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Weekly Current Affairs

English

National

1. Kerala Sets Benchmark In Digital Literacy

Kerala has reached a significant milestone by becoming the first state in India to achieve complete digital literacy, thanks to the Digi Kerala program. Phase I saw 99.98% training success, reaching over 1.5 crore individuals. With inclusive training, even a 104-year-old participated. The program was implemented via grassroots governance, enabling access to digital services, boosting civic engagement, and promoting socio-economic empowerment. Kerala's model, prioritizing people over infrastructure, sets a replicable standard for other states under Digital India, enhancing resilience and governance continuity during crises.

2. PM Modi to Inaugurate SEMICON India 2025 Summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate SEMICON India 2025 on September 2 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi. The event, themed "Building the Next Semiconductor Powerhouse," will host 33 nations, 350 global exhibitors, and over 50 international speakers. A key platform for semiconductor innovation, the expo promotes collaboration among industry leaders, policymakers, and academia. Backed by India's Semiconductor Mission under MeitY, it aims to bolster India's role in global chip manufacturing, supply chain resilience, and microelectronics workforce development.

3. India Extends Fortified Rice Scheme to 2028

India has extended the Fortified Rice Scheme to December 2028 with ₹17,082 crore funding to combat anaemia and malnutrition. This program integrates fortified rice into various welfare initiatives, including PM POSHAN, TPDS, ICDS, WBNP, and SAG. Nutritional staples rice, edible oil, and salt are enhanced with vital micronutrients. Support from NDDB's Gift Milk

program and MoFPI's infrastructure schemes further strengthens food fortification efforts. The government's strategy targets school children, women, and adolescents, ensuring nationwide nutrition coverage and long-term health impact.

4. Government Launches SMILE Drive for Transgender Empowerment

The Indian government launched a 15-day Entrepreneurship Development Programme under the SMILE (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme to empower transgender persons economically and make them self-reliant. Implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, SMILE includes sub-schemes targeting welfare and rehabilitation of both transgender individuals and those engaged in begging. It offers scholarships, skill development, medical aid, housing (Garima Greh), and legal protection, promoting dignity and inclusion. The initiative aims to build sustainable livelihoods and social security for marginalized communities.

5. Centre Forms Rajiv Gauba Panels for Key Reforms

Two Gauba-led committees target Viksit Bharat goals and regulatory reforms across non-financial sectors. One panel focuses on long-term developmental strategies, while the other targets non-financial regulatory reforms. These committees, comprising senior bureaucrats and private sector experts, work in coordination with ministerial and state-level panels to ensure cohesive policy execution. Their creation follows PM Modi's Independence Day pledge to fast-track reforms, aiming to enhance India's competitiveness, governance, and economic growth.

6. Hyperloop to Connect Key Ports in Maharashtra

A planned hyperloop system powered by Linear

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Induction Motor (LIM) technology is set to connect Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Navi Mumbai with Vadhavan Port in Palghar. Originally proposed by Elon Musk in 2013, the hyperloop uses magnetic levitation in low-pressure tubes for ultra-high-speed travel. Key components include sealed steel tubes, LIMs, and air compressors. Benefits include fast, efficient, and low-noise transit, but challenges remain—such as high costs, safety concerns, and strict infrastructure requirements. Strong investment, R&D, and regulation are essential for its success.

7. Amit Shah Inaugurates All India Speakers' Conference

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the All India Speakers' Conference 2025 at Delhi Assembly, marking 100 years since Vitthalbhai Patel became India's first Indian Speaker. Leaders from across state legislatures attended. Shah released a commemorative stamp and highlighted Patel's role in building India's parliamentary tradition. A special exhibition on Delhi Assembly's 100-year journey was unveiled. The event emphasized strengthening democratic institutions, federalism, and using AI and digital tools for transparent, accountable law-making and modernizing parliamentary practices.

8. APEDA Opens New Offices to Boost Exports

To enhance agricultural exports, APEDA will open new regional offices in Patna, Raipur, and Dehradun. These locations were chosen to support farmers and exporters in underserved yet high-potential regions like Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Uttarakhand. The move will ease documentation, improve access to technical support, and promote export-oriented agriculture. With these additions, APEDA aims to decentralize services, strengthen local export infrastructure, and contribute to India's broader vision of doubling agri-exports and promoting inclusive regional growth in global agricultural

trade.

9. India Fixes Global Date for Ayurveda Day

Starting in 2025, India has officially designated September 23 as Ayurveda Day, replacing the previous lunar-based observance of Dhanvantari Jayanti. The chosen theme, "Ayurveda for People & Planet," highlights the balance between individual health and environmental well-being. This change gives Ayurveda a fixed date, creating a unified global identity. Backed by the Ministry of Ayush, the celebration has grown into a worldwide movement, now acknowledged in 150 countries. Future events will focus on addressing contemporary health and climate issues through education, outreach, and international cooperation.

