- B) Railway multitracking projects across six states
- C) Smart City Mission expansion
- D) National Highway Authority digitalization

**16) Which city did Prime Minister Modi visit on August 2, 2025, to launch development projects worth Rs 2,200 crore and release the 20th instalment of PM-KISAN?**

- A) Lucknow
- B) Varanasi
- C) Kanpur
- D) Prayagraj

**17) Which award did Shah Rukh Khan win at the 71st National Film Awards announced in August 2025?**

- A) Best Director
- B) Best Supporting Actor
- C) Best Actor
- D) Best Film

**18) What is the cumulative value of India's foreign exchange reserves as of the week ending July 25, 2025?**

- A) \$650.10 billion
- B) \$698.19 billion
- C) \$710.25 billion
- D) \$588.93 billion

**19) Which Indian government programme for free dialysis services now covers 751 districts as of August 2025?**

- A) Ayushman Bharat
- B) Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana
- C) Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme
- D) National Health Protection Scheme

**20) Which Indian Army officer assumed charge as Vice Chief of Army Staff on July 31, 2025?**

- A) Lt Gen Raj Shukla
- B) Lt Gen Pushpendra Singh
- C) Lt Gen Satish Dua
- D) Lt Gen Manjeet Singh

**21) In August 2025, the PM-KISAN scheme released its 20th instalment, transferring approximately how much to farmers?**

- A) ₹10,000 crore
- B) ₹15,500 crore
- C) ₹20,500 crore
- D) ₹25,000 crore

**22) Which city saw the launch of the 'Matri Van' urban forest initiative in August 2025?**

- A) Delhi
- B) Gurugram
- C) Mumbai
- D) Bengaluru

**23) Which sector contributed most to India's all-time high indigenous defence production in 2024-25?**

- A) Private sector
- B) Public sector
- C) Foreign companies
- D) State governments

**24) Which Indian state led in PM-KISAN beneficiaries during the 18th instalment (Aug-Nov 2024)?**

- A) Bihar
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Madhya Pradesh

**25) What is the main goal of the 'Know Your Weaves' campaign launched in August 2025?**

- A) Export promotion
- B) Handloom awareness
- C) Digital textile marketing
- D) Synthetic fibre adoption

**26) Which Indian port recently commissioned the country's first Make-in-India Green Hydrogen Plant in the port sector?**

- A) Mundra Port
- B) Kandla Port
- C) Paradip Port
- D) Mumbai Port

**27) Which government scheme crossed the milestone of 55 crore bank accounts as of August 2025?**

- A) PM-KISAN
- B) Atal Pension Yojana
- C) Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana
- D) Stand Up India

**28) What is the annual scholarship amount provided under the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)?**

- A) ₹6,000
- B) ₹12,000
- C) ₹10,000
- D) ₹20,000

**29) Which two companies signed an MoU to deploy India's first 5G captive non-public network in the refinery sector in August 2025?**

- A) Reliance and ONGC
- B) BSNL and NRL
- C) Airtel and IOCL
- D) Jio and BPCL

**30) Which Indian state was recognized as the Best State for organ donation in the NOTTO Annual Report 2024-25?**

- A) Kerala
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Telangana

**31) What is the main objective of the newly inaugurated 'Agnishodh' research cell at IIT-Madras?**

- A) To train civil service aspirants
- B) To develop green energy solutions
- C) To boost defence technology self-reliance
- D) To promote agricultural biotechnology

**32) The 2025–2028 Programme of Cooperation (PoC) recently signed between India and the Philippines focuses on which two immediate scientific priorities?**

- A) Climate change and space science
- B) Geo-spatial technologies and blue economy
- C) AI and robotics
- D) Genomics and nanotechnology

**33) Which recent government digital initiative aims to enhance engagement in India's pension sector?**

- A) Jan Samarth Portal
- B) PFRDA CONNECT
- C) BHIM UPI
- D) DigiLocker

**34) What is the primary goal of Kartavya Bhavan – 03, inaugurated by PM Modi under the Central Vista redevelopment project?**

- A) To build a new Parliament chamber



- B) To house multiple ministries in a modern, sustainable complex  
 C) To set up a national museum  
 D) To create a sports stadium

**35) Which recent Indian educational initiative set a Guinness World Record for the most registrations on a citizen engagement platform in a month?**

- A) SWAYAM  
 B) National Digital Library  
 C) Pariksha Pe Charcha  
 D) e-Pathshala

**36) Which country recently established a Strategic Partnership with India to deepen cooperation in areas such as defense, trade, and maritime security?**

- A) Japan  
 B) Philippines  
 C) Vietnam  
 D) Singapore

**37) Who became the longest-serving Union Home Minister in India's history as of August 5, 2025?**

- A) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel  
 B) Lal Krishna Advani  
 C) Amit Shah  
 D) P. Chidambaram

**38) Which Indian city hosted a WHO workshop on herbal medicine safety and regulations from August 6, 2025?**

- A) Bengaluru  
 B) Hyderabad  
 C) Ghaziabad  
 D) Chennai

**39) Which Indian payment system surpassed 700 million daily transactions for the first time in August 2025?**

- A) IMPS  
 B) NEFT  
 C) UPI  
 D) RuPay

**40) Which two ministries will be among those housed in the newly built Kartavya Bhavan in Delhi?**

- A) Home Affairs and External Affairs  
 B) Finance and Agriculture  
 C) Commerce and Textiles  
 D) Tourism and Health

**41) Which initiative aims to make India's foundational AI models available in all 22 scheduled Indian languages by June 2026?**

- A) IndiaAI  
 B) BharatGen  
 C) PM Gati Shakti  
 D) Digital India Bhashini

**42) Which international protocol did India and Russia sign in August 2025 to expand cooperation in sectors like aluminium, fertilizers, and railways?**

- A) Strategic Energy Partnership  
 B) Modernization and Industrial Cooperation Protocol  
 C) Bilateral Trade Agreement  
 D) Defence Technology Transfer Pact

**43) What is the main focus of the Defence Acquisition Council's (DAC) latest approval worth ₹67,000 crore?**

- A) Building new naval bases  
 B) Enhancing armed forces' operational capability  
 C) Purchasing civilian aircraft  
 D) Developing cyber security infrastructure

**44) Which bill, passed by Lok Sabha in August 2025, aims to modernize India's maritime laws?**

- A) Major Ports Bill  
 B) Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2024  
 C) Coastal Regulation Bill  
 D) Marine Pollution Control Bill

**45) Which three Indian military heroes have recently been included in the NCERT syllabus for their contributions to India's defense?**

- A) Field Marshal Manekshaw, Brigadier Usman, Major Somnath Sharma



- B) General Cariappa, Lt Gen Aurora, Captain Vikram Batra  
C) Admiral Nanda, Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan, Captain Manoj Pandey  
D) Brigadier Bhagat, General Sundarji, Captain Bana Singh

**46) Which country recently conducted a major test of its lunar lander, aiming to land its first astronauts on the moon before 2030?**

- A) India  
B) United States  
C) China  
D) Russia

**47) Which Indian government mission and division have recently partnered to promote vernacular innovation and language inclusivity?**

- A) NITI Aayog's AIM and Bhashini  
B) ISRO and Digital India  
C) Ministry of Culture and MyGov  
D) PMKVY and SWAYAM

**48) Which two countries signed a record \$35 billion natural gas export deal, the largest in the region's history?**

- A) Israel and Jordan  
B) Israel and Turkey  
C) Israel and Egypt  
D) Israel and Cyprus

**49) Which Indian city is promoting medical tourism, with the highest number of foreign arrivals in 2025 for healthcare purposes?**

- A) Mumbai  
B) Delhi  
C) Gujarat  
D) Chennai

**50) What is the total financial allocation sanctioned by the Union Cabinet for the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY)?**

- A) ₹5,000 crore  
B) ₹6,520 crore  
C) ₹7,000 crore  
D) ₹4,800 crore

**51) Which of the following country recently joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as 107th member?**

- A) Moldova  
B) Pakistan  
C) Belgium  
D) Bhutan

**52) Who recently unveiled the SheLeads II initiative?**

- A) Anupriya Patel  
B) Nirmala Sitharaman  
C) Annpurna Devi  
D) Meenakshi Lekhi

**53) Name the first railway station in the Kashmir Valley that has been enabled for freight or goods transportation.**

- A) Srinagar Railway Station  
B) Anantnag Railway Station  
C) Baramulla Railway Station  
D) Udhampur Railway Station

**54) Which government ministry has introduced the upgraded version of the Incredible India Digital Platform (IIDP)?**

- A) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
B) Ministry of External Affairs  
C) Ministry of Culture  
D) Ministry of Tourism

**55) Which Indian revolutionary event completed its centenary in August 2025, commemorated by PM Modi and CM Yogi Adityanath?**

- A) Jallianwala Bagh Massacre  
B) Chauri Chaura Incident  
C) Kakori Rail Conspiracy  
D) Salt March

**56) Which state government recently restored mobile network services in Harsil Valley after heavy rainfall and landslides?**

- A) Himachal Pradesh  
B) Uttarakhand  
C) Sikkim



D) Jammu Kashmir

**57) What is the increased targeted subsidy per 14.2 kg LPG cylinder approved for Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries for 2025-26?**

- A) ₹150
- B) ₹200
- C) ₹250
- D) ₹300

**58) Which three public sector companies are to receive a ₹30,000 crore compensation from the Indian government for domestic LPG losses?**

- A) SAIL, GAIL, ONGC
- B) IOCL, BPCL, HPCL
- C) NTPC, BHEL, CIL
- D) ONGC, OIL, BPCL

**59) Which protein, studied by the Bose Institute, was found to exhibit 'pseudo-intelligence' in immune response?**

- A) Albumin
- B) Hemoglobin
- C) TAK1 kinase
- D) Insulin

**60) Which Indian state remains the sole natural habitat for Asiatic lions, whose population rose to 891 in 2025?**

- A) Madhya Pradesh
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Gujarat
- D) Maharashtra

**61) Which major infrastructure project did PM Modi inaugurate in Bengaluru in August 2025?**

- A) Mumbai Coastal Road
- B) Yellow Line Metro
- C) Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor
- D) Delhi-Meerut RRTS

**62) Which railway milestone was achieved in Jammu Kashmir in August 2025?**

- A) Completion of Chenab Bridge
- B) Arrival of first freight train in Kashmir Valley
- C) Launch of Maglev trains

D) Start of Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train

**63) What is the main objective of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) event held on August 11, 2025?**

- A) Crop diversification
- B) Digital soil mapping
- C) Large-scale crop insurance payout via DBT
- D) Organic farming incentives

**64) Which technology-driven reform was introduced for Take-Home Ration (THR) distribution under Mission Poshan 2.0 by July 2025?**

- A) Blockchain tracking
- B) Facial Recognition System
- C) Drone delivery
- D) Voice authentication

**65) Which legislative bill passed by the Rajya Sabha in August 2025 aims to provide reserved Assembly seats for Scheduled Tribes in Goa?**

- A) Goa Tribal Rights Bill, 2025
- B) Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of Goa Bill, 2025
- C) Goa Reservation and Empowerment Bill, 2025
- D) Goa Social Justice Bill, 2025

**66) Which sector led the inflow in mutual funds, reaching a record ₹42,702 crore in July 2025, according to AMFI data?**

- A) Debt funds
- B) Equity-oriented funds
- C) Gold ETFs
- D) Real estate funds

**67) What major event is scheduled to take place in India from September 30 to November 2, 2025?**

- A) Men's Hockey World Cup
- B) Asian Games
- C) Women's Cricket World Cup
- D) South Asian Football Championship

**68) What is the main reason behind the significant increase in the kharif crop sown area in India in 2025?**

- A) New irrigation canals
- B) Favourable monsoon rains
- C) Higher fertilizer subsidies
- D) Increase in mechanization

**69) Which Indian city hosted the national celebration of World Elephant Day 2025?**

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Coimbatore
- C) Guwahati
- D) Bhubaneswar

**70) Which Indian state will establish the 700 MW Tato-II Hydro Electric Project approved by the Cabinet in August 2025?**

- A) Assam
- B) Sikkim
- C) Arunachal Pradesh
- D) Nagaland

**71) What milestone did the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) achieve as of August 2025?**

- A) 1 crore health accounts
- B) 25 crore health accounts
- C) 79.9 crore health accounts
- D) 100 crore health accounts

**72) India's ethanol blending programme aims to achieve what ethanol content in petrol by October 2026?**

- A) 10%
- B) 15%
- C) 20%
- D) 25%

**73) Which campaign celebrated its 5th anniversary with a special event in New Delhi on August 13, 2025?**

- A) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- B) Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan
- C) Digital India Mission
- D) Ayushman Bharat Yojana

**74) Which country recently partnered with India to deepen defence cooperation, with a focus on counter-terrorism and maritime security?**

- A) Indonesia
- B) Nigeria
- C) Vietnam
- D) Egypt

**75) Which milestone did India achieve in solar PV module manufacturing capacity as per Prime Minister Modi's announcement in August 2025?**

- A) 50 GW
- B) 75 GW
- C) 100 GW
- D) 200 GW

**76) What is the primary theme for India's 79th Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort in 2025?**

- A) Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
- B) Swachh Bharat
- C) Naya Bharat
- D) Digital India

**77) Which city has India proposed as the host for the 2030 Commonwealth Games according to the IOA's August 2025 bid?**

- A) New Delhi
- B) Mumbai
- C) Ahmedabad
- D) Hyderabad

**78) Which two countries' leaders are expected to have a major summit in Alaska in August 2025 to discuss the Ukraine conflict?**

- A) China and USA
- B) Russia and USA
- C) India and Russia
- D) France and Ukraine

**79) Which regulatory authority launched India's first property rating framework for digital connectivity in August 2025?**

- A) TRAI
- B) SEBI
- C) DoT
- D) NITI Aayog



**80) Which credit rating agency upgraded India's sovereign credit rating to 'BBB' in August 2025?**

- A) Moody's
- B) Fitch
- C) DBRS
- D) S&P Global

**81) What major legislative reforms were passed for Indian sports governance in August 2025?**

- A) National Sports Governance Bill and Anti-Doping Amendment Bill
- B) Sports Infrastructure Bill and Fitness Promotion Act
- C) Physical Literacy Bill and Safe Sports Act
- D) Athlete Protection Bill and Fair Play Act

**82) Who achieved a record-breaking 5,002-meter deep-sea dive in the Atlantic Ocean for India in August 2025?**

- A) Commander Abhilash Tomy
- B) Raju Ramesh
- C) Cdr. Jatinder Pal Singh (Retd)
- D) Dr. M. Ravichandran

**83) Which agricultural campaign was announced to be launched on October 3, 2025, for Rabi crops?**

- A) Krishi Sinchai Yojana
- B) Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan
- C) Mission Pulses
- D) PM Fasal Bima Yojana

**84) Which Indian district exported fresh apricots to Saudi Arabia for the first time in August 2025?**

- A) Nashik
- B) Shimla
- C) Kargil
- D) Nagpur

**85) Which scheme did PM Modi launch on 79th Independence Day to generate 3.5 crore new jobs for youth in India?**

- A) PM Kisan Samman Nidhi
- B) PM Rozgar Mitra Yojana
- C) Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana
- D) Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Scheme

**86) What is the primary aim of India's newly announced National Deep Water Exploration Mission?**

- A) Space technology research
- B) Exploring oil and gas reserves in the sea
- C) River cleaning operations
- D) Renewable energy generation

**87) Which mission did PM Modi launch to secure India's critical establishments using indigenous technology?**

- A) Mission Shakti
- B) Operation Sindoor
- C) Mission Sudarshan Chakra
- D) Mission Sankalp

**88) India is set to launch its first Made-in-India semiconductor chip by which year, as per PM Modi's 2025 address?**

- A) 2027
- B) 2026
- C) 2025
- D) 2028

**89) Which country recently hosted the World Humanoid Robot Games, showcasing advancements in robotics and AI?**

- A) Japan
- B) Germany
- C) China
- D) United States

**90) What major step did the Indian government announce for GST in August 2025?**

- A) GST abolition
- B) GST hike on luxury goods
- C) Next-generation GST reforms
- D) Introduction of GST 2.0

**91) Who recently visited India to hold the 24th round of Special Representatives' Talks on the boundary issue?**

- A) US Secretary of State
- B) South Korean Foreign Minister
- C) Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi

D) Russian Foreign Minister

**92) Which festival, also called Navroz, was recently celebrated by the Parsi community in India?**

- A) Nowruz
- B) Navratri
- C) Parsi New Year
- D) Diwali

**93) Which two major highway projects, worth nearly ₹11,000 crore, did PM Modi inaugurate in Delhi in August 2025?**

- A) Delhi-Mumbai Expressway and Purvanchal Expressway
- B) Dwarka Expressway and Urban Extension Road-II
- C) Eastern Peripheral Expressway and Yamuna Expressway
- D) Delhi-Meerut Expressway and Noida Expressway

**94) What is the name of the newly announced ₹1 lakh crore employment scheme for Indian youth?**

- A) PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana
- B) PM Rozgar Guarantee Yojana
- C) PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana
- D) Atmanirbhar Bharat Yojana

**95) Who has been announced as the NDA's candidate for the upcoming Vice Presidential election in September 2025?**

- A) Jagdeep Dhankhar
- B) CP Radhakrishnan
- C) JP Nadda
- D) Nitin Gadkari

**96) Which Indian climber from Arunachal Pradesh recently summited Mount Elbrus, the highest peak in Russia and Europe, as part of the Seven Summits Challenge?**

- A) Bachendri Pal
- B) Kabak Yano
- C) Santosh Yadav
- D) Premrata Agarwal

**97) Which major digital initiative has helped the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) and several Indian states**

**achieve over 100% consumer case disposal rate in July 2025?**

- A) e-Courts
- B) e-Jagriti
- C) e-Lok Adalat
- D) Digital India Portal

**98) Which Indian defense ship recently conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the Italian Navy's ITS Trieste, reinforcing bilateral maritime ties?**

- A) INS Vikrant
- B) INS Tamal
- C) INS Kolkata
- D) INS Sumitra

**99) Which autonomous institution under the Ministry of Ayush hosted its 30th National Seminar on Ayurvedic Paediatric Healthcare in August 2025?**

