

Date : 2025-08-13

Weekly Current Affairs

English

National

1. Union Cabinet Grants Rs. 2000 Crore to NCDC to Boost Cooperative Sector Lending

The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has sanctioned a Central Sector Scheme to provide a grant-in-aid of Rs. 2000 crore to the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) over a four-year period (2025-26 to 2028-29). This strategic financial injection is designed to empower NCDC to mobilize an additional Rs. 20,000 crore from the open market, which will be lent to cooperatives across the country. The funds will be utilized for setting up new projects, expanding existing facilities, and meeting working capital requirements for approximately 2.9 crore members from 13,288 cooperative societies. NCDC, known for its high loan recovery rate, will act as the executing agency for the scheme, aiming to create capital assets and provide essential liquidity.



2. India's Gross GST Collection Hits Rs. 1.96 Lakh Crore, Yet Net Growth Is Slow

India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections for July 2025 have reached a substantial Rs. 1.96 lakh crore, marking a solid 7.5% year-on-year increase. The growth was primarily propelled by strong domestic revenues and a significant rise in tax collections on imports. However, the net GST revenue, which

accounts for refunds, saw a much slower growth of just 1.7% over the previous year. This deceleration in net growth is attributed to a massive surge in refunds, which is a positive sign for businesses as it helps with working capital, although it has impacted the overall monthly net figures.

3. Supreme Court Asserts Environment Must Not Be Sacrificed for Revenue Gains

The Supreme Court of India has issued a stern warning, stating that economic revenue goals cannot compromise environmental integrity. It emphasised that unchecked infrastructure projects, rising tourism, and climate change are severely impacting Himachal Pradesh, potentially causing the state to "vanish from the map" unless urgent corrective action is taken. Furthermore, in *Vanashakti vs Union of India*, the Court invalidated government amnesties permitting retrospective environmental clearances, reinforcing that all projects must obtain prior environmental approval—a decisive move to affirm the right to a clean environment under Article 21.

4. India to Elect New Vice President in 2025: EC Announces Timeline

Following Jagdeep Dhankhar's surprise resignation from the Vice President post on July 21, 2025, the Election Commission of India has set a timetable for the 17th VicePresidential election. As per constitutional requirements, the official notification will be issued on August 7. Nominations close on August 21, scrutiny will be on August 22, with candidatures withdrawable until August 25. If necessary, polling and counting will take place on September 9, 2025, using a secret ballot with proportional representation through a single transferable vote system.

Date : 2025-08-13

Weekly Current Affairs

English



5. UPI Transactions to Follow Revised Guidelines Effective August 1

From 1 August 2025, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has activated revised UPI guidelines to streamline operations and enhance security. Among the major changes: daily caps on balance enquiries (50 per app) and linked-account views (25 per app); autopay mandates now execute only during non-peak hours (before 10 am, 1–5 pm, after 9:30 pm) with limited retries; pending transaction status checks restricted to three attempts with 90-second gaps; and recipient names displayed before confirming transfers. Payment apps are subject to penalties or API restrictions for non-compliance.

6. Cabinet Gives Nod to Aid Scheme for National Cooperative Development Corporation

On July 31, 2025, the Union Cabinet approved a Central Sector Scheme granting Rupees 2,000 crore to the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) over four years (FY 202526 to FY 202829)—Rupees 500 crore per year. With this capital infusion, NCDC is expected to leverage up to Rupees 20,000 crore from the open market for cooperative financing. The funds will support loans for new projects, modernization, and working capital. Approximately 2.9 crore members across over 13,200 cooperative societies in sectors like dairy, fisheries, textiles, and women-led groups are poised to benefit.



7. Kandla Port Gets Boost with Commissioning of Homegrown GHPP Project

On July 31, 2025, Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) at Kandla commissioned India's first fully indigenous 1MW MakeinIndia Green Hydrogen Power Plant, developed by Indian engineers and L and T in just four months—a record for such infrastructure. The facility will produce around 140 metric tonnes of green hydrogen annually, initially powering 11 buses and port lighting, eventually supporting broader port operations. This is the first module of a planned 10 MW plant, aligning with India's Net Zero ambitions and setting a benchmark in maritime decarbonisation under the Maritime India Vision 2030.

8. Govt Launches 'Apna Ghar' Resting Facilities for Truck Drivers

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has launched a new nationwide initiative called 'Apna Ghar' to improve the working conditions, health, and safety of truck drivers. This program provides hygienic and comfortable resting facilities at retail outlets of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) along national and state highways. As of July 2025, 368 facilities with over 4,600 beds have been established. The initiative aims to combat driver fatigue and improve road safety by offering essential amenities. A dedicated mobile app has also been launched to help drivers locate and book these facilities. The program is a significant step towards ensuring the well-being of the workforce that forms the backbone of India's logistics and supply chain.