10. India Accelerates EV Future With e-VITARA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled Maruti Suzuki's Made-in-India e-VITARA, an electric vehicle that is planned for export to more than 100 countries, showcasing India's expanding presence in the global green mobility sector. At the same event, he inaugurated the production of hybrid battery electrodes at the TDS Lithium-Ion Battery facility in Gujarat, a move aimed at reducing the country's reliance on imports. Modi highlighted India's advancements in manufacturing, growth in semiconductor production, and strategic mineral development. This initiative not only strengthens industrial cooperation between India and Japan but also promotes clean energy, self-sufficiency, and India's rise as a key player in technology and electric vehicle manufacturing worldwide.

11. Aarohan Initiative Aims to Support Toll Workers' Kids

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has introduced 'Project Aarohan' to enhance educational opportunities for the children of toll plaza workers. Scheduled to run from July 2025 to March 2026, the initiative will benefit 500

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students through scholarships, mentorship programs, and skill development activities, with particular focus on supporting marginalized groups. Managed by Bharat Cares, the project is backed by ₹1 crore in funding and features a transparent, online selection process. Project Aarohan reflects NHA's commitment to nurturing human potential alongside infrastructure development, aiming for long-term social progress across the country.

12. PM SVANidhi Scheme Extended Till 2030

The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the extension and revamp of the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme until March 31, 2030. With an allocated budget of ₹7,332 crore, the scheme aims to benefit 1.15 crore street vendors, including 50 lakh new beneficiaries. The loan amounts for the first two phases have been increased, and the program focuses on encouraging digital payments, skill development, and integrating welfare measures for street vendors across the country.

13. Russia Announces 1 Million Employment Opportunities for Indian Workers

With traditional job destinations tightening immigration rules, Russia is emerging as a major employment hub for Indians. By 2025, nearly one million Indians may work there, mainly in construction, textiles, machinery, and electronics. Recruitment, initially limited to textiles and construction, is now expanding to high-end sectors under Russian labour quotas. A new Indian Consulate in Yekaterinburg will support rising migration. Facing a labour shortage of 3.1 million by 2030, Russia is increasing foreign worker quotas, creating vast opportunities for skilled Indian professionals.

14. Dinesh K. Patnaik Named India's Ambassador to Canada

The Government of India appointed Dinesh K Patnaik as High Commissioner to Canada, while Canada named Christopher Cooter as its envoy to India, signaling a thaw in bilateral ties strained since 2023. Patnaik, a seasoned IFS officer, brings extensive diplomatic experience, including postings in Spain, the UK, Cambodia, and Morocco. The synchronized appointments follow a "constructive reset" agreed by PM Modi and Canadian PM Mark Carney at the 2025 G7 Summit, aiming to restore full diplomatic engagement, revive trade, and strengthen people-to-people connections.

15. Ministry of Minority Affairs Introduces UMEED Module for Vulnerable Communities

The Ministry of Minority Affairs launched a dedicated module on the UMEED Portal to provide maintenance support from Waqf-alal-aulad properties to widows, divorced women, and orphans from minority communities. The digital platform enables online application, Aadhaar-based verification, and Direct Benefit Transfer, ensuring transparent and timely assistance. Implemented through State and UT Waqf Boards, the initiative modernizes Waqf governance, reduces administrative delays, and reinforces social justice by supporting vulnerable groups, ensuring the Waqf system effectively serves its intended welfare purpose.

16. NALCO Plans USD 3.43 Billion Investment in Smelter and Power Plant

NALCO announced a Rs. 300 billion (~USD3.43 billion) investment to build a new aluminium smelter in Odisha and a coal-based power plant over five years, funded through debt and internal accruals. The Rs. 180 billion smelter will boost production capacity and support 'Make in India,' while the Rs. 120 billion power plant, in collaboration with Coal India and NTPC, ensures reliable electricity for operations. The project aims to strengthen India's aluminium sector, create thousands of jobs, and enhance domestic and global market presence.

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17. India Issues First Guidelines for Animal Blood Banks

India has released its first national guidelines for animal blood banks, issued on 25 August 2025 by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying. The framework ensures standardized veterinary blood transfusion with donor screening, blood typing, biosafety, and ethical practices under a voluntary donation model. States will establish regulated blood banks, supported by a digital network for inventory and donor registries. Integrated into veterinary education, the initiative strengthens One Health, safeguards animal welfare, supports rural livelihoods, and enhances India's agrarian economy.