- A) Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences
- B) National Institute of Ayurveda
- C) Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth
- D) All India Institute of Ayurveda

**100) What is the main aim of the recently tabled Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025?**

- A) Increase minimum wages
- B) Decriminalise minor offences across multiple laws
- C) Privatised public sector banks
- D) Strengthen anti-terror laws

**101) Which bill, passed by the Rajya Sabha in August 2025, replaces the colonial-era Indian Ports Act of 1908?**

- A) Major Ports Authority Bill
- B) Indian Maritime Bill
- C) Indian Ports Bill, 2025
- D) National Shipping Bill

**102) Which two Indian states were flagged for high selenium levels in groundwater, as per a recent Central Ground Water Board report?**

- A) Bihar and Uttar Pradesh
- B) Haryana and Punjab
- C) Rajasthan and Gujarat



D) Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

**103) Which Indian innovation was recently commissioned at Banaras Locomotive Works to promote sustainable rail transport?**

- A) Biofuel Locomotives
- B) Removable solar panel system between railway tracks
- C) Hydrogen-powered trains
- D) Automatic Train Protection System

**104) Which two countries were involved in high-level talks in New Delhi in August 2025 to discuss border issues and bilateral relations?**

- A) India and Nepal
- B) India and Pakistan
- C) India and China
- D) India and Bangladesh

**105) Which bill, recently passed by the Lok Sabha, confers the status of 'Institute of National Importance' on IIM Guwahati?**

- A) IIM Act, 2017 Amendment Bill
- B) National Institutes Act, 2025
- C) Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- D) Higher Education Institutions Bill

**106) What is the main objective of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2025 passed by Parliament?**

- A) Promote agricultural mineral use
- B) Boost gold production only
- C) Advance National Critical Mineral Mission
- D) Privatised coal mining

**107) Which country will host the 2026 BRICS Summit, as confirmed during recent India-China talks?**

- A) China
- B) India
- C) Russia
- D) Brazil

**108) Who has been named as the INDIA bloc's candidate for the Vice Presidential election scheduled for September 9, 2025?**

- A) Justice N.V. Ramana
- B) B. Sudershan Reddy
- C) CP Radhakrishnan
- D) Mallikarjun Kharge

**109) What is the projected GDP growth rate for India in Q1 FY2026, according to ICRA?**

- A) 6.3%
- B) 5.8%
- C) 6.7%
- D) 7.4%

**110) Which city will host the World Para Athletics Championship 2025, the largest para-sport event ever organized in India?**

- A) Mumbai
- B) Bengaluru
- C) New Delhi
- D) Chennai

**111) What is the main objective of the newly passed Online Gaming Bill in the Lok Sabha?**

- A) To legalise all forms of online gambling
- B) To encourage e-sports and ban online money gaming
- C) To tax all online games equally
- D) To regulate video streaming services

**112) Which missile was successfully test-fired by India from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha, in August 2025?**

- A) BrahMos
- B) Nirbhay
- C) Agni-5
- D) Nag

**113) What was the growth rate of India's eight core industries in July 2025 compared to the previous year?**

- A) 0.5%
- B) 2%
- C) 5%

D) 8%

**114) Which Indian state's representative, Manika Vishwakarma, was crowned Miss Universe India 2025?**

- A) Punjab
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Uttar Pradesh

**115) Who was appointed as the new Commissioner of Police, Delhi, in August 2025?**

- A) S B K Singh
- B) Sanjay Arora
- C) Satish Golcha
- D) D. Anandan

**116) What is the main objective of the newly launched 'Nusuk Umrah' platform by Saudi Arabia?**

- A) To promote Saudi tourism
- B) To facilitate online Umrah visa applications
- C) To offer discounted flights to pilgrims
- D) To regulate religious gatherings

**117) What major reform in the GST structure was approved by the Group of Ministers in August 2025?**

- A) Introduction of three new rates
- B) Increase in GST on luxury goods
- C) Replacement of four-tier GST with dual rates
- D) Abolition of GST for small businesses

**118) Which Indian defence company received a ₹62,000-crore order for 97 LCA Mk-1A Tejas fighter jets in August 2025?**

- A) Bharat Electronics Limited
- B) Bharat Dynamics Limited
- C) Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)
- D) Bharat Forge

**119) What was the estimated GDP growth for India in Q1 FY26 according to the SBI Research report released in August 2025?**

- A) 4.5-5%
- B) 5.5-6%
- C) 6.8-7%

D) 8.5-9%

**120) What milestone did India achieve regarding its national highway network by early 2025?**

- A) Doubled its length to 200,000 km
- B) Became the world's largest network
- C) Expanded network to over 146,000 km, second largest globally
- D) Surpassed the US in road network size

**121) Which Indian city recently added 14 km of new metro lines and seven new stations, making its metro network among the world's largest?**

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Chennai
- C) Kolkata
- D) Hyderabad

**122) Which organization was recently granted UN-style privileges and immunities by India to facilitate global big cat conservation?**

- A) Wildlife Protection Society of India
- B) International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)
- C) World Wide Fund for Nature
- D) Global Tiger Forum

**123) Which Indian state saw major new infrastructure projects, including a six-lane bridge over the Ganga and modern railway stations, inaugurated by PM Modi in August 2025?**

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Bihar
- C) West Bengal
- D) Madhya Pradesh

**124) Which event is the Indian space sector marked on August 23, 2025, highlighting private sector growth and Chandrayaan-3's success?**

- A) ISRO's Founding Day
- B) National Science Day
- C) National Space Day
- D) Satellite Launch Day

**125) What major announcement did Dr. Jitendra Singh make regarding India's future in space exploration during National Space Day 2025?**



- A) India will launch Chandrayaan-4 in 2026
- B) India will send an astronaut to Mars by 2030
- C) An Indian astronaut will announce 'Viksit Bharat 2047' from the Moon by 2040
- D) India will join the Artemis program

**126) Which two countries will Prime Minister Narendra Modi visit from August 29 to September 1, 2025?**

- A) Japan and South Korea
- B) China and Russia
- C) Japan and China
- D) Singapore and Japan

**127) Which football event is scheduled to make history in India in November 2025?**

- A) FIFA World Cup Final
- B) Copa America Qualifier
- C) Argentina led by Lionel Messi will play a FIFA friendly in Kerala
- D) UEFA Champions League Final

**128) Which new educational initiative was launched in UP schools on National Space Day 2025?**

- A) Mission Mars Module
- B) India – A Rising Space Power NCERT module
- C) Digital Astronomy Lab
- D) Space Entrepreneurship Program

**129) What theme was chosen for National Space Day 2025?**

- A) From Gaganyaan to Mars
- B) Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities
- C) Chandrayaan to Mangalyaan
- D) Space for All

**130) Which Indian defence organization successfully tested the Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS) off Odisha in August 2025?**

- A) ISRO
- B) Bharat Electronics
- C) DRDO
- D) HAL

**131) Who was felicitated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for participating in Axiom Mission 4 to the International Space Station?**

- A) Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma
- B) Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla
- C) Dr. Samir V. Kamat
- D) Group Captain Ajit Krishnan

**132) In August 2025, which cricketer announced retirement from all forms of Indian cricket after scoring over 7,000 Test runs?**

- A) Ajinkya Rahane
- B) Virat Kohli
- C) Cheteshwar Pujara
- D) Rohit Sharma

**133) Which metro city recently expanded its metro network to over 1,000 km, becoming the world's third largest?**

- A) Mumbai
- B) Chennai
- C) Delhi
- D) Kolkata

**134) Which event marked the centenary of Veer Vitthalbhai Patel's election as the first Indian Speaker of a legislative body in 2025?**

- A) National Youth Parliament
- B) All India Speakers' Conference
- C) Indian Democracy Summit
- D) Bharatiya Sansad Sammelan

**135) According to a recent RTI, by what percentage did farmer suicides decline during the NDA period (2015–2022) compared to the UPA era (2004–2014)?**

- A) 25%
- B) 40%
- C) 50%
- D) 60%

**136) Which state reported zero farmer suicides during the NDA period, as per the latest RTI data?**

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Karnataka

- C) Bihar  
D) Andhra Pradesh

**137) Which major Indian digital procurement platform recently crossed ₹15 lakh crore in cumulative GMV?**

- A) e-NAM  
B) GeM  
C) BharatNet  
D) UMAN

**138) Who has been appointed head coach of Pretoria Capitals in 2025, marking his first coaching stint?**

- A) Rahul Dravid  
B) Anil Kumble  
C) Sourav Ganguly  
D) VVS Laxman

**139) Which two sectors contributed most to India's investment growth rate of 6.9% annually over FY21–25?**

- A) Government and household  
B) Private corporate and MSME  
C) Agriculture and mining  
D) Exports and imports

**140) Which city will host the upcoming National Conference on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on August 29–30, 2025?**

- A) New Delhi  
B) Lucknow  
C) Bhubaneswar  
D) Kolkata

**141) India and which Gulf country held their 7th round of Foreign Office Consultations in August 2025 to strengthen ties in trade, energy, and defence?**

- A) Saudi Arabia  
B) Kuwait  
C) Qatar  
D) Oman

**142) Which Indian city was chosen for the inauguration of Maruti Suzuki's first battery**

**electric vehicle (BEV) and lithium-ion battery facility in August 2025?**

- A) Pune  
B) Chennai  
C) Hansalpur (Ahmedabad district)  
D) Manesar

**143) Which Indian research institute recently developed gold nanocluster-based biosensors for early detection of Parkinson's Disease?**

- A) AIIMS Delhi  
B) Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali  
C) CSIR-NCL Pune  
D) IIT Bombay

**144) Who laid the foundation stone for four flyovers and nine foot overbridges on NH-48 in Gurugram in August 2025?**

- A) Nitin Gadkari  
B) Rao Inderjit Singh  
C) Harsh Malhotra  
D) Bhupendra Patel

**145) Which Indian hospital recently became the first government institute in India to perform Robotic Custom Laser Cataract Surgery using the ALLY Adaptive Cataract Treatment System?**

- A) AIIMS Delhi  
B) Army Hospital Research and Referral (AHRR)  
C) PGIMER Chandigarh  
D) Tata Memorial Hospital

**146) Which school won the national trophy in the 35th National Youth Parliament Competition (2024-25) for Kendriya Vidyalayas?**

- A) KV Kathua (Jammu Region)  
B) PM Shri KV No.1, Sagar  
C) KV Mathura Cantt  
D) KV ONGC, Srikona (Silchar Region, Assam)

**147) Which international exercise is India participating in, with over 700 personnel, hosted by Egypt and the US in 2025?**

- A) Exercise Malabar



- B) Exercise Bright Star
- C) Exercise Indra
- D) Exercise Cobra Gold

**148) What is the projected value of India's bioeconomy by 2030, as stated by Dr. Jitendra Singh?**

- A) \$100 billion
- B) \$500 billion
- C) \$300 billion
- D) \$165.7 billion

**149) Which Indian scheme completed 11 years in August 2025, having opened over 56 crore bank accounts?**

- A) Atal Pension Yojana
- B) PMJDY (Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana)
- C) PM-KISAN
- D) Swachh Bharat Mission

**150) Which city is hosting the Men's Hockey Asia Cup 2025?**

- A) New Delhi
- B) Bangalore
- C) Rajgir
- D) Lucknow

## ANSWERS

**1) Correct Answer: C**

DRDO successfully tested the indigenous quasi-ballistic 'Pralay' missile system in July 2025. These user evaluation trials validated both minimum and maximum range capabilities. The system was developed in partnership with various DRDO labs and industry partners. Such advancements reinforce India's self-reliance and modernization in strategic defence technology.

**2) Correct Answer: C**

The Andaman-Nicobar basin has emerged as a key focus for national and global oil and gas exploration in 2025. Major policy reforms and seismic surveys have catalyzed deepwater drilling here. Early results indicate the presence of active petroleum systems. This is significant for India's energy security and offshore resource development.

**3) Correct Answer: B**

The Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS) 2025 celebrated five years of NEP 2020. Inaugurated by the Union Education Minister in New Delhi, it launched new educational initiatives and global tie-ups. This event reflects India's focus on inclusive, tech-driven, and globally aligned education reforms, crucial for aspirants in policy and social sectors.

**4) Correct Answer: B**

The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission is a joint project between ISRO and NASA. NISAR will provide high-resolution radar images to track changes on Earth's surface. The mission will generate around 80 terabytes of data daily, aiding climate, disaster, and ecosystem studies. This collaboration marks a leap in India's space diplomacy and scientific contributions globally.

**5) Correct Answer: B**

India's Digital Payments Index rose sharply to 493.22 in March 2025, as per RBI's announcement. This surge reflects the rapid adoption of digital payments, a core goal of Digital India. The index's steady growth highlights expanding digital infrastructure and financial inclusion, vital for India's economic modernization and exam perspectives.

**6) Correct Answer: C**

The NISAR satellite, launched in July 2025, is a joint project between NASA and ISRO. It is the world's first radar imaging satellite to carry dual-frequency radars on a single platform. NISAR will deliver high-resolution, all-weather Earth observation data. Its launch strengthens Indo-US scientific cooperation and benefits global climate and disaster management efforts.

**7) Correct Answer: D**

On July 30, 2025, the US President announced a 25% tariff on Indian imports starting August 1. This move is due to trade negotiations and India's high tariffs and Russian ties. The decision impacts sectors like textiles and pharmaceuticals. It has major implications for Indo-US economic relations and Indian exports globally.

**8) Correct Answer: A**

The PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme's 20th installment will be released on August 2, 2025. PM Modi will lead the event, disbursing ₹2,000 to over 9.7 crore farmers. Since 2019, the scheme has transferred over ₹3.69 lakh crore directly to farmers' accounts. It is a flagship initiative for income support to India's agricultural sector.

**9) Correct Answer: C**

Construction of India's first indigenous Air Cushion Vehicle (hovercraft) for the Coast Guard began at Goa Shipyard on July 30, 2025. The project supports Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence. These hovercraft will enhance coastal patrolling and rescue operations. It marks a significant step in self-reliance and maritime security.

**10) Correct Answer: C**

Lord Meghnad Desai, an eminent economist and member of the UK House of Lords, died at 85 in July 2025. He contributed extensively to economic policy and India-UK relations. He was the first Indian-origin Labour peer and Professor Emeritus at LSE. His legacy inspires scholars and policymakers in both countries.

**11) Correct Answer: B**

The Union Cabinet approved ₹6,520 crore for the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) till FY26. PMKSY aims to modernize India's food processing sector by supporting cold chains and food testing labs. The scheme will establish 50 irradiation units and 100 NABL-accredited labs. This move will reduce post-harvest losses and ensure food safety, crucial for India's agriculture-driven economy.

**12) Correct Answer: B**

The RDI scheme has a ₹1 lakh crore outlay over five years to promote private sector participation in sunrise

sectors. Led by the Department of Science and Technology, it incentivizes innovation and entrepreneurship. The scheme is part of the government's broader effort to boost science and research funding. This initiative is vital for India's global competitiveness and technological advancement.

**13) Correct Answer: B**

India and Morocco signed a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty and a Memorandum of Understanding in July 2025. These agreements aim to modernize legal processes and promote technological collaboration in judicial systems. The partnership enhances knowledge sharing and digital justice delivery. This move strengthens India's international legal cooperation and institutional capacity.

**14) Correct Answer: C**

Tata Motors announced a €3.8 billion all-cash acquisition of Iveco Group. The deal, subject to regulatory approvals, aims to create a global leader in commercial vehicles. Tata Motors will acquire all shares except the defence division. This acquisition strengthens India's automotive industry and expands Tata's global footprint.

**15) Correct Answer: B**

The Cabinet approved railway multitracking projects worth ₹11,169 crore across six states. These projects will expand the rail network by 574 km and are expected to complete by 2028-29. They will alleviate congestion, improve freight handling, and reduce carbon emissions. Such investments are crucial for sustainable and efficient transport in India.

**16) Correct Answer: B**

PM Modi visited Varanasi on August 2, 2025, to inaugurate development projects worth Rs 2,200 crore. The visit included releasing the 20th instalment of PM-KISAN, benefiting over 9.7 crore farmers. Infrastructure, power, and cultural heritage projects were also launched. This highlights continued government focus on rural and urban development in key constituencies.

**17) Correct Answer: C**

Shah Rukh Khan was jointly awarded Best Actor for 'Jawan' at the 71st National Film Awards. The awards, announced in August 2025, celebrate excellence in



Indian cinema. Sharing the honour with Vikrant Massey, this recognition emphasizes Khan's significant contribution to Indian films. The National Film Awards remain a prestigious benchmark for cinematic achievement.

**18) Correct Answer: B**

India's forex reserves stood at \$698.19 billion by July 25, 2025, according to RBI data. This increase was mainly driven by foreign currency assets and gold reserves. Robust reserves help stabilize the rupee and provide economic security. Such high reserves reflect India's improving macroeconomic fundamentals and investor confidence.

**19) Correct Answer: C**

The Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme (PMNDP) now covers all 751 districts. Announced in August 2025, it provides free dialysis services under the National Health Mission. The expansion ensures equitable kidney care access nationwide. This is significant for public health, especially in rural and remote regions.

**20) Correct Answer: B**

Lieutenant General Pushpendra Singh assumed the role of Vice Chief of Army Staff on July 31, 2025. He brings over 38 years of experience in key operational roles. His appointment reflects continuity and leadership in India's military hierarchy. The Vice Chief plays a strategic role in army modernization and operations.

**21) Correct Answer: C**

On August 2, 2025, PM Modi released the 20th PM-KISAN instalment, disbursing ₹20,500 crore. The funds were directly transferred to over 9.7 crore farmers' accounts using DBT. This strengthens income support for small and marginal farmers. The initiative is crucial for rural prosperity and agricultural stability.

**22) Correct Answer: B**

'Matri Van' was launched in Gurugram, spanning 750 acres in the Aravalli Hills. The initiative promotes ecological preservation and community participation. It aligns with national efforts to rejuvenate urban green cover. Such projects are vital for improving air quality and urban sustainability in India.