Date : 2025-08-13

Weekly Current Affairs

English

10. Matri Van Initiative

The Matri Van initiative has been launched in Gurugram as a step towards ecological preservation and urban sustainability. This project aims to create a theme-based urban forest, spanning 750 acres, in the Aravalli Hill area, as part of the Government of India's 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' program. The Matri Van is envisioned as a unique ecological and cultural space that will contribute to biodiversity, public well-being, and urban sustainability in the Delhi-NCR region. The initiative involves planting native species and creating green infrastructure, with the goal of providing a serene environment for residents while serving as the 'lungs' for the Delhi-NCR area.

11. Odisha Launches SOP for Landrace Seed Conservation

Odisha has introduced a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to conserve traditional seed varieties, known as landraces. This initiative, part of the state's 'Shree Anna Abhiyan,' aims to protect agrobiodiversity and empower smallholder farmers. The SOP seeks to bridge the gap between formal seed systems and informal, community-managed seed systems. It prioritizes farmers' knowledge and community governance over genetic resources, expanding its scope beyond millets to include other traditional crops.

12. India promotes GI handloom heritage via national summit

The Government of India actively promotes registration and protection of GI-tagged handloom and handicraft products under the GI Act, 1999. Through schemes like Handloom Marketing Assistance and National Handloom Development Programme, it provides ₹1.5 lakh for GI registration, training, and awareness programs. With over 100 handloom and 227 handicraft products registered, ongoing promotion includes exhibitions, craft melas, seminars, and the Silk Samagra2 initiative for silk

GI sectors. Legal support and enforcement funds protect against counterfeiting, ensuring artisans' heritage and livelihoods are upheld.

13. India Hosts WHOIRCH Herbal Medicine Safety Workshop

India will host the WHO-IRCH Herbal Medicine Safety Workshop in Ghaziabad from August 6-8, 2025, at the Hotel Fortune District Centre. Organized by the Ministry of Ayush in collaboration with WHO and supported by PCIM&H, the workshop aims to strengthen global regulation of herbal medicines. It will bring together regulators from over a dozen countries, with hands-on training in drug identification, heavy metal analysis, and chemoprofiling. The Ayush Suraksha pharmacovigilance programme will also be introduced to enhance safety monitoring.

14. BharatGen AI to Support All 22 Indian Languages by June 2026

India's BharatGen AI initiative, launched in June 2025, aims to develop sovereign foundational AI models tailored to Indian languages and societal contexts. Currently supporting nine languages, it plans to expand to 15 by December 2025 and cover all 22 scheduled languages by June 2026. Developed under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) and led by IIT Bombay's TIH Foundation, BharatGen integrates text, speech, and image modalities to deliver AI solutions in these languages. The initiative seeks to empower sectors like healthcare, education, agriculture, and governance, providing region-specific AI solutions that understand and serve every Indian.

15. Green Ammonia Price Falls, Boosting India's Clean Shift

SECI's landmark first auction under India's National Green Hydrogen Mission (SIGHT Scheme Mode2A) revealed a record-low green

Date : 2025-08-13

Weekly Current Affairs

English

ammonia price of ₹55.75/kg, securing a 75,000 tpa supply commitment to Paradeep Phosphates, Odisha. This inaugural round—part of a broader series of 13 auctions targeting 724,000 tpa—delivers a decade-long fixed rate, undercutting 2024's H2Global benchmark and remaining strongly competitive against March 2025's grey ammonia price, boosting investor confidence and propelling India's green-fuel shift.

16. IITs Develop Index to Measure District Flood Severity

Researchers at IIT Delhi and IIT Gandhinagar have created the District Flood Severity Index (DFSI) to measure flood impacts across districts in India. The index utilizes data from the India Flood Inventory with Impacts database, considering factors like flood duration, affected area, fatalities, injuries, and population. Patna ranks as the most severely impacted district, followed by others in the Indo-Gangetic Plain and Assam. Although Thiruvananthapuram experiences frequent floods, it ranks low on the severity scale. The DFSI supports improved flood management and planning at the district level.

17. Pregnant, Lactating Women to Benefit Under Extended PMMVY

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has extended the special registration drive for Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) till August 15, 2025. Aimed at supporting pregnant and lactating women from disadvantaged sections, PMMVY provides up to ₹6,000 in cash incentives through Direct Benefit Transfer. The scheme promotes maternal and child health and is implemented via PMMVYSoft with Aadhaar-based verification. Women from specific socio-economic categories are eligible, while those employed in government services receiving similar benefits are excluded.

18. Punjab Appoints Interpreters for Juvenile,

POCSO Cases

Punjab has become the first Indian state to empanel sign language interpreters, translators, and special educators under the Juvenile Justice Act and POCSO Act. This initiative aims to improve access to justice for children with hearing and speech impairments by ensuring their active participation in legal proceedings. The professionals will be deployed across all districts and compensated accordingly. This move builds on Punjab's ongoing efforts toward inclusive governance and marks a significant step in promoting equitable legal access and human rights for all children.