18. Andhra Pradesh Government Sanctions Rs 1 Crore Insurance for Municipal Staff

On August 23, 2025, Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu announced a major welfare scheme for municipal staff during the *Swachh Andhra-Swarna Andhra* campaign in Kakinada district. The scheme provides a ₹1 crore life insurance cover for regular municipal employees and ₹20 lakh cover for outsourced staff in case of accidental death or permanent disability. Additionally, their children will receive education support up to ₹8 lakh. The initiative aims to ensure financial security and strengthen worker-government trust.

19. Kerala Declared First Fully Digitally Literate State

Kerala has become India's first fully digitally literate state after completing Phase I of the Digi Kerala project with a 99.98% training success rate. The initiative reached 1.5 crore individuals across 83.46 lakh families, identifying and training 21.87 lakh digitally illiterate people. Delivered through local self-governments, the program empowered citizens with access to e-governance, welfare schemes, digital banking, and online services. It promotes transparency,

women's empowerment, socio-economic inclusion, and crisis resilience, setting a replicable model for other states under Digital India.

20. APEDA to Launch Regional Offices in Patna, Raipur and Dehradun for Agri Export Growth

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is expanding its regional presence by opening new offices in Patna, Raipur, and Dehradun. This move aims to support agricultural exporters in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Uttarakhand by streamlining export processes, offering technical guidance, and promoting agri-export infrastructure. These offices will enhance outreach, provide training, and facilitate global market access, boosting exports of rice, horticulture, pulses, and organic produce from these high-potential regions.

21. Centre Sets Up Gauba-Led Reform Panels

The Centre has formed two high-level panels led by Rajiv Gauba to drive next-generation reforms and advance the Viksit Bharat vision. One panel focuses on long-term strategies to achieve India's development goals by 2047, while the other aims to simplify non-financial regulatory frameworks. These committees include senior officials, industry experts, and policy leaders, ensuring balanced insights. Coordinating with ministerial and state-level committees, the panels aim to enhance governance, boost economic competitiveness, and promote innovation, digital infrastructure, and federal cooperation.

International

1. Trump Appoints Loyalist Sergio Gor to India Post

US President Donald Trump has nominated

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Sergio Gor as the next US Ambassador to India and Special Envoy for South and Central Asia, signaling a major diplomatic shift amid tense US-India ties. A close Trump confidant, Gor has played a central role in promoting the 'America First' agenda and handling top federal appointments. His unprecedented dual nomination comes at a time of growing friction over trade tariffs and India's Russia ties, reflecting deeper White House involvement in regional diplomacy.

2. Strong 7.5 Magnitude Earthquake Strikes Drake Passage

A powerful earthquake measuring 7.5 magnitude recently struck the Drake Passage, a treacherous waterway between South America's Cape Horn and Antarctica's South Shetland Islands. A brief tsunami alert was issued but later lifted. The Drake Passage is the narrowest part of the Southern Ocean, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Known for its harsh conditions, it is a climatic boundary between subpolar Tierra del Fuego and Antarctica's polar regions. The passage played a key role in historic trade before the Panama Canal opened.

3. Vietnam Expands Presence in Disputed Spratlys

Vietnam has intensified island-building in the Spratly Islands, potentially surpassing China in scale, according to a U.S. think tank. The Spratlys, located in the South China Sea, are a group of reefs and islets contested by several nations. With no permanent human population, the islands have been claimed by China, Taiwan, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Malaysia. Historically occupied by France, Japan, and later Taiwan, the islands remain a focal point for regional disputes over sovereignty and maritime rights.

4. Inga Ruginiene Approved as Lithuania Prime Minister

The Lithuanian parliament has confirmed Social Democrat Inga Ruginiene as the new Prime Minister. Previously serving as the minister of social security and labour and a former labour union leader, she quickly advanced in politics after joining parliament in 2024. Ruginiene has 15 days to present her cabinet, which must receive presidential approval and an official decree for final confirmation. Her tenure is anticipated to emphasize social welfare, labour reforms, EU integration, and strengthening public trust in governance amid Lithuania's changing political environment.

5. UNGA Unveils Two Worldwide Initiatives on AI Governance

The UN General Assembly has launched two major initiatives on August 26, 2025, to strengthen global AI governance—the Global Dialogue on AI Governance and the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI. The Dialogue will bring governments, industry, academia, and civil society together for annual policy discussions, starting 2026. The Scientific Panel will provide evidence-based assessments on AI's risks, trends, and ethics. Rooted in the Global Digital Compact, these efforts aim to ensure responsible, equitable, and future-ready AI for humanity.

