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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

CABINET APPROVALS

Cabinet Approves Rs. 6520 Cr Outlay for PMKSY During 15th FCC

On July 31, 2025, the **Union Cabinet**, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, approved a total outlay of **Rs. 6520 crores**, which includes an additional outlay of **Rs. 1920 crore** for the Central Sector Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (**PMKSY**) announced during the **15th Finance Commission Cycle (FCC)** (i.e., 2021-22 to 2025-26).

EXAM HINTS:

- ✓ **Scheme:** Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (renamed from SAMPADA in 2017)
- ✓ **Implementation Body:** Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)
- ✓ **Title:** Cabinet Approves Rs. 6520 Cr budget(including Rs. 1920 crores additional)
- ✓ **New Establishment:** 50 Irradiation Units under ICCVAI, and 100 NABL Food Testing Labs under FSQAI

New Establishments for Rs. 1920 Crores Under PMKSY:

Irradiation Units and Food Testing Labs:

- **Rs. 1000 crores** have been allocated to setting up **50 Multi-Product Food Irradiation Units** under the Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure (**ICCVAI**) scheme.
 - This implementation of these units is expected to create **20 to 30 lakh metric tonnes (LMT)** of food preservation capacity per annum.
- The amount also supports establishing **100 Food Testing Laboratories (FTLs)** under the Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure (**FSQAI**) scheme, and the laboratories are accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (**NABL**).
 - This establishment of FTLs under the **private sector** will enhance food safety compliance through modern testing infrastructure.

Note: ICCVAI and FSQAI are demand-driven component schemes of PMKSY. Eligible entities can submit proposals in response to **Expression of Interests (EOIs)** that will be floated, and approvals will be based on scrutiny under the scheme guidelines.

Sanctions on other PMKSY Component schemes: **Rs. 920 crores** have been allocated for the sanction of projects under other component schemes of PMKSY and will be implemented during the 15th FCC.

About PMKSY Scheme:

Initial Launch: In 2017, it was launched as **SAMPADA** (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) with Rs. 6000 crores. Then, renamed as Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana.

Ministry Implemented: This scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (**MoFPI**).

Aim: The scheme aims to modernize infrastructure from farm gate to retail outlet, enhance farmer incomes, reduce wastage, and boost food processing and exports.

Components: The PMKSY had seven component schemes, (i) Mega Food Parks, (ii) Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, (iii) Infrastructure for Agro-Processing Clusters, (iv) Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages, (v) Creation/Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities, (vi) Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure and (vii) Human Resources and Institutions.

- Components (i), (iv), (vi) and (vii) are discontinued in 15th FCC except for committed liabilities.

Extension: The scheme was extended in 2020-21, and continues till 31 March 2026.

CCEA Approves Four Multi-Tracking Projects Worth Rs 11,169 Crore Across Six States

On 31st July 2025, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, approved **four major multi-tracking projects** under the Ministry of Railways (MoR) at a total estimated cost of **Rs 11,169 crore**.

- The infrastructure projects, covering 574 kilometres (km) across 13 districts in **6 states** such as **Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh (MP), West Bengal (WB), Bihar, Odisha, and Jharkhand**, aim to expand the Indian Railways (IR) network and are targeted for completion by Financial Year 2028-29 (FY29).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?**CCEA approved 4 multi-tracking railway projects under MoR
- ✓ **Where?** In 6 states (Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, and Jharkhand)
- ✓ **Total Route Length:** 574 km
- ✓ **Investment:** Rs. 11,169 crore
- ✓ **Project Timeline:** Completion by Financial Year 2028-29 (FY29)
- ✓ **Purpose:** To enhance rail connectivity

Approved Projects Details:

- Itarsi – Nagpur (MP – Maharashtra) 4th Line
- Aurangabad (Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar) – Parbhani Doubling (Maharashtra)
- Aluabari Road – New Jalpaiguri (WB) 3rd and 4th Line
- Dangoaposi – Jaroli (Jharkhand – Odisha) 3rd and 4th Line



About Multi-Tracking Projects:

Objective and Benefits: The projects aim to enhance rail connectivity, increase operational efficiency, reduce congestion, and improve the mobility of both passengers and freight.

- These are high-density routes crucial for the movement of commodities such as coal, cement, clinker, gypsum, fly ash, agricultural products, containers, and petroleum products.

Connectivity: Links 2,309 villages with a combined population of 43.60 lakh people, supporting economic growth in rural and semi-urban areas.

Freight Capacity: The projects will add a freight handling capacity of **95.91 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA)**.

Employment: The construction phase will generate 2.29 crore human-days of direct employment.

Environmental Impact: Reduce oil imports by 16 crore litres and lower carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 515 crore kilograms (kg), which is equivalent to planting 20 crore trees.

Implementation Framework: The projects are being implemented under the Prathan Mantri Gati Shakti National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP), to deliver multi-modal logistics infrastructure through coordinated planning.

About Ministry of Railways (MoR):

Union Minister – Ashwini Vaishnaw (Constituency – Odisha, Rajya Sabha)

Minister of State (MoS)– V. Somanna (Constituency – Tumkur, Karnataka) & Ravneet Singh Bittu (Rajya Sabha – Rajasthan)



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Union Cabinet Approves CSS “Grant in aid to NCDC” with an Outlay of Rs.2,000 Crores

On July 31, 2025, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister (**PM**) Narendra Modi, has approved the Central Sector Scheme (**CSS**) “**Grant in aid to** National Cooperative Development Corporation (**NCDC**)” with an outlay of **Rs. 2,000 crores** for a period of four years from Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26) to FY29.

- An annual allocation of Rs. 500 crore will be disbursed from FY26 onwards, as part of the total grant.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Union Cabinet Approved a Grant in aid to NCDC
- ✓ **Budget:** Rs. 2,000 crores (Rs.500 crores each year)
- ✓ **Tenure:** FY26 to FY29
- ✓ **Implementing agency:** National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), Ministry of Cooperation.
- ✓ **Target:** Provide loans to Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Societies (PACS) and other cooperatives across sectors

About Grant in aid to NCDC:

Source of Fund: The fund for the scheme worth Rs.2,000 crore grant to NCDC will be supported through budgetary support by the Government of India (GoI).

- Based on the grant in aid, NCDC will be able to raise **Rs.20,000 crores** from the open market over a span of four years.

Implementing Agency: The NCDC, under the Ministry of Cooperation will be the implementing agency of the scheme for the purpose of disbursement, follow up, monitoring of implementation of project, and recovery of loan disbursed out of the fund.

- The loans will be provided to the cooperatives, through the state governments or directly, on meeting the criteria of direct funding guidelines of NCDC.

Loan Utilization Areas: NCDC will provide loans to cooperatives as long-term credit for setting up, modernization, technology upgradation, expansion of project facilities for various sectors and working capital to run their businesses efficiently and profitably.

Impact:

Cooperative Societies: Approximately 2.9 crore members of 13, 288 Primary Agricultural Credit societies (PACS) across various sectors, including Dairy, Livestock, Fisheries, Sugar, Textile, Food Processing, Storage and Cold Storage; Labour and Women led cooperatives across India will be benefited from this scheme.

Employment Generation: The funds provided to PACS will enhance the income-generating capacity of PACS through the income generating capital assets and liquidity for working capital.

Social impact: Cooperatives are an essential tool to bridge the socio-economic gap and increase participation of women in the workforce with their principles of democracy, equality and community concerns.

Cooperative Landscape in India: India hosts over **8.25 lakh cooperative societies**, encompassing more than 29 crore members. Notably, around 94% of the country's farmers are involved in cooperative activities in some form.

About National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC):

NCDC, established under the National Cooperative Development Corporation Act, 1962, started its operations in 1963. It is a statutory corporation, created to plan, promote, and finance cooperative development in India.

Ministry – Ministry of Cooperation

Managing Director(MD) – Pankaj Kumar Bansal

Headquarters -New Delhi, Delhi

Union Cabinet Approves Budgetary Support for MERITE Scheme with an outlay of Rs.4200 Crores

On August 8, 2025, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister (**PM**) Narendra Modi, approved the proposal for implementation of the Central Sector Scheme (CSS), Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education (**MERITE**) Scheme, in 275 technical institutions comprising 175 engineering institutions and 100 polytechnics.

- The scheme, aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, aims to enhance quality, equity, and governance, for a period from 2025-26 to 2029-30, with total financial outlay of Rs.4,200 crores, including Rs. 2,100 crore loan from the World Bank.

Exam Hints:

- What? Union Cabinet Approved the implementation of MERITE Scheme
- MERITE full form: Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education
- Financial Outlay: Rs.4,200 crores
- Time Period: 2025-26 to 2029-30
- Institutions: 275 Government and Government-aided technical institutions

MERITE Scheme:

Support: Under the scheme, 275 Government and Government-aided technical institutions such as National Institute of Technology (NIT), State Engineering Institutions, Polytechnics and Affiliating Technical Universities (ATUs) will be selected, benefiting about 7.5 lakh students.

- The departments of state or Union Territory (UT), handling the technical education sector will also be supported under the scheme.

Outputs: The scheme envisages outcomes such as digitalization strategies in participating states or UTs, development of guidelines for multidisciplinary programs among technical courses, increase in learning and employability skills of students, increase in transition rate of students across student groups, strengthened research and innovation environment.

- It also aims to provide the outputs, including better quality assurance and governance mechanisms resulting in long term benefits, increase in Accreditation and better-quality assurance, launch of courses with relevant curriculum aligned with labour market, and development of future academic administrators especially women.

Implementation: The CSS scheme will have the facility of transferring funds from the Government of India (GOI) to participating entities through a Central Nodal Agency.

- The prominent educational institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), and the regulatory bodies in the education sector such as All Indian Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Board of Accreditation (NBA) will play a vital role in implementation.

Employment: The scheme includes interventions such as offering internship opportunities, updating curricula to align with industry requirements, organizing faculty development programs, and setting up of research hubs.

- Under the scheme, incubation and innovation centres, skill and maker labs, and language workshops will also be supported.

About the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:

It was launched on 29 July 2020 by the Ministry of Education, GOI, replacing the National Policy on Education, 1986. It was launched with the aim of providing equitable, inclusive, and holistic education and promoting critical thinking among students.

Cabinet Approves Rs. 4,250 Crore Special Development Packages for Assam and Tripura

On August 8, 2025, The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved **four new components** under the Central Sector Scheme of Special Development

Packages (**SDPs**) for **Assam** and **Tripura**. The total central outlay is **Rs. 4,250 crores**, and the Government of Assam supplements Rs. 3,000 crores, making the total financial implication of these components to Rs. 7,250 crores.

- The development packages aim to promote peace, rehabilitation, and inclusion through focused infrastructure and socio-economic development projects.

Note: The approval follows the success of previous MoS-based initiatives for **Bodo** and **Karbi groups**, which resulted in enhanced peace and development in Assam.

Exam Hints:

- What? Union Cabinet approved 4 new components for Assam and Tripura
- Scheme Name: Central Sector Scheme of Special Development Packages (SDPs)
- Total Outlay: ₹7,250 crore (₹4,250 crore – Central Government; ₹3,000 crore – Assam Government)
- Assam Packages: ₹500 crore (Adivasi), ₹500 crore (DNLA/DPSC), ₹3,000 crore (ULFA)
- Tripura Package: ₹250 crore (NLFT/ATTF)
- Expected Benefits: Employment, skilling, education, health, peace-building, tourism boost

About the approved four new components:

The **three components** for Assam, with a combined outlay of **Rs. 4,000** crores over five years (2025-26 to 2029-30),

Adivasi Infrastructure: **Rs. 500 crores** for development in Adivasi-inhabited areas of Assam

- As per the Memoranda of Settlement (**MoS**) signed in 2022 between GoI, Government of Assam, and Adivasi groups

Dimasa Community Infrastructure: **Rs. 500 crores** for development in North Cacher Hills Autonomous Council (**NCHAC**) areas, inhabited by members of the Dimasa National Liberation Army (**DNLA**) and Dimasa People's Supreme Council (**DPSC**).

- Linked to the 2023 MoS signed with these Dimasa groups.

ULFA-Affected Areas: Based on the 2023 MoS with United Liberation Front of Assam (**ULFA**) groups, **Rs. 3,000 crores** is for broad-based infrastructure development across Assam. One component for **Tripura**, with a budget of **₹250 crore** over four years (2025-26 to 2028-29).

Tribal Development: Aimed at developing infrastructure and livelihoods for tribal communities.

- As per the 2024 MoS signed between GoI, Government of Tripura, and National Liberation Front of Tripura (**NLFT**) and All Tripura Tiger Force (**ATTF**).

Impact in the Regions:

Infrastructure Development: Improve infrastructure and boost livelihood in underserved regions.

Employment Generation: Create employment opportunities, especially for youth and women, through skill development, entrepreneurship promotion, and income generation.

Enhancement: Enhance access to health services, education, and livelihood support.

Socio-Economic and Regional Benefits:

The scheme focussing on marginalised and vulnerable groups across Assam and Tripura, ensuring,

Employment Opportunities: Enhances tourism potential across the North East, encouraging national inflow and generating local employment.

Inclusivity: Ensures benefits to reach communities those are previously excluded from major government welfare schemes.

Cabinet Approvals on August 8, 2025

On 8 August 2025, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi approved the following proposals:

Union Cabinet approves **continuation** of targeted LPG subsidy for Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) consumers in FY 2025-26 (FY 26) at a total cost of Rs 12,000 crore.

Union Cabinet approves Rs 30,000 crore **compensation** to public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for domestic LPG supply losses.

CCEA approves **construction** of 4-lane Marakkanam–Puducherry highway under Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) at a cost of Rs 2,157 crore.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** Cabinet chaired by PM Approved Various Projects
- ✓ **Approval 1:** Continuation of LPG subsidy for PMUY consumers in FY 2026
- ✓ **Subsidy:** Rs 300 upto 9 refills per year
- ✓ **Cost:** Rs 12,000 crore
- ✓ **Approval 2:** Compensation to Oil Companies for domestic LPG supply losses
- ✓ **Companies:** IOCL, BPCL & HPCL
- ✓ **Cost:** Rs 30,000 crore
- ✓ **Approval 3:** Construction of 4-lane Marakkanam–Puducherry highway
- ✓ **Cost:** Rs 2,157 crore

Union Cabinet Approves Continuation of Targeted LPG Subsidy for PMUY Consumers in FY 2025-26

The Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Modi, has approved the continuation of targeted subsidies for Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (**PMUY**) consumers in Financial Year 2025-26 (FY 2026) to keep LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) affordable for low-income households and maintain its usage amid global price fluctuations.

- The scheme will involve a total expenditure of **Rs 12,000 crore**.
- A subsidy of **Rs 300** will be given for each 14.2 kilogram (kg) LPG cylinder, for up to 9 refills a year. For smaller 5 kg cylinders, the subsidy will be provided in proportion to the size.

About PMUY:

PMUY was launched in May **2016** by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to provide deposit-free LPG connections to adult women from poor households.

Each beneficiary gets a connection worth Rs 2200 that covers the security deposit (SD), regulator, hose, consumer booklet, and installation charges.

Note: In FY 2020, the average usage was around 3 refills per household in a year. By FY 2023, it rose to 3.68 refills, and in FY 2025 it reached about 4.47 refills per household.

- As of **1 July 2025**, there are 10.33 crore connections under this scheme.

Points to Note:

In May 2022, the government started a targeted subsidy of Rs 200 per cylinder to protect PMUY families from high prices and ensure they continue using LPG for cooking.

- This amount was increased to Rs 300 in October 2023.

Union Cabinet Approves Rs 30,000 Crore Compensation for Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies

The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi, has approved Rs 30,000 crore as compensation to three public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) — Indian Oil Corporation Limited (**IOCL**) based in New Delhi (Delhi), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (**BPCL**) based in Mumbai (Maharashtra), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (**HPCL**) also based in Mumbai.

- This compensation is **for the losses** they incurred in supplying domestic LPG at regulated prices. It will help these companies meet key expenses.

i.In 2024-25, international LPG prices stayed high, but the government kept domestic LPG prices stable to protect consumers. This led to significant losses for OMCs, yet they ensured uninterrupted supply across the country.

ii.The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (**MoPNG**) will decide how the amount will be distributed among the companies, and the payment will be made in **12** instalments.

CCEA Approves 4-Lane Marakkanam-Puducherry Road Project in TN

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by PM Modi, has approved the construction of a **46 Kilometre** (km), 4-lane stretch between Marakkanam and Puducherry in Tamil Nadu (TN).

- This road is part of the East Coast Road and will be developed under the Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) at a total cost of **Rs 2,157 crore**.
- Of this, Rs 1,118 crore is for construction, while Rs 442 crore will be used for land acquisition.

i.The new road will link with major National highways (NH)-32 and NH-332 — and state highways (SH)-136 and SH-203.

ii.It will also **improve** transport connections by linking two railway stations (Puducherry, Chinnababu Samudram), two airports (Chennai, Puducherry), and the Cuddalore minor port.

iii.Of the total 46 km stretch, around 34.7 km will be developed as a new Greenfield, access-controlled **bypass** for Puducherry. The average daily traffic in FY25 is estimated at about 17,800 Passenger Car Units (PCU).

Union Cabinet Approved 4 New Semiconductor Units for Rs 4,600 Crore in Punjab, Odisha, and AP

On August 12 2025, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** approved the proposal to establish **4** new semiconductor assembly and testing facilities in states: Punjab, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh (AP) under its India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), with a total financial budget of **Rs 4,600 crore**.

- With this, the total number of approved projects under ISM has now reached to 10, with combined investments of about **Rs 1.60 lakh crore** in 6 states.
- These newly approved facilities are expected to generate **2,034** skilled jobs which would drive the electronic manufacturing ecosystem resulting in creation of several indirect job opportunities.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Approval of 4 new semiconductor manufacturing units
- ✓ **Approved:** Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi
- ✓ **4 New Facilities in States:** Punjab (1), Odisha (2) and AP (1)
- ✓ **Name of Companies Involved:** SicSem Private Limited; 3D Glass Solutions Inc. (3DGs); Advanced System in Packaged Technologies (ASIP) and Continental Device India Private Limited (CDIL)
- ✓ **Approved under:** India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)

Key Details of 4 New Semiconductor Facilities:

SicSem Private Limited:

Investment Cost: SicSem Pvt. Limited in partnership with Clas-SiC Wafer Fab Limited, will set up India's 1st commercial compound semiconductor fabrication facility in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, with an investment of **Rs 2,066 crore**, to produce silicon carbide-based diodes.

Annual Production: This Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packing (ATMP) facility is expected to produce 60,000 wafers annually, along with 96 million packaged units.

Applications: The products manufactured by the facility will be used in various sectors like: Electric Vehicles (EVs), Railway, Fast Chargers, Data Centre racks, among others.

3D Glass Solutions Inc. (3DGs):

Investment Cost: Another ATMP facility will be established by 3D Glass Solutions Inc. with an investment of Rs 1,943 crore, in Info Valley, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Key Components: The facility will feature a large variety of advanced technologies including glass interposers with passives and silicon (Si) bridges and 3-Dimensional Heterogeneous Integration (3DHI) modules.

Manufacturing Capacity: The facility is expected to manufacture nearly 69,600 glass panel substrates, 50 million assembled units, and 13,200 3DHI modules annually.

Applications: The products manufactured by the facility will be used in various sectors like: defence, high-performance computing, Artificial Intelligence (AI), photonics and co-packaged optics, among others.

CDIL:

Set up: Continental Device India Private Limited (CDIL) will expand its semiconductor manufacturing facility in Mohali, Punjab.

Manufacturing Capacity: The facility will produce 158.38 million units of high-power discrete semiconductors annually, which includes (Metal-Oxide-Semiconductor Field-Effect Transistors) MOSFETs, (Insulated Gate Bipolar Transistors) IGBTs, Schottky Bypass Diodes, and transistors.

Applications: The products manufactured by the facility will be used in various sectors like: automotive electronics including EVs and its charging infrastructure, Renewable Energy (RE) systems, power conversion applications, among others.

ASIP:

Location: Advanced System in Packaged Technologies (ASIP) will establish a semiconductor manufacturing unit in Andhra Pradesh (AP), under technology collaboration with APACT Co. Limited, South Korea.

Manufacturing Capacity: This newly approved facility is expected to manufacture 96 million units annually.

Applications: The products manufactured by the facility will be used in various sectors like: mobile phones, set-top boxes, automobile applications, and other electronic products.

India Semiconductor Mission (ISM):

Launched: ISM, a flagship programme of Government of India (GoI), was officially launched by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) in **2021** with total budget outlay of **Rs 76,000 crore** (or, around USD 10 billion).

Aim: It aimed to develop a full-stack semiconductor ecosystem locally, from design to manufacturing and testing.

Key Target: The mission has set the target to reduce India's dependence on chip imports (at present, India imports 65%-70% of chip components, mostly from China), promote domestic production, and make India hub for chipmakers globally.

6 Semiconductor Units: So far, the GoI has approved 6 semiconductor manufacturing units: Micron Technology Inc. (in Sanand, Gujarat); Tata Electronics Private Limited (**TEPL**) (in Dholera, Gujarat); Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test Pvt. Limited (**TSAT**) (in Morigaon, Assam); **CG Power and Industrial Solutions Limited** (in Sanand, Gujarat); Kaynes Technology India Limited (**KTIL**) (Sanand, Gujarat)

- In May 2025, the Union Cabinet approved a Joint Venture (JV) between **HCL Group** and Taiwanese electronics company Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., Limited (**Foxconn**), to set up semiconductor unit near Jewar Airport at the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) in Uttar Pradesh (UP).

About Ministry of Electronic and IT (Meity):

Union Minister- Ashwini Vaishnaw (Rajya Sabha member- Odisha)

Minister of State (MoS)- Jitin Prasada (Constituency- Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh, UP)

Cabinet Approvals on August 12, 2025

On August 12, 2025, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi approved the following proposals:

- Approves the implementation of the **Phase-1B of the Lucknow Metro Rail Project** in Uttar Pradesh (UP) with an outlay of **Rs. 5801 crores**.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved an investment of **Rs. 8,146.21 crores** for the **Tato-II Hydro Electric Project** in Shi Yomi District, Arunachal Pradesh (AR).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** Union Cabinet approved the proposals
- ✓ **Approval 1:** Implementation of the Phase-1B of the Lucknow Metro Rail Project in UP
- ✓ **Coverage:** 11.165 km with 12 stations
- ✓ **Outlay:** Rs. 5,801 crores
- ✓ **Approval 2:** 700 MW Tato-II Hydro Electric Project in Shi Yomi district, AR
- ✓ **Energy production:** 2738.06 million Units
- ✓ **Implementing Agencies:** NEEPCO (Shillong, Meghalaya) + Government of AR
- ✓ **Outlay:** Rs. 8,146.21 crores

Lucknow Metro Rail Project of Phase-1B:

Approval: The Union Cabinet approved **Phase-1B of the Lucknow Metro Rail Project** in Lucknow, UP, covering 11.165 kilometres(km) with 12 stations of 7 underground and 5 elevated.

Outlay: The total project outlay is **Rs. 5,801 crores**. Upon completion, the city will have an active metro rail network of 34 km.