**23) Correct Answer: A**

The private sector contributed over ₹32,000 crore to India's record defence production of ₹1.46 lakh crore in 2024-25. This marks significant growth from previous years. Private participation is crucial for self-reliance in defence manufacturing. It also boosts employment and exports in this strategic sector.

**24) Correct Answer: C**

Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of PM-KISAN beneficiaries with 2.25 crore farmers in the 18th instalment. This demonstrates the scheme's extensive reach in India's largest agricultural state. The support has been critical for enhancing farmers' financial security. It also reduces dependence on informal credit.

**25) Correct Answer: B**

The Ministry of Textiles launched the 'Know Your Weaves' campaign to promote awareness about India's handloom weaving traditions. It showcases the diversity and craftsmanship of Indian textiles. The initiative aims to instill pride and preserve cultural heritage. It also supports artisans and traditional livelihoods.

**26) Correct Answer: B**

Kandla Port in Gujarat became the first Indian port to commission a Make-in-India Green Hydrogen Plant in August 2025. This facility marks a milestone in India's pursuit of Net-Zero emissions by 2070. The plant's rapid completion within four months highlights indigenous engineering strength. It is significant for India's clean energy transition and leadership in sustainable maritime infrastructure.

**27) Correct Answer: C**

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) surpassed 55 crore accounts in August 2025. Launched in 2014, PMJDY is the world's largest financial inclusion program. It has greatly enhanced access to banking for women and rural populations. This achievement strengthens India's framework for direct benefit transfers and economic empowerment.

**28) Correct Answer: B**

NMMSS awards ₹12,000 annually to eligible students from economically weaker sections. The scheme supports secondary education for government and aided

school students. Funds are transferred directly into Aadhaar-seeded bank accounts. This scholarship helps reduce dropouts and promotes merit among disadvantaged students.

**29) Correct Answer: B**

BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) and Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) signed the MoU for India's first 5G CNPN in the refinery sector. This marks a step towards advanced industrial automation and digital transformation. Such networks improve operational efficiency and cybersecurity. The initiative supports the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision for self-reliant technology.

**30) Correct Answer: C**

Tamil Nadu was named Best State for organ donation in the NOTTO Annual Report 2024-25. The state has consistently led in promoting organ donation and transplantation. Its efficient infrastructure and awareness campaigns have set national benchmarks. This recognition motivates other states to improve their organ donation initiatives.

**31) Correct Answer: C**

'Agnishodh' was inaugurated by the Army Chief at IIT-Madras to strengthen defence technology self-reliance. The cell integrates academic research with operational applications for Army modernization. It supports India's vision of "Swadeshikaran Se Sashaktikaran" and advances battlefield innovation. This initiative accelerates indigenous defence capabilities vital for national security.

**32) Correct Answer: B**

India and the Philippines identified geo-spatial technologies and the blue economy as immediate priorities under the new PoC. These areas support disaster management and maritime resource mapping. The cooperation aims to foster joint research and capacity-building. Strengthening such ties bolsters regional scientific advancement and resilience.

**33) Correct Answer: B**

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) launched the revamped website under 'PFRDA CONNECT' to boost digital engagement. This platform offers improved navigation, transparency,

and centralized access to pension schemes. It marks a major step in the digital transformation of the pension sector. Enhanced digital access promotes financial inclusion for retirees.

**34) Correct Answer: B**

Kartavya Bhavan – 03 aims to unify various ministries under one roof in a sustainable, IT-ready government complex. This enhances administrative efficiency and reduces costs. The building features green technologies and modern security systems. Such infrastructure upgrades support better governance and sustainable development.

**35) Correct Answer: C**

Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC) set the Guinness World Record with 3.53 crore valid registrations. It is an initiative where PM Modi interacts with students, teachers, and parents. PPC promotes stress-free exam preparation and aligns with NEP 2020. The record reflects the program's nationwide popularity and educational impact.

**36) Correct Answer: B**

India and the Philippines announced a Strategic Partnership on August 5, 2025. This partnership aims to boost collaboration in defense, security, maritime affairs, and trade. It is guided by a comprehensive Plan of Action (2025-2029). The move is significant for India's Act East policy and regional stability in the Indo-Pacific.

**37) Correct Answer: C**

Amit Shah became the longest-serving Union Home Minister on August 5, 2025. He surpassed L.K. Advani, holding office for 2,258 days. His tenure is marked by key decisions like the abrogation of Article 370. This reflects his lasting impact on India's internal security policy.

**38) Correct Answer: C**

Ghaziabad hosted the WHO workshop on herbal medicine safety from August 6 to 8, 2025. The event was organized by the Ministry of Ayush with WHO and PCIM. It aims to strengthen global standards for traditional medicine. This highlights India's leadership in traditional healthcare systems.

**39) Correct Answer: C**



UPI (Unified Payments Interface) crossed 700 million daily transactions on August 2, 2025. This milestone highlights India's rapid digital payment adoption. UPI now powers about 85% of digital payments in India. It showcases India as a global leader in real-time payment systems.

**40) Correct Answer: A**

Kartavya Bhavan will house major ministries including Home Affairs and External Affairs, as highlighted by PM Modi. Centralizing these ministries aims to improve administrative efficiency and policy coordination. The move addresses challenges of scattered government offices across Delhi. This development is pivotal for streamlined governance and public service delivery in India.

**41) Correct Answer: B**

BharatGen is the government's AI initiative to support all 22 scheduled languages by June 2026. Announced in August 2025, it is part of the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems and led by IIT Bombay. The project aims to create ethical, inclusive, and multilingual AI for diverse Indian needs. Its nationwide rollout will support digital inclusivity and governance.

**42) Correct Answer: B**

India and Russia signed the Modernization and Industrial Cooperation Protocol during their 11th working group meeting on August 6, 2025. The protocol aims to deepen industrial ties in sectors such as aluminium, fertilizers, railways, and mining technology. This agreement strengthens strategic and technological collaboration. It is significant for India's industrial modernization and bilateral relations.

**43) Correct Answer: B**

On August 6, 2025, the DAC approved capital acquisition proposals of around ₹67,000 crore to boost the operational capability of the Indian Armed Forces. These include night sights for BMP vehicles, autonomous surface craft, and advanced drones. The procurement supports indigenisation under Atmanirbhar Bharat. This strengthens India's defence readiness and self-reliance.

**44) Correct Answer: B**

On August 6, 2025, the Lok Sabha passed the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2024, to align Indian maritime laws with international conventions. The bill expands vessel definitions and strengthens maritime safety and training. It supports India's ambitions in global shipping. Modernizing maritime laws is vital for trade and economic growth.

**45) Correct Answer: A**

NCERT added chapters on Field Marshal Manekshaw, Brigadier Mohammad Usman, and Major Somnath Sharma in August 2025. These icons are celebrated for their valor—Manekshaw led in the 1971 war, Usman was the 'Lion of Nowshera', and Sharma was the first Param Vir Chakra awardee. This inclusion strengthens patriotic education and military awareness among Indian students.

**46) Correct Answer: C**

On August 7, 2025, China tested its Lanyue lunar lander, preparing for a manned moon landing before 2030. The lander will transport astronauts and serve as a living module on the lunar surface. This marks a critical milestone in China's space ambitions. Success would make China the second nation to land humans on the moon, reshaping global space competition.

**47) Correct Answer: A**

On August 7, 2025, NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Digital India's Bhashini Division signed a Statement of Intent in Delhi. This partnership aims to integrate language technology into innovation programs, making them accessible in multiple Indian languages. It boosts grassroots innovation and inclusivity, vital for India's diverse entrepreneurial landscape.

**48) Correct Answer: C**

On August 7, 2025, Israel and Egypt agreed on a \$35 billion natural gas export deal—the largest ever for Israel. Gas from Israel's Leviathan field will be supplied to Egypt through 2040, strengthening regional energy ties. The deal helps Egypt address rising energy demand and positions both nations as key players in the Eastern Mediterranean energy market.

**49) Correct Answer: C**

Gujarat is actively promoting medical tourism, as highlighted in August 2025. The state registered wellness retreats, organized international events, and facilitated foreign arrivals. India saw over 1.31 lakh medical tourist arrivals from January to April 2025, with Gujarat's efforts boosting its global healthcare profile. This enhances India's status as a medical tourism hub.

**50) Correct Answer: B**

The Union Cabinet has approved a total outlay of ₹6,520 crore for the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY). This includes an additional ₹1,920 crore allocated toward this Central Sector Scheme under the 15th Finance Commission cycle (2021–22 to 2025–26), aimed at expanding food processing infrastructure through irradiation units and testing labs.

**51) Correct Answer: A**

The Republic of Moldova officially joined the International Solar Alliance as its 107th member, a development confirmed by India's Ministry of External Affairs. Moldova's accession reinforces its commitment to global solar energy collaboration and access to renewable energy partnerships.

**52) Correct Answer: A**

The SheLeads II programme, UN Women's flagship capacity-building workshop for women leaders, was inaugurated by Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Annpurna Devi, in New Delhi. This second edition brings grassroots women leaders and elected representatives together to enhance political leadership and governance skills.

**53) Correct Answer: B**

Anantnag railway station in the Kashmir Valley has become the first station in the region to be equipped for goods transportation. Northern Railway authorities recently opened it to handle freight movement in both directions, marking a significant step in boosting regional logistics and business activity.

**54) Correct Answer: D**

The Ministry of Tourism of India recently launched the revamped Incredible India Digital Platform (IIDP). This upgraded online resource, introduced by the Tourism Ministry, serves as a comprehensive hub aimed at

enhancing digital engagement with global tourism stakeholders.

**55) Correct Answer: C**

The Kakori Rail Conspiracy was commemorated on its 100th anniversary in August 2025. It was a daring train robbery by the Hindustan Republican Association in 1925 to fund the freedom struggle. Key revolutionaries like Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaqulla Khan were involved. This act symbolizes early organized armed resistance against British colonial rule in India.

**56) Correct Answer: B**

The Uttarakhand government restored mobile network services in Harsil Valley in August 2025. The area had been affected by landslides and heavy rain causing roadblocks. Restoration aided ongoing rescue and evacuation operations. Rapid response is crucial in disaster-prone regions for effective relief and communication.

**57) Correct Answer: D**

A subsidy of ₹300 per 14.2 kg LPG cylinder for PMUY beneficiaries was approved for FY 2025-26. The decision aims to make clean cooking fuel more affordable for poor households. It shields them from international LPG price fluctuations. The move supports women's health and rural welfare.

**58) Correct Answer: B**

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) will receive ₹30,000 crore. The funds offset losses from selling LPG at regulated prices. This ensures uninterrupted supply for millions of households. The compensation supports both consumer welfare and financial health of PSU oil companies.

**59) Correct Answer: C**

Researchers at Bose Institute found that TAK1 kinase exhibits 'pseudo-intelligence' in August 2025. Its atomic structure enables context-dependent signal processing. This interdisciplinary study bridges biochemistry and AI. The discovery could open new directions for targeted drug development and understanding cell signaling.

**60) Correct Answer: C**



Gujarat is the only state where Asiatic lions are found, with the population reaching 891 in August 2025. This increase, credited to Project Lion and conservation efforts, was announced on World Lion Day by Union Minister Bhupender Yadav. The lions thrive in the Gir forest, symbolizing national ecological pride. The success is globally significant, as Gir is the last wild home of this species.

**61) Correct Answer: B**

On August 10, 2025, PM Modi inaugurated Bengaluru's Yellow Line Metro, connecting the Central District with Electronics City. The 19 km line, built at a cost of ₹7,160 crore, expands the city's metro network and eases traffic congestion. This boosts urban connectivity and supports Bengaluru's role as a technology hub.

**62) Correct Answer: B**

The first freight train arrived in the Kashmir Valley, marking a historic step in integrating the region with India's freight network. This was enabled by the Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project. It is significant for regional commerce, reducing costs and ensuring year-round goods movement.

**63) Correct Answer: C**

On August 11, 2025, the Centre will digitally transfer ₹3,200 crore in crop insurance claims to over 30 lakh farmers under PMFBY. This is the first such large-scale, single-day payout via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). The move enhances transparency and strengthens financial security for Indian farmers.

**64) Correct Answer: B**

A mandatory Facial Recognition System was implemented for THR delivery under Mission Poshan 2.0 from July 1, 2025. This ensures only registered beneficiaries receive nutrition support, improving accountability and transparency. The reform leverages digital tools for better last-mile delivery, crucial for maternal and child health.

**65) Correct Answer: B**

The Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of Goa Bill, 2025, was passed to reserve four seats for STs. The bill addresses the lack of reserved seats despite rising ST population. It

empowers the Election Commission to redraw boundaries, enhancing representation and social justice in Goa.

**66) Correct Answer: B**

Equity-oriented mutual funds recorded net inflows of ₹42,702 crore in July 2025, an 81% rise from June. This surge was driven by strong retail participation and new fund offers. The trend reflects growing investor confidence and deepening capital markets in India.

**67) Correct Answer: C**

The ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 will be held in India between September 30 and November 2. It marks a significant moment for women's cricket, aiming to elevate the sport globally. Hosting boosts India's profile in international sports and supports gender diversity in cricket.

**68) Correct Answer: B**

The kharif crop sown area rose to 995.6 lakh hectares due to good monsoon rains in 2025. Favourable weather boosted planting in rain-fed regions. This expansion is expected to enhance food production and support farmer incomes, aiding inflation control.

**69) Correct Answer: B**

Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, hosted World Elephant Day 2025 on August 12. The event, organized by MoEF, focuses on elephant conservation and human-elephant conflict. India is home to nearly 60% of global wild elephants, making such initiatives crucial for biodiversity.

**70) Correct Answer: C**

The Cabinet approved the 700 MW Tato-II Hydro Electric Project in Shi Yomi district of Arunachal Pradesh in August 2025. This project will generate 2,738.06 million units of electricity annually. It aims to boost regional power supply and socio-economic development. Such projects help strengthen India's northeast infrastructure and support energy security.

**71) Correct Answer: C**

By August 5, 2025, ABDM created over 79.91 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHAs). This supports seamless digital healthcare access across India. Digital health records improve care continuity and

efficiency. The scale reflects India's progress in health tech infrastructure.

**72) Correct Answer: C**

India's Ethanol Blending Programme targets 20% ethanol (E-20) in petrol by October 31, 2026. This reduces greenhouse gas emissions and supports farmer incomes. Ethanol blending is a key part of India's clean energy transition. It also saves foreign exchange and boosts rural economies.

**73) Correct Answer: B**

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan, India's anti-drug campaign, completed five years in August 2025. The campaign focuses on prevention, treatment, and community awareness. It has sensitized over 18 crore people nationwide. Such initiatives are vital for public health and social stability.

**74) Correct Answer: B**

Nigeria and India held bilateral defence talks in New Delhi in August 2025. They discussed counter-terrorism, maritime cooperation, and defence industry ties. Strengthening defence ties with African nations enhances India's strategic outreach. Such partnerships support mutual security and technological collaboration.

**75) Correct Answer: C**

India reached a 100 GW solar PV module manufacturing capacity in August 2025. This leap from 2.3 GW in 2014 showcases India's rapid progress in clean energy and self-reliance under the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision. The milestone is credited to initiatives like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme. It strengthens India's global leadership in renewable energy and commitment to decarbonization.

**76) Correct Answer: C**

The 79th Independence Day celebrations will be themed 'Naya Bharat.' This theme reflects India's aspiration for a prosperous, secure, and bold future aligned with the Viksit Bharat by 2047 vision. The event showcases progress and major achievements across sectors. The theme underscores the government's focus on transformation and national pride.

**77) Correct Answer: C**

Ahmedabad has been proposed as the host city for the 2030 Commonwealth Games. The Indian Olympic Association formally approved the bid in August 2025. With Canada's withdrawal, India's chances have improved. Hosting the Games would enhance India's international sports profile and infrastructure development.

**78) Correct Answer: B**

US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet in Alaska on August 15, 2025. The summit aims to discuss efforts to end the war in Ukraine. This is the first US-Russia summit since 2021. The outcome could have significant implications for global security and diplomacy.

**79) Correct Answer: A**

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) launched the property rating framework for digital connectivity. Announced in August 2025, this framework standardizes assessment of building readiness for digital services. It ensures better digital access indoors. This initiative supports the Digital India vision and inclusive growth.

**80) Correct Answer: D**

S&P Global upgraded India's sovereign credit rating to 'BBB' in August 2025. The upgrade cited economic resilience and fiscal consolidation. Improved credit ratings attract investment and reduce borrowing costs for India. This move reflects confidence in India's policy stability and growth prospects.

**81) Correct Answer: A**

The National Sports Governance Bill and National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill 2025 were passed in August 2025. These reforms aim to enhance transparency, athlete welfare, and governance in Indian sports. They introduce mechanisms like a Sports Tribunal and Safe Sport Policy. Such measures are crucial for India's sports integrity and international reputation.

**82) Correct Answer: C**

Cdr. Jatinder Pal Singh (Retd) dived to 5,002 meters in the Atlantic Ocean in August 2025. This historic feat places India among a handful of nations capable of such deep-sea exploration. The mission prepares India for its



upcoming indigenous Samudrayan Mission. Deep-sea technology boosts India's blue economy and scientific standing.

**83) Correct Answer: B**

The 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' campaign for Rabi crops will be launched on October 3, 2025. The initiative was announced by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. It aims to address fertilizer supply, boost production, and strengthen natural farming. Such campaigns support India's agricultural resilience and food security.

**84) Correct Answer: C**

Kargil district in Ladakh exported fresh apricots to Saudi Arabia for the first time in August 2025. The launch was part of the One District One Product initiative. It promotes unique Indian produce in international markets. Such exports strengthen India's agricultural trade ties globally.

**85) Correct Answer: C**

The Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana was announced on August 15, 2025, aiming to create 3.5 crore jobs. It offers incentives for first-time employees and employers, marking a major step in youth employment. This initiative is pivotal for India's demographic dividend and economic growth.