6. South Korea to Prohibit Mobile Phone Use in Classrooms Starting March 2026

South Korea has passed a law banning mobile phones and digital devices in classrooms, effective March 2026, to address rising social media addiction among students. With nearly all youth owning smartphones, surveys show 37% feel affected by social media and 22% experience anxiety without it. The law enforces a nationwide ban during lessons, with exceptions for disabilities and educational use. Aligning with global trends seen in Australia and the Netherlands, the move aims to boost focus, reduce screen dependency, and promote healthier habits.

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7. Oman Aims for 1 Million Indian Tourists Yearly

Oman has set a target to attract one million Indian tourists annually, aiming to strengthen tourism and economic ties with India. Building on 700,000 Indian visitors in 2024, the initiative focuses on luxury travel, destination weddings, MICE events, and adventure tourism. India has been identified as a priority market due to strong cultural, economic, and diaspora connections. Oman is enhancing connectivity, easing visa processes, and promoting the country through campaigns like 'Focus Oman' to ensure seamless travel and boost visitor engagement.

8. Lok Sabha Speaker to Represent India at 68th CPC, Barbados

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will lead India's delegation to the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) in Bridgetown, Barbados, from October 5–12, 2025. The conference, organized by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), gathers lawmakers from 180 branches to discuss democracy, governance, and cooperation. The Indian delegation includes Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman, state presiding officers, and CPA India representatives. Delegates will participate in thematic workshops on democratic institutions, technology, climate, financial transparency, and youth empowerment, showcasing India's parliamentary practices and promoting international collaboration.

9. Nepal Joins International Big Cat Alliance

Recently, Nepal officially became a member of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), a global initiative dedicated to the conservation of big cats and their habitats. This membership reinforces Nepal's commitment to wildlife protection, biodiversity preservation, and combating threats such as poaching and habitat loss. By joining IBCA, Nepal will collaborate with other member nations on research, policy frameworks, and conservation

strategies, aiming to strengthen global efforts for the survival of iconic big cat species like tigers, lions, and leopards.

10. Trump Names Sergio Gor US Envoy to India and South-Central Asia

US President Donald Trump has nominated Sergio Gor, a close aide, as the new US Ambassador to India and Special Envoy for South and Central Asia. Born in Uzbekistan in 1986, Gor migrated to the US in 1999 and built his career in American politics, working with John McCain, Rand Paul, and later joining Trump's team. He co-founded Winning Team Publishing with Donald Trump Jr. His dual appointment comes amid strained US-India ties over tariffs, Russian oil imports, and a vacant ambassadorial post.

11. India Elected AIBD Executive Board Chairman in Thailand

India has been elected Chairman of the Executive Board of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) at its 23rd General Conference in Phuket, Thailand, with the highest votes. This is India's first time holding the post since 2016, further strengthening its leadership in AIBD while also serving as President of the General Conference. Represented by Prasar Bharati CEO Gaurav Dwivedi, India reaffirmed its five-decade-long commitment to collaborative media growth. Founded in 1977 under UNESCO, AIBD has 92 member organizations across 45 countries.

Sports

1. Cheteshwar Pujara India's Steadfast No.3 Retires

Cheteshwar Pujara, India's dependable Test No.3 batsman, retired from all cricket on August 24, 2025. Known for his patience and grit, he played 103 Tests, scoring 7,195 runs with 19 centuries at an average of 43.60. His historic 2018–19

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Australia tour performance helped India win a Test series there for the first time. Pujara's classic, defensive style made him a rare breed in modern cricket, marking the end of an era.

2. Mirabai Chanu Shines with Commonwealth Gold

Mirabai Chanu won the gold medal at the 2025 Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships held in Ahmedabad, setting new records in the women's 48kg category with a total lift of 193kg. She lifted 84kg in the snatch and 109kg in the clean and jerk, surpassing all previous Commonwealth records. This victory earned her direct qualification for the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, marking a remarkable return to competition and solidifying her status as one of India's premier weightlifters.

3. Goa to Host the FIDE World Cup 2025

India will host the FIDE World Cup 2025 in Goa from October 30 to November 27, featuring 206 top players from over 90 countries competing for a USD 2 million prize and three spots in the 2026 Candidates Tournament. The eight-round knockout format includes classical games with rapid and blitz tie-breakers. Goa was chosen for its culture, infrastructure, and global chess relevance. Following India's recent chess achievements, the event marks a milestone, boosting sports tourism and highlighting India's rising prominence in the international chess arena.

4. Ravichandran Ashwin Declares Surprise Retirement from IPL

Ravichandran Ashwin, India's legendary off-spinner, has retired from the IPL, closing a remarkable domestic T20 career. Debuting in 2009, he played 221 matches across franchises like CSK, Punjab Kings, Delhi Capitals, and Rajasthan Royals, taking 187 wickets at an economy of 7.20, alongside 833 runs with a strike rate of 118.15. Following BCCI rules, his decision

allows him to explore global T20 leagues after retiring from international cricket in December 2024. Ashwin thanked franchises, BCCI, IPL, and fans for their support.