Enhanced Connectivity:

Phase-1B will connect densely populated and historically significant areas lacking efficient transport links, including:

Commercial hubs: Aminabad, Yahiyaganj, Pandeyganj, Chowk

Healthcare facilities: King George's Medical University (Medical College)

Tourist attractions: Bara Imambara, Chota Imambara, Bhool Bhulaiya, Clock Tower, Rumi Darwaza

Culinary destinations: Culinary hotspots renowned for Lucknow's heritage cuisine

Benefits:

Traffic Decongestion: The metro will provide an efficient alternative to road transport, will decongest Old Lucknow's busiest routes and reduce travel time.

Environmental Impact: Shift from road/fossil-fuel transport to metro is expected to reduce carbon emissions.

Economic Growth: Enhanced connectivity to airports, railway stations, and bus depots will stimulate local business activities and attract investments.

Social Impact: Improved access to essential services and equitable public transport options for all socio-economic groups.

700 MW Tato-II Hydro Electric Project in Shi Yomi District of AR:

Approval: The CCEA approved an investment of **Rs. 8,146.21 crore** for the **Tato-II Hydro Electric Project (HEP)** in Shi Yomi district, AR.

- The project is expected to be completed in **72 months**.

Project Specifications:

Installed Capacity: 700 MW (4 x 175 MW)

Annual Energy Generation: 2,738.06 million Units (MU)

Implementing Agency: Joint Venture(JV) between North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO) and the Government of AR.

Financial Support:

Budgetary Support: Rs. 458.79 crore for construction of roads, bridges, transmission lines.

Central Financial Assistance: Rs. 436.13 crore towards equity share of the state government.

Benefits:

State Revenue: 1% for the Local Area Development Fund (**LADF**) and 12% free power to the state

Infrastructure Development: Construction of 32.88 km of roads and bridges, along with hospitals, schools, marketplaces, and playgrounds funded from Rs. 20 crore dedicated project funds.

Employment: Direct and indirect jobs for local workers, benefiting Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

National Grid Balancing: The project will strengthen power supply in AR and contribute to national energy stability.

- Supports domestic industries and local suppliers aligning with Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

Recent Related News:

In July 2025, the Union Cabinet approved the Research Development and Innovation (RDI) scheme with a corpus of Rs.1 lakh crore, with an aim to bolster India's research and innovation ecosystem.

- The RDI scheme aims to provide long-term financing or refinancing with long tenors at low or nil interest rates to increase private sector investment in RDI

Cabinet Approvals on August 19, 2025

On August 19, 2025 the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi approved the following proposals:

- Approves the construction of **6-Lane Access-Controlled Capital Region Ring Road** in **Odisha** at cost of **Rs. 8,307.74 crores**.
- Approves the development of **Green Field Airport** in **Rajasthan** at an estimated cost of **Rs. 1507 crores**.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** Union Cabinet chaired by PM approved projects
- ✓ **Approval 1:** 6-Lane Access-Controlled Capital Region Ring Road in Odisha
- ✓ **Cost:** Rs. 8,307.74 crores
- ✓ **Length:** 110.875 kms
- ✓ **Approval 2:** Green Field Airport at Kota-Bundi, Rajasthan
- ✓ **Cost:** Rs.1507 crores

6-Lane Access-Controlled Capital Region Ring Road

Approval: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (**CCEA**), chaired by the PM Narendra Modi, has approved construction of 6-Lane Access-Controlled Capital Region Ring Road(Bhubaneswar Bypass) in Odisha on Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM).

Outlay: The total capital cost of the project is **Rs.8307.74 crores** and expected to be completed in 2.5 years.

Length: The total length of the corridor is **110.875 kilometres (kms)**.

Enhanced Connectivity: The project integrates with 3 major National Highways (NH) – **NH-55, NH-57, NH-655** and 1 State Highway (**SH-65**).

Economic and Social Nodes: This upgraded corridor will connect 10 Economic Nodes, 4 Social Nodes, 5 Logistic Nodes.

Transport Nodes: It connects 1 Major Railway Station, 1 Airport(Bhubaneswar airport), 1 proposed Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP), and 2 major Ports thereby facilitating faster movement of goods and passengers across the region.

- The corridor connects the following major cities/towns – Khordha, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Dhenkanal.

Green Field Airport at Kota-Bundi:

Approval: The CCEA has approved the proposal of Airports Authority of India (AAI) for development of **Green Field Airport** at Kota-Bundi (Rajasthan).

Outlay: The total estimated cost of the project is **Rs.1,507 crore**.

- The AAI will fund the project, and the proposed airport is expected to be completed in about two years.

Project Area: The Rajasthan government has transferred 440.06 hectares (ha) of land to AAI for the development of the airport, suitable for the operation of A-321 type aircraft.

- The project includes construction of a Terminal Building of 20,000 square kilometre (sqm), capable of handling 1000 Peak Hour Passengers (PHP) with annual capacity of 2 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA).

Current Infrastructure: The existing terminal building spans 400 sqm, offers limited facilities, and can handle 50 passengers during peak hours, accommodating two aircraft at a time.

Limitations: The airport cannot be expanded for commercial operations due to restricted land availability and surrounding urban development.

About Airports Authority of India (AAI):

The AAI is a government-owned statutory organization under the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA).

Chairman – Vipin Kumar

Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi

Established – 1995

CCS Approves Rs 62,000 Crore deal to Purchase 97 Tejas Mark 1A Jets from HAL

On 19 August 2025, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, approved the purchase of **97 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mark 1A fighter jets** for the Indian Air Force (IAF) at a cost of **Rs.62,000 crore** from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

- This project is a significant step under the Government of India (GoI)'s Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India in defence initiatives.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Purchase of 97 Tejas Mark 1A fighter jets
- ✓ **Approved by:** Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)
- ✓ **For:** Indian Air Force (IAF)
- ✓ **Cost:** Rs.62,000 crore
- ✓ **Manufacturer:** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- ✓ **Indigenous content:** 65%



About Tejas Mark 1A Fighter Jets :

Tejas Mark 1A: It is an advanced version of the indigenously built Tejas fighter jet. The Tejas aircraft was first flight-tested in 2016.

Background: The IAF had earlier ordered 83 Tejas Mark 1A aircraft at a cost of nearly Rs 48,000 crore. With this new approval, HAL will now build 97 more jets.

Features: It is a lightweight, single-engine, supersonic aircraft designed for multi-role combat, equipped with Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESAs) radar, Beyond-Visual-Range (BVR) missile capability, advanced electronic warfare systems, air-to-air refuelling, and improved maintenance and efficiency.

Indigenisation: The new batch of jets will have over **65%** indigenous content and will **replace** the IAF's ageing **MiG-21 fleet**.

Note: PM Narendra Modi himself flew in the trainer version of Tejas in 2024, marking the first time an Indian PM has taken a sortie in a fighter jet.

About Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL):

Chairman and Managing Director (**CMD**)– Dr. D.K. Sunil

Headquarter– Bengaluru, Karnataka

Established– 1940

Cabinet Approvals on August 27 2025

On August 27 2025, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister (**PM**) Narendra Modi has approved the following proposals:

- Approved **4 railway projects** worth **Rs 12,328 crore**, including, 3 multi-tracking projects covering 4 states: Bihar, Karnataka, Assam and Telangana; and the construction of new rail line in Kutch, Gujarat.
- Approved submission of India's bid for hosting the Commonwealth Games (**CWG**) 2030.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** Union Cabinet Approved projects/proposals
- ✓ **Approval-1:** 3 Multi-tracking rail projects and a new rail line in Kutch
- ✓ **Coverage:** Bihar, Telangana, Assam, Karnataka and Gujarat
- ✓ **Total Cost:** Rs 12,328 crore
- ✓ **Approval-2:** Submission of India's bid to host 2030 CWG
- ✓ **Proposed Host City:** Ahmedabad (Gujarat)

Multi-tracking Projects in 3 States & New Rail Line for Kutch:

Approval: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (**CCEA**) chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved the **4** projects worth approximately **Rs 12,328 crore** proposed by the Ministry of Railways (MoR).

Projects: These projects include the expansion of 3 key railway routes across Karnataka, Telangana, Bihar and Assam; and a new rail line in Kutch, Gujarat.

3 Multi-tracking Projects: These 3 new multi-tracking projects are expected to enhance connectivity to **nearly 3,108 villages** and about 47.34 lakh population and one aspirational district (Kalaburgi) across 3 states, will be benefitted from these projects.

Railway Route 1: Secunderabad (Sanathnagar)-Wadi 3rd and 4th line will span across Karnataka and Telangana.

- **Length:** The total length of this rail route is 173 kilometer(km).
- **Outlay:** It will be constructed with an investment of **Rs 5,012 crore** and expected to be completed within 5 years.

Railway Route 2: Bhagalpur-Jamalpur 3rd line will be established in Bihar.

- **Length:** The total length of this rail route is 53 km.
- **Outlay:** It will be constructed at an estimated cost of **Rs 1,156 crore** and expected to be completed in 3 years.

Railway Route 3: This includes the doubling of Furkating-New Tinsukia rail route in Assam.

- **Length:** The total length of this rail route is 194 km.
- **Outlay:** It will be constructed with an investment of **Rs 3,634 crore** and expected to be completed within 4 years.

New Rail Line for Kutch:

Rail Route: The newly approved rail line in Kutch (Gujarat) will connect the **Deshalpar-Hajipir-Luna and Vaylor-Lakhpat routes**, adding 145 km and 164 km of track respectively to Gujarat's railway network.

Outlay: This new rail line will be constructed at an estimated cost of **Rs 2,526 crore** and expected to be completed within 3 years.

Benefits: Other promoting tourism in the state, this new rail line will help in transportation of salt, cement, coal, clinker & bentonite.

- Also, it will connect Harappan site Dholavira, Koteswar temple, Narayan Sarovar and Lakhpat fort as 13 new railway stations will be added in this new route, benefitting 866 villages.

Significance: These projects are planned on Prime Minister-Gati Shakti National Master Plan (**PMGS-NMP**), primarily focusing on enhancing multi-modal connectivity and logistic efficiency through integrated planning and stakeholder consultations.

- These 4 projects cover 13 districts across 4 Indian states, and are expected to increase the existing network of Indian Railways (IR) by **nearly 565 kilometre(km)**.
- These projects are expected to reduce oil import by 56 crore litres (l) and lower Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emission by 360 crore kilogram (kg) which is equivalent to plantation of 14 crore trees.

Submission of India's bid to Host CWG 2030:

Approval: The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS) for submission of **India's bid to host** the Commonwealth Games (**CWG 2030**).

HCA: The approval also includes the signing of High Collaboration Agreement (HCA) along with the required guarantees from various ministries, departments, and authorities and sanction of required grant-in-aid to Gujarat government, in case the bid gets accepted.

Proposed Host City: The cabinet has selected **Ahmedabad**(Gujarat) as the proposed host city for 2030 CWG.

Procedure: The last date for India to submit the bid is August 31, 2025. The final decision regarding the host country for CWG will be taken by Commonwealth Sport at its general assembly at Glasgow (Scotland) in November 2025.

About Commonwealth Games (CWG):

Quadrennial Sports Event: CWG is a **quadrennial** international multi-sport event among athletes from 72 Commonwealth of Nations.

1st Edition: The 1st CWG was held in **1930** in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

India's Host: India hosted the CWG for the 1st time in 2010 in New Delhi, Delhi.

2026 CWG: The **23rd** edition of CWG or CWG 2026 is scheduled to take place in Glasgow, Scotland from July 23 to August 02, 2026.

About Ministry of Railways (MoR):

Union Minister- Ashwini Vaishnaw (Rajya Sabha- Odisha)

Minister of State (MoS) - V. Somanna (Constituency- Tumkur, Karnataka) & Ravneet Singh Bittu (Rajya Sabha- Rajasthan)

PARLIAMENT NEWS**President Murmu gives assent to Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill**

In August 2025, President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the **Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025**, aiming to encourage electronic-sports (e-sports) and online social games while prohibiting harmful online money gaming services, advertisements, and financial transactions related to them.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025 passed
- ✓ **Assent by:** President Droupadi Murmu
- ✓ **Changes made:** Prohibition on online money games, Promotion of e-sports and online social games, Authority, Search warrant
- ✓ **Why?** Addiction, Fraud, Money laundering, Healthy alternatives
- ✓ **Penalties:** Offering game – 3 years prison, 1cr; Advertising – 2 years prison, 50 lakhs; facilitators – 3 years, 1cr.

Key Highlights:

Timeline: The bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on August 20, 2025 by **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

- The Bill was passed by Lok Sabha without debate and passed by Rajya Sabha on August 21, 2025.

About the Bill:

Objective: The objective of the Act is to protect individuals, especially youth and vulnerable populations, from the adverse social, economic, psychological and privacy-related impacts of such games.

Types: The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 divides online games into four types: e-sports, social games, educational games, and online money games.

- According to the Act, an “online money game” is any online game—based on skill, chance, or both where a user pays a fee, deposits money, or places a stake with the hope of winning something valuable in return, usually money.

Promotion of e-sports and online social games: The CG may take the following steps for recognition and development of e-sports and online social games:

- Create a mechanism for registration of e-sports and online social games
- Specify guidelines for conducting e-sports events
- Establish training academies for e-sports
- Incentivise promotion of e-sport technology platforms
- Support initiatives that increase public access to safe social gaming content

Prohibition on online money games: The Bill enforces a **blanket ban** on online money games and associated services.

- It restricts the offering, facilitation, advertisement, or enabling of financial transactions related to such games.
- It empowers the Central Government (CG) to block access to information pertaining to online money gaming services for the public.

Authority on Online Gaming: The CG may constitute an Authority with powers to:

- Determine whether an online game qualifies as an online money game
- Recognise, categorise, and register online games.

Search and arrest without warrant: The Bill empowers authorised officials to enter and search any place including buildings, vehicles, e-records and virtual digital spaces (emails, social medias) without a warrant.

Offences and penalties: Offering online money gaming services will be punishable with imprisonment for up to **three years**, a fine up to **Rs.1 crore**, or both.

- Advertising online money games will be punishable with imprisonment up to **two years**, a fine up to **Rs 50 lakh**, or both.
- Facilitating financial transactions for such services will be punishable with imprisonment up to **three years**, a fine up to **Rs.1 crore**, or both.

Non-compliance: Non-compliance with directions or guidelines issued by the central government or the Authority will attract penalties and restrictions.

- **Civil Penalty:** Fine amount up to **Rs. 10 lakhs**.
- **Additional Consequence:** Suspension or cancellation of registration, along with a prohibition on offering, facilitating, or promoting games for a specified period as notified by the CG.

Key reasons for the bill:

The union minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** stated an estimated that, 45 crore people are negatively affected by online money games and faced a loss of more than **Rs. 20,000 crores** because of it.

Addiction and Financial Ruin: Online money games encourage compulsive playing. Families have been pushed into debt and distress.

Mental Health and Suicides: The stress of heavy financial loss has led to cases of depression and even suicide.

Fraud and Money Laundering: Several platforms have been misused for illegal activities.

Closing Legal Loopholes: Gambling and betting are already restricted under Indian laws such as the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and by various state legislations. But the online domain remained largely unregulated. The Bill ensures that the same standards apply in both physical and digital spaces.

Encouraging Healthy Alternatives: E-sports will be promoted as a legitimate sport, while social and educational games that build skills and cultural values will receive government support.

Important Terms:

Online money game: It is an online game either based on skill, chance or both that involves a user paying money or other stakes (credits, coins and tokens) in expectation of receiving monetary or other enrichment.

Online Social Games: These are casual games that form part of everyday recreation. They are primarily skill-based and designed for entertainment, learning, or social interaction. Such games are generally considered safe and do not cause negative social consequences.

Blanket ban: It means complete prohibition or restriction that applies to everything within a certain category, without any exceptions or exemptions.

FESTIVAL

LAUNCHES & INAUGURATION

IEPFA Launches a 100-Day Campaign ‘Saksham Niveshak’ to Claim the Unclaimed Dividends

In July 2025, Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (**IEPFA**), operating under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MoCA), has launched a nationwide **100-day** campaign, “**Saksham Niveshak**”, from July 28 to November 6, 2025.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Saksham Niveshak, a 100-day campaign was launched.
- ✓ **Who?** Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)
- ✓ **Ministry:** Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- ✓ **Duration:** July 28 to November 6, 2025.
- ✓ **Why?** To empower the shareholders to unclaimed dividends held by companies, update their KYC and Nomination details.

Aim: The campaign is launched with an aim to empower the shareholders by creating awareness about the unclaimed dividends held by companies.

Assistance: The campaign offers structured support to update Know Your Customer (KYC) details,

including Permanent Account Number (PAN), Aadhaar, and nomination information, to help investors prevent their investments from being transferred to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF).

Role of Companies: The campaign urges companies to actively engage with their shareholders, assisting them in recovering unclaimed dividends and restoring regular dividend payments by updating crucial records.

About IEPFA: It was established in 2016 under Section 125 of the Companies Act, 2013. It has earlier introduced programmes such as Niveshak Didi, Niveshak Panchayat, and Niveshak Shivir aimed at enhancing financial literacy.

ICRISAT Launches AI Powered Climate Advisory Initiative for Farmers

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (**ICRISAT**) in collaboration with national and international institutions, has launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered initiative titled '**AI-powered Context-Specific Agromet Advisory Services for Climate-Resilient Agriculture at Scale**', during an inception workshop held on 29–30 July 2025 at Hyderabad, Telangana.

- Supported by the Government of India(GoI)'s Monsoon Mission III, the initiative aims to assist smallholder farmers in adapting to climate variability by providing personalized, hyper-local weather and climate advisories.



Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Initiative:** AI-powered Context-Specific Agromet Advisory Services for Climate-Resilient Agriculture at Scale
- ✓ **Launched by:** International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (**ICRISAT**)
- ✓ **Where?** Hyderabad, Telangana
- ✓ **Funding:** Monsoon Mission III
- ✓ **Partnerships:** ICAR-CRIDA, ILRI, IITM, IMD, IIT Ropar, CSIO, and IISc.
- ✓ **Technology:** Intelligent Systems Advisory Tool (iSAT) powered by AI, MausamGPT integration.
- ✓ **Pilot:** Launched in Maharashtra with plans for national expansion
- ✓ **Objective:** Provide hyper-local agromet advisories for climate-resilient agriculture in the Global South

About ICRISAT's AI-Powered Climate Advisory Initiative:

Partnerships:

- **Lead Agencies:** Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).
- **Technical Support:** Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM); India Meteorological Department (IMD); the Center of Excellence(CoE) in AI for Agriculture in Indian Institute Of Technology-Ropar (IIT-Ropar) in Punjab; Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)-Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO), and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

Core Technology: Intelligent Systems Advisory Tool (iSAT), which was developed under **Monsoon Mission II** and now being upgraded into a fully AI-powered platform, acts as the digital backbone of this project.

- iSAT will use real-time weather forecasts, machine learning models, and crop-specific analytics to provide advisories on sowing, irrigation, and pest management.
- Delivers real-time insights via an AI-powered **WhatsApp bot**, ensuring accessibility in remote areas

Pilot Implementation: The pilot phase of the project will begin in **Maharashtra**, utilizing ICAR's Agro-Meteorological Field Units (**AMFUs**).

- The insights gathered will contribute to the national rollout and lay the foundation for South-South cooperation.

Integration with MausamGPT: This initiative will also serve as a core use-case for **MausamGPT**, an upcoming AI platform envisioned by the GoI to offer on-demand, localized climate information using Large Language Models (LLMs).

About International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT):

It is a pioneering, internationally recognised International Organisation committed to address the challenges of hunger, malnutrition, poverty, among others, affecting people living in drylands of Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and beyond.

Director General (DG)- Dr. Himanshu Pathak

Headquarters- Hyderabad, Telangana

Established- 1972

MoTA Launched RPLs under Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan in Dehradun & Bhubaneswar

In August 2025, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (**MoTA**) launched the Regional Process Labs (**RPLs**) of the **Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan**- National Mission for Responsive Governance, in Dehradun(Uttarakhand) and Bhubaneswar(Odisha).

- This initiative aims to create a vibrant network of **20 lakh** tribal grassroots functionaries and village-level change leaders covering: 1 lakh tribal-dominated villages, 3,000 blocks, over 550 districts across 30 States/Union Territories (UTs) of the country.
- These leaders will promote inclusive development and strengthen last-mile service delivery in tribal regions.



Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of Regional Process Labs (RPLs)
- ✓ **Where?** Dehradun(Uttarakhand) and Bhubaneswar(Odisha)
- ✓ **Launched by:** MoTA
- ✓ **Mission:** Adi Karmayogi: Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan
- ✓ **Target :** To build a cadre of 20 lakh tribal grassroots functionaries and village-level change leaders
- ✓ **Previous RPLs:** 1st RPL (Bengaluru, Karnataka), 2nd RPL (Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh)

About Regional Process Lab (RPL):

The RPLs are district-level institutional platforms established under the Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan, which is a part of the National Mission for Responsive Governance launched by the MoTA.

- The first two RPLs were launched in Bengaluru(Karnataka) and Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh(MP).

About 3rd Regional Process Lab (RPL) Dehradun:

Capacity-Building Hub for SMTs: It will serve as a capacity-building hub for State Master Trainers (SMTs) from various States/UTs such as: **Uttarakhand**, Himachal Pradesh (**HP**), Jammu & Kashmir (**J&K**), and Uttar Pradesh (**UP**).

Significance: SMTs trained at RPL in Dehradun which is the 3rd in a series of 6 RPLs, will set up State Process Labs (SPLs) in their respective states, which will further provide training to District Master Trainers (DMTs).

- The programme also includes Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to provide participatory learning and ensure local contextualization of content.

About 4th Regional Process Lab (RPL) Bhubaneswar:

Empowering Tribal Functionaries: The week-long programme aims to equip frontline tribal functionaries with essential skills and knowledge to foster responsive and citizen-centric governance at the grassroots level.

Participant Cohort: The programme features a cohort of 25 selected participants representing the states of **Jharkhand, Bihar, and Odisha**. It is being facilitated by the Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation (BRLF).

Model: This RPL follows a cascading model of capacity development, where trained SMTs will go on to lead State and District Process Labs, enabling contextualized and localized knowledge sharing across governance levels.

About Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan:

Launched: The Adi Karmayogi, a flagship initiative of the MoTA was launched in June 2025.

Objective: It is designed to empower frontline tribal functionaries with essential tools and knowledge to promote responsive, people-centric governance.

Policy Alignment: This programme is in alignment with transformative initiatives like:

Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA).

Key Pillars: The programme builds upon the 3 key pillars i.e. convergence, community, and capability.

Key Ministries and Departments: Some of the key union ministries and departments involved in the programme, including: Tribal Affairs, Rural Development, Women and Child Development, Jal Shakti, School Education and Environment and Forests.

About Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA):

Union Minister- Jual Oram (Constituency- Sundargarh, Odisha)

Minister of State (MoS)- Durgadas Uikey (Constituency- Betul, Madhya Pradesh, MP)



Union Ministers Manohar Lal Khattar and Bhupender Yadav Preside the Launch of 'Matri Van' Initiative in Gurugram

On August 2, 2025, Union Minister **Bhupender Yadav**, Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and Union Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar**, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Ministry of Power (MoP) jointly launched the '**Matri Van**' initiative, a theme-based forest, spread over 750 acres in the Aravalli Hills region in **Gurugram**, Haryana.