**86) Correct Answer: B**

The National Deep Water Exploration Mission, launched on August 15, 2025, focuses on exploring oil and gas reserves in Indian seas. This mission is integral to enhancing India's energy self-reliance. It will help reduce dependency on foreign fuel imports, strengthening India's energy security.

**87) Correct Answer: C**

Mission Sudarshan Chakra was announced in August 2025 as a national security initiative. It will use indigenous technology to protect key establishments by 2035. This boosts India's self-reliance and strategic defense preparedness.

**88) Correct Answer: C**

PM Modi announced in his August 2025 speech that India's first homegrown semiconductor chip would roll out by the end of 2025. This marks a breakthrough in

India's strategic technology sector, reducing import dependence and enhancing digital sovereignty.

**89) Correct Answer: C**

China hosted the World Humanoid Robot Games in August 2025, bringing together 280 teams from 16 countries. The event displayed robotics and AI progress. Such initiatives underline China's ambition in technology and global competition.

**90) Correct Answer: C**

Next-generation GST reforms were announced by PM Modi in his Independence Day address. The reforms aim to simplify the tax system and reduce GST on household items. This will benefit traders and consumers by making essentials more affordable. It represents a significant step towards economic ease and domestic trade competitiveness.

**91) Correct Answer: C**

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited India on August 18–19, 2025. He participated in the 24th round of Special Representatives' Talks on the India-China boundary question. The visit is part of ongoing diplomatic efforts to address border disputes. Such high-level engagement is crucial for regional stability.

**92) Correct Answer: C**

Parsi New Year, known as Navroz, was celebrated on August 15, 2025. It marks renewal and prosperity, rooted in Zoroastrian tradition. Navroz is observed by Parsis in India using the Shahenshahi calendar. The festival highlights the community's enduring contributions to Indian society.

**93) Correct Answer: B**

PM Modi inaugurated the Delhi section of the Dwarka Expressway and Urban Extension Road-II on August 17, 2025. These projects aim to decongest Delhi and improve connectivity. With a combined cost of nearly ₹11,000 crore, they boost economic activity and ease transport in NCR.

**94) Correct Answer: C**

PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana was announced in August 2025. The scheme allocates ₹1 lakh crore to incentivize hiring and support first-time employees. It aims to benefit about 3.5 crore youth in the private sector. This

initiative is crucial for addressing India's demographic dividend.

**95) Correct Answer: B**

CP Radhakrishnan was named the NDA's Vice Presidential candidate for the September 2025 election. He is the current Governor of Maharashtra and a veteran BJP leader, previously serving as Governor of Jharkhand. The post became vacant after Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned in July 2025. This selection is significant as it highlights the NDA's internal consensus and leadership choices at the national level.

**96) Correct Answer: B**

Kabak Yano from Arunachal Pradesh scaled Mount Elbrus on August 16, 2025. Mount Elbrus is the highest peak in Russia and Europe, and its ascent is a key milestone in the Seven Summits Challenge. Yano is also the first woman from the Nyishi community to summit Everest. Her achievement inspires young Indians and showcases women's participation in adventure sports.

**97) Correct Answer: B**

The e-Jagriti platform, launched in January 2025, enabled the NCDRC and ten states to surpass 100% disposal rates in consumer cases in July 2025. It provides a unified digital interface for filing complaints and tracking cases efficiently. This reflects a major step toward swift and accessible consumer justice in India, supporting digital governance.

**98) Correct Answer: B**

INS Tamal, the Indian Navy's latest stealth frigate, conducted PASSEX with ITS Trieste in August 2025 during a port call at Naples. The exercise included tactical drills and professional exchanges. This visit underscores India's growing maritime partnership with Italy and highlights defense diplomacy in Europe.

**99) Correct Answer: C**

Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth (RAV) hosted the 30th National Seminar on "Management of Illness Wellness in Paediatrics through Ayurveda" in Delhi on August 18-19, 2025. The event aims to integrate traditional and evidence-based approaches for child health. This initiative promotes holistic and indigenous healthcare solutions in India.

**100) Correct Answer: B**

The Jan Vishwas Bill, 2025 seeks to decriminalise 288 provisions across 16 Central Acts. It aims to promote ease of doing business and ease of living by replacing imprisonment for minor defaults with monetary penalties or warnings. This regulatory reform supports the vision of 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance.' It is expected to improve business sentiment and reduce judicial burdens.

**101) Correct Answer: C**

The Indian Ports Bill, 2025 replaces the Indian Ports Act of 1908. It modernizes maritime governance, improves Centre-State coordination, and aims to boost port-led growth. The bill introduces digitalization and global environmental standards, aligning India with global maritime leaders. This reform is vital for India's ambition to become a global maritime power by 2047.

**102) Correct Answer: B**

Haryana and Punjab were identified with high selenium content in limited groundwater samples. The CGWB found samples in Jhajjar (Haryana) and Rupnagar (Punjab) exceeding permissible limits. The Jal Jeevan Mission is addressing such quality issues through monitoring and alternative safe water sources. Tackling groundwater contamination is essential for public health and rural development.

**103) Correct Answer: B**

Indian Railways commissioned the first removable solar panel system between tracks at Banaras Locomotive Works, Varanasi. The 70-metre system aims to harness solar energy for sustainable rail operations. This green energy initiative is part of India's broader push towards renewable energy and eco-friendly transport solutions.

**104) Correct Answer: C**

India and China held high-level talks in August 2025, with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visiting New Delhi. The discussions focused on border issues, trade, and bilateral cooperation. Maintaining peace along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is crucial for positive momentum in India-China ties.

**105) Correct Answer: C**

The Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025, was passed by the Lok Sabha on August 19, 2025. This bill officially recognises IIM Guwahati as an Institute of National Importance. The move follows a settlement with Assam stakeholders and aims to accelerate development in the region. This elevates IIM Guwahati alongside 21 other IIMs, strengthening India's management education ecosystem.

**106) Correct Answer: C**

The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2025, advances the objectives of the National Critical Mineral Mission. Passed on August 19, 2025, it promotes sustainable mining, zero-waste practices, and boosts production of critical minerals. These reforms are crucial for sectors like EVs, batteries, and space, reducing India's import dependence and enhancing supply chain security.

**107) Correct Answer: B**

India will host the 2026 BRICS Summit, as reaffirmed in diplomatic talks between India's EAM and China's Foreign Minister on August 19, 2025. This mutual support for hosting major summits marks improved cooperation and strengthens India's leadership in multilateral forums. Such international events are significant for enhancing India's global stature.

**108) Correct Answer: B**

Justice B. Sudershan Reddy was announced as the INDIA bloc's Vice Presidential candidate on August 19, 2025. He is a former Supreme Court judge known for progressive judgments. His candidature represents the opposition's united stand and highlights the importance of ideological battles in India's parliamentary democracy.

**109) Correct Answer: C**

ICRA projects India's Q1 FY2026 GDP growth at 6.7%, as reported on August 19, 2025. This is above the RBI's estimate of 6.5%. The projection reflects sustained government expenditure and strong services growth. Such growth rates are pivotal for India's economic trajectory amid global uncertainties.

**110) Correct Answer: C**

The World Para Athletics Championship 2025 will be hosted in New Delhi. This marks the largest para-sport

event ever held in India, with participation from 104 nations and over 2,500 para-athletes. The event will take place at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium from September 27 to October 5, 2025. Hosting such a global event highlights India's commitment to inclusivity and sporting excellence.

**111) Correct Answer: B**

The Online Gaming Bill aims to promote e-sports and online social games while banning online money gaming. It prohibits services, advertisements, and financial transactions linked to online money games. This measure addresses addiction, fraud, and societal harm, protecting citizens and supporting legitimate gaming innovation in India.

**112) Correct Answer: C**

India successfully test-fired the Agni-5 Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile from Chandipur, Odisha, in August 2025. The launch validated all operational and technical parameters, reflecting India's growing indigenous defence capability. Such advancements enhance India's strategic deterrence and national security posture.

**113) Correct Answer: B**

India's eight core industries recorded a 2% growth in July 2025 over the previous year. This growth was mainly driven by increased production in steel, cement, fertilisers, and electricity. Core industries account for over 40% of the Index of Industrial Production, making this a vital indicator of economic health.

**114) Correct Answer: C**

Manika Vishwakarma from Rajasthan won the Miss Universe India 2025 title. She will represent India at the Miss Universe pageant in Thailand. Her journey, marked by academic and extracurricular excellence, inspires young women across the country to break barriers and pursue their dreams.

**115) Correct Answer: C**

Satish Golcha, a 1992-batch IPS officer, was appointed Commissioner of Police, Delhi in August 2025. He took over after S B K Singh, who was holding additional charge post Sanjay Arora's retirement. Golcha previously served as DG (Prisons) and held key positions during critical



periods like the 2020 Delhi riots. His appointment is significant for policing in the national capital.

**116) Correct Answer: B**

The 'Nusuk Umrah' platform enables international pilgrims to apply for Umrah visas and book related services online. Launched in August 2025, it is part of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 to modernise religious tourism. The digital service streamlines the pilgrimage process and enhances accessibility for Muslims worldwide.

**117) Correct Answer: C**

The GoM approved scrapping the four-tier GST structure in favour of dual rates—5% and 18%—in August 2025. This marks a significant step towards next-generation GST reforms, simplifying the tax system. It is expected to improve compliance and boost the Indian economy.

**118) Correct Answer: C**

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) secured a ₹62,000-crore order for 97 LCA Mk-1A Tejas jets in August 2025. The Cabinet Committee on Security approved this deal, strengthening India's indigenous defence manufacturing. It will help modernise the Air Force's fleet and boost the 'Make in India' initiative.

**119) Correct Answer: C**

SBI Research projected India's Q1 FY26 GDP growth at 6.8–7% in its August 2025 report. Growth was attributed to higher discretionary spending and demand-led expansion. This positive outlook underscores India's economic resilience amid global uncertainties and tariff concerns.

**120) Correct Answer: C**

By 2025, India expanded its national highway network to around 146,000 km, making it the second-largest globally after the United States. This growth, up 60% since 2014, is central to the government's infrastructure push. Improved connectivity boosts trade, jobs, and regional integration, supporting India's goal to become a developed nation by 2047.

**121) Correct Answer: C**

Kolkata expanded its metro network by 14 km with seven new stations in August 2025. This contributes to India's overall metro network exceeding 1,000 km, now the

world's third largest. Enhanced urban transport reduces travel times and supports economic growth in major cities like Kolkata.

**122) Correct Answer: B**

The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) was granted privileges and immunities under the UN (Privileges and Immunities) Act, 1947 in August 2025. This move enables IBCA to function as a global platform for big cat conservation, promoting collaboration among 95 countries. It strengthens India's leadership in wildlife protection.

**123) Correct Answer: B**

Prime Minister Modi inaugurated significant projects in Bihar, including the six-lane Aunta–Simaria bridge over the Ganga, in August 2025. These projects improve connectivity, support economic growth, and demonstrate the central government's commitment to Bihar's rapid development and welfare.

**124) Correct Answer: C**

India celebrated its second National Space Day on August 23, 2025, commemorating the Chandrayaan-3 Moon landing. The day emphasizes private sector involvement, rapid innovation, and inspires youth to pursue careers in space, underscoring India's growing global role in space exploration.

**125) Correct Answer: C**

Dr. Jitendra Singh announced that India aims to have an astronaut proclaim 'Viksit Bharat 2047' from the Moon by 2040. This was revealed during National Space Day 2025, highlighting India's ambitious space roadmap. The plan includes over 100 satellite launches and private sector involvement. This marks India's aspiration to be recognized as a global space power.

**126) Correct Answer: C**

PM Modi will visit Japan and China from August 29 to September 1, 2025. The visit includes the 15th India–Japan Annual Summit and participation in the SCO Summit in China. These diplomatic engagements aim to strengthen India's regional and global partnerships. Such visits are crucial for India's foreign policy and strategic interests.

**127) Correct Answer: C**

In November 2025, Argentina's national team, led by Lionel Messi, will play a FIFA friendly in Kerala. This is the first visit by Messi and the World Cup-winning squad to India. The event is expected to significantly boost local enthusiasm and tourism. It marks a milestone for Indian football fans.

**128) Correct Answer: B**

On National Space Day 2025, UP schools launched the NCERT module 'India – A Rising Space Power'. This module highlights India's journey in space science, from early innovations to contemporary missions. It aims to inspire students toward STEM careers. The initiative commemorates India's Chandrayaan-3 success.

**129) Correct Answer: B**

The theme for National Space Day 2025 is 'Aryabhatta to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities'. This theme connects India's ancient astronomical heritage to its modern space ambitions. It was highlighted by leaders and in new educational modules. Such themes foster national pride and scientific curiosity.

**130) Correct Answer: C**

DRDO achieved a milestone by successfully testing the indigenous IADWS off Odisha on August 23, 2025. The system integrates QRSAM, VSHORADS, and Directed Energy Weapon technologies. This marks a leap in India's multi-layered air defence capability. Strengthening such defence infrastructure is vital for national security and self-reliance.

**131) Correct Answer: B**

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla was felicitated for his ISS mission under Axiom Mission 4. He became a symbol of India's growing space ambitions and completed rigorous training rapidly. His achievement highlights India's expanding role in human spaceflight. This inspires India's aspirations in space technology and global partnerships.

**132) Correct Answer: C**

Cheteshwar Pujara retired from all forms of Indian cricket in August 2025. He scored 7,195 runs in 103 Tests with 19 centuries. Known for his patience and resilience, Pujara played key roles in series wins, especially in

Australia. His career exemplifies perseverance and technical batting for Indian cricket aspirants.

**133) Correct Answer: D**

Kolkata recently added 14 km of new metro lines, contributing to India's total metro network exceeding 1,000 km. This makes India the third largest in the world for metro rail. Such infrastructure boosts urban mobility and supports economic growth. Modern transport is crucial for India's aspirations as a global economy.

**134) Correct Answer: B**

The All India Speakers' Conference 2025 commemorated 100 years since Veer Vitthalbhai Patel became the first Indian Speaker. Held in Delhi, the event honored his foundational role in Indian legislative traditions. Such occasions connect modern democracy to its historical roots. They inspire youth about parliamentary values and governance.

**135) Correct Answer: C**

Farmer suicides declined by nearly 50% during NDA rule versus the UPA era. The RTI revealed 1,70,505 suicides during UPA (2004–2014) and 88,117 during NDA (2015–2022). This reduction highlights some progress but underscores persistent agrarian distress. Addressing such issues remains crucial for India's rural development.

**136) Correct Answer: C**

Bihar reported zero farmer suicides during the NDA period (2015–2022). This contrasts with high numbers in states like Maharashtra. The data points to regional disparities in policy implementation and reporting. Understanding such variations is important for targeted agricultural reforms.

**137) Correct Answer: B**

GeM (Government e-Marketplace) surpassed ₹15 lakh crore in cumulative Gross Merchandise Value since its launch in 2016. GeM has enabled transparent, inclusive public procurement, benefiting MSMEs and startups. Its success reflects India's digital governance drive and supports the Viksit Bharat vision.

**138) Correct Answer: C**

Sourav Ganguly became the head coach of Pretoria Capitals in South Africa's SA20 league. This marks his first official coaching assignment after serving as BCCI

President and IPL mentor. Ganguly's transition demonstrates the global demand for Indian cricketing expertise.

**139) Correct Answer: A**

Government and household sectors drove India's real investment growth of 6.9% per year (FY21–25), outpacing GDP growth. The Crisil report highlights their significant role, especially in public capex and real estate. Strong investment is vital for sustaining economic momentum amid global uncertainties.

**140) Correct Answer: C**

The National Conference on SC/ST Welfare will take place in Bhubaneswar on August 29–30, 2025. This is the first time the event is being held outside Delhi, marking a milestone in inclusive governance. The conference will focus on legislative committees' roles in empowering SCs and STs. It highlights the commitment to social justice and Viksit Bharat 2047.

**141) Correct Answer: B**

India and Kuwait held their 7th Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi in August 2025. The dialogue covered trade, energy, defence, and people-to-people ties, reflecting the growing strategic partnership. Over one million Indians live in Kuwait, underscoring close bilateral relations. Such cooperation is vital for India's interests in the Gulf region.

**142) Correct Answer: C**

Hansalpur in Ahmedabad district, Gujarat, hosted the inauguration of Maruti Suzuki's BEV and lithium-ion battery facility on August 26, 2025. This event marks a significant leap in India's green mobility and Make in India campaign. It demonstrates India's progress toward self-reliance in electric vehicle manufacturing. The move enhances Indo-Japanese industrial cooperation.

**143) Correct Answer: B**

The Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali, developed gold nanocluster-based biosensors for early Parkinson's detection in August 2025. The biosensors can distinguish healthy from toxic protein forms. Early diagnosis may improve treatment outcomes and reduce healthcare costs. This breakthrough

showcases India's growing capabilities in medical nanotechnology.

**144) Correct Answer: C**

Union Minister of State Harsh Malhotra laid the foundation stone for new flyovers and foot overbridges on NH-48 in Gurugram on August 26, 2025. These infrastructure projects aim to decongest traffic and improve safety. They reflect the government's push for world-class infrastructure. Enhanced connectivity supports regional economic growth.

**145) Correct Answer: B**

Army Hospital Research and Referral (AHRR) performed India's first Robotic Custom Laser Cataract Surgery with the ALLY system on August 28, 2025. This marks a technological leap in government healthcare, enabling bladeless, computer-guided eye surgery. The procedure ensures micron-level precision and safety. Such innovations boost advanced medical care within India's armed forces and public sector.

**146) Correct Answer: D**

KV ONGC, Srikona (Silchar Region, Assam) emerged as the national winner in the 35th National Youth Parliament Competition held on August 29, 2025. The event promotes democratic values and parliamentary practices among students. Over 175 Kendriya Vidyalayas participated in this edition. Such programs nurture leadership and understanding of democratic processes in India's youth.

**147) Correct Answer: B**

Exercise Bright Star 2025 is a multilateral tri-service drill hosted by Egypt and the US, with over 700 Indian personnel participating. The exercise, from August 28 to September 10, enhances jointness and interoperability among global armed forces. Such participation strengthens India's defence diplomacy and regional security ties.