5. Neeraj Chopra Achieves a Top-Two Finish at the Zurich Diamond League

Neeraj Chopra secured second place at the 2025 Zurich Diamond League Final with a final throw of 85.01m, extending his streak to 26 consecutive top-two international finishes. Germany's Julian Weber won with a season-best 91.51m, while Keshorn Walcott took third. Despite fouls in earlier attempts, Neeraj's final throw showcased his composure under pressure. His consistent podium finishes across Olympics, World Championships, and Diamond League events underscore his dominance and reliability, solidifying his status as India's premier athletics icon.

6. MCA Unveils Gavaskar Statue, Honors Sharad Pawar

The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) unveiled a statue of Sunil Gavaskar and inaugurated the Sharad Pawar Cricket Museum at Wankhede Stadium on 23 August 2025. The bronze statue of Gavaskar celebrates his cricketing legacy, featuring his iconic shot to reach 10,000 Test runs. The museum honors Sharad Pawar's contributions as an administrator, showcasing cricket artifacts, Mumbai's Kanga League archives, and local cultural elements. The initiative preserves Mumbai's cricket heritage, inspires young players, and highlights both sporting excellence and effective governance in Indian cricket.

7. India to Host First Asian Open Short Track Speed Skating Trophy 2025

India will host the Asian Open Short Track Speed Skating Trophy 2025 for the first time from August 20-23 at Maharana Pratap Sports College, Raipur, Dehradun. Over 11 Asian

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countries, including China, Japan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Chinese Taipei, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, and India, will participate. Athletes will compete in nine events ranging from the 222-meter sprint to the 5000-meter relay. This historic event marks India's debut in organizing a major international winter sports competition, promoting sports development and regional collaboration.

8. NorthEast United Clinch Durand Cup 2025 with 6-1 Victory

NorthEast United FC retained the Durand Cup 2025 by defeating debutants Diamond Harbour FC 6-1 in the final held at Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan, Kolkata. This historic win made them the first team in 25 years to defend the title. Six different players scored for the champions, showcasing their attacking depth. Moroccan forward Alaaeddine Ajarai starred with three assists and a penalty goal. The Durand Cup, Asia's oldest football tournament (founded in 1888), continues to hold immense prestige in Indian football.

9. Aishwary Tomar Clinches Gold at Asian Shooting 2025

Indian shooter Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar clinched the gold medal in the men's 50m rifle three-position event at the 16th Asian Shooting Championship 2025 held in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, scoring 462.5 points. He narrowly edged out China's Wenyu Zhao, who secured silver with 462 points, while Japan's Naoya Okada took bronze. Tomar, along with Chain Singh and Akhil Sheoran, also won team silver in the same event. His victory highlights India's growing dominance in shooting on the Asian stage.

Summits/MoUs/Conferences/Agreement

1. Defence Ministry and QCI Ink MoU to Assist 63

Lakh Veterans

The Ministry of Defence has signed an MoU with the Quality Council of India (QCI) to enhance welfare services for over 63 lakh veterans and their families. QCI will support the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW) through digital evaluations, impact assessments, and policy recommendations. The partnership focuses on improving healthcare, resettlement, and entrepreneurship opportunities while strengthening Sainik Boards. By integrating digital systems and quality assurance, the initiative aims to modernize veteran support, ensuring efficient, transparent, and empowering post-retirement services nationwide.

2. Mastercard and Infosys Collaborate to Enhance Cross-Border Payments

Infosys has partnered with Mastercard to integrate Mastercard Move into Infosys Finacle, enhancing global cross-border payment solutions. Mastercard Move enables secure, near real-time transactions for banks, corporates, and retail customers, covering over 95% of the world's banked population. The collaboration aims to provide financial institutions with faster, scalable, and cost-efficient access to cross-border payments across 200+ countries and 150+ currencies. This integration improves customer experience, risk management, and digital banking capabilities, supporting the growing global remittance market, particularly in Asia.

3. India and Bhutan Enter into MoU to Strengthen Agricultural Cooperation

India and Bhutan signed an MoU to enhance cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors, including livestock development, strengthening bilateral ties and food security efforts. Signed by India's Devesh Chaturvedi and Bhutan's Thinley Namgyel, the agreement focuses on research, livestock health, post-harvest management, value chains, seed advancement, and capacity building, with emphasis on climate-resilient practices and digital solutions. The Joint

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Technical Working Group will monitor implementation, promoting knowledge exchange, rural development, and sustainable agriculture, reinforcing India's role as a regional agricultural knowledge hub.