- The event was hosted by the Haryana Forest Department as a part of Van Mahotsav 2025, conducted under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' programme.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** 'Matri Van' initiative was launched
- ✓ **Part of:** Van Mahotsav 2025
- ✓ **Programme:** Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam
- ✓ **Launched by:** Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, (MoEFCC), and Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, (MoHUA)
- ✓ **Where?** Aravalli Hills region in Gurugram, Haryana.
- ✓ **Organizer:** Haryana Forest Department

- ✓ **Themes:** Bodhi Vatika, Bamboosetum, Aravalli species Arboretum, Pushp Vatika, Sugandh Vatika, Medicinal Plants Vatika, Nakshtra Vatika, Rashi Vatika, Cactus Garden, and Butterfly Garden

About 'Matri Van' initiative:

Urban forest: 'Matri Van' meaning "Mother's Forest", is a theme-based urban forest project, envisioned as a unique ecological and cultural space that will contribute to biodiversity, public well-being, and urban sustainability.

- The project will be developed through government-public partnerships, involving collaborations with Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) partners, Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), multinational corporations (MNCs), school students, and various government agencies.

Components: The main components of the 'Matri Van' initiative include the replacement of the existing bushes such as Kabuli Kikar (*Prosopis juliflora*) by plantation of Dhak/ Amaltash Trees, to restore the local ecology in the region.

Themes: The forest will include the trees and plants based on various themes, including

- Bodhi Vatika: Grove of Bargad, Peepak, Gullar, and Pilkhan
- Bamboosetum: Group of Bamboo species
- Aravalli species Arboretum
- Pushp Vatika: Group of Species of Flowering Plants
- Sugandh Vatika: Group of Species of fragrance
- Medicinal Plants Vatika
- Nakshtra Vatika
- Rashi Vatika
- Cactus Garden
- Butterfly Garden

Amenities: It will also include amenities such as nature trails, cycle track, yoga spots, sitting places/gazebos, public facilities, parking at four corners, and a treated water irrigation system for conservation of water.

Alignment: The initiative aligns with the Prime Minister (PM)'s Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) and India's non-fossil fuel energy targets by increasing green cover and mitigating carbon emissions.

About Van Mahostav 2025:

Festival: It is a tree-planting festival, a flagship initiative by the Government of India (GoI), which was celebrated from July 1 to 7, 2025.

Origin: Launched in 1950 by then Union Minister for Agriculture KM Munshi, this national tree-planting campaign was created to promote forest conservation and foster environmental responsibility.

About the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC):

Union Minister – Bhupender Yadav (Constituency – Alwar, Rajasthan)

Minister of State (MoS) – Kirti Vardhan Singh (Constituency – Gonda, Uttar Pradesh, UP)

8 Cooperatives Joined Hands to Launch 'Bharat' Taxi Service by December 2025

In August 2025, India's cooperative sector plans to launch a taxi service under the brand name '**Bharat**' by December 2025. This new taxi service is expected to challenge ride-hailing giants Ola and Uber.

- This newly announced initiative is supported by **Rs 300 crore** authorised capital and having already onboarded 200 drivers, with 50 each from 4 states: Delhi, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Maharashtra.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Plan to Launch new taxi service 'Bharat'

- ✓ **Expected to Roll Out by:** December 2025
- ✓ **Authorised Capital:** Rs 300 crore
- ✓ **Total Cooperatives Collaborated:** 8 under the Multi-State Sahakari Taxi Cooperative Ltd.
- ✓ **Marketing Strategy developed by:** IIM-Bangalore
- ✓ **Progress:** Around 200 drivers already joined
- ✓ **States:** 4 states namely, Delhi, Gujarat, UP and Maharashtra

About Bharti Taxi Service:

Objective: To ensure better income to drivers and provide quality, safe and affordable services to passengers.

Consortium : In order to launch this service, the Government of India (GoI) has formed the **Multi-State Sahakari Taxi Cooperative Limited**, registered officially on June 06, 2025, represents a consortium of 8 prominent cooperatives which include:

1. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)
2. Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)
3. Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF)
4. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED)
5. National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd. (NCCF)
6. The Karnataka State Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. (KSCMF)
7. The Rajasthan State Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. (RAJFED)
8. The Maharashtra State Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. (MAHAFED)

Founding Members: Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited(KRIBHCO), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), and National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL).

Formulating Marketing Strategy: A technology consultant and Indian Institute of Management (**IIM-Bangalore**), Karnataka, have been appointed to develop the marketing strategy for the pan-India platform, which will function as a **unified application** (app) across the country.

About National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD):

NABARD was established under NABARD Act, 1981. It works under the jurisdiction of Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance (MoF). It was formally established in 1982 based on the recommendations of B.Sivaraman Committee,

Chairman- Shaji K.V.

Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra

India partners with the UN under the Global Capacity Building Initiative for Asia, Africa and the Caribbean countries

In August 2025, the Government of India(**GoI**) launched the 1st phase of **four development projects** under the “India- United Nations (UN) Global Capacity Building Initiative” to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs) for nine partner countries.

- It was officially launched by **Tanmaya Lal**, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs(**MEA**), along with Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator and Heads of Missions of participating countries at a ceremony held in New Delhi, Delhi.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** India launches 1st phase out of 4 development projects to nine countries.
- ✓ **Entities Involved:** GoI -UN



- ✓ **Purpose:** To support Global South countries in meeting the SDGs.
- ✓ **Under:** India- UN Global Capacity Building Initiative
- ✓ **Partner Countries:** Nepal, Zambia, Laos, Belize, Barbados, St. Kitts & Nevis, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and South Sudan
- ✓ **UN Supporting bodies:** WFP, UNDP, UN Population and UNESCO

About India- UN Global Capacity Building Initiative:

Overview: It is a joint initiative by the **GoI** and the **UN** to support Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean countries through **South-South cooperation** by sharing India's successful development models.

Background: It was announced during the **78th session** of the UN General Assembly (**UNGA**) as part of India's G20 Presidency legacy, in September 2023, by Dr. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister(EAM).

Key Goal: To provide demand-driven and specialised training through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation(**ITEC**) programme along with **UN agencies**.

- ITEC programme offers 12,000 training slots with 400 specialised courses to nearly 160 countries in the world.
- Since Inception, ITEC has completed more than **2.25 lakh** training slots.

Scheduled Launch: The selected training courses are scheduled to start by **September 2025** under the ITEC framework.

Key Highlights: The first phase comprises **nine** partner countries with four different courses.

Name of the Programme	Supporting UN body	Participating countries
Rice Fortification and Supply Chain Management	World Food Programme (WFP)	Nepal
Development of Digital Health Platforms	UN Development Programme	Zambia, Laos
Training in Census Preparedness	UN Population Fund	Belize, Barbados, St. Kitts & Nevis, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago
Vocational Training Initiative	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	South Sudan

About Ministry of External Affairs(MEA):

Union Minister- Dr. S. Jaishankar(Rajya Sabha-Gujarat)

Minister of State(**MoS**)- Pabitra Margherita (Rajya Sabha – Assam); Kirti Vardhan Singh (Constituency – Gonda, Uttar Pradesh, UP)

NITI Aayog Launches India Electric Mobility Index to Accelerate State EV Progress

In August 2025, the National Institution for Transforming India (**NITI**) Aayog launched the report titled '[**India Electric Mobility Index\(IEMI\) 2024 – Tracking Electric Mobility Trends in Indian States**](#)'.

The **IEMI**, a first-of-its kind tool developed to track and benchmark the progress of states and Union Territories (UTs) in achieving their Electric Mobility goals.

- **Key People:** The report was released by **Rajiv Gauba**, NITI Aayog Member in presence of B. V. R. Subrahmanyam, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), NITI Aayog, Kamran Rizvi, Secretary, Ministry

of Heavy Industries (MHI), O. P. Agarwal, Distinguished Fellow, NITI Aayog and Sudhendu Sinha, Programme Director – E-Mobility, NITI Aayog.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI) 2024 Launched
- ✓ **By Whom?** NITI Aayog
- ✓ **Purpose:** To track and benchmark the progress of Indian States/UTs in EV adoption
- ✓ **Core Themes:** Transport Electrification Progress, Charging Infrastructure Readiness and EV Research and Innovation Status
- ✓ **Top Frontrunners (Overall):** Delhi, Maharashtra, Chandigarh
- ✓ **EV Policy Status:** 29 States/UTs have notified EV policies

About India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI):

Core themes: The IEMI tracks, evaluates, and scores all Indian States and UTs out of **100** across **16 indicators** under 3 core themes:

- Transport Electrification Progress to capture demand-side adoption
- Charging Infrastructure Readiness to track allied charging infrastructure development
- Electric Vehicle (EV) Research and Innovation Status covers supply-side ecosystem Research and Development (R&D) efforts.

Coordinated Action: The Index highlights the critical role of coordinated efforts at the state level, integrated planning, and collaboration across sectors in advancing India's electric mobility goals.

About IMEI 2024:

IEMI Scores: Based on the IEMI scores, states are categorised into frontrunners (leading with robust ecosystems), performers (making progress) and aspirants (requiring intervention).

- **Frontrunners (Score: 65-99):** Delhi, Maharashtra and Chandigarh.
- **Performers (Score: 50-64):** Karnataka, Tamil Nadu (TN) and Haryana
- **Aspirants (Score: 0-49):** Odisha, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh(UP), Ladakh, Andhra Pradesh(AP), Telangana, Punjab, Goa, Gujarat, Manipur, West Bengal(WB), Kerala, Jharkhand, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh(HP), Meghalaya, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh(MP), Bihar, Assam, Puducherry, Arunachal Pradesh(AR), Lakshadweep, Uttarakhand, Andaman & Nicobar(A&N) Islands, Sikkim, Nagaland, Jammu & Kashmir(J&K), and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu(DD & DNH).

Transport Electrification Progress: The theme score reflects a state's progress in fostering the adoption of EVs through initiatives and policy support.

- **Frontrunners:** Chandigarh, Delhi and Maharashtra
- **Performers:** Chhattisgarh, UP, Odisha and Goa

Charging Infrastructure Readiness: The theme evaluates state-led initiatives and incentives designed to support the establishment of charging networks and promote Renewable Energy (RE) generation.

- **Frontrunners:** Haryana, Karnataka, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh (HP).
- **Performers:** HP, Manipur, AR, Delhi, Lakshadweep, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Maharashtra, Mizoram, AP and TN.

EV Research and Innovation Status: It examines government policies, incentives and initiatives aimed at promoting EV R&D.

- **Frontrunners:** Delhi, TN Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana and Telangana
- **Performers:** Chandigarh, UP

EV Adoption: According to the report, currently **29** states and UTs in India have notified EV policies, with four in draft stage.

- Also, India's EV market saw a notable rise in 2024 with private vehicle adoption, of electric two-wheelers and cars, reaching 5.3% with over 12 lakh EVs registered in 2024.

- As of December 2024, India has over **25,000** public EV charging stations.

Impact: The report and dashboard launched alongside the index will help policy makers, industry, and researchers in monitoring EV transition outcomes and aligning with India's net-zero commitment by 2070.

NITI Aayog Launches Report on “Unlocking a USD 200 Billion Opportunity: Electric Vehicles in India”

On August 4, 2025, National Institute for Transforming India (**NITI Aayog**), the policy Think Tank of the Government of India (GoI), launched a report titled [**“Unlocking a USD 200 Billion Opportunity: Electric Vehicles in India”**](#) at a launch event in New Delhi, Delhi. The report serves as a strategic roadmap to help India achieve a **30%** share of Electric Vehicles (**EVs**) in total vehicle sales by **2030**.

- The report was released by Rajiv Gauba, Member of NITI Aayog, in the presence of BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), NITI Aayog, Kamran Rizvi, Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries(MHI), O. P. Agarwal, Distinguished Fellow, NITI Aayog and Sudhendu Sinha, Programme Director – E-Mobility, NITI Aayog.

Exam Hints:

- What? Release of the report “Unlocking a USD 200 Billion Opportunity: Electric Vehicles in India”
- Who released? Rajiv Gauba, Member of NITI Aayog
- Goal: To achieve 30% share of Electric Vehicle (EV), in the total vehicles sold by 2030.
- Global Growth: 918,000 in 2016 to 18.78 million in 2024
- India growth: 50,000 in 2016 to 2.08 million in 2024(Rank: 6th)
- 2024 sales: EV accounted for 7.6% of total vehicle sales

About the Report:

Consultations: Shaped through extensive stakeholder consultations across seven dedicated sessions at NITI Aayog, the report presents a range of strategic approaches to accelerate India's electric vehicle (EV) transition.

Blueprint: The report acts as a strategic roadmap to fast-track India's EV transition. It highlights major challenges, outlines key enablers, and provides actionable recommendations to boost EV adoption.

Roadmap to Boost EV Adoption in India by 2030:

Growth: As per the report, the sale of EVs in India has increased from 50,000 in 2016 to **2.08 million in 2024**, making India stand **6th** globally, while the global sales have increased from 918,000 in 2016 to **18.78 million** in 2024.

- The report describes the EV transition in India as slow to start, with the EV penetration of India, being one-fifth of the global penetration in 2020 to over **two-fifth** of penetration in 2024.

Sales: In 2024, the sale of EV vehicles is **7.6%** of the total vehicles, which has taken 5 years. To achieve the goal of reaching **30% sales of EV by 2030**, India must increase the annual sales of EV vehicles by 22% till 2030.

- Among the EV vehicles, electric (e) two wheelers and e-three wheelers have shown a significant increase in sales. Electric buses have shown slight progress, while the sales of Electric cars have been slow.

Challenge Factors: The report has underscored the challenges which slow the growth of EVs in India. It includes the burden of financing heavy vehicles such as electric buses and electric trucks, Inadequate charging stations and the under utilization of the existing charging stations.

- EV could not reach the targeted consumers due to lack of awareness regarding EV performance among public and private stakeholders, inadequate data and regulatory gaps.

Recommendations:

Mandate: The report has recommended a shift from subsidy-based to mandate-based strategy, as the

current progress is dependent on financial subsidies, which are not sustainable or sufficient to the goal.

- The report suggests the announcement of a policy with clarity, with target timelines, for the adoption of Zero Emission Vehicle (**ZEV**), expansion of Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (**CAFÉ**) norms to a wider segment of vehicles.
- It also suggests designing a stringent plan for mandating the production and purchase of EV and disincentivize the continuous usage or production of Internal Combustion Engine (**ICE**) Vehicle.

Saturation Program: The report recommends to design and start a saturation program to support **5 cities over 5 years** and scale up to 20 cities and then to 100 cities.

Large Financing: The report has suggested a solution to **create a fund** with contributions from the public budget and multilateral development banks to provide low interest loans for the procurement of e-buses and e-trucks and to design a scheme to streamline the funds.

Research: The report has highlighted setting up an academia-industry-government partnership for accelerating research on new battery chemistries.

Charging Infrastructure: Identification of 20 high density corridors for e-bus and e-truck operations and commissioning a study to identify locations for charging hubs based on current voltage patterns on these corridors were recommended.

- The report also includes measures such as establishment of nodal agencies, exploration of Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) pricing, launch of a unified application, and the exploration of provision of special EV power lines (EVPL).

Capital costs: The report has recommended encouraging the establishment of a battery leasing industry, supporting battery passport system, nurturing the establishment of truck and bus leasing industries to reduce the capital costs.

About National Institute for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog:

Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) – BVR Subrahmanyam

Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi

Established – 2015

IIT Palakkad Launched India's 1st AI-powered Learning App 'Tutoz'

In August 2025, Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT**) Palakkad in Kerala, has formally rolled out India's 1st Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered learning application (app) named '**Tutoz**', for students preparing for competitive exams like: Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and Common Admission Test (CAT).

- The app was officially launched by Union Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan**, Ministry of Education (MoE) at a function held at the campus of IIT Palakkad in July 2025.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Rolling out of India's 1st AI-powered Learning App
- ✓ **Launched by:** Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, MoE
- ✓ **Launched at:** IIT Palakkad in Kerala
- ✓ **Name of the App:** Tutoz
- ✓ **Developed by:** Revin Techno Solutions Private Limited
- ✓ **Purpose:** help students in preparation of competitive Exams

About Tutoz App:

Developed by: This newly launched app was developed by **Revin Techno Solutions Private Limited**, a startup incubated in IIT Palakkad.

Mentorship: This AI-supported app is led by IIT experts: Sreenath Viajkumar (IIT Palakkad) and Satyajit Das (IIT Guwahati).

Key Features: Tutoz app is unique due its accessible, affordable and customized learning approach. It has features like: instant doubt resolution (text, voice, or image), daily practice sessions, custom learning modules, and gamified leaderboards.

Union Health Secretary Launches 'SHRETH' Initiative to Boost Drug Quality and Safety

In August 2025, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoHFW**), launched the 'State Health Regulatory Excellence Index (**SHRETH**)', a first-of-its-kind national initiative aims to benchmark and enhance state drug regulatory systems using a transparent, data-driven framework.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of SHRETH Index
- ✓ **Launched by:** Punya Salila Srivastava, Secretary of MoHFW
- ✓ **Objective:** Strengthen state drug regulatory systems
- ✓ **Proposed by:** CDSCO
- ✓ **Indices:** 27 for Manufacturing states and 23 for PDS
- ✓ **Timeline:** Submit data by 25th of every month

Key Highlights:

Launched by: **Punya Salila Srivastava**, Secretary of MoHFW, virtually launched the 'SHRETH', in the presence of Dr Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi, Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), in **New Delhi**, Delhi.

Key People: Vijay Nehra, Joint Secretary, MoHFW; Nikhil Gajraj, Joint Secretary, MoHFW and senior officials of the MoHFW and CDSCO were also present on the occasion.

About SHRETH Index:

About: It is a virtual gap assessment tool for states to assess their current position and help towards maturity certification.

- It is a roadmap for states for ensuring safe and effective drugs and medical devices.

Objective: This initiative, proposed by the CDSCO aims to improve the performance of state drug regulatory authorities nationwide, guaranteeing that drug safety and quality standards are consistently met.

Indices: For this assessment purpose, the states will be divided into two categories – **Manufacturing states** and **Primarily Distribution States (PDS)/Union Territories (UTs)**.

- **SHRETH** will have **27 indices** for Manufacturing States across 5 key themes: Human Resources, Infrastructure, Licensing Activities, Surveillance Activities and Responsiveness and **23 indices** for PDS.

Timeline: States will submit the data on predefined metrics to CDSCO by **25th every month** and these metrics will be scored on the 1st of next month and shared with all states and UTs.

Impact: The index will enable targeted improvements in human resources, infrastructure, and digitization across states, ensuring drug safety is guaranteed for every Indian.

About Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO):

The CDSCO was established under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and operates under the MoHFW. Drug Controller General of India (**DCGI**) – Dr Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi

Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy Launches Logo, Brochure and Website of 'Bharat Steel 2026'

On August 13, 2025, Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, Ministry of Steel (MoS), Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI), launched the official **logo, brochure, and website** of "Bharat Steel 2026" during a workshop for the secondary steel sector held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The event witnessed the participation of Sandeep Poundrik, Secretary, MoS, and other senior officials.



Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of Logo, Brochure, and website
- ✓ **Launched by:** Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, MoS
- ✓ **Event:** Bharat Steel 2026 exhibition-cum-conference
- ✓ **Where?** Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Delhi
- ✓ **When?** April 16-17, 2026
- ✓ **Purpose:** To position India as a global hub for sustainable and technologically advanced steel production
- ✓ **Milestone:** India's Per Capita Consumption Crossed 100 kg for the first time.
- ✓ **Policy:** National Steel Policy 2017

About Bharat Steel 2026:

Event: Bharat Steel 2026, a flagship initiative of the MoS, is an international conference-cum-exhibition dedicated to the steel ecosystem. The event is scheduled for **April 16-17, 2026**, to be held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

Aim: The initiative is launched with an aim to conduct the largest steel exhibition in India and position India as a global hub for sustainable and technologically advanced steel production.

Participants: The event will bring together stakeholders from the primary and secondary steel sectors, global industry leaders, policymakers, technology innovators, and investors with an aim to exhibit India's capabilities, promote green and sustainable steel production, and explore opportunities across the domestic and international markets.

Sessions: The event will include thematic sessions, state and country roundtables, conferences of the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), featuring cutting-edge technologies and advancements, meetings of the buyers and sellers.

- The sessions will include topics such as Strategic Policy & Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Innovation & Green Technology.

India's Steel Consumption Reaches 100 kg Per Capita:

Per Capita Consumption: During the event, Sandeep Poundrik, Secretary of MoS, announced that the per capita consumption of Steel in India has crossed **100 Kilogram (Kg)** for the **first time**, a significant milestone in the steel sector.

- India has recorded over 12% growth in steel production, outstripping the declining trends seen globally.

Policy: Government of India (GoI) aims to increase the per capita consumption of finished steel to approximately **160 Kg**, crude steel capacity of **300 Million Tonnes (MT)**, and production of 255 MT by **2030-31** under the National Steel Policy 2017.

- The per capita consumption of steel was approximately 60 Kg at the time of the launch of the policy in 2017.

Budget: Under the Union Budget 2025-26, the GoI has allocated Rs.3,362 crore to the MoS.

About Ministry of Steel (MoS):

Union Minister – H.D. Kumaraswamy (Constituency – Mandya, Karnataka)

Minister of State (MoS) – Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma (Constituency – Narsapuram, Andhra Pradesh(AP))

Union Minister Kirti Vardhan Launched Forest Wildlife Crime Management System ‘HAWK’ in TN

In August 2025, Union Minister of State (MoS) **Kirti Vardhan Singh**, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) launched a customized version of ‘Hostile Activity Watch Kernel (**HAWK**)’, a digital-cum-centralized forests and wildlife crime management system designed to curb forest and wildlife crimes, for Tamil Nadu (TN) forest department.

- With this, TN becomes the **3rd state** in India, after **Kerala** and **Karnataka** to implement this wildlife crime management system.

Exam Hints:

- What? Launch of Wildlife Crime Management System ‘HAWK’
- Launched by: Union MoS Kirti Vardhan Singh, MoEF&CC
- Launched for: Tamil Nadu (TN) forest department
- Developed by: WTI and NTT DATA
- Purpose: To combat wildlife crimes
- States with HAWK: Kerala, Karnataka and TN

About HAWK:

Developed: This system was developed by Wildlife Trust of India (**WTI**) in collaboration with Japanese Information Technology (IT) services provider, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (**NTT DATA**).

Benefit: It is an advanced monitoring platform that helps the state forest department to combat wildlife crimes, enhance forest surveillance, and protect Endangered (EN) species.

Modules: It operates through 4 integrated modules namely, Peregrine module, Shikra module, Harrier module and Kestrel module.

- Currently, among these 4 modules, only two (Peregrine and Shikra) have been implemented in TN.

Features: HAWK uses Named Entity Recognition to extract offender names, locations, and aliases, while network analysis maps criminal relationships, and predictive modeling identifies potential poaching hotspots from historical data.