19. PM Inaugurates MS Swaminathan Conference on Food Security

The PM inaugurated the MS Swaminathan Centenary International Conference, celebrating his 100th birth anniversary with the theme 'Evergreen Revolution, The Pathway to Biohappiness.' Known as the father of India's Green Revolution, Swaminathan developed high-yield, resilient crop varieties and pioneered sustainable farming methods. He introduced concepts like crop cafeterias and crop distribution agronomy, promoting balanced nutrition and adaptive farming. His Evergreen Revolution emphasizes productivity without ecological harm, focusing on organic agriculture, resource management, and social equity to ensure long-term food security and farmer welfare.

20. Bharat Taxi to Operate Nationwide by 2025

Eight major cooperatives have launched Bharat Taxi, a ₹300-crore app-based ride-hailing platform expected to compete with Ola and Uber by late 2025. Operated by the Multi-State Sahakari Taxi Cooperative Ltd, the initiative prioritizes fair driver compensation and low-cost passenger fares using a cooperative pricing structure. With backing from entities like IFFCO and Amul and strategic guidance from IIM Bangalore, the service has already onboarded

Date : 2025-08-13

Weekly Current Affairs

English

200 drivers. It aims to provide a transparent, community-driven transport alternative across urban India.

21. Women's Leadership Strengthened by SheLeads II Initiative

The Union Minister for Women and Child Development recently launched SheLeads II, a key initiative of UN Women India, in New Delhi. This programme is designed to strengthen women's roles in public and political leadership by equipping them with vital skills, platforms, and networks, especially ahead of the upcoming elections. UN Women, founded in 2010, serves as the UN's dedicated body for gender equality, helping shape global policies, supporting member nations in implementation, and collaborating with civil society to advance inclusive and empowered governance for women.

22. Chhattisgarh Emerges Key Hub for Strategic Minerals

Deccan Gold Mining Ltd has discovered a significant Ni-Cu-PGE sulphide mineral deposit in the Bhalukona-Jamnidi block of Mahasamund district, Chhattisgarh. This discovery positions the state as a key player in securing critical minerals essential for India's industrial growth and clean energy future. Supported by Chhattisgarh's Critical Mineral Cell, initial exploration revealed a 700-metre mineralised stretch. Nearby blocks, including one awarded to Vedanta, enhance the area's potential. The state has prioritized strategic minerals in its 2024-25 exploration roadmap to boost self-reliance in key resources.

International

1. Bhutan-India Launch Joint Venture Dorjilung Hydropower Project, Marking New Era of Energy Cooperation

A significant milestone in regional clean energy collaboration has been achieved with the launch of the Dorjilung Hydropower Project in Bhutan. This 1125 MW project is a joint venture between Bhutan's state-owned Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) and India's private sector giant, Tata Power Company Limited. Developed on the Kurichhu River, the run-of-the-river project is a part of the larger strategic partnership between the two nations to develop 5000 MW of renewable energy. With an estimated cost of \$1.7 billion, the project is being financed by the World Bank. The partnership with Tata Power signifies a strategic shift by Bhutan towards seeking private investments rather than relying solely on government grants.

2. World's Smallest Snake, the Barbados Threadsnake, Rediscovered After Two Decades

The Barbados threadsnake, which holds the title of the world's smallest-known snake, was rediscovered in 2025 after a nearly two-decade-long absence of confirmed sightings. This tiny, elusive reptile, which was once feared to be extinct, was found in a small patch of native woodland on the Caribbean island of Barbados. The rediscovery is a crucial event for conservation efforts because the snake is considered an 'umbrella micro-species'—protecting its unique habitat also shields a host of other endemic insects and plants. The find has prompted the government and NGOs to draft a comprehensive management plan to protect the island's remaining native woodlands.

3. Global Community Observes Cloves Syndrome Awareness Day 2025

Cloves Syndrome Awareness Day is observed annually on August 3 to globally spread awareness about CLOVES syndrome, a rare and complex genetic disorder. Established by the CLOVES Syndrome Community in 2010, the day aims to increase knowledge about this congenital disease, which affects a small

Date : 2025-08-13

Weekly Current Affairs

English

number of individuals worldwide. It is a day to build a sense of community, advocate for enhanced research and treatment options, and provide support to affected families who often face unique challenges due to the rarity of the condition. The observance encourages people to wear green, the color associated with Cloves syndrome, to show solidarity.

4. UN and India Roll Out Joint Global Training Programme for Capacity Building

India and the United Nations have formally launched the IndiaUN Global Capacity Building Initiative, announced at the UN General Assembly in September 2023. On August 1, 2025, the first phase kicked off with the launch of four pilot projects across nine countries in Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean. These projects—covering rice fortification (Nepal), digital health platforms (Zambia and Lao PDR), census preparedness (multiple Caribbean countries), and vocational training (South Sudan)—will be delivered via India's ITEC training institutes starting September 2025, reinforcing South-South cooperation to advance SDGs.