**148) Correct Answer: C**

India's bioeconomy is projected to reach \$300 billion by 2030, as announced by Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh on August 28, 2025. This marks rapid growth from \$10 billion in 2014 and \$165.7 billion in 2024. The sector spans health, agriculture, and



environment. A robust bioeconomy supports innovation, job creation, and sustainable development.

**149) Correct Answer: B**

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) completed 11 years in August 2025, opening 56 crore bank accounts with deposits of ₹2.68 lakh crore. Launched in 2014, PMJDY is the world's largest financial inclusion initiative. It enhances access to banking, credit, and social security, empowering millions, especially in rural India.

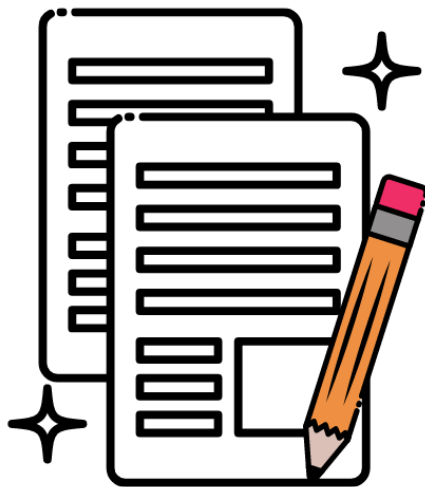
**150) Correct Answer: C**

The Men's Hockey Asia Cup 2025 kick started on August 29 in Rajgir, Bihar. This coincides with National Sports Day, celebrated in honor of Major Dhyan Chand. The event highlights Bihar's emergence as a vibrant sporting hub. Hosting such tournaments boosts regional sports infrastructure and inspires young talent in India.



## SECTION 3

# Detailed Analysis of Important Events



## Economics

### Digital Payments Index (DPI)



#### Why in the News?

According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), digital payments registered a 12.6% year-on-year rise as of March 31, 2024, as measured by the RBI's Digital Payments Index (DPI).

#### About RBI's Digital Payments Index (DPI):



- **Launched by:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in **January 2021**
- **Purpose:** Measures the extent of **digital payment adoption** across India
- **Base Period:** March 2018 (Index value = **100**)
- **Release Frequency:** **Semi-annually** (with a 4-month lag)
- **Objective:** Track usage, infrastructure, and growth in digital payments
- **Key Parameters (with Weightage):** These evaluate infrastructure readiness, transaction volume, user adoption, and innovation.
  1. Payment Enablers – 25%
  2. Payment Infrastructure – Demand Side – 10%
  3. Payment Infrastructure – Supply Side – 15%
  4. Payment Performance – 45%
  5. Consumer Centricity – 5%

#### Growth Highlight:

- RBI-DPI Growth Trends: From 100 in March 2018 to 493.22 in March 2025, the DPI increased by almost five times, indicating India's quick adoption of digital payments.
- In seven years, the basic value has increased by almost 5x.
- Propelled by the swift growth of mobile wallets, QR code infrastructure, and the Unified Payments Interface (UPI),

### What are Skill Impact Bonds (SIB)?



#### Why in the News?

Skill Impact Bonds (SIB) were recently highlighted by the Skill Development Ministry.

#### About the Skill Impact Bond:

- **Launched:** November 2021
- **Nature:** India's first Development Impact Bond (DIB) focused on **employment-linked skill development**
- **Lead Agency:** National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- **Collaborators:** British Asian Trust, HSBC India, Michael & Susan Dell Foundation
- **Target:** Train and place **50,000 youth over 4 years**, with **62% women** participation
- **How it Works:**





- **Risk Investors:** Provide upfront capital to training providers
- **Training Providers:** Deliver skill training and ensure job placements
- **Outcome Funders:** Repay investors only if job outcomes are achieved
- **Evaluators:** Independently assess outcomes via CATI surveys and document verification

#### Key Features:

- **Outcome-Focused Approach:** Measures success by certification, placement, and 3-month retention, not just enrolment
- **Eligibility Criteria:**
  - **Age:** 18–40 years; **Education:** Undergraduate or below
  - **Status:** Unemployed or earning below ₹15,000/month, or household income below ₹25,000/month
- **Sectoral Coverage:** Retail, Healthcare, Apparel, Logistics, Information Technology & IT-enabled Services, Banking, Financial Services & Insurance.
- **Women-Focused Design:** Ensures **62% female participation** to bridge the gender employment gap

### New Income Tax Bill, 2025



#### Why in the News?

Parliament has passed the Income-tax Bill, 2025, replacing the 1961 law with a leaner, simpler version free of redundant provisions and archaic language, effective April 1, 2026.

#### About New Income Tax Bill, 2025:



- **Purpose:** Replaces the Income Tax Act, 1961 after more than 60 years to simplify the law, remove redundant provisions, and modernise tax administration.
- **Effective Date:** Comes into effect from April 1, 2026.
- **Structural Changes:** Sections reduced from 819 to 536; chapters from 47 to 23.
- **Conciseness:** Word count cut from 5.12 lakh to 2.6 lakh, with 39 tables and 40 formulas for clarity.
- **New Concept:** Introduces “tax year” defined as April 1 to March 31.

#### Key Features:

- Refunds: By lifting the previous restriction, refund claims on late returns are restored.
- Clarity of Tax Collected at Source (TCS): Remittances for financial institution-funded schooling under the Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS) have no TCS.
- Corporate Tax: Fixes mistakes in the inter-corporate dividend deduction for businesses that choose to pay lower taxes.
- Aligning the provisions for Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) with current rates is known as Alternate Minimum Tax (AMT) Alignment.
- Zero Tax Withheld at the Source (TDS) Certificate: Enables nil-TDS certificate holders who are not liable to pay taxes.
- Transfer Pricing: Provides clarification on transfer pricing clauses, loss set-off, and compliance with Section 79 regarding "beneficial owner."
- NPO stands for non-profit organization. Benefit: Extends the exemption beyond anonymous donations to 5% of total donations.
- After municipal taxes, the 30% standard deduction for house property income is clarified.
- Search concept: Maintains the concept of "virtual digital space" to encompass social media accounts, email, and cloud storage.
- Data Handling: Personal digital data found during searches will be handled according to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

### Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS)



#### Why in the News?

SEBI has released a consultation paper proposing changes in Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) and Minimum Public Offer (MPO) norms for listed companies.

#### What is Minimum Public Offer (MPO)?

- **Meaning:** When a company launches an Initial Public Offer (IPO), it must sell a minimum number of shares to the public.
- **Analogy:** Like a new shop ensuring enough goods are displayed for customers — otherwise trading is thin and controlled by a few.

#### What is Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS)?



- **Concept:** A company is like a cake. Promoters (founders/owners) usually keep most of it, but SEBI mandates at least **25% must be shared/sold with the public.**
- **Purpose:**
  - Broader ownership and participation.
  - Fairer prices by reducing manipulation.
  - Greater accountability of companies.

#### What SEBI is proposing?

- **Flexibility:** Large companies find it difficult to release big chunks of shares at once; rules will be eased.
- **Extended Timelines:**
  - Companies valued at ₹50,000–1,00,000 crore now get up to 10 years (instead of 5) to meet 25% MPS.
  - They must reach 15% in 5 years first, then 25% in 10 years.

- **Reduced Burden:** For very large companies, the initial Minimum Public Offer (MPO) will be lowered.

#### Significance of the Move:

- **Market Stability:** Selling too many shares too quickly is like flooding the market — prices may fall even if the company is strong.

#### Benefits:

- More big companies will list in India.
- Investors can enter gradually without sudden shocks.
- Encourages fund-raising while maintaining fair trading.

## Environment & Diversity

### Bird Deaths in Thar Desert



#### Why in the News?

A new study by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) reveals that wind farms in the Thar Desert, Rajasthan, have the highest recorded bird mortality rates globally.

#### Bird Mortality at Wind Farms: Key Findings

- **Study Specifics:** conducted in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, over 3,000 square kilometers, encompassing 272 bird species, including the highly endangered Great Indian Bustard, and 90 wind turbines.
- 124 bird carcasses were discovered within 150 meters of the turbines.
- Estimated annual mortality, adjusted for scavenger interference and detection gaps, is 4,464 birds per 1,000 square kilometers.
- **Control Sites:** 28 locations between 500 and 2,000 meters from turbines had no corpses, proving that turbines were the direct cause.
- **Reasons:**
  - **Policy Gap:** Onshore wind projects in India do not require Environmental

Impact Assessments (EIAs), which weakens ecological safeguards.

#### India's Wind Energy Growth:

- **Present Situation:** India increased wind power by 82% year over year in the first half of 2025, adding 3.5 GW.
- The current total installed capacity is 51.3 GW.
- At 150 meters above the ground, the unrealized potential is estimated to be 1163.9 GW (National Institute of Wind Energy).

#### Comparison with Past Studies:

- **2019 Studies:** Recorded just 0.47 bird deaths per turbine/year in Kutch and Davangere.
- **Thar Desert Rate: 1.24 bird deaths per turbine/month** — significantly higher.
- **Contributing Factors:**
  - High bird density in Thar.
  - Location along **Central Asian Flyway**.
  - Collisions with **turbine-linked power lines** included in this study.

#### Proposed Mitigation Measures:

- **Technological:**
  - Paint one turbine blade for visibility.
  - Shut down turbines during peak migration or high-risk periods.
- **Planning-Based:**
  - Selecting a site carefully is seen to be the most important stage.



- AVISTEP (Avian Sensitivity technology for Energy Planning), a technology that maps avian sensitivity throughout India, is used.
- Zones are ranked from low to very high sensitivity by AVISTEP, which is meant to serve as a guide for site avoidance.

### India's Lion Population rises to 891



#### Why in the News?

In 2025, India reported a 32.2% rise in its Asiatic lion population, from 674 in 2020 to 891 in 2025, as per the 16th Lion Population Estimation.

**World Lion Day** is observed **annually on August 10** to promote awareness and action for the conservation of lions worldwide.

#### About Asiatic Lion:



- **Scientific Name:** *Panthera leo leo* — subspecies found only in India.
- **Historical Range:** Once across West Asia & Middle East; now extinct outside India.

- **Physical Trait:** Slightly smaller than African lions; has a unique belly fold.
- **Current Range:** Gir National Park & surrounding Saurashtra areas, Gujarat.
- **Past Range in India:** Extended to West Bengal and central India (Rewa, Madhya Pradesh).
- **Conservation Status:**
  - IUCN – **Endangered**
  - CITES – **Appendix I**
  - Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 – **Schedule I**

#### 2025 Census Highlights:

- **Population:** 891 lions (+32.2% from 2020).
- **Decadal Growth:** +70.36% since 2015 (from 523 lions).
- **Adult Females:** 330 (+26.9% from 2020).
- **Satellite Populations:** 497 lions in 9 locations — new groups in Barda WLS, Jetpur, Babra-Jasdan.
- **Corridor Records:** 22 lions sighted for the first time.
- **Regional Growth:** Mitiyala WLS (+100%), Bhavnagar Mainland (+84%), South Eastern Coast (+40%).
- **Declines:** Girnar WLS (-4%), Bhavnagar Coast (-12%).

### Saltwater Crocodile Population Survey in Sundarbans



#### Why in the News?

A 2025 survey by the West Bengal Forest Department shows an increase in saltwater crocodile population in the Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve (SBR).

#### About Saltwater Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*):



- **Largest living reptile** and the largest of all crocodilians.
- **Males grow much larger** than females; females usually **2.5–3 m in length**.
- **Habitat:** mangrove forests, swamps, rivers, and coastal waters; tolerant of varying salinity.
- **Distribution in India:** Odisha, West Bengal (Sundarbans), Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

- **Behaviour:** Apex predator, feeds on carcasses and diverse prey; communicates through **barks, hisses, growls, chirps**.
- **Conservation Status:**
  - **IUCN Red List:** Least Concern.
  - **CITES:** Appendix I (except populations of Australia, Indonesia, PNG → Appendix II).
  - **Wildlife Protection Act (1972):** Schedule I.
- **Conservation Efforts:** Bhagabatpur Crocodile Project (1976, West Bengal) – breeding and conservation programme; 577 crocodiles released till 2022.

#### Other Crocodile Species in India:

- **Gharial:** Critically Endangered; survives in only 2% of former range; Found in small stretches of **Chambal** and a few other rivers.
- **Mugger/Marsh Crocodile:** Vulnerable; found in freshwater lakes, rivers, marshes.

## Governance

### National Cooperation Policy (NCP), 2025



#### Why in the News?

The National Cooperation Policy (NCP) 2025 recently unveiled by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has drawn criticisms from SKM (Samyukt Kisan Morcha).

#### Also in news:

- A ₹2,000 crore Central Sector Scheme to support the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) from 2025–2026 to 2028–2029 has also been approved by the Union Cabinet.
- NCDC was established in 1963 as a statutory Corporation under Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

#### About Cooperatives in India:

- **What is it:** A cooperative is a voluntary, autonomous association of individuals who unite to meet common economic, social, or

cultural needs through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.

- **Key Principles:**

- **One member, one vote:** Equal say in governance, regardless of financial contribution.
- Based on collective benefit, democratic control, and mutual aid.

- **Historical Evolution:**

- **1904 & 1912:** Cooperative Acts laid the foundation for the cooperative movement in India.
- **Post-independence:** Emphasis on rural credit, dairy, and agriculture cooperatives (e.g., Amul).
- **Key Institutions:** NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development), NCDC (National Cooperative Development Corporation).

- **Constitutional & Legal Backing:**

- **97th Constitutional Amendment (2011):**
  - **Article 19(1)(c):** Right to form cooperative societies.
  - **Article 43B:** Directive Principle promoting cooperative societies.
  - **Part IXB (Articles 243ZH to 243ZT):** Provides governance framework.
- **MSCS Act, 2002:** Governs multi-state cooperatives (under Central Registrar).
- **State List (Entry 32):** State legislatures regulate intra-state cooperatives.

- **Scale:**

- India has over **8.42 lakh cooperatives** with **29 crore members** (~27% of global total).

- **Leading states:** Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, MP, Karnataka.
- **Notable cooperatives:** **IFFCO, Amul** — ranked among top 300 cooperatives globally.

### National Cooperation Policy (NCP) 2025:

- **Launch:** Introduced by Union Minister Amit Shah on **July 24, 2025**.
- **Vision:** “**Sahakar se Samridhi**” — promoting prosperity through cooperatives.
- **Objective:**
  - Establish a comprehensive national framework for cooperative growth (2025–2045).
  - Replace the 2002 policy and drive inclusive development through grassroots cooperatives.
- **Key Features:**
  - **2 lakh new Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)** in 5 years
  - **Scheme convergence:** e.g., PM Matsya Sampada Yojana, NPDD
  - **Inclusive focus:** Women, Dalits, Adivasis, youth
  - **Sector expansion:** Into 25+ areas—dairy, fisheries, exports, technology
  - **Education:** First cooperative university—*Tribhuvan Sahkari University*
  - **Export support:** Through *National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL)*
  - **Digital thrust:** Emphasis on digitisation and platform integration

### Issues with NCP, 2025:

- **Federalism Undermined**
  - **Entry 32:** Cooperatives are a State Subject
  - **SC Verdict (2021):** Centre cannot regulate intra-state cooperatives



- **Criticism:** Policy lacks ratification by half the states (Article 368(2))
- **Corporate Entry Fears**
  - Emphasis on digital platforms may enable **indirect corporatisation**
  - Potential marginalisation of small farmers and FPOs
- **Weak Social Inclusion**
  - Lacks focus on **Minimum Support Price (MSP)**, surplus sharing
  - No robust support for **producer cooperatives** or **fair wages**
  - **Inclusion of tribals, Dalits, women** remains rhetorical

## State Health Regulatory Excellence Index (SHRESTH)



### Why in the News?

The Union Health Ministry has launched the State Health Regulatory Excellence Index (SHRESTH), a first-of-its-kind national framework to benchmark and strengthen state drug regulatory systems.

### About State Health Regulatory Excellence Index (SHRESTH):

- The goal of the Union Health Ministry's nationwide project is to improve and benchmark state drug regulation frameworks.
- Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) was the developer.
- Goal: Using an open, data-driven framework, benchmark and enhance the performance of

drug regulatory agencies at the state level throughout India.

- Method: Serves as a virtual gap assessment tool for maturity certification and employs an open, data-driven architecture.



### Key Features:

- **State Categories:** Distribution-focused states/UTs are evaluated on 23 indices, whereas manufacturing states are evaluated on 27 indices.
- Themes for the evaluation include infrastructure, licensing, human resources, surveillance, and responsiveness.
- **Data Submission:** Scores are shared on the first of the next month after monthly metric data is provided by the 25th.
- **Performance Benchmarking:** Rankings promote the adoption of best practices and cross-learning.
- **Building Capacity:** Regulatory audits, cooperative trainings, and workshops to fortify state systems.
- **Digital Integration:** Dashboards like Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) enable real-time monitoring.
- **Global Standards:** Building on WHO Maturity Level-3 vaccination status, this supports India's objective of meeting WHO-equivalent medication quality standards.

## Animal Birth Control (ABC) Program



### Why in the News?

The Supreme Court has recently called returning sterilised stray dogs to the streets under the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Program as “unreasonable and absurd” and ordered they be moved to shelters.

### About Animal Birth Control (ABC) Program:

- The goal is to eliminate rabies and manage stray dog populations in a humane and scientifically supported manner.
- The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act of 1960 established the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules of 2001, which were later amended to become the Animal Birth Control Rules of 2023.
- Development: The World Health Organization (WHO) provided assistance in its creation.
- The "Catch–sterilise–vaccinate–release" concept is the main approach; it forbids culling or relocation.
- Implementation: Under the direction of panchayats, municipalities, and municipal corporations.
- Authorization: Programs may only be carried out by organizations approved by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI).
- **Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023:**



- Implemented in accordance with the directives of the Supreme Court in Writ Petition No. 691 of 2009.
- gives local organizations (panchayats, companies, and municipalities) the authority to carry out ABC programs for stray dog sterilization and vaccination.
- prohibits moving stray dogs in an attempt to restrict their numbers; instead, they must be sterile and brought back to their original site.
- ABC programs can only be carried out by organizations that have been approved by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI).