MoPR Launched AI-Powered Tool ‘SabhaSaar’ to Accelerate Gram Sabha Meeting Summaries

In August 2025, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (**MoPR**), launched ‘**SabhaSaar**’, an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered **summarisation tool** designed to automatically generate structured Minutes of Meeting (MoM) from Audio/Video (AV) recordings of **Gram Sabha** and **Panchayat meetings** in New Delhi, Delhi.

- All states and Union Territories (UTs) have been urged to utilise the SabhaSaar tool for generating MoMs.

Note: A Gram Sabha is supposed to meet at least four days (January 26, May 1, August 15, and October 2) in a year.

Exam Hints:

- What? Launch of (AI)-powered summarisation tool ‘SabhaSaar’
- Launched by: Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR)
- Where? New Delhi, Delhi
- Initial Implementation: Tripura

- ✓ **Technology:** AI and Natural Language Processing (NLP) technologies
- ✓ **Integration:** Bhashini (National Language Translation Mission)

Key Details of Launch:

Key People: The event was attended by Union Minister **Rajiv Ranjan Singh** (alias Lalan Singh), MoPR and Union Minister of State (MoS) Professor Satya Pal Singh Baghel, MoPR.

Initial Implementation: As a **first** step, all the 1194 Gram Panchayats (GP) of **Tripura** (including traditional local bodies) used the tool to generate the MoMs for Special Gram Sabhas on 15th August 2025 (79th Independence Day).

About SabhaSaar:

NLP: SabhaSaar uses advanced AI and Natural Language Processing (NLP) technologies to:

- Transcribe spoken discussions
- Identify key decisions and action points
- Produce well-formatted summaries

Integration: The tool is integrated with **Bhashini**, the Government of India's (GoI) National Language Translation Mission (NLTM), and an AI-powered language translation platform.

- **Bhashini** was launched in July 2022 to provide language technology solutions as a digital public resource.

Multilingual Support: It currently supports 13 Indian languages (more will be added in the future) to ensure inclusivity and accessibility for Panchayat functionaries across different linguistic backgrounds.

Objectives: Strengthen participatory democracy through digital innovation

- Enhance efficiency, ensure greater transparency and accountability in local governance
- Significantly reduce the time and effort required for manual documentation
- Enable Panchayat officials to focus more on governance and service delivery

MoTA Launches World's Largest Tribal Grassroots Leadership Programme 'Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan'

In August 2025, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (**MoTA**) launched the "**Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan**", envisaged as the world's largest tribal grassroots leadership programme, with an aim to empower tribal communities, strengthen responsive governance, and create local leadership across India.

- This initiative forms a key part of the **Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh** and contributes towards the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of World's Largest Tribal Grassroots Leadership Programme
- ✓ **Programme:** "Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan"
- ✓ **Who?** Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)
- ✓ **Aim:** To empower tribal communities, strengthen responsive governance, and create local leadership
- ✓ **Emphasis:** Sewa (Service), Sankalp (Resolve), and Samarpan (Dedication)
- ✓ **Target:** To create 20 lakh tribal change leaders across 1 lakh tribal villages.
- ✓ **Key Initiatives:** Adi Sewa Kendra , Tribal Village Vision 2030,Governance Lab Workshops, Adi Sahyogi, Adi Saathi

Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan:

Nationwide Leadership Movement: The Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan is envisaged as a nationwide movement to build a structured cadre of 20 lakh tribal change leaders across 1 lakh tribal villages, 550 districts, and 30 States and Union Territories (UTs).

Building on Flagship Initiatives: It builds upon the successful implementation of flagship schemes, including Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (**DA-JGUA**), Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (**PM JANMAN**), and National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (**NSCEM**).

Emphasis: The programme emphasizes Sewa (Service), Sankalp (Resolve), and Samarpan (Dedication), reflecting the guiding principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas, Sabka Vishwas."

Objectives: The key objectives of the programme are to promote responsive, people-centric governance at village and community levels; conduct Multi-departmental Governance Lab Workshops/ Process Labs from state to district, block, and village levels, for capacity building of State, District, and Block Master Trainers.

- It also includes Co-Creation of development plans, where tribal communities and government officers jointly formulate the "1 Lakh Tribal Villages-Vision 2030", including detailed action plans and investment strategies.

Initiatives of the Abhiyan:

Adi Sewa Kendra: In every tribal-dominated village, Adi Sewa Kendras are proposed as community service hubs where government officers and local residents come together for '**Adi Sewa**

Samay', dedicating 1–2 hours fortnightly to jointly resolve local issues, mentor youth, and strengthen the implementation of government initiatives.

Action Plan: The villagers and officers will co-create the "**Tribal Village Vision 2030**", a Tribal Village Action Plan, aligned with national and international commitments towards sustainable development goals and inclusive development.

Workshops: As part of the initiative, lab workshops on Governance are conducted, which are structured process labs from state to village levels, engaging multiple departments to co-create solutions for tribal development.

Volunteers: The initiative calls for all kinds of volunteers in two categories such as **Adi Sahyogi**, including teachers, doctors, and professionals who mentor and mobilize communities.

- **Adi Saathi** includes Self Help Groups (SHGs), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) members, tribal elders, Youth and local leaders supporting implementation and outreach.

Other initiatives: It also includes other initiatives such as Saturation of government schemes and interventions; and Community Leadership Training for youth, women, and community leaders on governance, problem-solving, and social mobilization.

About Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA):

Union Minister – Jual Oram (Constituency – Sundargarh, Odisha)

Minister of State (MoS) – Durga Das Uikey (Constituency – Betul, Madhya Pradesh, MP)

OpenAI Launches India's First Learning Accelerator to Support Students and Teachers

On August 25, 2025, **OpenAI**, an Artificial Intelligence (AI) organization, launched **India's first Learning Accelerator**, in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT-Madras**) (Tamil Nadu, TN), at an event held in New Delhi, Delhi, with an aim to empower educators and students with AI tools and training.

- The OpenAI Learning Accelerator, India's first initiative under the AI Impact Summit, is designed to advance research, improve access, and provide AI training in education throughout the country.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of India's first Learning Accelerator
- ✓ **Launched by:** OpenAI
- ✓ **Where?** New Delhi, Delhi
- ✓ **Tools:** Study Mode

- ✓ **Fund:** USD 500,000 (Approximately Rs.4.5 crores)
- ✓ **Licenses:** 5 lakhs free ChatGPT licenses for teachers and students
- ✓ **Head:** Raghav Gupta

Learning Accelerator Initiative:

Fund: OpenAI has committed **USD 500,000** (Approximately Rs.4.5 crores) to IIT-Madras to conduct long-term research on the influence of AI on teaching practices, learning outcomes, and cognition.

Expansion: OpenAI plans to establish its first office in India, which will be located in New Delhi, later this year.

Licenses: As part of the initiative, OpenAI will distribute approximately **5 lakhs free ChatGPT licenses** for teachers and students across government schools of classes (1-12), under the Ministry of Education (MoE), and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)-regulated institutions in 6 months.

- The licenses will provide teachers with premium ChatGPT access for lesson planning, assignments and student engagement, and students will be able to use advanced features.

Training: Open AI will collaborate with partners to design and roll out AI literacy and training programs for effective and responsible utilization of AI.

- It will also deploy tools such as "**Study Mode**", a personalized tutoring feature built on feedback from Indian learners, offering structured guidance, interactive questioning, and support aligned with curriculum.

Head: **Raghav Gupta**, former Managing Director (MD), Coursera (India and Asia-Pacific), has been appointed as Head of Education for India and Asia Pacific.

- He will oversee the launch and partnership strategy, including institutions, government bodies, and research initiatives.

About OpenAI:

Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) – Sam Altman

Headquarters – California, the United States of America (USA)

Established – 2015

Union Minister Jitendra Singh Launches India's First National Biofoundry Network, BioE3 Challenge

On August 27, 2025, Union Minister **Jitendra Singh**, Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T) launched the **India's first 'National Biofoundry Network'** and '**Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment (BioE3) Challenge for Youth**', marking the one year of BioE3 Policy, at an event held at the National Media Centre in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The initiatives reflect the commitment of Government of India (GoI) to strengthen biotechnology as a pillar of India's economic growth.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Marked the first anniversary of the BioE3Policy
- ✓ **Ministry:** Ministry of Science & Technology(MoS&T)
- ✓ **Initiatives Launched:** India's first National Biofoundry Network, BioE3 Challenge
- ✓ **Launched by :** Union Minister Jitendra Singh, MoS&T
- ✓ **Network:** 6 institutions:ICGEB, BRIC-NABI, THSTI, NCCS, IPFT and ACTREC
- ✓ **Challenge Theme:** "Design Microbes, Molecules & More"
- ✓ **Cash Prize:** Rs.1 lakh (Top 10) and Up to Rs.25 lakhs (100 best ideas)



Jitendra Singh launches India's first National Biofoundry Network

About National Biofoundry Network:

Institutions: The National Biofoundry Network is a strategic initiative under the BioE3 Policy, comprising **six institutions** such as

- International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), Biotechnology Research Innovation Council -National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (BRIC-NABI), Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology (IPFT), National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), and Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer (ACTREC) of the Tata Memorial Centre.

Platform for Innovation: It serves as a nationwide hub to advance biotech innovations, from design to prototyping and product development, strengthening indigenous biomanufacturing and creating employment opportunities.

About BioE3 Challenge:

Theme: It is a nationwide drive with the theme “**Design Microbes, Molecules & More**”

Participation: The challenge invites participation from school students of **class 6-12**, university students, researchers, faculty, startups, and Indian citizens to design safe-by-default biological solutions addressing the challenges in health, agriculture, environment, and industry.

Prize: The challenge will begin on the first of every month from October 2025. Each of the top 10 winners will receive a cash prize of **Rs.1 lakh** with recognition and mentorship support.

- 100 best ideas will be selected and will receive funding of up to **Rs.25 lakhs** in two tranches through Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (**BIRAC**) to support the development of proof-of-concept into solutions.

Framework: The BioE3 challenge is attached in the DESIGN Framework, which guides participants to Define real needs, build Evidence-first solutions, ensure Sustainability by design, pursue Integration with other technologies and policies, develop strategies to Go-to-market, and create a Net-positive impact through measurable outcomes in jobs, inclusion, and equitable access.

About BioE3 Policy:

Initiative: The BioE3 policy is a strategic initiative, approved by Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi in August 2024, aligning with Government of India (GoI)'s goal of Net Zero emissions by 2070 and the Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) movement.

Implementation: The BioE3 Policy is being implemented by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under the MoS&T.

Aim: It aims to foster high-performance biomanufacturing across India by providing the framework to empower Indian institutions, universities, startups and industries.

Framework: The framework aims to transform innovations by identification of research and innovation, boosting domestic manufacturing capability, accelerating transition to biomanufacturing, setting up the facilities for scaling-up and pre-commercial manufacturing and nurturing cohort.

Focus areas: The policy focuses on areas such as Bio-based Chemicals & Enzymes, Functional Foods & Smart Proteins, Precision Biotherapeutics, Climate-resilient agriculture, carbon capture and utilization, and Futuristic Marine & Space Research.

Bioeconomy Growth: India's bioeconomy, valued at USD10 billion in 2014 and rising to USD165.7 billion in 2024, aims to reach an ambitious USD300 billion by 2030.

Biomanufacturing Hub: India's first Biomanufacturing Institute is established in Mohali, Punjab.

About Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T):

Minister of State (**MoS**) (Independent Charge, IC) – Jitendra Singh (Constituency – Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir, J&K)

NHAI Launches ‘Project Aarohan’ to Support Children of Toll Plaza Employees

On August 26, 2025, the National Highways Authority of India (**NHAI**), in partnership with **Vertis Infrastructure Trust**, launched “**Project Aarohan**”, a scholarship programme, with an aim to support the higher education of children of toll plaza employees with scholarships, mentorship, and skill-building initiatives.

- The program was launched by Santosh Kumar Yadav, Chairman of NHAI in the presence of Dr. Zafar Khan, Executive Director(ED) and Joint Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Vertis Infrastructure Trust at NHAI Headquarters in New Delhi, Delhi.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of Project Aarohan
- ✓ **Launched by:** NHAI, Vertis Infrastructure Trust
- ✓ **Implementation:** Bharat Cares, SMEC Trust
- ✓ **Purpose:** To support the education of children of toll plaza employees
- ✓ **First Phase:** July 2025 to March 2026
- ✓ **Scholarships:** Rs. 12,000 (Class 11 to graduation); Rs. 50,000 (postgraduate students)

About Project Aarohan:

Implementation: The scheme will be implemented by the **Bharat Cares**, an initiative supported by the SMEC India Foundation (SMEC Trust), which covers toll plaza personnel across the National Highways (NH) network.

Fund: A fund of **Rs.1 Crore** has been designated for the first phase for a period from **July 2025 to March 2026**.

Scholarship Support: The program provides annual scholarships of **Rs.12,000** each to 500 students from Class 11 through the final year of graduation for the financial year 2025–26(FY26).

- Additionally, 50 postgraduate students will be awarded **Rs.50,000** each to support their higher education pursuits.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Inaugurated ABSS 2025 in New Delhi to Commemorate 5 Years of NEP 2020

In July 2025, Union Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan**, Ministry of Education(MoE) inaugurated **Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS)2025** in New Delhi, Delhi, to commemorate **5 years of National Education Policy (NEP 2020)**.

- During the event, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan presented Letters of Intent (**LoIs**) to **4 foreign universities** for setting up campuses in India under the University Grants Commission (UGC) (Setting Up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations, 2023.
- He also launched educational projects worth over **Rs.4,000 crore**, encompassing new initiatives by the Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL) and the Department of Higher Education (DoHE) under the MoE, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) -enabled learning applications, campus inaugurations, and more.



Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS)2025
- ✓ **Celebrate:** 5 Years of National Education Policy (NEP 2020)
- ✓ **Where:** New Delhi, Delhi
- ✓ **Inaugurated by:** Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, MoE

- ✓ **Total Cost of Launched Projects:** Rs 4,000 Crore
- ✓ **Letter of Intents (LoIs):** Given to Western Sydney University (WSU), Australia; Victoria University (VU), Australia; La Trobe University, Australia and University of Bristol, UK.
- ✓ **Digital tools unveiled:** TARA App, My Career Advisor, ViBe, Bhasha Sagar, KoshaSHRI Portal and Swachh Evam Harit Vidyalaya Rating (SHVR) 2025–26.
- ✓ **NEP 2020 Drafted by:** Former chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) K.Kasturirangan, It replaced NPE, 1986 (after 34 years).
- ✓ **Long-term Vision:** 100% GER by 2030; Next phase of NEP for Viksit Bharat 2047

Key Dignitaries:

Union Minister of State (MoS) **Jayant Chaudhary**, MoE; Union MoS **Dr. Sukanta Majumdar**, MoE and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MoDoNER); and Education Ministers from 13 State/Union Territories (UTs) were also present at the event.

About ABSS 2025:

Review NEP 2020: ABSS provided a platform for academicians, policymakers, educators, industry leaders, and government representatives to review the progress made under NEP 2020 and chart the future strategy.

4 Thematic Sessions:

The sessions focused on key areas including:

- Promoting the use of Bharatiya Bhasha in teaching and learning;
- Advancing research and innovation through initiatives like the Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) to nurture future academic and industry leaders;
- Re-envisioning secondary education to achieve 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) by 2030;
- Exploring the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in enhancing teaching and learning experiences.

About NEP 2020:

Launched: The union cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi approved the 1st NEP of the 21st century i.e. NEP 2020 on **29th July, 2020**. It has replaced the 34 years old NPE, 1986.

Aim: To increase India's investment in education to **6%** of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of India.

Drafted by: **K.Kasturirangan**, former chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was the chairman of drafting committee of NEP 2020.

Key Pillars: NEP 2020 has **5 main pillars**: Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability.

Note: Uttarakhand has become the first state to implement NEP 2020, announced by Uttarakhand Chief Minister (CM) Pushkar Singh Dhami.

Key Initiatives led by DoSEL:

Dedication to Nation:

KVS: A total of **22 Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) projects** have been earmarked for dedication to the nation.

PM SHRI initiative: Under the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) initiative, 613 top-performing schools, one from each district along with 24 best KVS (one from each region) and 7 best Navodaya Vidyalayas (NVS) (one from each region), have been selected.

Foundation Stone Laid / Inauguration Highlights:

CBSE: A newly constructed Regional Office building of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) was inaugurated in Digha, Patna, Bihar.

NVS: Nine newly developed campuses and infrastructural facilities of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) were inaugurated across various locations.

NCERT: The foundation stone was laid for the Central Administrative Building at the NCERT Headquarters in New Delhi.

PM-JANMAN Initiative: Under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN), foundation stones were laid for 75 hostels across 8 states, with a total estimated cost of Rs.187.35 crore.

DA-JGUA Initiative: Under the 'Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan' (DA-JGUA), foundation stones were laid for 309 hostels across 12 states, with a total project cost of Rs.1,190.34 crore.

Digital Launches:

TARA App: This web portal is designed to enable data-driven decision-making in education governance by providing robust platform for examining and improving reading fluency among students in **Class III-VIII**.

- **Key Features:** Some of the notable features of this app are: Automated Observation Research Foundation (ORF) assessment which uses speech processing and Machine Learning (ML) to evaluate reading fluency from audio recordings.
 - Multi-lingual Support: At present, the app supports only two languages namely, English and Hindi.
 - Holistic Scoring: It measures Words Correct Per Minute (WCPM), phrasing, intonation to assess reading expression and comprehension.
 - Scalability: The app has been successfully deployed across 1,200 Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) of the country, which assess over 7 lakh students.

My Career Advisor App: This digital app was launched by the Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL) under MoE.

- **Student Empowerment:** It is a comprehensive, student-centric digital platform, designed to empower students with informed career decision-making.
- **Developed by:** It is developed by DoSEL in collaboration with the Wadhwani Foundation and Pandit Sunderlal Sharma Central Institute of Vocational Education (PSSCIVE), a constituent unit of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

Swachh Evam Harit Vidyalaya Rating (SHVR)-2025-26: It features a **5-star rating system** assessing 60 indicators across 6 different categories namely, water, toilets, handwashing with soap, operation & maintenance, behavior change & capacity building, and the new Mission LiFE(LiFESTyle For Environment) Activities.

- **Development:** It is a robust Information Technology (IT) platform developed with NCERT, National Informatics Centre (NIC) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- **Categories at District Level:** According to new guidelines, the star rating is applicable for each school and also schools have been categorised into 4 different categories: 3 Rural category-I, 3 Rural Category-II, 1 Urban Category-I, and 1 Urban Category-II.
- **Categories at National Level:** Maximum 200 top schools will be recognized with a certificate of merit, based on the categories such as: 70 Rural Category-I, 30 Urban Category-I, 70 Rural Category-II, and 30 Urban Category-II.

Key Initiatives led by DoHE:

Web-based Local Language Proficiency Test Portal:

Developed by: National Testing Service-India (NTS-I) has developed a web-based local proficiency test portal.

Objective: To administer online tests assessing Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing (LSRW) skills across 22 Indian languages.

Features: It includes a database of 182,480 LSRW items covering 1,825 tests.

AI Apprenticeships under National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS):

Objective: To enhance students' knowledge and skills in AI to meet the rising industry demands across various sectors such as: Healthcare, Manufacturing, and Construction, Education, Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI), Electronics, among others.

Monthly Stipend: The initiative offers a minimum monthly stipend of **Rs 9,000** for graduates and **Rs 8,000** for diploma holders.

Budget: As per DoHE, total estimated stipend support is nearly **Rs 500 crore**, which is jointly funded by the Government of India (GoI) and participating companies.

ViBe: Engage. Enjoy. Enlighten:

About App: It is an AI-powered continuous active learning platform.

Developed by: It is developed by the Education Design Lab at Indian Institute of Technology(IIT) Ropar in Punjab.

Bhasha Sagar:

Promoting Indian Language Learning: The app, launched under NEP 2020 and the Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat (EBSB) mission as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, enables users to learn any Indian language through another Indian language, without the need to use English.

Conversation Courses: The current version of app contains a total of 18 conversation courses (485 common domain wise sentences) in 22 Indian languages and 24 vocabulary building courses (over 1600 words) in all the supported languages.

Centre of Indian Knowledge Systems and Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Sanskrit (IKS-ED):

Establishment and Collaboration: The IKS-ED was established at Deccan College (DU) through a partnership between Central Sanskrit University and the Sanskrit Dictionary Project, Pune.

Scope: The centre is responsible for overseeing the Sanskrit Dictionary Project and developing the IKS Encyclopaedia. It also manages credit-based IKS-SWAYAM courses aimed at promoting Indian Knowledge Systems through formal education.

Historical and Linguistic Coverage: This dictionary traces the linguistic evolution of Sanskrit words by analyzing over 1,500 ancient texts, starting from the Rigveda (around the 14th century BCE) up to the Hasyarnava (1850 AD). It includes content from 62 different disciplines.

KoshaSHRI Portal:

About the Portal: It has digitized all 35 volumes of the Encyclopaedic Sanskrit Dictionary and includes over 15 lakh words and 1 crore references from 1500 ancient texts across 62 disciplines.

Funded by: Department of Science and Technology (**DST**), Ministry of Science and Technology(MoS&T) under the PM-SHRI scheme with the support of Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) based in Pune, Maharashtra.

New Age Curriculum at IIT BHU & IIT Delhi:

Introduction: Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University), Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh(UP) has introduced a New Age Curriculum designed to offer flexibility and promote multidisciplinary learning for Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech.) students.

Academic Options Offered: Under this curriculum, students can choose from five academic options:

1. B.Tech. (Bachelor of Technology),
2. B.Tech. (Honours),
3. B.Tech. with a Minor discipline,
4. B.Tech. with a Second Major discipline, and
5. An extended option to pursue B.Tech. leading to Master of Technology (M.Tech.).

Campus Infrastructure Developments:

IIT Bombay: Inauguration of Students' Hostel and Desai Sethi School of Entrepreneurship (DSSE) Building at IIT Bombay, Maharashtra.

Central Universities(CU): CU Andhra Pradesh(AP) dedicated to the nation; CU Jammu(Jammu & Kashmir, J&K) & CU Punjab buildings inaugurated.

NIT Raipur: Foundation stone laid for Centre of Excellence for Innovation & Entrepreneurship in Engineering & Technology (CoE-IEET) at National Institute of Technology(NIT), Raipur (Chhattisgarh).

Lots to 4 Foreign Universities:

Western Sydney University (WSU), Australia: This University will open a campus in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

- WSU plans to offer undergraduate courses such as: Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Business Analytics, B.A. in Business Marketing, as well as some post-graduate courses like: Masters of Business Administration (MBA) in Innovation & Entrepreneurship, and in Logistics & Supply Chain Management in its Greater Noida Campus.

Victoria University (VU), Australia: It will open a campus in Noida, UP and proposes to offer undergraduate courses like: Business, Data Science, Cyber Security and post-graduate courses such as: MBA and Master's in IT.

La Trobe University, Australia: It will open its campus in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

- The University proposes to offer under-graduate courses like Business (Finance, Marketing, Management), Computer Science (AI, Software Engineering), and Public Health.

University of Bristol, the United Kingdom (UK): It will establish its campus in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- The University proposes to offer joint undergraduate-to-master programmes in student exchange.