5. India-UN Global Capacity Building Initiative

India has launched the first four projects under the India-UN Global Capacity Building Initiative, a program designed to assist Global South countries in achieving their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The initiative focuses on knowledge sharing and capacity building. One of the first projects, in collaboration with the UN World Food Programme, is in Nepal, where it aims to strengthen the country's fortified rice supply chain and management. This project leverages India's experience with its Public Distribution System (PDS) to address gaps in Nepal's procurement processes, data collection, and skilled workforce.

6. World Bank Updates Income Classifications

The World Bank has updated its annual income classification system, which sorts countries into four groups: low-income, lower-middle-income, upper-middle-income, and high-income. The classifications, updated every year on July 1, are based on the previous year's Gross National Income (GNI) per capita, expressed in USD using the Atlas method. For the current fiscal year 2026, low-income economies are defined as those with a GNI per capita of USD 1,135 or less in 2024.

7. Russia lifts missile moratorium citing U.S. threats

Russia recently justified ending its self-imposed moratorium on intermediate-range missiles due to U.S. military actions—specifically, the redeployment of two nuclear submarines closer to Russia and the installation of U.S. Typhon missile launchers in the Philippines. The collapse of the 1987 INF Treaty, which had banned all groundlaunched missiles with ranges of 500–5,500 km, undermines global arms control. With major pacts like New START set to expire, trust is eroding, nuclear modernization is accelerating, and the risk of miscalculation or renewed arms race is rising worldwide.

8. Legacy of Hiroshima Shapes Nuclear Disarmament Efforts

Eighty years after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the devastating human cost and survivor resilience remain vivid. The bombings caused massive death, radiation sickness, and social stigma for hibakusha. The Nobel Peace Prize-winning Nihon Hidankyo advocates for nuclear disarmament. Akira Kurosawa's films, *Rhapsody in August* and *I Live in Fear*, poignantly capture the bombings' lasting trauma and fear, serving as powerful reminders to remember history and pursue peace.

9. First BIMSTEC Traditional Music Festival Held in Delhi

Date : 2025-08-13

Weekly Current Affairs

English

The first-ever BIMSTEC Traditional Music Festival was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. BIMSTEC, established on June 6, 1997, connects seven countries around the Bay of Bengal—five from South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka) and two from Southeast Asia (Myanmar, Thailand). With 1.7 billion people and a combined GDP of USD 5 trillion, it fosters regional cooperation through summits and meetings. Headquartered in Dhaka, Bangladesh, BIMSTEC focuses on 14 priority areas, with India leading in transport, tourism, environment, and counter-terrorism.

10. Moldova Joins International Solar Alliance as 107th Member

Moldova has become the 107th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), enhancing global collaboration on solar energy. Established in 2015 by India and France during COP21, the ISA encourages solar energy adoption through investments, policy guidance, and technology exchange. Moldova's inclusion provides access to technical assistance and financial support to expand its solar infrastructure. The alliance focuses on critical areas such as agriculture, healthcare, and electric mobility. India remains at the forefront of ISA's initiatives, strengthening its role in the worldwide clean energy movement.

11. China Tests Lanyue Lunar Lander Ahead of 2030 Moon Mission

China conducted its first test of the Lanyue lunar lander, a key step in its goal to land astronauts on the moon before 2030. Held in Hebei province, the test simulated lunar terrain to verify the lander's ascent and descent systems. Lanyue will transport astronauts between lunar orbit and the moon's surface, also serving as a living and operational hub. This milestone strengthens China's ambitions to build an International Lunar Research Station by 2035, advancing its growing leadership in space exploration.

12. Israel Signs Largest-Ever Export Deal with Egypt for Natural Gas

Egypt and Israel have finalized a \$35 billion agreement for Egypt to receive 130 billion cubic meters of natural gas from Israel's Leviathan field by 2040, making it Israel's largest-ever export deal. Set to begin in 2026, the deal boosts Egypt's energy security and enhances its role as a regional energy hub amid rising domestic demand. Building on their energy partnership since 2018, the agreement reflects strengthened cooperation despite regional instability and supports Egypt's economic rebound, in line with upgraded growth projections.

Sports

1. Western Railway Resumes Heritage Train on 155-Year-Old Line

The Western Railway has resumed its heritage train service on the 155-year-old Patalpani-Kalakund line in Madhya Pradesh. The 9.5-kilometer metre-gauge line, which was temporarily suspended, is a significant attraction for heritage tourism enthusiasts. The route is part of the Dr. Ambedkar Nagar (Mhow)-Khandwa section and offers scenic views of valleys, forests, and waterfalls. The line was first proposed in the 19th century by Maharaja Tukoji Rao Holkar II and was an integral part of India's early railway expansion. Its resumption is expected to boost tourism in the region, celebrating the historical and cultural value of India's railway legacy.