### Key Features:

- Sterilization Goal: Within a single reproductive cycle (around six months), at least 70% of stray dogs in a given area should be found.
- Focus: 70:30 female-to-male sterilization of females.
- Rabies Control: All sterile dogs must receive the ABC-ARV rabies vaccine.
- Infrastructure: Needed are kennels, veterinary clinics, cars, and clean shelters.
- Recordkeeping: Thorough documentation of capture, operation, immunization, and release.
- Monitoring: Local and state bodies deal with complaints and make sure that regulations are followed.

- Legal Protection: The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act of 1960 forbids the mass transfer or death of animals.

### Supreme Court interventions in Civil– Criminal overlap Cases



#### Why in the News?

In August 2025, the Supreme Court intervened twice to prevent the misuse of criminal proceedings in essentially civil disputes.

#### About Civil and Criminal Cases:

- Civil lawsuits, which are primarily controlled by the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (CPC), involve disagreements between people or organizations. Resolving rights and obligations is the goal, typically accomplished by injunctions or damages recompense. Examples include disagreements over property, violations of contracts, divorce, child custody, and money recovery.
- Crimes against society or the state are the subject of criminal trials. Punishment and deterrence are the goals. The state prosecutor started it. Stealing, cheating, assault, and murder are a few examples.
- **Burden of proof:**
  - **Civil cases:** Decided on a *preponderance of probabilities* (more likely than not).
  - **Criminal cases:** Guilt must be proven *beyond reasonable doubt*.
- Dual Cases: Certain actions may result in both criminal and civil liability. Prior to engaging in a business or personal relationship, dual proceedings require evidence of criminal intent.

- Schedules: According to data from the National Judicial Data Grid (2025), many criminal cases are resolved in less than a year, whereas civil cases take an average of 4.91 years.

#### Recent Supreme Court Actions:



- **Rajasthan plywood dispute case (Aug 13, 2025):** SC held there was no criminal breach of trust in a simple sale transaction. Denial of pre-arrest bail by the High Court was overturned.
- **Allahabad HC case (Aug 4, 2025):** SC criticised a judge for allowing criminal proceedings in a business transaction dispute, calling it a “mockery of justice”. The judge was temporarily barred from handling criminal cases, later reinstated after CJI intervention.
  - The SC clarified that **civil disputes cannot be turned into criminal prosecutions** unless fraud or criminal intent is clearly shown.

### “Anna-Chakra” Supply Chain Optimisation Tool for Public Distribution System





**Why in the News?**

The Union Minister of State for the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has provided crucial information regarding the Anna-Chakra Tool to the Parliament.

**About Anna-Chakra:**

- **Purpose:** Digital tool to optimise supply chain of the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- **Developed by:** World Food Programme (WFP) and Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (IIT-Delhi).
- **Implementation:** Adopted in **30 States/UTs**, except Manipur.
- **Coverage:** Supports **4.37 lakh Fair Price Shops** and **6,700 warehouses**.
- **Savings:** Reduces logistics/fuel costs, saving about **₹250 crore annually**.
- **Environmental Impact:** Route optimisation reduces travel distance by **15–50%**, cutting **CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**.

**Public Distribution System (PDS) in India:**

- **Objective:** Provides **subsidised food grains** to poor households, ensuring food security.
- **History:** Originated in inter-war years; expanded after **1960s food shortages**.
- **Reforms:** **Revamped PDS (1992)** extended coverage to rural and poverty-prone areas.
- **Structure:**
  - **Centre (FCI)** – procurement, storage, transportation, bulk allocation.

- **States** – distribute food grains to families via Fair Price Shops.
- **Coverage:** Serves **~800 million people** through **5 lakh+ Fair Price Shops**.
- **Items Distributed:** Wheat, rice, sugar, kerosene; some states add pulses and oils.
- **Significance:** Shields poor households from food price shocks and economic distress.

**‘Creamy Layer’ condition in OBC Quota****Why in the News?**

The government is considering measures to ensure uniform application of the ‘creamy layer’ condition in OBC reservations across central and state government jobs, public sector enterprises, universities, and autonomous bodies.

**About the Concept of Creamy Layer:**

- **Origin:** Emerged from **Indra Sawhney vs Union of India (1992)**; excluded affluent Other Backward Class (OBC) groups from reservations.
- **1993 DoPT Rules:** Defined creamy layer – children of Group A/Class I officers, early-promoted officials, Group B parents, senior

armed forces, high constitutional functionaries, professionals, traders, and large landowners.

- **Income Criteria:**

- **Ceiling:** ₹1 lakh in 1993, revised to ₹8 lakh in 2017.
- **Exclusions:** Salary and agricultural income not counted.

**2004 Clarification & Implementation Issues:**

- **Clarification:** DoPT directed separate assessment of salary and other income (except agriculture).
- **Rule:** If either exceeded limit (₹2.5 lakh then) for 3 consecutive years → creamy layer.
- **Problem:** Poor enforcement (2004–14) due to political sensitivities; stricter checks after 2014.
- **Impact:** Between CSE 2015–23, over 100 OBC caste certificates rejected under new interpretations.

**Equivalence Efforts:**

- **Consultations:** Involved Social Justice, Education, Law, Labour Ministries, DoPT, NITI Aayog, NCBC.
- **Goal:** Standardise creamy layer rules across universities, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), and autonomous bodies.
- **Proposal:** Retrospective relief suggested by Home Minister Amit Shah and NCBC.

**Key Proposals Under Consideration:**

- **University Teachers:** Salaries start at Group A-equivalent → children to be creamy layer.
- **Autonomous Bodies:** Posts aligned with central pay scales.
- **Non-Teaching Staff:** Categorisation based on equivalence with government jobs.
- **PSU Executives:** Already included since 2017; those ≤₹8 lakh excluded.
- **Aided Institutions:** Staff categorised based on parity with govt. employees.

**Likely Beneficiaries:**

- **Lower Govt. Staff:** Children of employees earning just above ₹8 lakh gain most.

- **Correction of Anomalies:** Ensures parity between teachers and aided staff.
- **State PSU Issues:** Fixes cases like fuel pump attendants in PSUs being declared creamy layer.
- **Private Sector:** No change; creamy layer based only on income/wealth criteria.

**Census 2027 and Urban Area Definition**



**Why in the News?**

The Registrar General of India (RGI) has announced that the same definition of “urban area” used in Census 2011 will be retained in Census 2027 to ensure comparability of data and analysis of urbanisation trends.

**Background and Urbanisation Trends:**

- **Census 2011 Data:** India’s population was 121 crore – 68.8% rural (83.3 crore) and 31.2% urban (37.7 crore).
- **Trend:** Urban share grew from 17.3% in 1951 to 31% in 2011, showing rapid urbanisation.
- **Units:** 6,40,867 villages and 15,870 urban units recorded in 2011.

**Definition of Urban Area:**



- **Statutory Towns:** Include municipal corporations, nagar palikas, town panchayats, cantonment boards, and notified town area committees.
- **Census Town Criteria:**
  - **Minimum population** of 5000;
  - **Population Density**  $\geq$  400 persons per sq. km;
  - **Workforce:**  $\geq$  75% of male workers in non-agricultural activities.
- **District HQs:** Headquarters **not legally notified as towns** will be Census Towns only if they meet criteria.
- **Exclusions:** Plantations and orchards outside statutory towns will not be treated as “forests” under this definition.

#### Special Features of Census 2027:

- **Caste Data:** For the first time, caste enumeration included (approved April 2024).
- **Worker Classification:** Male agricultural workers (cultivators, labourers, livestock, forestry,

fishing, hunting, plantations) excluded when calculating non-agricultural engagement.

- **Error Correction:** Grouping multiple villages into one Census Town discontinued; identification now at village level.

#### Preparatory Work and Timelines:

- **Jurisdiction Updates:** All changes in villages/towns/wards updated till 31 December 2025.
- **Boundary Freeze:** Administrative boundaries fixed on 1 January 2026.
- **Village Review:** Villages with 4,000+ population in 2011 re-examined to meet 5,000 threshold by 2027.
- **Phases:**
  - **Houselisting & Housing Census (HLO)** – April 2026.
  - **Population Enumeration (PE)** – February 2027.

## History

### Piprahwa Relics of Buddha



#### Why in the News?

The Union Culture Ministry has successfully retrieved the sacred 'Piprahwa' Buddhist relics, which were set to be auctioned in Hong Kong.

#### About the Piprahwa Relics:



- **Discovery:** Unearthed in 1898 by **William Claxton Peppe**, a British engineer, at Piprahwa (Siddharthnagar, Uttar Pradesh), near the **Nepal** border.
- **Historical Significance:** Identified as ancient **Kapilavastu**, capital of the Shakyas republic, where **Prince Siddhartha (Buddha)** lived before renunciation.



- **Findings at the Site:** A buried stupa yielded a large **stone coffer** containing:
  - **Bone fragments** believed to be Buddha's relics
  - **Caskets** made of soapstone and crystal
  - A **sandstone coffer**
  - Over **1,800 ornaments:** pearls, rubies, sapphires, gold sheets
- **Legal Custody:**
  - The British Crown claimed the relics under the **Indian Treasure Trove Act, 1878.**
  - Most artifacts were transferred to the **Indian Museum, Kolkata.**

#### Stupas with Buddha's Relics:

- A Brahmin by the name of Drona oversaw the dispersal of the Buddha's cremated remains, which were split among eight kingdoms upon his death (Mahaparinirvana).
- In order to preserve their portion of the relics, each recipient constructed a stupa, establishing significant pilgrimage destinations and the first places of worship for Buddhists.
- Rajagriha, Vaishali, Kapilavastu, Allakappa, Ramagrama, Vethadipa, Pava, Kushinagar, and Pippalivana were the locations of the nine stupas.
- Relics from these stupas were dispersed to thousands of other stupas around the empire by Emperor Ashoka in the third century BCE.
- Because it is thought to have remained intact and still contain the original relics, the stupa at Ramagrama is special.
- A hemispherical mound (anda), a square railing (harmika), a central pillar (yashti) with umbrellas (chatra), and a circumambulatory road (pradakshinapatha) were all common features of early Buddhist stupas.

### Red Fort as the Venue for Independence Day



#### Why in the News?

On August 15, 2025, Prime Minister delivered the longest **Independence Day speech (103 minutes)** from the Red Fort, continuing a tradition started by Jawaharlal Nehru in 1947.

The fort's choice as the venue reflects its historic role as Delhi's seat of power and symbol of sovereignty.

#### About the Red Fort:

- **Construction:** Constructed in 1648 as the palace fort of Shahjahanabad, the new capital of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan.
- **Material:** Royal pavilions and apartments surrounded by enormous walls of red sandstone.
- The Nahr-i-Behisht, also known as the "Stream of Paradise," was a continuous water channel that was contained within this water feature.
- **Architectural Value:** A superb illustration of Mughal architecture that combines Indian workmanship with Islamic customs.
- In 2007, it was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

#### Historical Significance of Delhi and Red Fort:

- **Delhi's role:** Babur considered Delhi to be the "capital of all Hindustan," and it served as the seat of power for almost a millennium.
- **Shahjahanabad:** The Red Fort is at the heart of this 1648-opened city.
- Delhi remained central even after the fall of the Mughals, and the East India Company produced coins bearing the emperor's name as a symbol of sovereignty.

#### 1857 Revolt and British Authority:

- Revolt Center: Sepoys in Delhi proclaimed Bahadur Shah Zafar as their leader.
- Following the fall of Delhi, Zafar was banished and Mughal empire came to an end.
- Fort Damage: About 80% of the inside of Red Fort was destroyed when the British turned it into a military post.
- Imperial Authority: Before the capital moved from Calcutta to Delhi in 1911, the Delhi Durbars (1877, 1903, 1911) established British rule.

#### Significance of Red Fort for Independence Day:

- Nationalist fervor was sparked by the 1946 INA Trials, which were held in Red Fort.
- 1947 Ceremony: On August 15, 1947, Jawaharlal Nehru delivered the inaugural Independence Day speech and raised the national flag.
- Tradition: Ever since, each prime minister has raised the flag and spoken to the country from the ramparts.
- Symbolism: Previously marked by colonial power, the location is now reclaimed as a representation of Indian independence.

### British Conquest of Sindh



#### Why in the News?

The British conquest of Sindh in the 1840s was a key step in colonial expansion, reminding us that regions like Sindh, Punjab, and Bengal came under British rule long before the 1947 partition of India and Pakistan.

#### British Conquest of Sindh:

- Following the battles of Dubbo and Miani, the British seized Sindh in 1843.
- Hosh Muhammad Sheedi, a general in the Talpur army and a Siddi of African descent, commanded the fight.
- In northwest India, his disobedience represented the first significant armed opposition to British expansion.

#### Political Background in Sindh:

- Mian Yar Muhammad Kalhora founded the Kalhora Dynasty (1701–1779), which the Mughals acknowledged and which reigned over northern and central Sindh. prosperous time, but internal conflicts made it weaker.
- The Baloch Talpurs toppled Kalhoras during the Talpur Dynasty (1779–1843), consolidating Sindh under clan authority at Hyderabad and Khairpur.
- In terms of geopolitics, Sindh was situated at the intersection of the British, French, and Russian rivalries (The Great Game). Russia's expansion through Afghanistan and Iran alarmed Britain.
- British Entry: After storming Manora Fort, the East India Company forced treaties on the Talpurs and took Karachi in 1839.

#### British Advance and the Fall of Sindh:



- Mir Nasir Khan Talpur, near Hyderabad, was vanquished by the British, led by Sir Charles Napier, in the Battle of Miani (17 February 1843).
- On March 24, 1843, Hosh Muhammad Sheedi formed an alliance with Mir Sher Muhammad

Talpur of Mirpur Khas in the Battle of Dubbo. "Marvesoon par Sindh na desoon" (I may die but will not give up Sindh) was Sheedi's war cry. He died while in action.

- British Annexation: Sindh was incorporated into the Bombay Presidency following Dubbo. The Talpur era came to an end.
- Aftermath: All of northwest India came under British control after Punjab was acquired in 1849, within ten years.

#### Legacy of Hosh Muhammad Sheedi:

- Of African-Siddi heritage, she was born into the Talpur kings' household.
- Indian and British chroniclers both praised valor.
- became a Sindhi folk hero who is revered by both Muslims and Hindus.
- His legacy emphasizes the Siddi community's resistance to colonialism and is fundamental to Sindh's cultural memory.

### Women Revolutionaries of Bengal



#### Pritilata Waddedar:

- Early Years: born in Chittagong on May 5, 1911. one of the first female Bengali leaders of a militant armed group.
- Education: Became a teacher after earning a philosophy degree from Bethune College in Kolkata.
- Inspiration: Joined Deepali Sangha after being influenced by women's action and revolutionary literature.
- Role: Gathered jail intelligence by assuming the identities of relatives, collected bomb cases, and distributed leaflets.

- Legacy: Known as a daring martyr, she left a suicide note outlining her reasons.

#### Kalpana Datta:

- Early Years: Born in Sripur, Chittagong, in 1913; attended Bethune College before becoming a member of the Chhatri Sangha.
- Activities: Arrested a week prior to the European Club attack; carried out reconnaissance before the attack.
- Later Role: In 1939, after being sentenced to life in prison, he participated in a bombing attempt to rescue Surya Sen.
- After gaining release, he became a leader of the Communist Party and prioritized social engagement.

#### Bina Das:

- Early Life: Kamala Das Gupta provided a handgun for the attempted assassination of Governor Stanley Jackson in 1932 when he was 21 years old.
- Networks: A member of covert student revolutionary groups.
- Court Statement: Well-known for her fervent appeal for resistance in front of the Calcutta High Court.

#### Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain:

- Early Life: Pioneer of women's rights and education; born on December 9, 1880.
- Writings: envisioned a feminist utopia in "Sultana's Dream" (1908).
- Institutions: established the Muslim Women's Association in 1916 and the first Muslim girls' school in Kolkata.
- Activism: Promoted education, contested purdah, and led women's conferences.

#### Kamala Das Gupta:

- Early Life: Born in Dhaka, I earned my master's degree in history from Kolkata. Gandhian at first, he later joined Jugantar.
- Role: Arrested several times; provided resources, guns, and sanctuary.



- Connection: Provided a gun to Bina Das during her attempted murder.
- Legacy: Oversaw refugee relief and vocational training; authored "Rakter Akshare" and "Swadhinata Sangrame Nari."

#### Nanibala Devi:

- Early Life: Spied for intelligence in prisons while posing as the wife of a rebel.
- End: Though impoverished, he served as a symbol of bravery and tenacity.

#### Labanya Prabha Ghosh:

- Early Life: Born in Purulia on August 14, 1897.
- Contribution: Aided in the founding of Shilpashram, a gathering place for revolutionary figures like C.R. Das and Subhas Bose.

- Political Role: Edited and authored nationalist publications; was Purulia's first female MLA.
- Later Activism: Started campaigns for poor people's justice and land rights.

#### Matangini Hazra ("Gandhi Buri"):

- Early Life: Poor and widowed at a young age, she was born in Hogla village, Midnapore, in 1870.
- Freedom Struggle: Participated in the Salt Satyagraha, opposed the Chowkidari tax, and was detained for producing salt.
- Repression: Serving the sick during epidemics; being beaten and imprisoned.
- Martyrdom: Held the tricolor to his death and was killed by police bullets while leading the Quit India rally in 1942.