About Ministry of Education (MoE):

Union Minister- Dharmendra Pradhan (Constituency- Sambalpur, Odisha)

Minister of State (MoS)- Jayant Chaudhary (Rajya Sabha- Uttar Pradesh, UP); Dr. Sukanta Majumdar (Constituency- Balurghat, West Bengal, WB)

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Inaugurates 1 MW Green Hydrogen Plant at DPA in Gujarat

On 31st July 2025, Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal**, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), inaugurated **India's first** indigenously-built **1 megawatt (MW) Green Hydrogen Power Plant** at the Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) in Kandla, Gujarat.

- This achievement is a key step forward in India's clean energy efforts and its aim to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2030.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** India's 1st Make-in-India 1 MW Green Hydrogen Plant inaugurated
- ✓ **Where?** At Deendayal Port Authority, Kandla, Gujarat
- ✓ **Who ?** Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, MoPSW
- ✓ **Mission:** National Green Hydrogen Mission(NGHM)
- ✓ **Annual Production Capacity:** 140 MT
- ✓ **Engineering support by:** L&T Limited

Key Attendees:

The project was inaugurated in the presence of Union Minister of State (MoS) **Shantanu Thakur**, MoPSW; **T.K. Ramachandran**, Secretary of MoPSW; **Sushil Kumar Singh**, Chairman of DPA and senior officials from MoPSW, DPA, and Larsen & Toubro Limited.

About 1 MW Green Hydrogen Plant :

Indigenous Development: The project is fully indigenous (Aatma Nirbhar), designed and implemented entirely by Indian engineers.

- DPA had earlier introduced India's first Make-in-India all-electric Green Tug, reflecting its ongoing commitment to green port initiatives.

Engineering Support: The project was executed with engineering support from Larsen & Toubro (**L&T**) Limited, based in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).

- It sets a new benchmark for rapid implementation and engineering excellence within India's green hydrogen ecosystem.

First of Its Kind: It is the first green hydrogen facility installed at an Indian port and forms part of a larger 10 MW project under the National Green Hydrogen Mission(NGHM).

Production Capacity: The plant is capable of producing **140** metric tonnes (**MT**) of green hydrogen annually.

Objective: The initiative supports India's commitment to achieving Net Zero emissions and is aligned with Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's 2030 vision under the Maritime India Vision 2030.

- It aims to decarbonise maritime operations and promote sustainable port infrastructure.

About National Green Hydrogen Mission(NGHM):

Outlay: The Government of India(GoI) approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) in January **2023**, with a financial outlay of **Rs.19,744 crore**.

Implementing Agency: The NGHM is implemented by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

Objective: The mission's primary objective is to position India as a global hub for the production, utilization, and export of Green Hydrogen (GH₂) and its derivatives.

Target: It aims to achieve an ambitious production target of 5 million metric tonnes (MMT) of green hydrogen per year by 2030.

Union Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar Inaugurates First Ever BIMSTEC Traditional Music Festival Held in New Delhi, Delhi

On August 4, 2025, Union Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar**, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), inaugurated the first-ever Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (**BIMSTEC**) **Traditional Music Festival**, organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (**ICCR**) at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Delhi.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Inauguration of the first ever BIMSTEC Traditional Music Festival
- ✓ **Inaugurated by:** Dr. S. Jaishankar, Union Minister of External Affairs, India
- ✓ **Organizer:** Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)
- ✓ **Where?** New Delhi, Delhi
- ✓ **Participants:** Music Artists from seven BIMSTEC countries.
- ✓ **Purpose:** To foster cultural exchange, strengthen regional ties, and celebrate the rich traditional music heritage of BIMSTEC nations

Theme: The event was held under the theme "SaptaSur: Seven Nations, One Melody", symbolizing both the seven classical musical notes in Indian tradition and the seven BIMSTEC countries.

Significance: The festival aims to showcase the region's shared cultural legacy, promote people-to-people contact, and aid diplomatic cooperation through the universal language of music.

Participants: Music Artists from seven BIMSTEC countries, including India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, performed at the event, representing their traditional musical forms.

PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates Kartavya Bhavan in New Delhi

In August 2025, Prime Minister (**PM**) **Narendra Modi** inaugurated **Kartavya Bhavan-03** at Kartavya Path, in New Delhi, Delhi. It is the first among the several upcoming Common Central Secretariat (**CCS**) buildings to streamline administrative processes and enable agile governance.

- This project is part of the Central Vista redevelopment project which also encompasses the construction of the new Parliament building and the Vice President's Enclave.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Kartavya Bhavan-03 (CCS-3) Inaugurated
- ✓ **Inaugurated by:** PM Narendra Modi
- ✓ **Where?** Kartavya Path, New Delhi
- ✓ **Project:** Central Vista Redevelopment Project
- ✓ **Purpose:** To centralise important government ministries

About Kartavya Bhavan-3:

Overview: Kartavya Bhavan 3 or CCS-3 is an initiative that provides an administrative reform agenda by co-locating several ministries and departments into a centralised building.

Location: It is located along **Kartavya Path**, which is strategically close to the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the New Parliament House and the India Gate.

Structural Features: It is an office complex building with total area of approximately **1.5 lakh** square metres (**sq m**) with 2 basement levels and 7 floor levels.

House offices: It hosts various relocated ministries and department offices including Ministry of Home Affairs (**MHA**), Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**), Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (**MSME**), Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas(**MoP&NG**), Ministry of Rural Development (**MoRD**), Department of Personnel and Training (**DoPT**) of Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (**MoPP&P**) and Office of Principal Scientific Adviser(**PSA**).

Technological Features: It includes various modern technological governance and surveillance systems for security and the improvement of inter-ministerial coordination.

- It features Identification(ID)-card-based access controls with electronic surveillance systems under centralised command system.

Sustainability Features: It targets the Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (**GRIHA**)- 4 rating with double-glazed facades, rooftop solar plants and advanced Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (**HVAC**) systems.

- It also features a water reusable and solid waste management system with zero emission discharge campus.

Significance: The Solar plant is estimated to generate over 5.34 lakhs units of electricity per year.

About Central Vista Redevelopment Project:

Overview: The Central Vista Redevelopment Project is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (**MoHUA**), aimed at transforming the administrative flow in the Central Vista Zone of New Delhi.

Central Vista Zone: It is the 3-kilometre (km) ceremonial boulevard that stretches from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate.

Background: This initiative was launched due to the function of many key Ministries in structurally outdated and inefficient building complexes built between 1950 to 1970.

- It includes buildings like Shastri Bhawan, Udyog Bhawan, Krishi Bhawan, and Nirman Bhawan.

Progress: Under this project, the government has completed the construction of the new Parliament building, established the Vice President's Enclave, and redesigned Kartavya Path from Vijay Chowk to India Gate.

About Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)

Union Minister – Manohar Lal Khattar(Constituency – Karnal, Haryana)

Minister of State (MoS) – Tokhan Sahu(Constituency – Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh)

PM Narendra Modi Inaugurated Bharat Ratna Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference in New Delhi

In August 2025, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated the Bharat Ratna Prof. Dr. Mankombu Sambasivan (M.S.) Swaminathan Centenary International Conference held at Pusa in New Delhi, Delhi, from August 07 to August 09, 2025.

- The inaugural ceremony was chaired by Union Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW).
- The 3-day conference was organised to commemorate the **birth centenary (100th)** of M.S. Swaminathan, popularly known as "**Father of India's Green Revolution**".



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the Bharat Ratna Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference in Delhi

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** Inauguration of the Bharat Ratna Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference
- ✓ **Where?** Pusa Campus, New Delhi (Delhi)
- ✓ **To commemorate:** Birth centenary (100th) of Prof. Dr. M.S. Swaminathan
- ✓ **Release of:** Rs 100 commemorative Coin and centenary memorial stamp
- ✓ **Award launched:** Global M.S. Swaminathan Award for Food and Peace
- ✓ **Instituted by:** The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) & MSSRF
- ✓ **First recipient:** Nigerian Prof. **Ademola A. Adenle**

About Bharat Ratna Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference:

Theme: The theme of the conference was '**Evergreen Revolution- Path to Bio-Happiness**'.

Organisers: The conference was organised in collaboration with the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), MoA&FW, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), and the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS).

Key Dignitaries: Dr. Ramesh Chand, Member of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog); **Dr. Soumya Swaminathan**, Chairperson of MSSRF and former Chief Scientist of World Health Organisation (WHO); agricultural experts, scientists, farmers, and other distinguished personalities were present at the event.

Release of Commemorative Coin: PM Modi released an **Rs. 100 commemorative coin** and centenary memorial stamp in the honour of Dr. Swaminathan's exceptional contributions to agriculture and food security.

- This coin marked the 17th release of commemorative coin in year 2025.

Agricultural Milestones and Initiatives:

Increase in Wheat Production: While addressing the event, Union Minister Chouhan highlighted that wheat production surged from 5 million tonnes (1966) to 17 million tonnes (1967) due to Swaminathan's high-yield varieties.

Government Initiatives: The Government of India (GoI) had launched several initiatives like: 'Lab to Land' initiative, the 'Krishi Chaupal', and the 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' to bridge science and farming.

- **Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan:** 2,170 teams of scientists were formed and they visited more than 64,000 villages and engaged directly with over 1 crore (10 million) farmers.

About Global M.S. Swaminathan Award for Food and Peace:

Launched by: PM Modi during the conference, jointly instituted by The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and MSSRF

Aim: To recognize/ honours scientists from developing countries who have made significant contributions in food security, climate justice, and peace-building through their research and policy innovation.

1st Recipient: Nigerian Scientist Prof. Ademola A. Adenle became the 1st recipient to receive this award. He was honoured by the PM Narendra Modi during the inaugural day of the conference.

Monetary Prize: The inaugural recipient Prof. Adenle received a monetary prize of **USD 25000** and a medal.

About M.S. Swaminathan Award:

Father of India's Green Revolution: He played a key role in making India self-reliant in agriculture and modernising farming practices.

Development: High-yielding wheat and rice varieties with Norman Borlaug, revolutionising agriculture in India during the 1960s and 1970s.

Major Awards and Honours:

- Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award – 1961
- Ramon Magsaysay Award – 1971
- Albert Einstein World Science Award – 1986

GOI's civilian awards: Padma Shri (1967), Padma Bhushan (1972), Padma Vibhushan(1989)

Bharat Ratna Recognition: Posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, in 2024 for his exceptional contributions to agriculture and food security.

About Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW):

Union Minister- Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Constituency- Madhya Pradesh, MP)

Minister of State (**MoS**) – Ram Nath Thakur (Rajya Sabha- Bihar); Bhagirath Choudhary (Constituency- Ajmer, Rajasthan)

IndiaAI and NCG Launch CATCH Grant Program to Support AI Innovation for Cancer Treatment

In August 2025, IndiaAI Independent Business Division (**IndiaAI IBD**), under the Digital India Corporation (DIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**), announced the launch of the Cancer Artificial Intelligence & Technology Challenge (**CATCH**) Grant Program, in collaboration with National Cancer Grid (NCG), established under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) by the Government of India (GOI).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of the CATCH Grant Program
- ✓ **Collaboration:** IndiaAI (under Digital India Corporation, MeitY) & National Cancer Grid (NCG)
- ✓ **When?** August 2025 (Launch on 2nd August; applications open until 2nd September)
- ✓ **Funding:** Grants up to ₹50 lakh per project (pilot), with potential scale-up grants up to ₹1 crore for high-impact solutions
- ✓ **CATCH Full Form:** Cancer Artificial Intelligence & Technology Challenge
- ✓ **Purpose:** To support pilot and scale-up deployment of AI tools in cancer care settings across the NCG hospital network

Aim: The initiative aims to support the development and deployment of AI solutions to strengthen cancer screening, diagnostics, treatment support, and healthcare operations across India.

Fund: The program, co-funded by IndiaAI and NCG, will offer up to **Rs.50 lakhs** for each project in the pilot phase to selected teams, comprising technology innovators and clinical institutions.

- The successful pilot projects will be eligible for additional support of up to Rs.1 crore through IndiaAI for wider deployment across the NCG network.

Focus: The challenge will focus on categories, including AI-enabled screening, diagnostics, clinical decision support, patient engagement, operational efficiency, research, and data curation.

Eligibility: The eligible applicants include startups, health technology companies, academic institutions, and public or private hospitals.

NITI Aayog Launches 'Work for Viksit Bharat' Portal for Skilled Hiring

On August 8, 2025, The **NITI Aayog**, a policy think tank under the Government of India (**GoI**), has introduced the "**Work for Viksit Bharat**" portal to recruit professionals for national development initiatives.

- The portal aims to recruit professionals across sectors like economics, big data, infrastructure, climate change, telecom, and IT, supporting India's Viksit Bharat growth vision.

Exam Hints:

- What?** NITI Aayog launches 'Work for Viksit Bharat' portal
- Objective:** Integrate professionals into Viksit Bharat governance and development framework:
- Related Scheme:** PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY), to create of 3.5 crore jobs by 31 July 2027, with an outlay of Rs. 99,446 Cr.

Processing: Available online at **workforbharat.niti.gov.in**, the portal allows candidates to register, complete their profile, select areas of interest, and apply for roles in ongoing national development projects

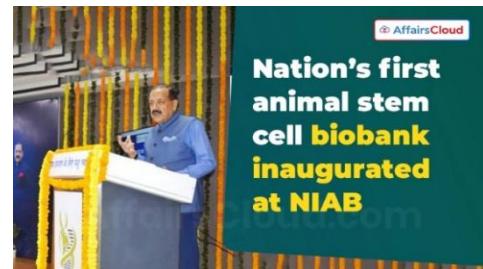
Policy Domains: The portal features vacancies in areas such as Agriculture Policy, Education, Health, Urban Infrastructure, Governance, Science & Technology, and Women & Child Development, among others.

Associated Scheme: The Ministry of Labour and Employment (**MoL&E**) activated PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (**PM-VBRY**) on 1 August 2025 to create 3.5 crore jobs by 31 July 2027, including 1.92 crore for first-time workers, with an outlay of Rs. 99,446 crores.

Union MoS Jitendra Singh Inaugurates India's First Animal Stem Cell Biobank in Hyderabad, Telangana

On August 9, 2025, Union Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge), **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), inaugurated India's first-of-its-kind Animal Stem Cell Biobank and Animal Stem Cell Laboratory at the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (**NIAB**) in Hyderabad, Telangana a premier institute under the Department of Biotechnology's Biotechnology Research Innovation Council (BRIC).

- He also laid the foundation stone of a new hostel block and Type-IV quarters worth Rs. 19.98 crores at NIAB, approved by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), MoS&T.



Exam Hints:

- What?** India's first Animal Stem Cell Biobank and Laboratory was inaugurated
- Who?** Union Minister of State (MoS) Jitendra Singh, MoS&T.
- Where?** At the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB) in Hyderabad, Telangana
- Budget:** Rs.1.85 crores
- Biobank:** for regenerative medicine and cellular therapies for livestock
- Laboratory:** to advance research in disease modelling, tissue engineering, and reproductive biotechnology for livestock
- Supported by:** National Biopharma Mission (NBM)

Animal Stem Cell Biobank and Laboratory:

Budget: The facility, spanning over 9,300 square feet (sq ft), is built at a cost of Rs.1.85 crores.

Focus: The biobank will focus on regenerative medicine and cellular therapies for livestock. The laboratory comprises Stem Cell Culture Unit, Three Dimension (3D) Bioprinter, Bacteria Culture Lab, Cryostorage Units, Autoclave Rooms.

- It is equipped with advanced Air Handling systems, and uninterrupted power supply to advance research in disease modelling, tissue engineering, and reproductive biotechnology for livestock.

Support: The initiative is supported by the National Biopharma Mission (**NBM**) with future expansion plans to include biobanking of animal stem cells and their derivatives.

Launch of Diagnostic Tools: During the event, Union MoS Dr. Jitendra Singh also launched five innovative veterinary diagnostic tools, designed to revolutionize animal health management and support 'One Health' approach. It includes

- Rapid Detection of Brucellosis, a field-deployable, Differentiating Infected from Vaccinated Animals (DIVA)- capable diagnostic kit for early and accurate detection of Brucella species.
- Mastitis Detection Technology, a cost-effective on-site diagnostic evaluation for subclinical and clinical mastitis in dairy cattle.
- Antimicrobial Sensitivity Testing Device, a portable tool providing results within two hours to promote responsible use of antibiotics.
- Toxoplasmosis Detection Kit, a sensitive and specific test for Toxoplasma gondii Infection in animals.
- Japanese Encephalitis Detection Kit, an indigenously developed rapid strip for large-scale surveillance in animals and humans.

National Biopharma Mission (NBM): The NBM, also known as "innovate in India (i3)", is a flagship Industry-Academia Collaborative Mission, launched by the DBT. It is implemented by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), DBT, MoS&T.

- It was launched on June 30, 2017, with a budget outlay of Rs.1500 crores, co-funded by the World Bank at 50%, for a period of 5 years.

About the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T):

Union Minister of State (MoS) – Dr. Jitendra Singh (Constituency – Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir, J&K)

PM inaugurates, lays foundation stone of metro projects worth around Rs. 22,800 crores in Bengaluru, Karnataka

In August 2025, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated the yellow line of Bengaluru Metro, built at a cost of around **Rs. 7,160 crores** and also laid the foundation stone of Bengaluru metro Phase-3 project at the International Institute of Information Technology, Bengaluru (**IIIT-B**) auditorium.

- The estimated cost of this phase-3 project is **Rs. 15,610 crores**.
- The total route length of the project will be more than 44 kilometre (km) with 31 elevated stations.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** PM Modi launched development projects of Bengaluru Metro
- ✓ **Inaugurated:** yellow line of Bengaluru Metro
- ✓ **Cost:** Rs. 7160 crores.
- ✓ **Laid foundation:** phase-3 project of Bengaluru Metro
- ✓ **Launched Vande Bharat:** Bengaluru and Belagavi, Nagpur and Pune and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and Amritsar.



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Inaugurates,
lays foundation stone of metro projects worth
around Rs 22,800 crore in Bengaluru, Karnataka

Key People:

Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Chief Minister (CM) Siddaramaiah, Union Ministers Manohar Lal Khattar, Ashwini Vaishnaw and H D Kumaraswamy, Union Ministers of State (MoS), Shobha Karandlaje and V Somanna; Deputy CM D K Shivakumar were present during this occasion.

Key Highlights:

Vande Bharat: The PM flagged off three new Vande Bharat trains connecting different parts of the country.

- The commencement of Vande Bharat service between Bengaluru and Belagavi, Karnataka is expected to boost trade and tourism in Belagavi.
- The other two Vande Bharat trains were launched between Nagpur and Pune (Maharashtra) and between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Amritsar, Punjab.

Bengaluru Metro: With the opening of this yellow line, the operational metro network in Bengaluru will increase to over **96 km**.

Orange Line: The PM also laid the foundation stone for Bangalore Metro's Phase Three – the **Orange Line**.

- The 44.8 km orange line will link the western stretch of ORR and extend along Magadi Road, with completion slated for 2029.

Part-funding: Companies like Infosys Foundation, Biocon, and Delta Electronics have provided part-funding for several key metro stations.

- These corporate companies had provided their contribution in the form of Corporate Social Responsibility (**CSR**) funds.

India's progress: The PM highlighted that the metro network is currently spread over 1000 kms across 24 cities, from just 5 cities in 2014.

- This growth marks India as the **third-largest** metro network globally.

PM Narendra Modi Inaugurated Two Major NH Projects Worth Rs 11,000 Crore in Delhi

In August 2025, Prime Minister (**PM**) Narendra Modi inaugurated two major National Highway (NH) projects worth a combined cost of approximately **Rs 11,000 crore** at Rohini in Delhi. These infrastructure developments aim to alleviate traffic congestion, enhance connectivity, and reduce pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR).

Infrastructure Development: The projects, comprising the Delhi section of the **Dwarka Expressway** and the Urban Extension Road-II (**UER-II**), have been developed under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)'s Rs.50,000 crore comprehensive plan.

Key Dignitaries: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, MoRTH; Vinai Saxena, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi; Rekha Gupta, Chief Minister (CM) of Delhi; Nayab Singh Saini, CM of Haryana, were also present at the event.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Inauguration of two major National Highway Projects
- ✓ **Inaugurated by:** PM Narendra Modi
- ✓ **Where?** Rohini, Delhi
- ✓ **Projects:** Delhi section of the Dwarka Expressway and the Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II)
- ✓ **Combined Cost:** Rs 11,000 crore

About Delhi Section of Dwarka Expressway:

Project Cost: This 10.1 kilometer (km) long expressway has been developed at a cost of **Rs 5,360 crore**.

Multimodal Connectivity: This project is designed to provide multi-modal connectivity to Yashobhoomi, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) Blue line and Orange line, upcoming Bijwasan railway station, and Dwarka cluster Depot.

Two Packages: This newly inaugurated project is divided into two parts:

- **Package-I:** This 5.9 km long section of expressway connects Shiv Murti intersection to the Road Under Bridge (RUB) at Dwarka Sector-21.
- **Package-II:** This 4.2 km long section of expressway connects Dwarka Sector-21 RUB to the Delhi-Haryana Border, providing direct connectivity to UER-II.

About Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II):

Project Cost: The UER-II corridor constructed at a cost of **nearly Rs.5,580 crore**.

Route: The **54.21 km** stretch of UER-II runs from Alipur, passing through Bawana, Rohini, Mundka, Bakkarwala, Najafgarh, and Dwarka, before reaching Dichaon Kalan.

- It is part of the 76km total corridor, which includes an additional 21.5km stretch in Haryana.

Sustainable Construction: As part of a major environmental initiative, two million tonnes of waste from the Ghazipur(Uttar Pradesh, UP) landfill were used in building UER-II, helping reduce the landfill mound's height by seven metres.

Benefit: It will also provide direct access to Bahadurgarh and Sonipat (both cities located in Haryana), enhance industrial connectivity.

About National Highways Authority of India (NHAI):

It was constituted by an Act of Parliament in 1988 and works under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).

Chairman- Santosh Kumar Yadav

Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

Union Minister Amit Shah Inaugurates Two-Day All India Speakers' Conference in New Delhi, Delhi

On August 24, 2025, Union Minister **Amit Shah**, Ministry of Home Affairs (**MHA**), Ministry of Cooperation (MoC) inaugurated the two-day **All India Speakers' Conference** at the Delhi Legislative Assembly in New Delhi, Delhi, to commemorate the **100th** anniversary of **Vitthalbhai Patel**, a freedom fighter, becoming the first elected Indian President (Speaker) of the Central Legislative Assembly.

- He also visited an exhibition, under the theme "Veer Vitthalbhai Patel Gaurav Katha", on the life of Vitthalbhai Patel at the premises of Delhi Assembly.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** The Two-day All India Speakers' Conference was inaugurated
- ✓ **Where?** at the Delhi Legislative Assembly in New Delhi, Delhi
- ✓ **Who?** Union Minister Amit Shah, MHA, MoC
- ✓ **Commemoration:** 100th anniversary of Vitthalbhai Patel becoming the first elected Indian Speaker
- ✓ **President:** Central Legislative Assembly
- ✓ **Stamp Feature:** Portrait of Vitthalbhai Patel and Central Legislative Assembly building



Vitthalbhai Patel:

Birth: Vitthalbhai Patel was born on 27 September 1873, in Karamsad, Gujarat. He is the elder brother of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (also known as The Iron Man of India), a freedom fighter.