2. India Launches First FranchiseStyle Archery League in 2025

The Archery Association of India (AAI) is launching India's first-ever franchisestyle Archery League, set for an 11-day October 2025 event at the Yamuna Sports Complex, Delhi. Featuring six city franchises, it will bring together top Indian and foreign archers in both recurve and compound disciplines, including athletes ranked in the world's top 10. Supported by World Archery,

Date : 2025-08-13

Weekly Current Affairs

English

World Archery Asia, and India's Sports Ministry, the league aims to boost India's archery ecosystem, offer international exposure, and prepare athletes for Olympic success.

3. Kabak Yano Inspires with Kilimanjaro Climb Success

Arunachal Pradesh mountaineer Kabak Yano has successfully scaled Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's tallest peak, as part of her Seven Summits mission. Her achievement, praised by Governor KT Parnaik, showcases the spirit of women's empowerment and North East India's growing prominence in adventure sports. Already an Everest summiteer, Yano's determination and resilience continue to inspire youth across India. With Kilimanjaro conquered, she advances toward her goal of climbing the highest peaks on each continent, including Denali, Aconcagua, Elbrus, Vinson, and Kosciuszko.

Summits/MoUs/Conferences/Agreement

1.26 Tech Giants Join EU's AI Code of Practice on General Purpose AI Tools

On July 31, 2025, the European Commission published the final General Purpose AI Code of Practice, a voluntary framework detailing how providers of GPAI models can meet obligations under the EU AI Act—which becomes enforceable on August 2, 2025. The Code, developed by independent experts in consultation with over 1,000 stakeholders, covers three key areas: transparency, copyright compliance, and safety and security. In its early rollout, 26 AI companies—including Google, Amazon, Microsoft, IBM, OpenAI, Mistral AI, Anthropic and Aleph Alpha—signed the Code. Meta declined to sign, while xAI joined only the safety chapter.

2. Mithun Conservation

Scientists and tribal farmers have jointly urged the Central government to renew efforts for the conservation of the Mithun (*Bos frontalis*), a semi-domesticated bovine native to Northeast India. The Mithun is of significant socio-cultural and economic importance to the tribal communities in the region. A recent Mithun Mela in Arunachal Pradesh brought together farmers and experts to discuss scientific interventions and challenges such as habitat degradation, diseases, and limited market access. The event highlighted the importance of blending traditional practices like the 'Lura system' of communal fencing with modern scientific approaches to ensure sustainable rearing and conservation of this unique animal.

3. India-Brazil Biofuels Alliance Gains Momentum

The partnership between India and Brazil on biofuels is gaining momentum as part of the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA), which was launched during India's G20 presidency in 2023. The alliance focuses on promoting biofuel adoption, including ethanol blending and sustainable aviation fuels. Brazil has a mature biofuel ecosystem and a 'Fuels of the Future' law, while India aims to achieve a 20% ethanol blending target by 2025. The collaboration is an example of South-South cooperation, with both countries leveraging their expertise to promote green industrialization and energy diplomacy.

Ranks/Reports/Indices

1. UNCTAD Report Emphasises Trade Mobilisation to Tackle Plastic Pollution Globally

UNCTAD's August 2025 Global Trade Update highlights the pivotal role of trade policy in combating plastic pollution. It notes that in 2023, global trade in plastics reached over 1.1 trillion USD, while 75% of plastics ever produced became pollution, mostly affecting developing and coastal nations. UNCTAD stresses that

Date : 2025-08-13

Weekly Current Affairs

English

reduced tariffs on plastics and higher tariffs on natural alternatives distort incentives. To reverse this, it advocates tariff reform, support for biodegradable substitutes, trade enablement of waste management technology, and inclusion of trade in the upcoming Global Plastics Treaty framework.

2. India Ranks Second Globally in Fish Production

Union Minister of Fisheries and Animal Husbandry, Rajiv Ranjan Singh, announced that India has secured the second rank globally in fish production. The minister made this statement at a meeting with representatives from West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh in Kolkata. He noted a remarkable increase in India's fish production, which has grown by 103% in 2024-25 compared to 2013-14. The meeting also included discussions on various government schemes aimed at boosting the sector, such as the PM Matsya Sampada Yojana and Kisan Credit Cards. The minister highlighted the potential for increased fish production, particularly in states like West Bengal with its many ponds.

Science and
tech/Space/Defence

1. ISS Integrates AI-Powered Robot Cimon to Assist Astronauts in Space

The International Space Station (ISS) has recently integrated an advanced artificial intelligence (AI) robot named Cimon (Crew Interactive MOBILE companion) to assist astronauts during extended missions. Designed as a free-floating companion, Cimon responds to voice commands, enabling astronauts to perform complex tasks with their hands free. The robot provides step-by-step instructions, tutorials, and a mobile database, effectively acting as a hands-free camera and informational assistant. This technology

demonstration, a collaboration between Airbus, IBM, and the German Aerospace Center, aims to reduce astronaut workload, improve time management, and decrease stress during long-duration space missions.