## International Relations

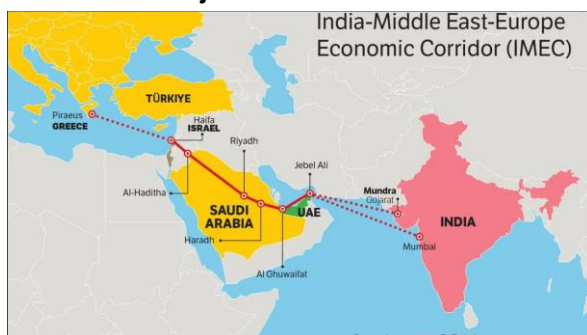
### Gaza War Impact on IMEC



#### Why in the News?

India's National Security Council Secretariat recently hosted envoys from the US, UAE, Saudi Arabia, France, Italy, Germany, Israel, Jordan, and the EU to review progress on the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

#### About IMEC Project:



- A component of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), which aims to improve connectivity in underdeveloped nations.
- At the G20 New Delhi Summit on September 10, 2023, an MOU was inked.
- Participants include the US, Saudi Arabia, France, Germany, Italy, India, the UAE, and the European Union.
- Goal: To increase transportation efficiency, lower prices, generate employment, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and fortify economic unity, Asia, the Middle East, and Europe should be integrated.
- **Structure:**
  - **East Corridor:** India to Arabian Gulf.
  - **Northern Corridor:** Gulf region to Europe.
- **Key Ports:**
  - **India** – Mundra, Kandla, Jawaharlal Nehru Port (Mumbai).
  - **Middle East** – Fujairah, Jebel Ali, Abu Dhabi, Dammam, Ras Al Khair.
  - **Israel** – Haifa.
  - **Europe** – Piraeus, Messina, Marseille.

- **Infrastructure includes:** Railway links, ship-to-rail hubs, roads, electricity cables, hydrogen pipelines, and high-speed data cables.

#### Impact of Gaza War:

- Work that is derailed: Stakeholder discussions were disrupted by conflict in late 2023, which also halted construction on the western portion (Middle East–Europe).
- Normalization between Saudi Arabia and Israel has halted, while Jordan-Israel relations are at an all-time low.
- Unified operational planning is hampered by regional rivalries, such as the trade rivalry between Saudi Arabia and the Ukraine.

#### Significance:

- **Economic:** India's biggest trading partner is the EU; the corridor promises cheaper, quicker, and emission-free trade.
- **Strategic:** Establishes India as a link between Europe and the Middle East and enhances its standing in West Asia.
- **Energy and Technology:** Possibilities for data cable connections, electricity, and clean hydrogen pipelines.
- **Resilience:** Offers a substitute for Red Sea shipping lanes that are susceptible to interruptions.

## Polity

### Nominations to J&K Assembly



#### Why in the News?

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) informed the J&K High Court that the Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) can nominate five members to the J&K Legislative Assembly without the aid and advice of the elected government.

#### About Nominations in State Assemblies:

- **Election Mode:** Single-member constituencies are the primary source of direct elections for members.
- **Smaller States/UTs** like Sikkim, Goa, Mizoram, and Puducherry have fewer members with parliamentary approval; the assembly size ranges from 60 to 500.
- **Anglo-Indian Nomination:** The 104th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019 eliminated

the practice of governors nominating one Anglo-Indian member if they were underrepresented (effective January 2020).

- **Nominated members** have the same rights and responsibilities as elected members, with the exception of issues requiring a direct election mandate.
- **Prevalence:** Only under specific constitutional or legal restrictions are most states permitted to have nominated members.
- **Parliamentary Nomination Abolition:** The 104th Amendment also eliminated Anglo-Indian nominations in the State Assemblies (1) and Lok Sabha (2).
- **Legislative Council Distinction:** In Vidhan Parishads, the governors appoint one-sixth of the members from the fields of social service, science, literature, art, and cooperatives.

#### Exceptions for Jammu & Kashmir:

- **Special Provision:** Under **J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019** (amended 2023), the Lieutenant-Governor can nominate:
  - **Women:** 2 women if under-represented.
  - **Migrants:** 2 Kashmiri migrants (including 1 woman).

- **PoJK Community:** 1 member from Pakistan-occupied J&K community.
- **Seat Structure:** Nominated members are in addition to elected members; Assembly = 114 elected + nominated (24 PoJK seats vacant).

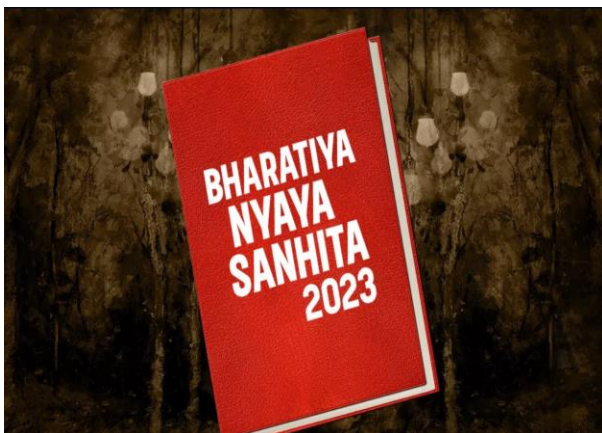
#### Legal Basis in J&K:

- **Statutory Provision:** Sections 15, 15A, 15B of J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019 (amended 2023) grant L-G nomination powers.
- **MHA Clarification:**
  - **Nature of Power:** Statutory function at L-G's discretion, without elected government's aid/advice.
  - **Precedent:** Similar powers under **Union Territories Act, 1963** (e.g., Puducherry).
  - **Counting Rule:** Nominated members are part of sanctioned Assembly strength.
- **Purpose:** To ensure representation for displaced communities, marginalized groups, and women.



- **Deals with:** Acts endangering sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India.
- **Origin:** Introduced in the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023**, effective 1 July 2024, replacing **Section 124A IPC (sedition)**.
- **Scope:** Criminalises purposeful or knowing acts that:
  - Excite **secession, armed rebellion, or subversive activities**.
  - Encourage **separatist feelings**.
  - Endanger **sovereignty, unity, or integrity** of India.
- **Means Covered:** Words (spoken/written), signs, visible representation, electronic communication, financial means, or any other method.
- **Punishment:** Life imprisonment or imprisonment up to 7 years + fine.
- **Nature of Offence:** Cognizable, non-bailable, triable by Court of Session.
- **Exception Clause:** Lawful criticism of government measures to seek change—without inciting rebellion/secession—is not an offence.
- **Key Difference from Section 124A IPC:** Focus shifted from “disaffection against Government” to **direct threats against the nation's unity and sovereignty**, with explicit recognition of digital-era methods.

### Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)



#### Why in the News?

The Supreme Court has raised a key question—whether the “potentiality of abuse” of Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which punishes acts endangering the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India, could be a ground to declare the provision unconstitutional.

#### About Section 152 BNS:

#### Issues with Section 152 BNS:

- **Possibility of Abuse:** General and arbitrary phrases such as “endangering sovereignty” can be abused to disparage journalism, activism, and political dissent.



- **Vagueness:** Concepts that lack definitions, such as "sovereignty" in speech, lead to ambiguity and allow for arbitrary interpretation by authority.
- **Comparable to the Sedition Law:** Although it has been reworded, its fundamental impact is similar to that of Section 124A IPC, which is being challenged as unconstitutional for restricting free speech.
- **Effect of Chilling on Free Expression:** Risk of self-censorship among people, activists, and journalists because they are afraid of being prosecuted.
- **High Punishment and Cognizability:** Severe punishments and warrantless arrests increase the likelihood of harassment prior to judicial review.
- **Digital Surveillance Issues:** Investigative reach into private digital activities may be expanded by explicit covering of financial resources and electronic communication.
- **Judicial Burden:** To strike a balance between state security and freedom of speech under Article 19(1)(a), courts will have to interpret the legislation several times.

### When can Courts order a Recount of Votes?



#### Why in the News?

The Supreme Court for the very first time has recounted EVM votes on its premises and overturned a Haryana sarpanch election result.

#### Legal Framework for Challenging Election Results:

- **Parliamentary, Assembly, State Council elections:** Validity can be challenged by filing an **election petition in the High Court** of the state where the election was held.
- **Local government elections:** Petitions must be filed at **district-level civil courts**.
- **Eligibility to file:** Only a **candidate or elector** related to the election can file.
- **Timeframe:** Petition must be filed **within 45 days of result declaration**.
- **Petition requirements:**
  - Must contain **concise statement of material facts**.
  - Allegations of "**corrupt practices**" must include names of individuals, dates, and locations.
- **Judicial Approach:**
  - SC considers corrupt practices as **quasi-criminal**, requiring **high standard of proof**.
  - Vague or ambiguous petitions are dismissed.
- **Legal Basis:**
  - Representation of the People Act, 1951.
  - State Panchayat Raj Acts.

#### Grounds for Invalidating an Election:



Courts can void an election on:

- **Bribery or undue influence**, e.g., hiding criminal antecedents or promoting enmity.
- **Candidate disqualified/unqualified** on the election date.
- **Improper rejection** of nomination paper.

- **Improper acceptance of nomination or improper reception/rejection of votes**, if shown to **materially affect results**.
- **Non-compliance with Constitution or election laws/rules**, if it materially impacted the outcome.

#### When can Courts order Recount of Votes?

- A **recount** is a possible judicial remedy but **not granted lightly**.
- Seen as affecting **vote secrecy**, which is vital to free and fair elections.
- Courts order recounts **only if**:
  - Petitioner presents **specific material facts**.
  - Evidence shows a **prima facie case of probable counting error**.
  - Recount is deemed **necessary for justice**.
- Normally conducted at **election location**.
- **Exception**: Panipat case, where **SC recounted votes in its own premises**.

#### Can Courts declare a new Winner?

- **Rare**, but **courts can** declare a new winner if:
  - Evidence shows petitioner (or another candidate) actually had **majority of valid votes**.
  - Or petitioner proves they would have won **but for votes gained through corrupt practices**.
- Requires **concrete, quantifiable evidence** of tainted votes.
- **Example**: In **Feb 2024 Chandigarh mayoral election**, SC declared a new winner after:
  - Presiding officer wrongly invalidated **8 paper ballots**.
  - All votes had been cast for the losing candidate.
  - SC restored them as valid, making the losing candidate the winner.

#### Office of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)



#### Why in the News?

The Opposition (INDIA bloc) is considering moving a motion of removal of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) in Parliament.

#### About Election Commission of India (ECI):



- **Establishment**: On January 25, 1950 (National Voters Day), a permanent constitutional body was established.
- **Articles 324–329 of Part XV of the Constitution** serve as the constitutional foundation.
- **Mandate**: Holds elections for the President and Vice President positions, the State Legislative Assemblies, the Lok Sabha, and the Rajya Sabha.
- **Structure**: consists of two Election Commissioners and the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), and has operated as a three-member body since 1993.
- **Status of CEC**: CECs enjoy the same benefits, status, and pay as Supreme Court of India judges.

#### Appointment to ECI:

- **Law**: The 1921 Act was superseded by the 2023 Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election

Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service, and Term of Office) Act.

- The Indian President is the appointing authority.
- The Prime Minister (Chairperson), the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and a Union Cabinet Minister chosen by the Prime Minister comprise the selection committee.
- Eligibility: Must have worked for the Indian government as a secretary-level official with a track record of honesty and election administration.

- Tenure: six years or until the age of sixty-five, whichever comes first.

#### Removal:

- CEC: Removed due to proven misconduct or incapacity, similar to a Supreme Court judge (Article 324(5)). requires a presidential decree and a motion approved by a two-thirds majority in both houses of parliament.
- Only on the Chief Election Commissioner's recommendation were the other election commissioners removed.

## Science, Technology, Art & Culture

### Tsunami Waves triggered by quakes in Kamchatka Peninsula



#### Why in the News?

An 8.8 magnitude earthquake hit off Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula, triggering 16-foot tsunamis that reached Hawaii and northern California in the US.



#### About Earthquakes:

- **Overview:** Sudden ground shaking caused by **release of stored energy** in Earth's crust due to tectonic stress.
- **Cause:** Occurs when tectonic plates slip at fault lines where stress had built up due to friction.
- **Seismic Waves:** Energy travels as:
  - **Primary Waves (P-waves):** Fastest, compressional.
  - **Secondary Waves (S-waves):** Slower, shear motion.
- **Key Terms:**
  - **Focus (Hypocenter):** Underground origin point.
  - **Epicenter:** Surface point directly above the focus.
- **Measurement:**
  - **Magnitude:** Energy released (Richter Scale, logarithmic).
  - **Intensity:** Observed ground shaking (varies by location).
  - **Seismograph:** Records seismic wave activity.

#### How Earthquakes Trigger Tsunamis?

- **Underwater Epicenter:** Must occur beneath oceans to displace water.
- **Shallow Depth:** Quakes at <70 km transfer energy more efficiently to water surface.



- **Reverse Faulting:** One tectonic plate pushes over another, vertically shifting the seafloor.
- **Rapid Displacement:** Sudden seafloor uplift/downthrust generates massive water waves.
- **High Magnitude:** Quakes >7.0 (especially >8.0) likely to trigger tsunamis.

#### About the Kamchatka Region:

- **Overview:** Russian Far East; borders the North Pacific Ocean.
- **Tectonic Zone:** Sits on the Kuril-Kamchatka Trench—**Pacific Plate subducting under Okhotsk Plate** at ~86 mm/year.
- **Seismic Hotspot:** Historical major quakes in 1841, 1923, 1952, 2006, and 2020.
- **Ring of Fire:** Part of the 40,000 km Pacific Ring of Fire, known for quakes and volcanoes.
- **2025 Earthquake:**
  - **Depth:** 3 km (shallow)
  - **Impact:** Triggered tsunami waves up to 16 ft—one of the strongest earthquakes since 1900.

### Human Outer Planet Exploration (HOPE)



#### Why in the News?

India has taken a significant step towards interplanetary human missions with the launch of the Human Outer Planet Exploration (HOPE) analogue station at Tso Kar, Ladakh.

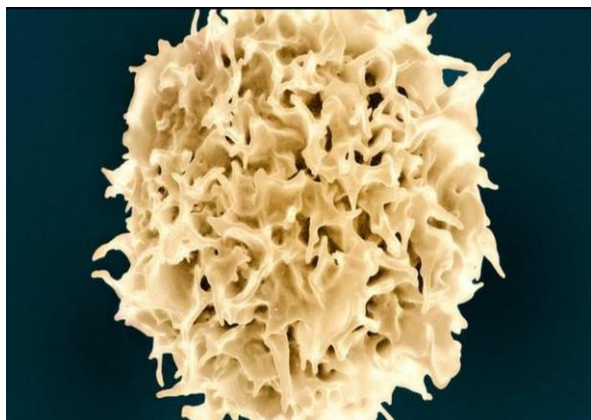
#### About HOPE (Human Outer Planet Exploration):

- **Purpose:** Simulates **Moon and Mars conditions** to prepare for future human missions.
- **Developer:** Built by **Protoplanet** (Bengaluru); **partially funded by ISRO**.
- **Location:** Tso Kar, Ladakh (14,500 ft) — chosen for its lunar/Martian-like terrain.
- **Features:** Enables isolation research, tech trials, and crew training; 1 of 33 such stations globally.
- **First Mission (2025):** Two scientists (Rahul Mogalapalli, Yaman Akot) conducted a 10-day simulation focusing on resilience and mental health.
- **Significance:**
  - Boosts India's human spaceflight readiness.
  - Supports goals like **Bharatiya Antariksh Station (2035)** and **Moon mission (2040)**.

#### India's Astronomical Assets in Ladakh:

- **Location:** Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO), at **Mt. Saraswati (4,500 m)**, **Hanle**; run by **Indian Institute of Astrophysics**.
- **Key Instruments:**
  - Himalayan Chandra Telescope (optical/infrared)
  - HAGAR (gamma rays, with Tata Institute of Fundamental Research)
  - MACE (Cherenkov telescope, with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre)
- **Stargazing hubs:** Hanle, Nubra Valley, Pangong, Tso Moriri.
- **Advantages & Recognition:**
  - 270+ clear nights; low humidity; dark skies.
  - **Declared India's 1st Dark-Sky Reserve (2022)** to curb light pollution.

## AI-designed Proteins to generate Immune Cells



### Why in the News?

Harvard Scientists have recently used AI to design synthetic proteins that activate T Cells, offering a new path for cancer treatment and vaccine development.

#### What are T Cells?

- They are a type of white blood cell that play a central role in the immune system.
- **Types of T Cells:**
  - **Helper T cells (CD4+):** Activate and direct other immune cells.
  - **Killer T cells (CD8+):** Destroy infected or cancerous cells.
  - **Memory T cells:** "Remember" past invaders for faster response in the future.

### About the Study:

- Created soluble proteins that trigger "Notch Signaling," a crucial immunological route, using artificial intelligence (AI).
- These artificial molecular activators were created with the use of cutting-edge AI-powered protein design methods.
- These proteins function both in the lab and inside the body (in vivo), in contrast to previous lab-only techniques.
- The generation of T lymphocytes from human progenitor cells was significantly increased as a result.

### What is Notch Signalling?

- Signaling network that runs from cell to cell and directs cell growth.
- Essential for producing T lymphocytes, which combat cancer and infections.
- Previously, there was no trustworthy therapeutic activator.

### Key Benefits Offered:

- **Mass T Cell Generation:** Meets clinical needs for **CAR T Cell Therapy**.
- **Vaccine Support:** Boosted **Memory T cells** in mice, improving long-term immunity.
- **Cancer Therapy:** Helps fight immune-suppressive tumour environments.
- **Scalable & Soluble:** Works in humans, not just in lab dishes.
- **AI in Medicine:** Shows AI's growing role in designing immune therapies.

## WHO classifies Hepatitis D as Carcinogenic



### Why in the News?

The World Health Organization (WHO) has reclassified hepatitis D virus (HDV) as carcinogenic, following the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) assessment based on data from The Lancet Oncology.

### About Hepatitis D:



- **What is it:** Hepatitis D is a **serious liver infection** caused by the **hepatitis D virus (HDV)**.
- **Cause:** Hepatitis D virus (HDV), an incomplete virus needing hepatitis B virus (HBV) for replication.
- **Infection Types:**
  - **Co-infection** – HDV + HBV at the same time.
  - **Superinfection** – HDV infects someone already with HBV.
- **Transmission:** Parenteral exposure (injections, transfusions), mother-to-child, sexual contact.
- **Diagnosis:** Blood tests for HDV antibodies and HDV-RNA.
- **Prevention:** HBV vaccination, safe blood practices, safe sex, screening, avoid needle sharing.