Politics: Initially, he was active in the Indian National Congress (INC) and advocated for constitutional reforms and self-governance.

Speaker: In 1925, he was elected the first Indian President (Speaker) of the Central Legislative Assembly, succeeding Frederick Whyte, a British civil servant.

Death: On October 22, 1933, he passed away in Geneva, Switzerland, during an international campaign for India's independence.

Postal Stamp: Union Minister Amit Shah released a special Commemorative Stamp, issued in collaboration with India Post and the Ministry of Communications (MoC), to commemorate the 100th anniversary.

- The stamp features the portrait of Vitthalbhai Patel, and image of Central Legislative Assembly building in the background.

Other Launches: Two flip books were also issued on Sunday during the event — one centered on Vitthalbhai Patel, and the other chronicling the Delhi Vidhan Sabha's transformative journey through the decades.

About Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA):

Union Minister – Amit Shah (Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat)

Minister of State (MoS) – Nityanand Rai (Constituency – Ujarpur, Bihar), Bandi Sanjay Kumar (Constituency – Karimnagar, Telangana)

Union Minister JP Nadda Inaugurated Key Health Welfare Initiatives in MP

In August 2025, Union Minister **Jagat Prakash (J.P.) Nadda**, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) launched various key public health welfare initiatives at a program organised in Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Cultural & Information Centre (NSCBCI) in **Jabalpur**, Madhya Pradesh (MP).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Inauguration of key public welfare initiatives in MP
- ✓ **Inaugurated by:** Jointly by Union Minister Jagat Parkash (J.P.) Nadda, MoHFW
- ✓ **Where?** Jabalpur, MP
- ✓ **Key Initiatives:** Inauguration of 2 Medical Colleges (Sheopur and Singrauli); launch of Ayushman Sakhi-Smat Chatbot and 'Asha Samvadd' platform, among others
- ✓ **Key Agreements:** To set up new GMCs in Betul, Panna, Dhar, and Katni, under PPP Model



About Launch of Key Initiatives:

Overview: These initiatives are centrally sponsored health programmes, designed to strengthen public health and community outreach in Madhya Pradesh.

Dignitaries Present: Dr. Mohan Yadav, Chief Minister (CM) of MP, and Rajendra Shukla, Deputy CM, Public Health and Medical Education Department, MP, were present at the event.

Key Initiatives:

Inauguration of Medical Colleges: Union Minister JP Nadda and MP CM Dr. Mohan Yadav virtually inaugurated the newly built Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) in **Sheopur and Singrauli** districts of MP.

- These newly inaugurated GMCs were approved under Phase-III of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for 'Establishment of new Medical Colleges attached with district/referral hospitals' in academic year 2019-20 with cost of Rs 325 crore each.
- The Government of India (GoI) has released Rs 113.4 crore for each college in the state, out of its share of Rs 195 crore.

Handed over LoP : Union Minister JP Nadda also handed over the Letter of Permission (LoP) for admission of **100** Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) seats each at the 2 new GMCs.

Agreements: During the event, key agreements were signed with private investors to set up new GMCs in 4 districts of MP: Betul, Panna, Dhar, and Katni, under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model.

Vay Vandana Cards (VVCs): He also launched the distribution of Ayushman Bharat: Vay Vandana Card (**AB-VVC**) for 8 lakh senior citizens. He handed over PVC cards to 5 elderly beneficiaries during the event.

Digital Health Initiatives:

- **Ayushman Sakhi:** He launched the '**Ayushman Sakhi**' Smart Chatbot, an interactive platform enables the citizens to easily access the information and support under health schemes.
- **Asha Samvaad:** Also, a new digital platform named 'Asha Samvaad' was launched at the event. Through this digital platform, the health department will directly interact with all Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers, for 20 minutes on every Thursday.

Progress under Swasthya Yakrit Mission: Under the MP's Swasthya Yakrit Mission (Healthy Liver Mission), liver screening of **1 crore** people has been completed.

Maternal and Child Health: He also released maternal nutrition awareness materials and introduced the revised Mother Child Protection (**MCP**) Card.

- The new MCP card along with Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANWs) and Community Health Officers (CHOs, will now enable the doctors to record management and sonography details as well as services offered under Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (**PMSMA**)).
- In addition to that, the card now offers a wide range of maternal health services such as sonography tests, provision of Iron Sucrose and Ferric Carboxymaltose (FCM) injections for anemia management, among others.

About Madhya Pradesh (MP):

Chief Minister (**CM**)- Dr. Mohan Yadav

Governor- Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

Capital- Bhopal

National Parks (**NPs**)- Kanha NP, Bandhavgarh NP

Union MoS Sanjay Seth Inaugurates MILMEDICON-2025 in New Delhi

In August 2025, Union Minister of State (MoS) **Sanjay Seth**, Ministry of Defence (MoD), inaugurated '**MILMEDICON-2025: International Conference on Physical and Mental Trauma in Military Settings**', at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi, Delhi.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** An International Conference was inaugurated
- ✓ **Who?** Union Minister of State (MoS) Sanjay Seth, (MoD)
- ✓ **Conference:** MILMEDICON-2025: International Conference on Physical and Mental Trauma in Military Settings
- ✓ **Where?** New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ **Commemoration:** 100th anniversary of the Military Nursing Service (MNS)

About MILMEDICON-2025:

Organizer: The conference, held from August 28 to 29, 2025, was organized by the Directorate General of Medical Services (Army), under the guidance of the Indian Army (**IA**).

Commemoration: The conference, forming part of "Year of Reforms" initiative by MoD, commemorated the **100th anniversary** of the Military Nursing Service (**MNS**), honouring the exceptional service and the spirit of 'Nari Shakti' in combat and leadership roles.

Focus: The event focused on areas such as Advanced Combat Trauma Care, Integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies in military healthcare, Innovative emergency and battlefield medical response strategies, and role of women in combat and leadership positions.

Participation: The event witnessed participation of delegates from **15** foreign countries in panel discussions, poster sessions, and scientific gallery exhibitions.

CG Power Unveils One of India's First End-to-End OSAT Pilot Line Facilities in Sanand, Gujarat

In August 2025, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology(MeitY) and Chief Minister(CM) of Gujarat Bhupendra Patel inaugurated one of India's first full-scale Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (**OSAT**) pilot line facilities developed by CG Power at Sanand, Gujarat.

- The CG Semi facility at Sanand is one of **India's first full-scale OSAT plants**, supporting semiconductor design, manufacturing, and downstream capabilities under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).
- Backed by central and state government support, CG Semi is investing over Rs 7,600 crore (~USD 870 million) over 5 years to develop 2 state-of-the-art facilities (G1 and G2) in Sanand, Gujarat.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Inauguration of CG Power's OSAT facility at Sanand, Gujarat
- ✓ **Who?** Ashwini Vaishnaw (MeitY), Bhupendra Patel (CM, Gujarat)
- ✓ **Investment:** Over Rs 7,600 crore over 5 years
- ✓ **Facilities:** G1 (0.5 million units/day, 2026), G2 (14.5 million units/day, end-2026)
- ✓ **CG Semi JV Partners:** CG Power (Murugappa Group), Renesas (Japan), Stars Microelectronics (Thailand)

Details of the G1 and G2 Facilities:

G1 Facility: Peak capacity of 0.5 million units per day. Services include chip assembly, packaging, testing, and advanced lab verification. Pursuing ISO 9001 and IATF 16949 certifications, G1 targets commercial production by 2026.

G2 Facility: Under construction, set to scale capacity up to 14.5 million units per day by end-2026. Both facilities together are expected to create over 5,000 direct and indirect jobs, boosting local employment and high-tech skill development.

About CG Semi: Headquartered in Sanand, Gujarat, CG Semi is a Joint Venture (JV) between CG Power and Industrial Solutions Limited (Murugappa Group), Renesas Electronics Corporation (Japan), and Stars Microelectronics (Thailand).

OTHER NATIONAL NEWS

Indian Railways Commissions Kavach 4.0 on Mathura-Kota Section of Delhi-Mumbai Corridor

On 30th July 2025, Indian Railways (IR), under the Ministry of Railways (MoR), commissioned the indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system **Kavach 4.0** on the **Mathura-Kota section** of the high-density **Delhi-Mumbai rail corridor**, marking a significant advancement in the modernization of railway safety infrastructure.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** ATP system '**Kavach 4.0**' deployed
- ✓ **Where?** Mathura-Kota section, Delhi-Mumbai rail corridor
- ✓ **Implementer?** Indian Railways, MoR
- ✓ **Approval:** RDSO, MoR
- ✓ **Purpose:** To enhance train safety, prevent collisions, and improve speed control
- ✓ **MoU Signed By?** IRISET & 17 AICTE-approved institutions
- ✓ **Components of Kavach:** RFID Tags, Telecom Towers, Loco Kavach, Station Kavach, OFC, Signalling System



About Kavach:

Development Timeline: Development of Kavach began in **2015** and underwent over 3 years of rigorous testing before deployment.

Indigenous Design: Kavach is an indigenously developed ATP system, aimed at preventing accidents by monitoring and controlling train speeds.

Initial Deployment: Following technical enhancements, Kavach was first deployed in South Central Railway (SCR) and received its first operational certificate in **2018**.

Highest Safety Level: The system is designed to operate at Safety Integrity Level 4 (SIL-4), the highest safety certification for train control systems.

Make in India: All components of Kavach are being manufactured indigenously, aligning with the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

Investment in Safety: IR invests more than Rs 1 lakh crore annually on safety-related initiatives.

About Kavach 4.0:

Advanced Version: Kavach 4.0 received formal approval from the Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO) in **July 2024** after thorough evaluation.

- An upgraded version, Kavach 4.0, was approved in May 2025 and is designed for operations at speeds up to 160 kilometers per hour (**kmph**).

Strategic Deployment: The **Mathura-Kota section**, part of a high-traffic route for both passenger and freight trains, was strategically selected for the commissioning of Kavach 4.0 to enhance safety and operational efficiency.

National Rollout Plan: IR plans to implement Kavach 4.0 across its entire network within the **next 6 years**, strengthening rail safety infrastructure.

Workforce Training: Over 30,000 personnel have been trained on Kavach 4.0, ensuring effective implementation and system handling at scale.

Academic Integration: The Indian Railway Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications (**IRISET**) has signed Memorandums of Understanding (**MoUs**) with **17** All India Council for Technical Education (**AICTE**)-approved institutions to incorporate Kavach into engineering curricula for future technical readiness.

System Features:

Radio Frequency Identification(RFID) Tags: Installed at every **1 km** and near signals to provide accurate train location.

Telecom Towers: Full-fledged towers with optical fibre connectivity and power supply enable continuous communication between onboard and station systems.

Loco Kavach: Installed in locomotives, integrated with braking systems to apply emergency brakes automatically if required.

Station Kavach: Installed at every station and block section, it receives inputs from the Loco Kavach and the signalling system, and provides guidance to the Loco Kavach for maintaining safe train speeds.

Optical Fibre Cable (OFC): Enables high-speed data transfer among all components.

Signalling System: Integrated with Loco Kavach, Station Kavach, telecom towers, and other components to ensure coordinated and safe train operations.

Progress as of July 2025:

Optical Fibre: 5,856 km of optical fibre has been laid for the Kavach system.

Telecom Towers: 619 telecom towers have been set up to support communication.

Station Kavach: Kavach has been installed at 708 railway stations.

Loco Kavach: 1,107 locomotives are now equipped with Kavach.

Trackside Equipment: Kavach devices are installed along 4,001 km of railway tracks.

About Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO):

RDSO is the Research and Development (R&D) and technical body under the Ministry of Railways (MoR) that advises on design, standardization, and technical matters related to railway construction, operations, and maintenance.

- In 1957, the Central Standards Office (CSO) and the Railway Testing and Research Centre (RTRC) were merged to form the RDSO.

Director General (DG) – Uday Borwanker

Headquarters – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP)

About Indian Railway Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications (IRISET):

Director General (DG) – Sharad Kumar Srivastava

Headquarters – Secunderabad, Telangana

Established – 1958

India's first-ever 'Grassland Bird Census' Conducted at Kaziranga National Park in Assam

In July 2025, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) released India's first-ever **Grassland Bird Census** at an official event held in Kaziranga (Assam).

- **Kaziranga National Park** (Assam) conducted the census from **March 18 to May 25, 2025**, using acoustic technology to identify and monitor various grassland bird species.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What:** India's first-ever "Grassland Bird Census"
- ✓ **Conducted by:** The Kaziranga National Park (Assam)
- ✓ **Released by:** MoEFCC
- ✓ Survey Period: March 18 to May 25, 2025
- ✓ **Result:** Recorded 43 grassland species
- ✓ **Key Findings:** Discovery of over 85 nests of Finn's Weaver, a rare and endangered bird species.

About Grassland Bird Census:

Species Recorded: The survey recorded around 43 grassland species, including 1 Critically Endangered, 2 Endangered, and 6 Vulnerable species, as per the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List across the Kaziranga National Park's three wildlife divisions.

Methodology: The census used both point-count surveys and a passive acoustic monitoring system.

Survey Coverage: The recorders monitored **29 locations** using six recorders in a 3-day cycle.

Technology Utilized: They used Spectrogram Analysis and Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based **BirdNET** software to detect the species and differentiate them.

VOC Port Becomes the 1st Indian Port to Produce Green Hydrogen and Surpass 1MW Solar Power

In August 2025, Sushant Kumar Purohit, IRSEE, Chairperson of V.O. Chidambaranar (VOC) Port announced that **VOC Port in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu (TN)** has become the **1st** Indian Port to successfully produce green hydrogen and achieve over **1 Mega Watt (MW)** of rooftop solar power generation.

- The announcement was made during the 'Green Ports and Shipping-Chartering Sustainable Maritime Future' conference held at Thoothukudi, TN.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Announcement of VOC Port, the 1st Indian port to produce green hydrogen
- ✓ **Where?** 'Green Ports and Shipping-Chartering Sustainable Maritime Future' conference
- ✓ **Location of VOC Port:** Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu (TN)
- ✓ **Organised by:** MoPSW

About the Conference:

Hosted by: The one-day conference was hosted by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (**MoPSW**), through its NAVIC Cell-3 (Green Initiatives and Pollution Control).

- This conference was organised as part of a nationwide series of thematic workshops and roadshows being conducted ahead of the India Maritime Week 2025, scheduled to be held in October 2025 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Objective: To foster a unified and actionable dialogue to promote India's ports and shipping industry towards net zero emissions.

Key Sessions: The conference organised two sessions primarily focused on topics like: Decarbonisation in the Maritime Sector and Green Financing and Policy Frameworks.

FSSAI Releases Definitive List of Ayurveda Aahara Products under Category A

In August 2025, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (**FSSAI**), in consultation with the **Ministry of AYUSH** (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy), released a definitive list of Ayurvedic food preparations under the **category A** "Ayurveda Aahara".

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** FSSAI released definitive list of Ayurvedic food preparations
- ✓ **Consulted:** Ministry of AYUSH
- ✓ **Issued under:** Note 1 of Schedule B of the Food Safety & Standards (Ayurveda Aahara) Regulations, introduced in 2022
- ✓ **Category:** Category A "Ayurveda Aahara"
- ✓ **Aim:** To assist Food Business Operators (FBOs)

About List of Ayurveda Aahara Products:

Ayurveda Aahara products: These are food products formulated based on Ayurvedic dietary principles, aligning with traditional knowledge and holistic wellness practices outlined in Ayurveda.

Regulatory Basis: The list, issued under Note (1) of Schedule B of the 'Food Safety & Standards (Ayurveda Aahara) Regulations', introduced in **2022**. These regulations recognize foods based on recipes, ingredients, and processes from authoritative Ayurvedic texts.

Aim: The initiative aims to assist Food Business Operators (FBOs) by providing a clear and credible reference for the manufacturing of Ayurveda Aahara products.

Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis Inaugurates India's first AI-powered Anganwadi Centre in Nagpur

In July 2025, Maharashtra Chief Minister (CM) **Devendra Fadnavis** inaugurated India's first Artificial Intelligence (**AI**)-powered **Anganwadi centre** in Waddhamna village, Nagpur, Maharashtra.

- The centre was launched, under Mission Bal Bharari, to introduce advanced digital tools to strengthen early childhood education in rural areas.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** India's first AI-powered Anganwadi centre inaugurated
- ✓ **Where?** Nagpur, Maharashtra
- ✓ **Under:** Mission Bal Bharari
- ✓ **Inaugurated by:** CM Devendra Fadnavis
- ✓ **Funds Used:** Rs.9.5 lakh (Zilla Parishad CESS fund)
- ✓ **Features:** AI smart dashboards, Virtual Reality (**VR**) headsets, and interactive digital learning tools.
- ✓ **Purpose:** to introduce advanced digital tools to early childhood education in rural India.

About AI-Powered Anganwadi Centres:

Overview: Anganwadi centres act as childcare and preschool units for children aged between 0–6 years, to provide early childhood education in rural and underprivileged areas.

Features: The centre integrates technologies like AI smart dashboards, Virtual Reality (VR) headsets, and interactive digital learning tools, resources rare even in premium private kindergartens.

Funding: The pilot centre was established at a cost of **Rs.9.5 lakh**, financed using local Zilla Parishad CESS (Community Education Support Scheme) funds.

Expansion plans: The GoM plans to establish **40** more AI-powered Anganwadi centres across Nagpur district to scale inclusive, technology-driven education for rural children.

Ministry of Mines Recognized 7 CoEs to Work under NCMM

In August 2025, the Ministry of Mines (**MoM**) has recognized **7 institutes**, including 4 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and 3 Research & Development (R&D) Labs as the Centres of Excellence (**CoEs**) under the National Critical Minerals Mission (**NCMM**).

- This development came after the Project Approval and Advisory Committee (PAC) granted approval in its meeting, co-chaired by V.L. Kantha Rao, Secretary of the MoM, and Professor Abhay Karandikar, Secretary of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Ministry of Science & Technology (MoS&T).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Recognition of 7 Institutes (4 IIT, and 3 R&D Labs) as CoEs
- ✓ **Recognised by:** MoM
- ✓ **Under:** National Critical Minerals Mission (NCMM)
- ✓ **Purpose:** Advance R&D in critical minerals
- ✓ **4 IITs Recognised as CoEs:** IIT Bombay; IIT Hyderabad; IIT-ISM Dhanbad; and IIT Roorkee
- ✓ **Other Institutes:** CSIR-IMMT, Bhubaneswar (Odisha); CSIR-NML, Jamshedpur (Jharkhand); and NFTDC, Hyderabad (Telangana).

About 7 CoEs :

Names of IITs: The names of IITs which got recognition from MoM as CoEs are: IIT Bombay (IIT-B) (Maharashtra); IIT Hyderabad (Telangana); IIT-Indian School of Mines (ISM) Dhanbad (Jharkhand); and IIT Roorkee (IIT-R) (Uttarakhand).

Names of 3 R&D Labs: Council of Scientific & Industrial Research- Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT), Bhubaneswar (Odisha); CSIR-National Metallurgical (NML), Jamshedpur (Jharkhand); and Non-Ferrous Materials Technology Development Centre (NFTDC), Hyderabad (Telangana).

Key Functions: These CoEs will initiate innovative and transformational research to bolster and advance the country's science and technology capability in the area of critical minerals.

Funding: The CoEs recognized under NCMM will be funded on a project basis by various government R&D schemes, industry and venture investors.

Hub & Spoke Model: As per MoM, each CoE will function as a consortium, based on a Hub & Spoke model, to use R&D in critical minerals and bringing the core competence of each constituent under one umbrella.

Key Mandate: The CoE (Hub Institute) has been mandated according to the CoE guidelines to bring minimum 2 industry partners and minimum 2 R&D/academic partners in the consortium.

About Critical Minerals:

Significance: Critical minerals are important components for emerging sectors of clean energy such as solar energy, wind energy etc. and mobility transition, in addition to advanced technology and strategic sectors like: electronics, defence, space, among others.

Total Critical Minerals Identified: A committee constituted by the Ministry of Mines (MoM) in November 2022 identified a total of 30 critical minerals essential for India's economic and strategic needs.

- Out of these, 24 minerals, including Beryl ($\text{Be}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_3)_6$), Cadmium (Cd), Cobalt (Co), Gallium (Ga), Graphite, Lithium (Li), and Nickel (Ni), among others, have been incorporated into Part D of Schedule I of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act, 1957).

About National Critical Minerals Mission (NCMM):

Background: In January 2025, the Union Cabinet under the chairmanship of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi approved the NCMM with an allocation of Rs 16,300 crore, envisaging a total outlay of **Rs 34,300 crore** for a period of 7 years.

Aim: To boost domestic production, reduce reliance on imports, and promote exploration and responsible sourcing of critical minerals.

Key Task: Under NCMM, the Geographical Survey of India (GSI) has been entrusted with the responsibility to conduct 1,200 exploration projects from 2024-25 to 2030-31.

About Ministry of Mines (MoM):

Union Minister- Gangapuram (G.)Kishan Reddy (Constituency- Secunderabad, Telangana)

Minister of State (MoS)- Satish Chandra Dubey (Rajya Sabha – Bihar)

Punjab Becomes First State to Empanel Language Interpreters, Translators under Juvenile Law

On August 4, 2025, Dr. Baljit Kaur, Minister for Social Security, Women & Child Development, Government of Punjab, announced the empanelment of sign language experts, translators, and special educators under the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015**, to ensure access of the judicial system to all the sections of the society.

- With this move, Punjab has become the first state in India to empanel sign language experts under the Juvenile Justice Act 2015.

Exam Hints:

- What? Punjab empanelled language interpreters, translators, and special educators.
- Act: Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POSCO) Act, 2012
- Objective: to ensure access to the judicial system to all sections of society.
- Purpose: to support the children with hearing or speech impairments during court proceedings

Deployment: The sign language experts will be deployed district-wise to provide communication support to children with hearing or speech impairments during **court proceedings**, and interactions with child protection agencies.

Precedent: Punjab had already taken steps toward inclusivity by broadcasting key Punjab Assembly proceedings in sign language for persons with hearing impairment

MoSPI Proposed New Base Year for GDP, IIP & CPI

On 6th August 2025, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) proposed to revise the **base year** for three key macroeconomic indicators Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) to incorporate structural changes in the Indian economy by updating the methodology and including new data sources.

- The proposal was presented by Union Minister of State (MoS)(Independent Charge, IC), **Rao Inderjit Singh**, MoSPI and Ministry of Planning (MoP), and MoS for the Ministry of Culture, in the Lok Sabha.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Proposal of Base year revision for GDP, IIP, and CPI
- ✓ **Proposed by:** MoSPI
- ✓ **Purpose:** To better capture structural changes in the economy
- ✓ **In-charge:** MoS Rao Inderjit Singh, MoSPI
- ✓ **New Base Year for GDP & IIP:** 2022-23
- ✓ **New Base Year for CPI:** 2024
- ✓ **CPI update:** Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (2023-24)
- ✓ **New initiatives:** Forward-Looking CAPEX Survey & Pilot Study on Services Sector

About the Proposed Base Year Revision:

Revision of Base Year: The base year for GDP and IIP is proposed to be updated to 2022-23. The base year for CPI is proposed as **2024**.