Science and
tech/Space/Defence

1. NASA Launches Surya AI for Solar Forecasting

NASA, in collaboration with IBM, has launched Surya, an advanced AI model designed to revolutionize space weather forecasting. Trained on nine years of solar data, Surya predicts solar flares and CMEs with up to two hours' lead time, enhancing protection against threats to satellites, aviation, and power grids. Its open-source design invites global collaboration. Surya, a technically advanced model, surpassed previous versions by accurately simulating historical storms, combining AI with heliophysics to enhance solar research and global disaster readiness.

2. India, France Partner to Build Fighter Jet Engines

India and France's Safran have partnered to co-develop and manufacture advanced jet engines for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), India's indigenously designed fifth-generation stealth fighter. This collaboration aims to build India's aerospace self-reliance by sharing technology and local production, with an engine thrust rating of 110 kN. The decade-long project will strengthen "Make in India," boost defence exports, and deepen strategic ties between the two nations, addressing a critical gap in India's defence technology.

3. India Tests Indigenous Multi-Layered Air Defense System

In August 2025, India achieved a significant defense milestone by successfully testing the

Integrated Air Defense Weapon System (IAWS) off the coast of Odisha. Developed entirely by DRDO using indigenous technology, IAWS features QRSAMs, very short-range missiles, and a high-powered laser weapon to neutralize air threats like drones and cruise missiles. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised the achievement. Alongside this, the Agni-5 ballistic missile also passed tests, significantly enhancing India's missile capability and boosting the self-reliance drive in defense technology.

4. Sundarbans Tiger Reserve Becomes India's Second Largest

With the National Board for Wildlife approving its expansion, the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve in West Bengal has become the second-largest tiger reserve in the country. Located in the world's largest delta formed by the Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers, it is the only mangrove forest (along with Bangladesh) to support a significant tiger population. The reserve borders Bangladesh and the Bay of Bengal, featuring diverse flora and fauna including estuarine crocodiles and Gangetic dolphins.

5. Exercise Samanvay Shakti 2025 Launched in Assam

Exercise Samanvay Shakti 2025 was inaugurated at Laipuli, Tinsukia district, Assam. It is a military-civil integration exercise initiated by the Indian Army in collaboration with Assam and Manipur state officials. The exercise aims to enhance cooperation and synergy among security forces, government departments, and civil institutions to tackle regional challenges cohesively. Participants include Indian Army, Air Force, police, intelligence agencies, disaster response teams, and local stakeholders, strengthening readiness, communication, and national integration.

6. SpaceX Achieves 10th Consecutive Successful Starship Test Launch

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SpaceX successfully completed the 10th test launch of Starship, its fully reusable two-stage system, at Starbase, Texas, overcoming weather delays. The Super Heavy booster executed a controlled splashdown in the Gulf of Mexico, while the Starship upper stage performed orbital manoeuvres and engine re-ignition before a soft splashdown in the Indian Ocean. The flight tested payload deployment using Starlink simulators, advancing mission readiness. The data will support NASA's Artemis III Moon landing in 2027, improving landing precision, engine restart, and structural performance for future deep-space missions.

7. India Deploys 700 Soldiers for Exercise Bright Star 2025

India will deploy over 700 soldiers for Exercise Bright Star 2025, a major tri-service multilateral drill in Egypt from August 28 to September 10. Originating in 1980 as a US-Egypt bilateral exercise, it is now one of the largest in the Middle East and North Africa. India's Army, Navy, and Air Force will participate in live firing, command post exercises, and cyber warfare modules. The exercise strengthens interoperability, deepens ties with global partners, supports SAGAR, and enhances India's role in regional stability.

8. Google Unveils 'Nano Banana,' a New AI-Powered Photo Editing Tool

Google has launched Gemini 2.5 Flash Image, codenamed "Nano Banana," an AI-powered image editing tool by DeepMind. It enables users to edit, merge, and remix photos using natural language while maintaining character consistency across images. Features include image merging, design mixing, and prompt-based editing for creative transformations. Accessible via Gemini app, Google AI Studio, and Vertex AI, it offers affordable pricing—USD 0.039 per image or USD 30 per million output tokens—catering to individuals, developers, and businesses seeking high-performance, versatile

image editing solutions.

9. ISRO Completes First Gaganyaan Air Drop Test Successfully

On August 24, 2025, ISRO successfully conducted the first Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-01) for the Gaganyaan program at Sriharikota. The test validated the parachute-based deceleration system of the Crew Module in a typical mission scenario. Using a Chinook helicopter, a simulated Crew Module (~4.8 tons) was dropped from 3 km, deploying ten parachutes in sequence to reduce terminal velocity to 8 m/s for safe splashdown. The module was recovered by INS Anvesha. The test involved ISRO, DRDO, Indian Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard, ensuring mission readiness.