#### Why Hepatitis D is Carcinogenic?

- Damages the liver more severely than HBV by itself.
- Compared to HBV-only cases, the risk of liver cancer is increased two to six times when HBV and HDV co-infection occurs.
- Within 15 years, up to 75% develop cirrhosis.
- can result in cancer even in the absence of cirrhosis because of HDV-induced damage and HBV DNA integration.

#### Hepatitis

- **Definition:** Liver inflammation from viruses, alcohol, toxins, drugs, autoimmune disorders, or metabolic issues.
- **Viral Types:**
  - **A** – Fecal-oral; acute; vaccine available.
  - **B** – Blood/body fluids; chronic risk; vaccine available.
  - **C** – Blood-to-blood; often chronic; no vaccine; treatable with antivirals.
  - **D** – Discussed above.
  - **E** – Fecal-oral; usually acute.

- **Chronic B, C, D:** Major drivers of cirrhosis and liver cancer.
- **Prevention:** Vaccination (A, B), safe injections, screened blood, safe sex, good hygiene.

#### MSS+ Technology in Road Construction



#### Why in the News?

The CSIR–Central Road Research Institute, New Delhi, has developed MSS+ (Modified Mix Seal Surfacing Plus) technology for eco-friendly, durable, and low-cost road surfacing.

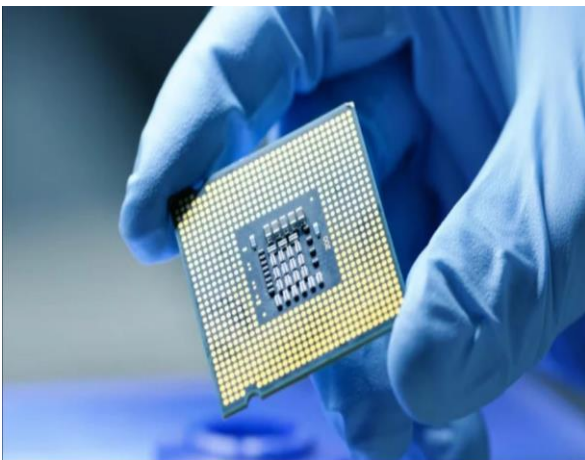
#### About MSS+ Technology:

- **Developer:** Central Road Research Institute (CSIR–CRRI), New Delhi, a division of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research.
- **2021** was the year of development (in partnership with J.M.V.D. Industries).
- **Pilot Project:** In 2022, Uttar Pradesh's first road was constructed close to Lucknow; in 2025, it will be used for 202 km of roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).
- **Composition:** Mineral additive, customized modified bitumen emulsion, and crushed natural aggregate.
- **Preparation:** Mix made at ambient temperature, eliminating heating of aggregate or bitumen.
- **Laying:** utilizing standard asphalt pavers with a thickness of 25–30 mm.

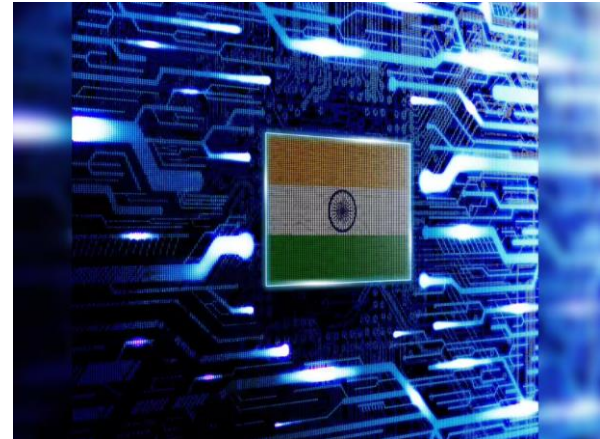


**Benefits Offered:**

- **Eco-Friendly:** Carbon emissions are greatly reduced because there is no thermal process.
- **Sturdy:** Offers improved skid resistance, a robust wearing course, and stops water intrusion.
- **Cost-effective:** Lower building expenses result from a reduced energy requirement.
- **All-Weather Use:** Because it is applied at room temperature, it can be placed in a variety of weather situations.

**India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)****Why in the News?**

The Union Cabinet has approved four new projects under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), adding to the country's push for a robust semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystem.

**About India Semiconductor Mission (ISM):**

- **Overview:** Under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), it was established in 2021.
- **Goal:** Establish an ecosystem for the sustainable production of semiconductors and displays in India.
- **From chip design to fabrication, assembly, testing, packaging, and display manufacture, the scope of support encompasses the full value chain.**
- **Administrative Role:** Receives and assesses applications for Semicon India Program schemes and interacts with industry participants to draw in capital.

**Key Components:**

- **Semiconductor Fabs Scheme:** Financial assistance for the establishment of semiconductor wafer manufacturing facilities in India.
- **Display Fabs Scheme:** Rewards for producing AMOLED and TFT LCD panels.
- **Advanced semiconductor technologies and packaging facilities are supported by the Compound Semiconductors, Silicon Photonics, Sensors Fab, and ATMP/OSAT Scheme.**
- **CDAC administers the Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme, which offers incentives and infrastructure support for design initiatives related to ICs, SoCs, chipsets, and semiconductors. Startup assistance is also provided.**

- Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL) in Mohali is being modernized and upgraded as a brownfield factory.
- Complete Coverage: Contains design assistance, packaging, R&D, and manufacturing.

### MIT Research of Ionic Liquids (ILs)



#### Why in the News?

MIT-led research suggests life may not need liquid water; ionic liquids (salts that stay liquid below 100°C) could support life on rocky super-Earths with volcanic activity and little water.

#### About Ionic Liquids (ILs):

- Overview: Liquid salts made completely of ions that are below 100°C.
- It is thermally stable, non-flammable, non-volatile, and may be adjusted to be either hydrophilic or hydrophobic.
- Structure: ILs are made up of ions and ion pairs, as opposed to water, which is made up of neutral molecules.
- Excellent electrolytes with wide electrochemical windows are used in electrochemistry.
- Applications include biotechnology, electrochemistry, synthesis, catalysis, extraction, and as environmentally friendly substitutes for volatile solvents.

#### Breakthrough Findings of MIT Study:



- Life Without Water: Tests revealed that life could be able to endure by employing ILs as solvents rather than water.
- Natural Formation: ILs can spontaneously develop when sulfuric acid and nitrogen compounds are combined.
- Exoplanet Link: Rocky super-Earths with thin atmospheres and volcanic activity may harbor such ILs.
- Research Origin: Studying Venus, where sulfuric acid clouds combine with organic molecules to create ILs, led to this discovery.
- Relevance to Biology: ILs can help metabolism by giving biomolecules stable habitats.

#### Significance of the Study:

- **Habitability Expansion:** Broadens habitability definition beyond water-based models.
- **Biosignatures:** Suggests new chemical markers for exoplanet life detection.
- **Venus Missions:** Strengthens rationale for Venus's exploration targeting IL-based chemistry.
- **Wider Habitable Zones:** Implies more planets could host life than previously thought.

### Scientists turn E. Coli Bacteria into a Bio-Sensor





### Why in the News?

Researchers from UK and China have developed a bioelectronic device where genetically engineered *E. coli* bacteria act as self-powered chemical bio-sensor.

### About *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) Bacteria:

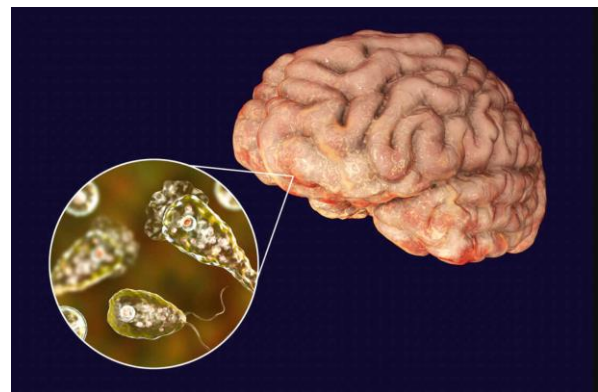
- Overview: Warm-blooded animals' lower intestine is home to this rod-shaped, gram-negative bacterium.
- Belongs to the family Enterobacteriaceae.
- The majority of strains are not harmful, but some (like *E. coli* O157:H7) can lead to serious foodborne disease, diarrhea, and kidney problems.
- Gut Role: Supports the production of vitamin K<sub>2</sub> and preserves the equilibrium of the gut flora.
- Transmission: Outbreaks are caused by pathogenic strains spreading by tainted food, water, or direct contact.
- Diagnostic Significance: One of the most important markers of fecal pollution is its presence in water.

### Bio-Sensors Generated Using *E. coli*



- **Innovation:** Genetically engineered *E. coli* used as **self-powered chemical biosensors**.
- **Mechanism:** Detect compounds, process signals, and produce electrical outputs compatible with low-cost electronics.
- **Modules:**
  - **Sensing Module:** Detects target molecules.
  - **Processing Module:** Amplifies or modifies signals.
  - **Output Module:** Produces phenazines measurable via electrochemistry.
- **Applications:**
  - Detected **arabinose** (plant sugar) **within 2 hours**.
  - Detected **mercury ions** in water at trace levels (below WHO safety limits) within 3 hours.
  - Demonstrated an **"AND" logic gate**, producing signals only when two molecules were present together.
- **Significance:**
  - Cheaper, programmable, and robust alternative to enzyme-based biosensors.
  - Potential in **environmental monitoring, water safety, medical diagnostics, and bioelectronics**.

## Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM)



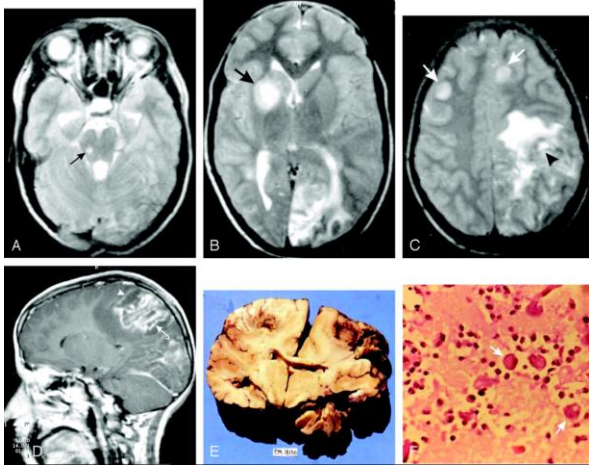
### Why in the News?

Kerala's health department has issued an alert in Kozhikode district after three consecutive cases of the



rare and highly fatal disease Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM) were reported.

#### About Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM):



- Cause: The "brain-eating amoeba," *Naegleria fowleri*, is the cause of this uncommon and typically lethal sickness.
- Habitat: Does well in freshwater temperatures up to 46°C (115°F).
- Entry: Enters through the nose while swimming or engaging in other water sports, and then makes its way to the brain via the olfactory nerve.
- Impact: Causes extreme swelling and destroys brain tissue.

- Transmission: Not spread from one person to another.
- Fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, stiff neck, disorientation, seizures, hallucinations, coma, and death are some of the symptoms.
- Progression: The majority of cases end in death between 1–18 days following the onset of symptoms, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

#### Diagnosis and Treatment:

- **Diagnosis:**
  - Very difficult due to rarity.
  - Confirmed by **Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)** test of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF).
  - Frequently misdiagnosed as bacterial or viral meningitis.
- **Treatment:**
  - **No single therapy** effectively established.
  - **Managed per CDC guidelines** using drug combinations such as: Medical interventions typically involve a combination of drugs, including amphotericin B, azithromycin, fluconazole, rifampin, miltefosine, and dexamethasone.

## Trivia

### Patalpani-Kalakund Heritage Railway



#### Why in the News?

The 155-year-old Patalpani–Kalakund heritage train services has resumed after a temporary halt.

#### About the Patalpani–Kalakund Heritage Line:



- **Route:** 9.5 km metre-gauge section between Patalpani and Kalakund in Madhya Pradesh.
- **Section:** Part of the **Dr. Ambedkar Nagar (Mhow)–Khandwa** route.

- **Restoration Year:** Revived in **2018** as a heritage line after being excluded from gauge conversion due to difficult terrain.
- **Operational Details:**
  - Average speed: **5–10 km/h**.
  - Features scenic gorges, tunnels, embankments, **Patalpani waterfall**, and natural springs.
- **Historical Origins:**
  - Proposed by **Maharaja Tukoji Rao Holkar II** in **1870**.
  - First constructed as part of **Holkar State Railways**, completed in **1878**.
  - Became part of **Rajputana–Malwa Railway** in **1881–82**.

#### Other Heritage Railways of India:

Name & Route	Details
<b>Darjeeling Himalayan Railway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Location:</b> West Bengal</li> <li>• <b>UNESCO Status:</b> World Heritage Site (1999)</li> <li>• <b>Built:</b> 1879–81</li> <li>• <b>Highlights:</b> Batasia Loop, zigzags, colonial-era steam engines</li> <li>• <b>Route:</b> New Jalpaiguri to Darjeeling (88 km, narrow gauge)</li> </ul>
<b>Nilgiri Mountain Railway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Location:</b> Tamil Nadu</li> <li>• <b>UNESCO Status:</b> World Heritage Site (2005)</li> <li>• <b>Highlights:</b> Only rack-and-pinion railway in India, steep climbs, vintage locomotives</li> <li>• <b>Route:</b> Mettupalayam to Ooty (46 km, metre gauge)</li> </ul>

<b>Kalka–Shimla Railway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Location:</b> Himachal Pradesh</li> <li>• <b>UNESCO Status:</b> World Heritage Site (2008)</li> <li>• <b>Built:</b> 1898–1903</li> <li>• <b>Highlights:</b> 102 tunnels, 800+ bridges; access to British summer capital</li> <li>• <b>Route:</b> Kalka to Shimla (96 km, narrow gauge)</li> </ul>
<b>Matheran Hill Railway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Location:</b> Maharashtra</li> <li>• <b>UNESCO Status:</b> Tentative World Heritage Site</li> <li>• <b>Built:</b> 1907</li> <li>• <b>Highlights:</b> Zigzags, tight curves, eco-sensitive, vehicle-free destination</li> <li>• <b>Route:</b> Neral to Matheran (21 km, narrow gauge)</li> </ul>
<b>Kangra Valley Railway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Location:</b> Himachal Pradesh</li> <li>• <b>UNESCO Status:</b> Tentative World Heritage Site</li> <li>• <b>Highlights:</b> 971 bridges, 2 tunnels; scenic Dhauladhar views, access to ancient temples</li> <li>• <b>Route:</b> Pathankot to Joginder Nagar (163 km, narrow gauge)</li> </ul>

#### 71st National Film Awards announced



#### Why in the News?

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has announced the 71st National Film Awards.



#### About National Film Awards:

- **Establishment:** Instituted in **1954**, administered by the **Directorate of Film Festivals (DoFF)** under the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**, Government of India.
- **Purpose:**
  - To encourage the production of films of aesthetic and technical excellence.
  - Promote films that reflect the cultural and social fabric of India.
  - Recognize and reward cinematic achievements across languages and formats.
- **Award Components:**
  - **Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus):** Includes medallion, certificate, and cash prize. Given in top categories.
  - **Rajat Kamal (Silver Lotus):** Awarded in various other categories.
- **Main Categories:**
  - **Feature Films:** For artistic and technical excellence across Indian languages.
  - **Non-Feature Films:** For documentaries, shorts, and socially relevant content.
  - **Best Writing on Cinema:** For books and critics advancing understanding of cinema.
- **Eligibility Criteria:**
  - Films must be **produced in India**.
  - Makers must be **Indian nationals**.

- Must be **certified** by CBFC between Jan 1 and Dec 31.
- **Foreign co-productions** have specific eligibility conditions.

#### • Jury and Selection:

- Independent juries for each category.
- No governmental or commercial influence in the selection process.

#### About Dadasaheb Phalke Award:

- Part of **NFA**.
- India's **highest cinematic honour**.
- Instituted \_\_\_\_\_ in **1969** to commemorate **Dhundiraj Govind Phalke**, India's first filmmaker.
- Consists of:
  - Swarna Kamal
  - ₹10 lakh cash prize
  - Certificate, silk roll, and shawl
- **First recipient:** Devika Rani Roerich

### Removal of High Court Judges



#### Why in the News?

Lok Sabha Speaker has initiated removal proceedings against a Judge of the Allahabad High Court by admitting a motion signed by 146 members and forming a three-member inquiry committee.

#### About Appointment of High Court Judges:

- Article 217 of the Indian Constitution serves as the foundation.
- The President of India appoints the Chief Justice of India (CJI), the Governor of the State in question, and the Chief Justice of the relevant High Court after consulting with them.



- Collegium System: The Chief Justice of the High Court initiates the proposal, which is then sent via the Chief Minister and the Governor before being decided by the CJI and the two seniormost Supreme Court members.
- Chief Justice Posting Policy: To maintain impartiality, chief justices are chosen from outside the state.
- Transfers: To preserve judicial independence, transfers are decided by the CJI and the Supreme Court's seniormost judges.

**Removal Process:**

- Reasons: Demonstrated incompetence or misconduct.
- Procedure: The Judges (Inquiry) Act of 1968's Articles 124(4) and 217, as well as Section 3(2), provide for the impeachment process.
- Motion signed by at least 50 Rajya Sabha MPs or 100 Lok Sabha MPs is the first step.
- Investigation: The charges are looked into by a three-member commission that includes a

Supreme Court judge, a High Court Chief Justice, and a renowned jurist.

- Casting a ballot Removing someone requires a two-thirds majority in both Houses of Parliament.
- Internal Mechanism: In extreme circumstances, CJI may recommend resignation and start internal investigations.

**Other Notable Cases:**

- **Justice V. Ramaswami (1993):** Faced impeachment for financial misconduct; motion failed in Lok Sabha.
- **Justice Soumitra Sen (2011):** Resigned after Rajya Sabha voted for removal over fund misappropriation.
- **Justice K. Veeraswamy:** Corruption case remained unresolved until his death.
- **Justice Shamit Mukherjee (2003), Justice Nirmal Yadav (2008), Justice S.N. Shukla (2017):** Faced criminal charges for corruption after in-house inquiries.



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