CPI Revision: For CPI, MoSPI is using the item list and respective weights from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (**HCES**) **2023-24**.

Surveys Conducted by MoSPI:

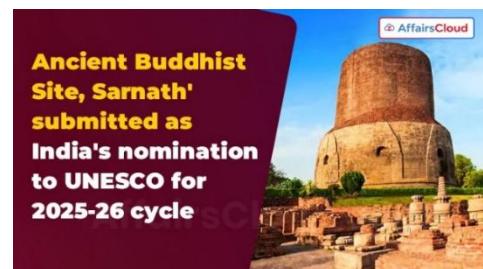
CAPEX Intentions Survey: MoSPI conducted its first Forward-Looking Survey on CAPEX (Capital Expenditure) Intentions of the private corporate sector between November 2024 and January 2025, and published its findings to highlight future investment trends.

Services Sector Study: A Pilot Study on the Annual Survey of Services Sector Enterprises (**ASSSE**) was conducted by MoSPI to capture insights into the incorporated services sector.

India Nominates Ancient Buddhist Site ‘Sarnath’ to UNESCO for 2025-26 Cycle

In August 2025, Archaeological Survey of India (**ASI**), Ministry of Culture (MoC), Government of India (GOI), has nominated “**Sarnath**”, an ancient Buddhist site for inscription on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**) World Heritage List for the 2025-26 cycle.

- **World Heritage Convention, 1972:** Under the Convention, each State Party can nominate only one site per year for inscription on the World Heritage List. The nomination process takes approximately 1.5 years from the date of submission.



Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** India has nominated a site for UNESCO World Heritage Site List
- ✓ **Site:** Sarnath, an ancient Buddhist site
- ✓ **Nomination cycle:** 2025-26
- ✓ **Who submitted?** Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), MoC
- ✓ **Sarnath:** Gautama Buddha delivered his First Sermon

About Sarnath:

Location: Sarnath is situated at the confluence of the Rivers Ganga and Varuna in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

Birth of Buddhism: Gautama Buddha delivered his first religious speech (first sermon) in Sarnath, following the attainment of enlightenment at Bodh Gaya (Bihar), marking the birth of Buddhist community.

Sacred site: It is one of the four most sacred sites for Buddhist community, including Lumbini (Nepal), the birthplace of Buddha; Bodh Gaya, where Buddha attained enlightenment under a sacred Bodhi tree; Sarnath; and Kushinagar (UP), where he died.

Features: Sarnath features various monuments, sculptures, inscriptions, and monastic ruins, spanning from 3rd century Before Common Era (BCE) to the 12th Common Era (CE).

- It includes Dhamek Stupa, an approximately 44-metre-high cylindrical stupa, built by Ashoka, former emperor of the Maurya Empire, marking the spot of first sermon by Buddha.
- It also includes Chaukhandi Stupa, where he met his first five disciples; Ashokan Pillar, the national emblem of India, erected by Emperor Ashoka; Mulagandha Kuti Vihara, a temple built in 1931 by Japanese artist Kosetsu Nosu, and Sarnath Museum, first site museum of ASI, which accommodates the original Lion Capital, and sculptures.

World Heritage Site:

It is an area recognized by UNESCO for its cultural, historic, scientific, or natural significance, and legally protected by international treaties.

- Currently, 44 Indian sites, comprising 36 cultural, 7 natural, and 1 mixed have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- India currently ranks 6th globally and 2nd in the Asia-Pacific in terms of the number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and has 62 sites on its Tentative List.

About United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):

Director-General – Audrey Azoulay

Headquarters – Paris, France

Establishment – 16 November 1945

India's first Smart Intelligent Village to be in Satnavri, Nagpur

Satnavri, a small village with around 1,800 residents in rural Nagpur, Maharashtra, is set to become **India's first Smart Intelligent Village** under a state-backed pilot project approved by Chief Minister(CM) Devendra Fadnavis in June 2025 and it will be ready by August 15.

- This pioneering initiative aims to integrate cutting-edge technologies into rural life, transforming Satnavri into a digitally empowered and self-sustaining model village.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** India's first Smart Intelligent Village
- ✓ **Where?** Satnavri, Nagpur(Maharashtra)
- ✓ **Approved by:** CM Devendra Fadnavis
- ✓ **Key Partners:** in collaboration with VOICE
- ✓ **Features:** Drone-assisted farming, smart irrigation system, mobile banking, smart schools and advanced surveillance systems.

About Smart Intelligent Villages:

Overview: This initiative is brought under the state-sponsored pilot project in collaboration with the Voice of Indian Communication Technology Enterprises (**VOICE**) and other domestic technology associations.

Place Selection: The **Satnavri village**, which has a population of **1800 residents**, was selected based on the review of the State Administrative board, which includes Divisional commissioner Vijayalakshmi Bidari, District collector Vipin Itankar, and Vinayak Mahamuni, Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of Zilla Parishad.

Features: This initiative integrates cutting-edge technologies into everyday rural life, including drone-assisted farming, smart irrigation, mobile banking, digitised schools, and advanced surveillance systems.

Government e-Marketplace marks 9th Foundation Day

Government e Marketplace (**GeM**), India's national public procurement portal, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (**MoC&I**), marked its **9th Foundation Day on 9th August 2025** to highlight GeM's journey in transforming public procurement in India through transparency and efficiency.

- This portal aligns with the Prime Minister's(**PM's**) vision of "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance" in connecting sellers and service providers across the country.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** Foundation Day of GeM
- ✓ **Edition:** 9th
- ✓ **Date:** 9 August 2025
- ✓ **Theme:** Ease, Access and Inclusion
- ✓ **Significance:** Recorded Rs. 5.4 lakh crore transactions in GMV in FY-25.
- ✓ **Key reforms:** Elimination of Caution Money for Sellers, Rationalisation of Vendor Assessment Fees and a Reduction in Transaction Charges.

About the 9th GeM Foundation Day:

Theme: The 2025 theme for the 9th GeM Foundation Day is "**Ease, Access and Inclusion**"

- The Foundation Day was marked by a special GeM Seller Samvad event on August 6, 2025, fostering dialogue and partnership between government buyers and sellers.

Key Reforms: The Government of India (**GoI**) announced the Elimination of Caution Money for Sellers, Rationalisation of Vendor Assessment Fees and a Reduction in Transaction Charges, which results in exemption for 97% of orders on this day.

About GeM:

Overview: It is a digital procurement system connecting sellers and service providers across the country.

- It includes women entrepreneurs, startups, micro and small enterprises (**MSEs**), artisans, self-help groups (**SHGs**) and Divyangjans.

Background: It was launched on **9 August 2016** by MoC&I as part of the **Digital India initiative** to reform and digitise the public procurement system.

Development Organizations: It was developed and is maintained by the GeM Special Purpose Vehicle (**GeM SPV**) under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**).

Features: It uses Artificial Intelligence (**AI**)-powered tools and a multilingual Learning Management System (**LMS**) to facilitate access to public procurement

- It also features voice-enabled navigation and region-specific training modules that support onboarding and transactions.

Notable Achievements: In FY-25, it recorded transactions worth **Rs. 5.4 lakh crore** in Gross Merchandise Value (**GMV**) with over 1.5 lakh women-led enterprises along with startups, self-help groups (**SHGs**), artisans and micro and small enterprises (**MSEs**).

PM Narendra Modi Virtually Flags Off India's Longest Ajni-Pune Vande Bharat Express in Bengaluru, Karnataka

On August 10, 2025, Prime Minister (**PM**) **Narendra Modi** virtually flagged off India's longest running Vande Bharat Express between **Ajni** (Nagpur, Maharashtra) and **Pune** (Maharashtra), spanning approximately 881 Kilometre (Km), at the KSR Bengaluru Railway Station in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

- He also inaugurated Vande Bharat trains from Bengaluru to Belagavi (Karnataka) and from Mata Vaishno Devi Katra (Jammu and Kashmir, J&K) to Amritsar (Punjab)

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** PM Narendra Modi virtually flagged off India's longest Vande Bharat trains

- ✓ **Route:** From Ajni (Nagpur, Maharashtra) to Pune (Maharashtra)
- ✓ **Distance:** Approximately 881 Km
- ✓ **Other trains:** Bengaluru to Belagavi (Karnataka), Mata Vaishno Devi Katra (Jammu and Kashmir, J&K) to Amritsar (Punjab)
- ✓ **Halts:** 10 stations
- ✓ **Flats rating:** Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) 3-star rating

Longest Vande Bharat train:

Duration: The Vande Bharat train from Ajni to Pune covers 881 Km in a duration of 12 hours, marking the fastest train between Nagpur and Pune.

Stops: The train halts at **10** stations, including Wardha, Badnera, Akola, Shegaon, Bhusaval, Jalgaon, Manmad, Kopargaon, Ahmednagar, and the Daund Chord Line.

Inauguration of Flats for Members of Parliament:

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated 184 newly constructed Type-VII Multi-Storey Flats for Members of Parliament (MPs) at Baba Karak Singh Marg in New Delhi, Delhi.

Design: The flats, designed to be self-sufficient, meets the standards of Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) 3-star rating by incorporating green technology and complies with the National Building Code (NBC) 2016.

Technology: It is constructed with the use of advanced construction technology, including monolithic concrete with aluminum shuttering.

Area: Each residential unit offers approximately 5,000 square feet (Sq ft) of carpet area, providing adequate space for residential and official functions.

About Maharashtra:

Chief Minister (CM) – Devendra Fadnavis

Governor – C.P. Radhakrishnan

Capital – Mumbai

National Parks (NP) – Tadoba NP, Chandoli NP

India's Defence Production Surged to Record-high Rs 1.51 Lakh Crore in FY25

In August 2025, Union Minister **Rajnath Singh**, Ministry of Defence (MoD) informed that annual defence production has surged to an all-time high of **Rs 1.51 lakh** (Rs 1,50,590 crore) in Financial Year 2024-25 (**FY25**).

- This figure reflects an increase of **18%** compared to last fiscal year's output of Rs 1.27 lakh crore, and also remarkable 90% increase since FY20, when the figure stood at Rs 79,071 crore.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Record-high defence production in India
- ✓ **Who?** Ministry of Defence(MoD)
- ✓ **Announced by:** Union Minister Rajnath Singh, MoD
- ✓ **Growth:** Rs.1.51 lakh crore in FY25(18% increase over FY24; 90% increase since FY20)
- ✓ **Contribution of Sectors:** DPSUs (77%) and Private Sector (23%)
- ✓ **Exports:** Defence exports reached a record Rs.23,622 crore in FY25 (up 12.04% from previous year)

Key Findings:

Share of DPSUs and Private Sector: As per MoD official data, Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and other PSUs; and private sector accounted for approximately **77%** and **23%** of total production.

Increase in Private Sector Share: The data also revealed that the contribution of the private sector has increased from 21% (in FY24) to 23% (in FY25).

Overall Production: The overall production of DPSUs and other PSUs has increased by 16% while the production of private sector has increased by 28%.

Exports: Defence exports touched a record high of Rs.23,622 crore in FY25, marking a 12.04% increase over the previous year.

MHA Tightens Rules Governing OCI Card Holders Registration

In August 2025, the Ministry of Home Affairs (**MHA**) issued a gazette notification in exercise of powers given by the clause (da) of Section 7D of the **Citizenship Act, 1955** (57 of 1955), aimed to tighten the rules governing Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cardholders.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Issued a Notification regarding the rules governing OCI card holders
- ✓ **Issued by:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)
- ✓ **New Provision:** Regarding the cancellation of the registration OCI cards
- ✓ **Maximum Term:** Sentenced/ Convicted (2 years or more) or, Named in Chargesheet (7 years or more)
- ✓ **New Provision Added under:** Citizenship Act, 1955 and the Citizenship Rules, 2009
- ✓ **OCI Scheme Launched in:** August 2005

About New OCI Rules:

Revocation Criteria for OCI Registration: According to the notification, OCI card registrations may now be canceled if

- The cardholder is sentenced to imprisonment for two years or more, or
- They are named in a chargesheet for an offence punishable with seven years or more of imprisonment.

Applicability: This rule applies regardless of whether the conviction or charge occurs in India or abroad, as long as the offence is recognized under Indian law.

Key Provisions: The official notification of MHA was issued under the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955 and the Citizenship Rules, 2009, which authorizes the Government of India (GoI) to revoke OCI registrations under specified conditions.

OCI Scheme: The scheme was introduced by the GoI in August 2005. The scheme enables registrations for persons of Indian origin who were citizens of India **on or after January 26, 1950**, or were eligible for citizenship on that date.

Govt of Rajasthan Launches India's First AI enabled Drone-Based Cloud Seeding Experiment

On August 12, 2025, Kirodi Lal Meena, Minister of Agriculture, Government of Rajasthan, launched **India's first** Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled drone-based **cloud seeding experiment** at the Jamwa Ramgarh Dam in Jamwa Ramgarh, Rajasthan, to rejuvenate Ramgarh lake and address the water crisis in the region.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** India's First AI enabled Drone Cloud Seeding
- ✓ **Launched by:** Rajasthan Government
- ✓ **Where?** at Jamwa Ramgarh Dam, in Jamwa Ramgarh, Rajasthan
- ✓ **Purpose:** to rejuvenate Ramgarh lake
- ✓ **Chemical Used:** Sodium Chloride (Na Cl)

Platform: The initiative will deploy 60 AI-powered drones, developed by GenX AI, in "Hydro Trace", an AI platform, to identify optimal clouds using real-time data, satellite imagery, and sensor networks.

Stimulate: The drones are programmed to spray chemicals such as Sodium Chloride (**Na Cl**) into clouds to stimulate the formation of water droplets, which encourages formation of raindrops.

Approvals: The project has been approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the India Meteorological Department (IMD), district authorities, and the Department of Agriculture.

Western Railway Successfully Commissioned India's 1st 2×25 kV Traction Substation under 'Mission Raftaar'

In August 2025, Western Railway (**WR**) commissioned **India's first 2×25 kilo Volt (kV) electric traction substation** under the 'Mission Raftaar' initiative at the Nagda-Khachrod section of the Ratlam Division in Madhya Pradesh (MP).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Commissioning of India's 1st 2×25 kV electric traction substation
- ✓ **Commissioned by:** Western Railway (WR)
- ✓ **Where?** Nagda-Khachrod section, Ratlam division, MP
- ✓ **Mission:** Mission Raftaar

About 2×25 kV Electric Substation Project:

Power Transformers: This new system features two Scott-connected 100 Mega-Volt-Ampere (MVA) Power Transformer for efficient feeding of electrical load to the Overhead Equipment (OHE).

Execution: This project is executed jointly by the Divisional Electrical Engineering team, Ratlam, Construction Department of WR; Traction Distribution (TRD) team, and M/s BNC Power Projects Limited.

Significance: This modern system will significantly enhance energy efficiency, traction power availability, and train operating speeds across the railway network.

Mission Raftaar: It was introduced in the Railway Budget of 2016-17. It is an ambitious initiative by Indian Railways(IR) aimed at increasing the average speed of freight trains.

Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan Completed 5 Years

On August 15 2025, Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (**NMBA**) or Drugs-Free India Campaign, a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE) has successfully completed **5 years**.

- The Department of Social Justice & Empowerment (**DoSJE**) under MoSJE in partnership with the Government of National Capital Territory (**NCT Delhi**) has organised a special event on August 13, 2025 to commemorate the 5th anniversary of NMBA in KV School No.2 in New Delhi, Delhi.
- **MoSJE** acts as the Nodal Ministry for drug demand reduction in India and is responsible for coordinating and monitoring all aspects of drug abuse prevention, assessment of the extent of the problem, preventive action, among others.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Completion of 5 years of Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)
- ✓ **Launched on:** August 15, 2020
- ✓ **Nodal Ministry:** MoSJE
- ✓ **Approach:** 3-Pronged Approach (supply control, demand reduction, and awareness, and treatment facilities)
- ✓ **Key Achievements:** Over 18.10 crore people sensitized on substance; over 20,000 MVs trained; over 1.67 crore students (99,595 educational institutions) pledged to be drug free
- ✓ **Helpline Number:** 14446

About Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA):

Launched: NMBA was officially launched on **August 15, 2020** by the MoSJE under the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR).

Coverage: It was initially launched in **272 districts** across 32 States/Union Territories (UTs) which were identified as most vulnerable in terms of usage of drugs. The initiative has now been extended to all districts of the country.

3-Pronged Strategy: NMBA is based on 3-pronged approach comprises:

- Supply control which is managed by Narcotics Control Bureau (**NCB**);
- Demand Reduction & Awareness is led by MoSJE through extensive outreach and awareness activities;
- Treatment & Rehabilitation facilities are provided by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (**MoHFW**).

Implementation: NMBA initiative is being implemented at 4-levels i.e. at central level by MoSJE;

- State-level by state level Abhiyaan committee, chaired by Principal or Chief Secretary(CS) of the department responsible for its implementation;
- District-level by district level Abhiyaan committee, chaired by District Collector or Magistrate;
- Municipalities-level by municipal or below district level Abhiyaan committees.

Key Accomplishments of NMBA:

Impact: So far, through the various activities initiated under NMBA, **over 18.10 crore** people have been sensitized on substance use including more than 6.02 crore youth and over 4.08 crore women.

Master Volunteers (MVs): More than 20,000 MVs have been identified and trained under NMBA.

Nationwide Commitment: More than 1.67 crore students from 99,595 educational institutions have pledged to be drug free under a national online pledge.

Web Portal: In 2021, the MoSJE launched a NMBA website (<https://nmba.dosje.gov.in/>) provides detailed information to the users about the Abhiyaan, an online discussion forum, NMBA dashboard, e-pledge.

Helpline Number: The MoSJE maintains a toll-free helpline number **14446** for de-addiction. It aims to provide primary counselling and immediate referral services to the person seeking help from drug abuse.

Key MoUs: MoSJE has signed several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with spiritual or social service organizations like: The Art of Living, Brahma Kumaris, Sant Nirankari Mission, Ram Chandra Mission (Daaji), ISKCON and All World Gayatri Parivaar, to support NMBA and conduct mass awareness activities.

Nationwide Campaigns: The NMBA regularly organizes nationwide programs such as 'Nashe se Azaadi', 'Naya Bharat', 'NMBA Interaction with NCC', to engage and connect with youth and other stakeholders.

Geo-tagged de-addiction facilities: All the de-addiction facilities across the country have been geo-tagged which enables easy access.

About Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE):

Union Minister- Dr. Virendra Kumar Khatik (Constituency- Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh, MP)

Minister of State (MoS)- Dr. Ramdas Bandu Athawale (Rajya Sabha- Maharashtra); B.L. Verma (Rajya Sabha- Uttar Pradesh, UP)

MNRE: India Achieved Landmark Milestone of 100 GW of Solar PV Modules Manufacturing Capacity under ALMM

In August 2025, Union Minister **Pralhad Joshi**, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) announced that India has achieved a historic milestone of **100 Giga Watt (GW)** of solar Photo Voltaic (PV) module manufacturing capacity under the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (**ALMM**), marking a significant increase from 2.3 GW in 2014.

- This achievement bolsters Government of India (GoI)'s commitment towards Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliance) and the target of **500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030**.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Achieved 100 GW of Solar PV module Manufacturing Capacity
- ✓ **Under:** ALMM Order, 2019
- ✓ **Increased from:** 2.3 GW (in 2014)
- ✓ **Announced by:** Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, MNRE
- ✓ **Registration Granted by:** Bureau of Indian Standards
- ✓ **Registration Valid for:** 2 years

About ALMM Order:

Introduced: MNRE issued the ALMM of Solar PV Modules (Requirements for Compulsory Registration) Order (ALMM Order, 2019) on January 02, 2019.

1st ALMM List: In March 2021, MNRE issued the 1st ALMM list for solar PV modules with an initial enlisted capacity of around 8.2 GW.

- Since then, the number of enlisted manufacturers has grown to 100 and now stands at **123**.

Registration: In order to get enlisted on the ALMM list, interested manufacturers are required to get product and performance certificates from the Bureau of India Standards (BIS). This enlistment is valid for 2 years.

Applicability: ALMM is applicable to government-supported schemes such as:

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) and PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana; and projects from where electricity discoms procure electricity.

- However, it excludes the projects constructed under open access or as captive by private companies.

Suspension: The procurement of solar modules from ALMM Listed manufacturers was temporarily suspended in Financial Year 2023-24 (FY24).

Amendment : In December **2024**, MNRE made an amendment to ALMM Order, 2019 and introduced **ALMM List-II** for solar PV cells under the ALMM framework.

- As per MNRE, all solar PV modules used in projects including government-supported schemes, net-metering projects, and open access Renewable Energy (RE) initiatives will be required to source their solar cells from ALMM List-II, from **June 01, 2026**.

About PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana:

Approval : In February 2024, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi, approved the scheme with a budget allocation of **Rs.75,021 crore**, scheduled for implementation until FY 2026-27.

Objectives : The scheme aims to provide 300 units of free electricity per month to 1 crore households across India by March 2027.

Implementation Framework: At the national level, the scheme is executed by the National Programme Implementation Agency (NPIA), while State Implementation Agencies (SIAs) oversee its execution at the state level.

About Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE):

Union Minister- Pralhad Joshi (Constituency- Dharward, Karnataka)

Minister of State (MoS)- Shripad Yesso Naik (Rajya Sabha- North Goa, Goa)

Indian Oil Panipat Gets First ISCC CORSIA Certification for SAF in India

In August 2025, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (**IndianOil**) has become the first Indian oil refinery company to receive the International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (**ISCC**), developed under the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) production at its refinery in Panipat, Haryana.

- The certification was formally handed over to IndianOil by Cotecna, an International Certifying Agency, at an event in New Delhi, Delhi.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** First ISCC CORSIA certification in India for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) production
- ✓ **To Whom?** Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (Panipat Refinery)
- ✓ **Certification Body:** Cotecna
- ✓ **Standard:** ISCC CORSIA – International Sustainability & Carbon Certification under ICAO
- ✓ **Purpose:** for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) production at its refinery in Panipat, Haryana
- ✓ **Recognizer:** International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

About the Certification:

- ISCC CORSIA is an international standard by ICAO assuring sustainability, lifecycle carbon emission reductions, and traceability of feedstocks in aviation fuel.
- IndianOil's Panipat-produced SAF underwent rigorous evaluation for carbon emissions and sustainability.
- The certification paves the way for certified SAF adoption by Indian airlines and encourages investment in new-generation biofuels and sustainability initiatives.

Highlights of 79th Independence Day of India on August 15, 2025

On 15 August 2025, The Government of India (GoI) organised the **79th** Independence Day (I-Day) celebrations at the Red Fort in New Delhi, Delhi. Prime Minister **(PM)** of India Narendra Modi addressed the nation and delivered his **12th** consecutive Independence Day speech which lasted for **103 minute**, the longest by any PM in India's history.

- This year's Independence Day theme is centered on '**Naya Bharat**', signifying the GoI's vision of achieving 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.


Historic Independence Day Milestone:

Record Breaking: With this, PM Modi surpassed the record of former PM of India, **Indira Gandhi** who delivered 11 Independence Day speeches from Red Fort in a row.