10. Anish Dayal Singh Named Deputy NSA

On August 25, 2025, the government appointed Anish Dayal Singh, a 1988-batch IPS officer and former CRPF chief, as Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA) to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. With vast experience in counter-insurgency, intelligence, and paramilitary leadership, Singh earlier headed the ITBP and CRPF, overseeing anti-Naxal operations, election security, and force restructuring. His appointment under NSA Ajit Doval strengthens India's national security framework, particularly in internal security, border management, and inter-agency coordination, making him a key advisor in strategic security policies.

Miscellaneous

1. Srinivasan Swamy Re-Elected AAI President Fourth Time

Srinivasan K Swamy has been re-elected President of the Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI) for 2025–26, marking his fourth term as the organization celebrates 80 years since its founding. As Executive Group Chairman

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of R K Swamy Ltd, Swamy is a veteran leader known for his advocacy and collaboration in Indian advertising. The AAAI also announced new leadership appointments, including Vice-President Jaideep Gandhi. Swamy's return signals continued trust in his vision during a time of rapid digital transformation.

2. National Space Day: India's Stellar Space Voyage

On August 23, 2025, India celebrated its second National Space Day, commemorating the historic Chandrayaan-3 Moon landing and its space journey from Aryabhata—the first Indian satellite—to the upcoming crewed Gaganyaan mission. The day honors ISRO's milestones, advances in space technology, and the country's ambitions for space exploration and applications. PM Modi highlighted India's strides in innovation, private sector growth, and STEM inspiration, envisioning India as a global space powerhouse by 2047.

3. India Elected Chairman of AIBD Executive Board

India was elected Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) Executive Board at the 23rd General Conference held in Phuket, Thailand, reaffirming its leadership after previously serving in 2016. As a founding member represented by Prasar Bharati, India now holds dual roles as Chairman and President of the General Conference. This election strengthens India's influence in global media policy and highlights its trusted public service broadcasting model.

4. India Post Bank Profits From Rural Outreach

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has posted a ₹134 crore net profit in 2025, with over ₹2,000 crore in revenue and 12 crore customers, marking a 60–70% growth rate over two years. Leveraging India Post's massive network, IPPB is expanding digital and doorstep banking

services, especially in rural and underserved areas. Its focus on trust, last-mile reach, and digital empowerment makes it a model for inclusive banking, blending physical presence with digital innovation to ensure broad financial access.

5. Nayara Energy Names Abasgulyev New CEO

Nayara Energy appointed Teymur Abasgulyev, a senior executive from SOCAR Turkiye Enerji, as its new CEO following the resignation of European leaders due to EU sanctions linked to Russia. Abasgulyev, an experienced finance and energy professional from Azerbaijan, is expected to stabilize leadership amid geopolitical challenges. Nayara operates one of India's largest private refineries in Gujarat and a vast fuel retail network, with ownership shared between Russian-backed Rosneft and Kesani Enterprises.

6. Two New Judges Appointed to Supreme Court

Justice Alok Aradhe, the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, and Justice Vipul Manubhai Pancholi, Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, have been appointed to the Supreme Court by the President of India. These appointments were made based on recommendations from the Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice B.R. Gavai. Justice Aradhe has earlier held positions in various high courts, including those in Madhya Pradesh and Telangana. Justice Pancholi began his judicial career at the Gujarat High Court and was promoted to Chief Justice of the Patna High Court in 2025.

7. International Dog Day Honors Dogs' Vital Roles

International Dog Day, observed every year on August 26, celebrates the important contributions dogs make to human life, ranging from companionship to rescue missions. Founded in 2004 by animal advocate Colleen Paige, this day aims to promote awareness about dog adoption, responsible pet care, and the challenges faced by neglected dogs. It

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encourages people to choose shelter adoptions instead of supporting unethical breeding practices. The day also pays tribute to working dogs involved in security and therapy roles. People are encouraged to mark the occasion by volunteering, fostering, donating, or simply showing extra love to their furry friends.

8. Grihum Housing Set to Name Former Citi Banker Arjun Chowdhry as its New CEO

Grihum Housing Finance, backed by TPG, is set to appoint Arjun Chowdhry, former Citibank and Axis Bank executive, as its new MD & CEO after Manish Jaiswal's resignation, effective August 31. Jaiswal will remain an advisor until December 31. Chowdhry, with over 20 years of experience in retail banking and credit risk, is expected to drive expansion in low-income housing, rural outreach, and digital lending. His appointment aligns with broader leadership shifts in the housing finance sector, reflecting growing competition and demand.