2. Indian Navy Inducts Indigenous Stealth Frigate INS Himgiri, Equipped with BrahMos Missiles

The Indian Navy has marked a major milestone in its indigenization efforts with the formal induction of INS Himgiri, the third ship of the Nilgiri-class frigates under Project 17A. Constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, the stealth frigate was delivered to the Navy on July 31, 2025. INS Himgiri is equipped with a formidable array of advanced weaponry and sensor systems, including BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles. This ship is a reincarnation of the original INS Himgiri, a Leander-class frigate, and its construction showcases a generational leap in indigenous ship design, stealth, and combat capability, aligning with the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

3. Study Finds Toxic Heavy Metals in Clouds Hovering Over Himalayas

A recent study by Bose Institute and IISER Kolkata has revealed that nonprecipitating monsoon clouds over the Eastern Himalayas contain elevated levels of toxic heavy metals like cadmium, chromium, copper, zinc, and nickel. Concentrations in Darjeeling were 40–60% higher than those over the Western Ghats. Health risk assessments indicate children face nearly twice the non-carcinogenic hazard compared to adults, while inhalation of dissolved chromium raises carcinogenic concerns. The findings challenge assumptions of pure mountain rain and underscore risks from long-range industrial and urban pollution.

4. India's First 'Make in India' Hydrogen Plant Sets a New Benchmark

In a major stride toward clean energy and

Date : 2025-08-13

Weekly Current Affairs

English

sustainable development, the Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) has commissioned India's first 'Make in India' green hydrogen plant. This groundbreaking plant is located at Kandla, Gujarat. The initiative marks a significant step in the country's efforts to promote domestic manufacturing and adoption of green energy sources, aligning with national goals for a low-carbon economy. This project showcases India's capability to indigenously develop advanced clean energy infrastructure and is expected to set a new benchmark for future sustainable projects.

5. Operation Muskaan-XI

Operation Muskaan-XI was a month-long initiative conducted across Telangana from July 1 to July 31, 2025, with the primary goal of rescuing children from exploitative and hazardous conditions. The mission was a collaborative effort involving the Telangana Police's Women Safety Wing, the Women Development and Child Welfare Department, the Labour Department, health officials, and various NGOs. This extensive coordination led to the rescue of thousands of children, including those from other states and even Nepal, who were victims of child labor, begging, or other forms of exploitation. The operation also resulted in numerous arrests and the imposition of significant fines, along with rehabilitation efforts like reuniting children with their families and enrolling them in bridge schools.

6. Alpine Musk Deer Conservation

A recent report by the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has brought to light the challenges in the conservation of the Alpine musk deer (*Moschus chrysogaster*) in India, primarily due to misidentification and management issues. The report reveals that conservation breeding programs meant for the Alpine musk deer were mistakenly initiated for the Himalayan musk deer instead. This confusion, stemming from their

similar appearance and overlapping habitats in the Himalayas, has hampered conservation efforts. The CZA report highlights that there is currently no clarity on the population of the Alpine musk deer and stresses the need for India to develop its own comprehensive list of endangered species rather than relying solely on global lists like the IUCN Red List.

7. India's First 'Make in India' Hydrogen Plant Sets a New Benchmark

India's first 'Make in India' Green Hydrogen Plant in the port sector has been commissioned in Kandla, Gujarat. The project, undertaken by the Deendayal Port Authority (DPA), is a major step towards India's Net-Zero emissions target. The plant's first 1 MW module became operational just four months after its foundation stone was laid.

8. Devastating Flash Flood in Uttarkashi's Dharali Village after Cloudburst

A devastating flash flood, triggered by a cloudburst in the upper catchment area of the Kheer Ganga river, has hit Dharali village in Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand. The raging waters swept away several houses, resulting in at least four deaths and leaving many missing. The disaster prompted an immediate multi-agency response, with teams from the Army, SDRF, NDRF, and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) rushing to the spot for rescue and relief operations.

9. Volcano Erupts After 600 Years

The Krashennnikov volcano in Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula has erupted for the first time in 600 years. The eruption was followed by a massive ash plume that rose to a height of 4 km. The Kamchatka Ministry of Emergency Situations issued an 'orange' aviation warning, indicating a heightened risk to aircraft. The ash plume is spreading eastward towards the Pacific Ocean, away from populated areas. The eruption came just days after another volcano in the region, Klyuchevskoy, also spewed lava.

Date : 2025-08-13

Weekly Current Affairs

English

10. ISRO launches 10day HOPE mission in Ladakh

On August 1–10, 2025, ISRO launched a 10day highaltitude analogue mission called HOPE (HighAltitude Operational Protocol Evaluation) in Ladakh's Tso Kar Valley at 4,530 m above sea level. Set against cold, lowoxygen, Marslike terrain, two carefully selected crew lived in a selfsustaining habitat simulating lunar/Martian conditions. Led by ISRO's Human Space Flight Centre and partners like Protoplanet and IITs, the mission studied human physiological, psychological, and operational performance under isolation. Insights aim to support Gaganyaan and future Moon/Mars exploration.

11. Indian Carbon Market to Boost Biochar Technology

Set to launch in 2026, the Indian carbon market will emphasize CO₂ removal technologies such as biochar. Created by heating agricultural and organic waste in the absence of oxygen, biochar is a carbon-dense material capable of storing carbon in soil for hundreds of years. It enhances soil moisture retention and lowers nitrous oxide emissions, supporting agriculture and soil rehabilitation. Beyond farming, biochar shows promise in industrial carbon capture, eco-friendly construction materials, and wastewater treatment, positioning it as a sustainable solution for carbon sequestration and pollution control.

12. Indian Firms Embrace Agentic AI Across Industries

India's AI spending is projected to reach \$10.4 billion by 2028, growing annually at 38%, driven by digital infrastructure, a tech-savvy workforce, and government initiatives, according to an IDC and UiPath report. About 40% of Indian firms already use agentic AI, with 50% planning adoption within a year. It boosts productivity and decision-making, particularly in data-heavy industries like manufacturing and healthcare. Despite trust and security concerns, agentic AI is

being used across business functions, from customer engagement to fraud detection.

13. US Deploys Dark Eagle Hypersonic Weapon in Australia

The United States recently deployed its Dark Eagle Long-Range Hypersonic Weapon (LRHW) during the Talisman Sabre drills in Australia. Developed by Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman, this land-based missile system can strike targets up to 1,700 miles away. It features a mobile launcher with four Transporter Erector Launchers, each holding two missiles. The hypersonic glide body reaches speeds of Mach 17, flying through the upper atmosphere to evade defenses and deliver precise, rapid strikes.

14. CDS Releases Joint Doctrines Boosting Armed Forces Integration

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) has unveiled Joint Doctrines for Cyberspace and Amphibious Operations, reinforcing India's dedication to enhancing jointness and integration within its armed forces. The Cyberspace Doctrine centers on synchronized offensive and defensive cyber operations, while the Amphibious Doctrine promotes seamless coordination among maritime, air, and land forces for swift action. These revisions reflect changing strategic priorities. Additionally, measures such as Integrated Theatre Commands, Joint Logistic Nodes, and the Department of Military Affairs bolster collaboration and improve operational efficiency.

Miscellaneous

1. Odisha Government Announces Plans to Reintroduce Tigers in Debrigarh Sanctuary

The Odisha government has announced ambitious plans to reintroduce tigers into the Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the Bargarh district. This initiative is a core part of a

Date : 2025-08-13

Weekly Current Affairs

English

broader state-led effort to revive the big cat population. The Forest Department has already secured technical approval from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to convert the sanctuary into a tiger reserve. An expert committee has been formed to conduct a detailed study of the sanctuary and demarcate the essential core and buffer zones for a sustainable tiger habitat. This new attempt follows previous unsuccessful tiger relocation efforts in the state, with the government now committing to a more successful and scientifically-backed approach.

2. Malayalam Actor and Mimicry Artiste Kalabhavan Navas Passes Away at 51

The Malayalam film industry is in mourning following the untimely demise of Kalabhavan Navas, a popular actor and mimicry artiste, who passed away at the age of 51. Navas, a well-known figure in the industry, was discovered unconscious in a hotel room in Kochi while on a film shoot. Despite being rushed to a nearby hospital, he was declared dead on arrival. Police suspect the cause of death to be a cardiac arrest. Navas began his acting career in 1995 with the film 'Chithran' and was widely admired for his versatility and talent as both an actor and a mimicry artist.

3. Shashi Prakash Goyal Appointed as New Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh

Shashi Prakash Goyal, a 1989-batch IAS officer, has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh. Prior to this pivotal role, he served as the Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. Goyal, who is highly regarded for his seriousness and dedication, is considered to be one of the most trusted officers of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. He takes over from Manoj Kumar Singh, who retired on July 31. This appointment represents a significant bureaucratic reshuffle, placing a key official in the state's top administrative position.

4. IPEFA Set to Unveil Its Unified Digital Portal Soon

The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) is soon launching its Integrated Portal, a unified digital platform aimed at streamlining claim submission and speeding up grievance resolution for investors and companies. It will integrate with depositories and the Public Financial Management System (PFMS), offer simplified documentation for lowvalue claims, and support a new Integrated Call Centre. Companies are urged to upload pending IEPFI/7 SRNs to avoid delays. Some temporary disruptions may occur as the system goes live.

5. The Conscience Network by Sugata Srinivasaraju

A new book titled 'The Conscience Network' by Sugata Srinivasaraju documents a lesser-known chapter of Indian democratic history. The book chronicles the activism of young Indians in the United States during the Emergency of June 1975. These individuals, many of whom were students, formed an organization called 'Indians for Democracy' (IFD) to campaign against the Emergency. They used various methods like marching, pamphleteering, and lobbying US Congressmen and media to raise international awareness about the situation in India. This international pressure is considered one of the factors that influenced Indira Gandhi to eventually end the Emergency and call for general elections.