9. India-Africa Trade Surpasses USD 100 Billion in FY 2024-25

India-Africa trade has surged to USD 100 billion in 2024-25, nearly doubling from USD 56 billion in 2019-20, making India a top-five investor with over USD 75 billion invested since 1996. India has extended USD 12 billion in concessional loans, USD 700 million in grants, and 50,000 scholarships to African youth. It has also provided swift humanitarian aid during crises. Further, India is urging African participation in global initiatives like the International Solar Alliance and CDRI, deepening sustainable cooperation.

10. OpenAI appoints former Coursera CEO Raghav Gupta as Head of Education for India and APAC

OpenAI has appointed Raghav Gupta, former Coursera Asia-Pacific Managing Director, as head of education for India and APAC, signaling

a major push in AI-driven learning. Announced at the OpenAI Education Summit in New Delhi, the move aims to launch local AI programs, research collaborations, and developer engagement. Partnering with the India AI Mission, OpenAI plans to expand technical training, foster innovation, and recruit talent. These initiatives, highlighted ahead of CEO Sam Altman's India visit, aim to strengthen India's leadership in AI education.

11. Andhra Pradesh SIPB Approves Investments Worth Rs. 53,922 Crore

At its 10th meeting on 28 August 2025, Andhra Pradesh's State Investment Promotion Board, led by CM N. Chandrababu Naidu, approved 30 projects worth Rs. 53,922 crore, expected to generate 83,437 jobs. Key investments include HFCL, Apollo Tyres, Dhirubhai Ambani Green Tech Park, and Serentika Renewables, spanning sectors like renewable energy, automotive, telecom, and green technology. CM Naidu emphasized ease of doing business, electric mobility, MSME development, and food processing. These projects aim to boost industrial infrastructure, manufacturing, green energy, and employment across the state.

12. Delhi CM Introduces 'U-Special' Bus Service for College Students

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta launched the revived 'U-Special' bus service to enhance daily commute for Delhi University students. The modern fleet features electric, air-conditioned buses equipped with CCTV cameras and panic buttons, promoting safety and environmental sustainability. The initiative aims to provide reliable, cost-effective transport while supporting student mobility. Addressing concerns over recent Delhi Metro fare hikes, the government assured consideration of student concession passes, reflecting a commitment to integrated, affordable, and eco-friendly public transport for the city's students.

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13. Goldman Sachs Projects \$9.5 Trillion Financial Inflows into India by 2035

Goldman Sachs projects that India's household financial savings will generate \$9.5 trillion in cumulative inflows into financial assets by 2035, reflecting a shift from physical assets to financial instruments. Household savings are expected to average 13% of GDP, up from 11.6% over the past decade. Major inflows will include insurance, pensions, bank deposits, equities, and mutual funds. This trend will strengthen domestic capital for corporate growth, develop long-term bond markets, boost retail investment, and enhance financial inclusion and wealth management in India.

14. Rajiv Ranjan Appointed Vice-President and Chief Risk Officer at NDB

Dr. Rajiv Ranjan, former Member of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), has been appointed Vice-President and Chief Risk Officer of the BRICS-led New Development Bank (NDB) for a five-year term starting August 2025. With over 35 years of experience at the RBI, including roles as Executive Director and Head of Monetary Policy, he brings extensive expertise in economic research, policy formulation, and risk management. At NDB, he will oversee risk frameworks, credit and market risk assessment, and ensure financial and operational resilience across member nations.

15. Women's Equality Day 2025

Women's Equality Day is observed in the U.S. on August 26, commemorating the 19th Amendment (1920) that granted women the right to vote. It celebrates historic progress in women's rights while highlighting ongoing challenges, including wage gaps, underrepresentation in leadership, healthcare inequities, and educational barriers. The day is marked with community events, workshops, award ceremonies, and youth programs. Women's Equality Day 2025 encourages learning

about the suffrage movement, supporting women-led initiatives, amplifying women's voices, and advocating for continued gender equality and empowerment.

16. Smart City Index 2025: Zurich Leads, Indian Cities' Position Revealed

The IMD Smart City Index 2025 highlights global urban innovation, with Zurich, Oslo, and Geneva leading the rankings. Dubai and Abu Dhabi made significant jumps, reflecting the Middle East's rapid progress, while Singapore and Canberra slipped in positions. Swiss cities remain top due to strong citizen-focused governance and infrastructure. Indian cities are placed much lower, with Delhi (104), Mumbai (106), Hyderabad (109), and Bengaluru (110), mainly due to infrastructure and governance challenges. Overall, India lags behind global peers in smart city development.