6. BIMSTEC Traditional Music Festival

The first-ever BIMSTEC Traditional Music Festival, named 'SaptaSur: Seven Nations, One Melody,' was recently held in New Delhi. The event showcased the musical heritage of the seven BIMSTEC member countries: India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Organized by the Indian Council for Cultural

Date : 2025-08-13

Weekly Current Affairs

English

Relations (ICCR), the festival stemmed from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment at the BIMSTEC Summit to strengthen regional cultural ties.

7. Hong Kong Enforces Stablecoin Licensing

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) enforced the Stablecoins Ordinance starting on August 1, 2025. This new law establishes a comprehensive regulatory regime for stablecoins, a type of cryptocurrency designed to maintain a stable value. The new framework introduces a licensing regime for stablecoin issuers with stringent requirements for reserve management, risk controls, and governance. This move aims to solidify Hong Kong's place as a global leader in digital finance.

8. PM Modi's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' Sets Guinness World Record

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship initiative, 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' (PPC), has been awarded a Guinness World Record. The 8th edition of the program, hosted on the MyGov platform, achieved the record for the "Most people registered on a Citizen Engagement Platform in one month," with 3.53 crore valid registrations.

9. Govt Launches 'Apna Ghar' Resting Facilities for Truck Drivers

The Ministry of Road Transport has launched the 'Apna Ghar' initiative, a nationwide program offering clean, safe, and affordable rest facilities for truck drivers on national highways. These facilities, established by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), are equipped with AC dormitories, clean washrooms, hot water, and food preparation areas. Drivers can access these amenities for just Rs. 112 for an 8-hour period. The initiative aims to reduce driver fatigue and improve road safety.

10. India's UPI Surpasses 700 Million Transactions

India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

achieved a record on August 2, 2025, processing over 707 million transactions in a single day, as reported by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). This milestone reflects a doubling of daily transactions over the past two years. The Indian government aims to reach 1 billion daily UPI transactions by next year. UPI now accounts for approximately 85% of all digital transactions in India, indicating widespread adoption.

11. Global Hepatitis Strategy Faces Major Implementation Challenges

Hepatitis D virus depends on hepatitis B virus (HBV) to replicate, affecting only those with HBV infection. Viral hepatitis types B, C, and D can cause chronic liver diseases, including cancer. Over 300 million people globally suffer from these infections, causing 1.3 million deaths annually, with many undiagnosed. While there is no hepatitis C vaccine, hepatitis B vaccination protects against hepatitis D. India's National Viral Hepatitis Control Program and WHO's global strategy aim to eliminate hepatitis, but challenges remain in diagnosis, vaccination, and treatment access.

12. RBI Updates Co-lending Rules for Banks, NBFCs

The RBI has released updated guidelines for Co-lending Arrangements (CLA) between banks and NBFCs, allowing regulated entities to collaboratively provide loans under prudential regulations. Major changes include a mandatory minimum 10% loan share retention by each lender, PSL eligibility for qualifying loan portions, standardized asset classification, and a blended interest rate calculated according to each lender's funding contribution. Co-lending enables banks to expand their reach and meet PSL targets, offers NBFCs risk-sharing and lower-cost capital, and provides consumers with more affordable and customized credit options.

Date : 2025-08-13

Weekly Current Affairs

English

13. eSAKSHI Portal Transforms MPLADS Fund Management Nationwide

The eSAKSHI portal, launched by MoSPI in April 2023, has revolutionized MPLADS fund management through real-time tracking, digital fund flow, and mobile integration. Developed with SBI, it enables seamless coordination from MP recommendations to project execution. Key features include custom dashboards, mobile app support, and strict timelines for project approval and completion. With all States and UTs onboarded, ongoing training ensures smooth adoption. The portal boosts transparency, accountability, and efficiency, marking a major shift in constituency-level development governance in India.

14. India Celebrates 11th National Handloom Day

Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed his best wishes on National Handloom Day, a day dedicated to celebrating India's rich weaving heritage and recognizing the contributions of the handloom community. Observed every year on August 7, this day honors the Swadeshi Movement and emphasizes the sector's socio-economic importance. The 11th National Handloom Day includes awards, exhibitions, and the Handloom Hackathon to encourage innovation. With over 35 lakh weavers, predominantly women, the government actively supports the sector through various schemes, skill development initiatives, and marketing efforts to promote sustainability, empowerment, and the preservation of India's vibrant handloom legacy.

15. August 9 is recognized globally as World Tribal Rights Day

World Tribal Day, celebrated every year on August 9, aims to recognize and uphold the rights and contributions of indigenous peoples across the globe. The 2025 theme, 'Indigenous Peoples and Artificial Intelligence – Defending Rights, Shaping the Future,' emphasizes

safeguarding tribal rights in the era of emerging technologies. First recognized by the United Nations in 1994, the day marks the inaugural session of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations held in 1982. The Adivasi Girijana Sangham has urged active youth and leadership participation in addressing indigenous issues.