Legacy: Now, he stands next only to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, former and 1st PM of Independent India, who delivered 17 Independence Day addresses in a row.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** Independence Day Celebrations 2025
- ✓ **When?** August 15
- ✓ **Anniversary:** 79th
- ✓ **Held at:** Red Fort, New Delhi (Delhi)
- ✓ **Theme:** Naya Bharat
- ✓ **Coordination Service provided by:** Indian Air Force (IAF)
- ✓ **Guard of Honour commanded by:** Wing Commander A.S. Sekhon
- ✓ **Key Announcements:** Launch of PM-VBRY, Sudarshan Mission by 2035; National High-Powered Demography Mission; Introducing GST Reforms by October 2025; 'made-in-India' semiconductor chips in India market by end of 2025, among others
- ✓ **Total Gallantry Medals/Service Medals:** 1,090
- ✓ **Total Gallantry Awards to Armed Forces and CAPFs:** 127
- ✓ **Tatrakshak Medal to ICG:** 5

Highlights of I-Day Celebrations :

Coordinating Service: Indian Air Force (**IAF**) was the coordinating officer service for this year's national event, featured a ceremonial Guard of Honour, a 21-gun salute, and special flypast which carried the national flag and the Operation Sindoor flag.

Contingent of Guard of Honour: The Guard of Honour contingent for PM comprised of **96** defence personnel, including one officer and 24 members each from the Indian Army (IA), IAF, and Delhi Police.

- The Guard of Honour was commanded by Wing Commander **A.S. Sekhon**.
- Major Arjun Singh, commanded the IA contingent in PM's Guard of Honour;
- While, Lieutenant Commander Komaldeep Singh led the Indian Navy(IN) contingent; Squadron Leader Rajan Arora commanded the IAF contingent; and Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Rohit Rajbir Singh, led the Delhi Police contingent.

National Flag Guard: It comprised of 128 personnel including one officer and 32 Other Ranks each from IA, IN and IAF and Delhi Police, presented the Rashtriya Salute at the time of hoisting of National Flag by PM.

Hoisting of National Flag: Flying Officer (**FO**) **Rashika Sharma** assisted PM Modi in hoisting the national flag, which was synchronized with a **21-gun salute** from 1721 Field Battery (Ceremonial) using indigenous 105 millimeter (mm) Light Field Guns.

- After the flag unfurling, **two IAF Mi-17 helicopters**, carrying the national flag and Operation Sindoor flag, showered flower petals at the venue.
- It was led by Wing Commander Vinay Poonia and Wing Commander Aditya Jaiswal.

National Anthem: An IAF band, which included one JCO and 25 Other Ranks, had played the National Anthem during the hoisting of the National Flag.

- The band was led by Junior Warrant Officer **M. Deka**, and also, for the 1st time, **11 Agniveer Vayu** musicians were part of the bands.
- After PM Modi's Speech, National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets and 'My Bharat' volunteers sang the National Anthem.

Special Guests Invited: This year, around 5,000 special guests were invited to the Independence Day celebrations, including the Indian contingent of the Special Olympic Games 2025, winners of international sports events, and gold medalists of the Khelo India Para Games.

- Special guests who contributed significantly to women's empowerment and child welfare were also honoured during the event.
- A total of 171 special guests were part of the event, comprising Anganwadi workers and supervisors, children from CCIS, beneficiaries of the PM CARES scheme, Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs), District Child Protection Officers (DCPOs), staff of One Stop Centres (OSCs), and other officials from the Department of Women and Child Development (WCD) across various States and Union Territories.

Key Announcements by PM Narendra Modi:

GST Reforms: While addressing the nation from Red Fort, PM Narendra Modi announced that the GoI will revise the Goods and Services Tax (GST) structure to reduce rates on essential goods and streamline tax slabs for the benefit of households and small businesses, with these reforms expected to be implemented by **October 2025**.

Formation of Reform Task Force: PM Modi also announced the formation of a dedicated Task Force for Next-Generation Reforms, aimed at driving India's economic growth and achieving USD 10 trillion economy by 2047.

- This newly announced task force will be entrusted with the responsibility to evaluate all current laws, rules and procedures related to economic activities.
- It will work within a set timeline to reduce compliance costs for start-ups, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and entrepreneurs.

PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY): He also announced the launch of a major employment scheme 'PM-VBRY' worth around **Rs 1 lakh crore**, designed to support 1st -time private sector employees.

- Under this scheme, GoI will provide a financial assistance of **Rs 15,000 per month** to newly employed youngsters.
- The scheme is expected to generate **over 3.5 crore new jobs**, including 1.92 crore 1st -time employees, over a period of 2 years (from 2025 to 2027).
- In July 2025, the Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi had approved the scheme as part of its strategy to incentivize job creation nationwide and was officially effective from August 01, 2025.

Sudarshan Chakra Mission: He announced the launch of 'Mission Sudarshan Chakra', India's state-of-the-art defence system, aimed at enhancing modern weapon systems to protect key military establishments and strengthen retaliatory capabilities over the next 10 years.

- This newly announced air defence system is expected to be completed by 2035. It will be designed on the lines of Israel's Iron Dome all weather air-defence system.

Indigenously Developed Semiconductor Chips: He further announced that India's 1st indigenously developed semiconductor chips will be available in the market by the end of 2025.

High-powered Demography Mission: He also announced the launch of High-Powered Demographic Mission, aimed at addressing key national security issues like infiltration and demographic changes, especially in border areas of the country.

Nuclear Energy Capacity: He highlighted that work is underway on 10 new nuclear reactors as part of India's mission to increase its nuclear power generation capacity by more than 10 times in the next two decades i.e. by 2047.

Other announcements: PM Narendra Modi also announced the launch of the National Deepwater Exploration Mission to utilize ocean resources, alongside key expansions in solar, hydrogen, among others.

- He further announced that the GoI will prioritize the development of indigenous jet engines.

Awards/Honours:

Gallantry Medals/Services Medals:

Total Awardees: As per the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), a total of **1,090** personnel of Police, Fire, Home Guard and Civil Defence (HG&CD) and Correctional Services have been awarded Gallantry and Service Medals on the occasion of 79th I-Day celebration.

Gallantry Medals:

Name of the Medals	Number of Medals Awarded
Medal Gallantry (GM)	233 (Police Service-226, Fire Service-06, and HG&CD- 01)

Region-Wise: Among the majority of the 233 GMs, 54 personnel from Left Wing Extremism affected areas, 152 personnel from Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) region, 03 personnel from North-East (NE) region and 24 personnel from other regions.

State-wise GM Awardees: Among 233 GMs, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) with 127 GMs received the highest number of medals for gallantry, followed by Central Reserve Police (CRPF) (20) and Border Security Force (BSF) (16).

- 17 Personnel from Uttar Pradesh (UP) Police
- 14 Personnel from Chhattisgarh Police
- 9 Personnel from Odisha Police
- 7 Personnel from Maharashtra Police
- 7 Personnel from Bihar Police
- 5 Personnel from Jharkhand
- 3 Personnel from Assam Police

- 1 from Telangana Police

Additionally, 7 GM awards were given to personnel from HG&CD and Fire Service:

- 3 personnel from Maharashtra Fire Service
- 2 personnel from Delhi Fire Service
- 1 personnel from J&K Fire Service
- 1 personnel from UP HC&CD

[Click here for the list of GM Awardees](#)

President's Medal for Distinguished Services (PSM): It is awarded for exceptional records, with **99** awards were presented to various services including:

- 89 Police Service
- 05 to Fire Service
- 03 to HG&CD
- 02 to Correctional Services

[Click here for PSM Awardees](#)

Medal for Meritorious Service (MSM): It is awarded for valuable service marked by resource and devotion, with **758 awards** given to various services including:

- 635 Police Service
- 51 to Fire Service
- 41 to HG&CD
- 31 to Correctional Services

[Click here for list of MSM Awardees](#)

Gallantry Awards/Distinguished Services to Armed Forces and CAPFs:

Total Awards: On the occasion of Independence Day, President of India Droupadi Murmu approved **127 Gallantry Awards** and **40 distinguished service awards** to the Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) personnel.

Distribution of Gallantry Awards: These awards include: **04** Kirti Chakra which is India's 2nd highest peacetime gallantry medal;

- **15 Vir Chakra** which is India's 3rd highest war-time gallantry award. Among them, 13 personnel from the Armed forces including 9 from IAF and 4 from IA, were honoured with Vir Chakra for 'Operation Sindoor';
- **16 Shaurya Chakras**, which is India's 3rd highest peace-time gallantry award;
- 02 Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry)
- 58 Sena Medals (Gallantry)
- 06 Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry);
- 26 Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry);
- 07 Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medals (SYSMs);
- 09 Uttam Yudh Seva Medals; and
- 24 Yudh Seva Medals.

Mention-in-Despatches: Other than these Gallantry Awards, the President has approved 290 Mention-in-Despatches including 115 personnel of the IA, 05 of IN, 167 of IAF and 03 of the Border Roads Development Board (BRDB).

CAPF with highest number of Medals: CRPF with 23 Gallantry Medals (including 20 GMs for valour in J&K and Maoist-hit regions and 3 Shaurya Chakras), the highest among all CAPFs .

[Click here for full list of Awardees](#)

Tatrakshak Medal to ICG:

TM to 05 ICG: On the occasion of 79th Independence Day celebration, President of India Droupadi Murmu

has approved 3 Tatrakshak Medal(TM) (Gallantry) and 2 TM (Meritorious Service) to Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Personnel.

- These awards recognize exceptional devotion to duty, bravery, and distinguished/meritorious services.
- These awards are given to the personnel of the ICG on the occasion of Republic Day and Independence Day annually since January 26, 1990.

Awards	Awardee (Rank and Name)
TM (Gallery)	Comdt. Srinivas Gadam
	Comdt. (JG) Ankit Sharma
	Comdt. (JG) Rajkamal Attrai
TM (Meritorious)	Inspector General (IG) Anupam Rai
	Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Bibhuti Ranjan

Historical Background:

Independent on: India was declared independent from British-colonial rule on August 15, 1947.

- India Independence Act, 1947 created two separate independent nations i.e. India and Pakistan from British India.

Division of Two Provinces: The provinces of Bengal and Punjab were divided between India and Pakistan.

Governor-General of India: Lord Mountbatten was the last Governor General of British India and 1st Governor General of Independent India, from August 1947 to June 1948.

1st PM of Independent India: Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru was appointed 1st PM of Independent India, who hoisted the Indian flag for the 1st time at Lahori Gate, in Delhi.

PM Modi Marks Six Years of Jal Jeevan Mission

On 14 August 2025, Prime Minister (PM) of India **Narendra Modi** marked the completion of **six** years of the Jal Jeevan Mission (**JJM**), a nationwide initiative that has transformed access to drinking water in rural India.

- The Government of India (GoI) has proposed to extend the JJM **till 2028** with higher funding as announced in the Union Budget for the financial year 2025-26 (FY26).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event :** Marked six years of Jal Jeevan Mission
- ✓ **Launch:** 15 August 2019
- ✓ **Ministry :** Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS).
- ✓ **Extension:** GoI proposed extending the mission till 2028
- ✓ **Objective:** Provide Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household.
- ✓ **Key Achievements (2019–2025):** Over 15.69 crore households connected (81% coverage); 2.63 lakh villages & 191 districts declared Har Ghar Jal.

About Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM):

Launches: The Ministry of Jal Shakti (**MoJS**) launched the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) on **15 August 2019** with an aim to provide every rural household with a Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) by **2024**.

Technology: The JJM uses modern technology to make its work more open and reliable. Villages now have Internet of Things (**IoT**) sensors that show in real time how much water is being supplied.

Digital Monitoring: Through **Aadhaar linking**, benefits are delivered to the right families, while geo-tagging records the infrastructure created, and the **JJM Dashboard** with the Mobile Application (App) offers real-time updates on coverage and progress to the public.

Approach: The mission also gives special attention to vulnerable groups such as Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and families living in remote areas, making sure no community is left behind.

Community-Led Initiatives:

VWSCs: Villages are encouraged to prepare their own water supply plans and take responsibility for building and managing systems through Village Action Plans.

- To strengthen this effort, Village Water and Sanitation Committees (**VWSCs**) made up of local people handle the planning, operation, and maintenance of schemes.

Quality Management: Women play a central role in ensuring water quality, with more than **24.80 lakh** women trained to test water using simple Field Test Kits, turning water safety into a community-led effort.

Pani Samitis: Women-led **Pani Samitis** are now managing local schemes, supported by training, toolkits, and field experience, making them strong drivers of change.

Training: Alongside this, regular training programmes, awareness campaigns, and communication activities are helping communities adopt sustainable practices and bring positive behavioural changes.

Nal Jal Mitra Programme (NJMP): The **NJMP** has been started by MoJS in collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) to train local people as "Nal Jal Mitras.

- These trained workers operate village water systems and handle minor repairs and maintenance.
- The plan is to have at least one, preferably two, **Nal Jal Mitras** in every Gram Panchayat to keep water supply running smoothly.

Key Achievements:

Initial: In 2019 only 3.23 crore homes out of nearly 19 crore rural households had access to tap water.

Expansion: As of July 2025, more than **15.69 crore** rural households have been connected to tap water, covering 81% of rural India. Till now, over 2.63 lakh villages and 191 districts have been declared **Har Ghar Jal**.

Coverage: Tap water has now reached more than 9.5 lakh schools and 10 lakh Anganwadi centres, ensuring safe drinking water for children. In the 112 Aspirational Districts, tap water coverage has gone up to **79.32%**.

Reduction in fluoride-affected areas: The number of fluoride-affected habitations has dropped sharply from 7,996 in 2019 to only 248 in 2025, protecting people from serious health risks.

Testing Infrastructure: Across the country, there are about **2,775 laboratories** for testing drinking water quality at the State, District, Sub-division, and Block levels, including 591 laboratories within water treatment plants.

About Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS):

Union Minister– Chandrakant Raghunath (C R) Patil (Constituency-Navasari, Gujarat)

Ministers of State (**MoS**)– Veeranna Somanna (Constituency- Tumakuru, Karnataka); Raj Bhushan Choudhary (Constituency- Muzaffarpur, Bihar)

NTPC becomes 1st PSU to Adopt Global Standard for Power Supply Continuity

In August 2025, **NTPC Limited**(formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited), India's largest power producing company, has become the **1st** Public Sector Undertaking (**PSU**) in the Indian power sector to adopt a comprehensive Business Continuity Plan (**BCP**) aligned with International

Organization for Standardization (**ISO**) **22301:2019**, global standard for Business Continuity Management Systems (BCMS).

- This move aims to bolster NTPC's ability to ensure uninterrupted power generation and supply under all circumstances.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** To Adopt BCP for Power Continuity
- ✓ **Entity:** NTPC Limited
- ✓ **Significance:** 1st PSU to Adopt BCP
- ✓ **Aligns with:** ISO 22301:2019

About Business Continuity Plan (BCP):

Designed for: It is a formal set of guidelines which help organisations in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disruptions such as: natural disasters, cyberattacks, supply chain issues, or technical breakdowns while protecting employees and assets.

ISO Standard: ISO 22301:2019 outlines internationally accepted requirements for such plans, focusing on prevention, readiness, coordinated response, and continual improvement.

Periodic Risk Assessments/Evaluation: BCP features regular risk assessments, disaster recovery drills, backup communication systems, and coordinated response protocols.

- It also features mechanisms for continuous review and improvement to address emerging risks in energy sector.

FAITH Unveiled 'Tourism Vision 2047' to Boost India's Tourism Economy to USD 3 Trillion

The Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (**FAITH**), apex body of travel and hospitality industry in India, has unveiled its '**Tourism Vision 2047**', a roadmap designed to boost India's tourism economy to **USD 3 trillion** by 2047.

- It was unveiled at its FAITH Conclave 2025 held under the theme '**Indian Tourism-Invincible Spirit**', from August 12 to 13, 2025 at Taj Palace in New Delhi, Delhi.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Release of 'Tourism Vision 2047'
- ✓ **Unveiled by:** FAITH
- ✓ **Where?** FAITH Conclave 2025 in New Delhi, Delhi
- ✓ **Theme:** 'Indian Tourism-Invincible Spirit'
- ✓ **Key Targets:** To achieve USD trillion tourism economy; attract 100 million inbound tourists; provide 20 billion domestic visits; and generate 200 million tourism-related jobs
- ✓ **Increase Tourism Sector Contribution:** from 5% to 10% of India's GDP (by 2047)

About Tourism Vision 2047:

Key Targets: The newly unveiled roadmap also aims to attract 100 million inbound tourists, generate 20 billion domestic visits, 200 million tourism-related jobs and USD 400 billion in forex earnings.

GDP: The primary objective of the roadmap is to double the tourism sector's share of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), **from existing 5% to 10%** over the next 20 years (by 2047).

Global Ranking Target: Position India among the top five countries in the World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index.

Key Pillars: The roadmap is based on the 4 main pillars: Policy Reforms, International and Domestic Marketing, Infrastructure Development and Sustainability.

Indian Railways Installs First Removable Solar Panel System Between Tracks

On 15th August 2025, the **Ministry of Railways** (MoR) announced a major step in green energy innovation as Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)-based **Banaras Locomotive Works** (BLW) commissioned **India's first removable solar panel system** installed between railway tracks. The pilot project was inaugurated on Independence Day 2025 at BLW's Line No. 19.

- This marks a new initiative towards achieving **net-zero carbon emissions** under Indian Railways (**IR**).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Banaras Locomotive Works commissioned India's first removable solar panel system between railway tracks
- ✓ **Installed capacity:** 15 KWp (28 panels, 70 m)
- ✓ **Estimated annual generation:** 3.21 lakh units/km

About the First Removable Solar Panel:

System Details: The 70-metre system consists of **28 panels** with an installed capacity of **15 KWp** (Kilowatt Peak), offering **220 KWp per kilometre** power density and **880 units per kilometre per day** energy density.

MoP Plans to Develop 97 GW Coal-fired Power Capacity by FY35

In August 2025, Union Minister **Shripad Yesso Naik**, Ministry of Power (MoP) in a written response to a query in Rajya Sabha (Upper House of the Parliament) informed that the Government of India (GoI) has revised upwards its target to develop an additional **97 Giga Watt (GW)** coal and lignite-based electricity generation capacity by Financial Year 2034-35 (**FY35**), up from the previous target of 90 GW by FY32.

- This upward revision of target will help in achieving the required **307 GW** of thermal (coal and lignite) installed capacity by **FY35**.
- This expansion will also help in realizing India's ambitious target of **500 GW** of Renewable Energy (RE) capacity by **2030** and Net Zero target by 2070.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** To develop additional 97 GW coal-fired power capacity
- ✓ **Announced by:** Union Minister Shripad Yesso Naik, MoP
- ✓ **Target Year:** FY35
- ✓ **Previous Projection:** 90 GW by FY32
- ✓ **Overall Target:** 307 GW of thermal installed capacity by FY35

Scenario of Thermal Installed Capacity in India:

Previous Projections: Previously, the GoI had estimated that **nearly 283 GW** of coal and lignite-based installed capacity would be required to meet India's coal load requirement by FY32.

- Later, In November 2023, MoP proposed to set up an additional minimum 80 GW coal-based thermal capacity by FY32.

Electricity Generation Capacity: As of June 2025, the installed electricity generation capacity in India stands at **485 GW**.

Power Projection for FY32: According to the National Electricity Plan (NEP) (Generation) published in May 2023, India's installed generation capacity is expected to reach **874 GW** by **FY32**.

Progress in Thermal Installed Power Capacity: Union MoS Naik has further informed that thermal capacity of nearly 11.680 GW has already been commissioned between April 2023 and June 2025.

- He further mentioned that a capacity of 38.935 GW (including 5.695 GW of stressed thermal power projects) is currently under construction and also, contracts for 15.440 GW capacity have been awarded and due for construction.

Projection Related to EV: According to the mid-term review of the 20th Electric Power Survey (EPS), the electricity demand due to Electric Vehicle (EV) is expected to be **63,651 Million Units (MU)** (accounting for nearly 2.35% of projected total demand) by FY32.

About Ministry of Power (MoP):

Union Minister- Manohar Lal Khattar (Constituency- Karnal, Haryana)

Minister of State (MoS)- Shripad Yesso Naik (Constituency- North Goa, Goa)

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Announced Nationwide Roll Out of IT 2.0- APT

In August 2025, Union Minister **Jyotiraditya Madhavrao (M.) Scindia**, Ministry of Communications officially announced the nationwide rollout of Advanced Postal Technology (**APT**) by the India Post or the Department of Posts (DoP).

- A **Rs.5,800 crore** project under India's Information Technology (IT 2.0) program, building on Project 1.0, enabling faster, smarter, and customer-centric postal services.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Nationwide rollout of IT 2.0-APT by Indian Post
- ✓ **Announced by:** Union Minister Jyotiraditya Madhavrao (M.) Scindia
- ✓ **Investment Cost:** Rs 5,800 crore
- ✓ **Program:** India's Information Technology (IT 2.0) program
- ✓ **Developed by:** CEPT under DoP, MoC
- ✓ **Hosted on:** MeghRaj 2.0 cloud platform

About IT 2.0-APT:

Development: This new system was designed and developed indigenously by the Centre for Excellence in Postal Technology (CEPT) under the DoP, MoC.

Hosted by: APT is hosted on **MeghRaj 2.0 cloud platform** of the Government of India (GoI), and is supported by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

Key Features: It offers some unique features such as: single, unified user interface, Quick Response (QR)-code-based payments, One Time Password Time (OTP)-based delivery, and 10-digit alphanumeric Digital Postal Index Number (DIGPIN) to improve delivery accuracy, among others.

Roll Out: Executed in phases across 23 postal circles, beginning with a pilot in Karnataka (May–June 2025) and completed on August 4, 2025, covering over 1.70 lakh offices.

IEPFA Opens 3 Niveshak Seva Kendra in Hyderabad, Telangana

In August 2025, the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (**IEPFA**) which works under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MoCA) has successfully opened **3 Niveshak Seva Kendras** in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Opening of 3 Niveshak Kendras
- ✓ **Where?** Hyderabad, Telangana
- ✓ **Locations:** KFin Technologies Ltd., BSE Hyderabad Office, and NSE of India Limited
- ✓ **Opened by:** IEPFA
- ✓ **Purpose:** To facilitate faster and smooth services to investors
- ✓ **Collaboration with:** SEBI, CDSL, NSDL, BSE and NSE

About 3 Niveshak Seva Kendras:

Collaborating Agencies: The centres were launched in partnership with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL), National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL), Bombay Stock Exchange Ltd (BSE), and National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE).

Newly Opened Centres: The new centres are operational between 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, situated at different locations in Hyderabad i.e. KFin Technologies Ltd., BSE Hyderabad Office, and NSE of India Limited.

Key Services: These centres offered various services such as: direct facilitation of unpaid dividend transfers (pending for last 6 to 7 years), seamless updates of KYC and nomination details,

- Update bank details with user Depository Participant (DP) to receive unpaid dividends, and
- Submit Investor Service Request (ISR)-1 or ISR-2 or ISR-3 forms to update Know Your Customer (KYC), once these forms are updated, all pending dividends will be credited.

EPFO Hikes Ex-Gratia Amount to Rs.15 Lakhs Under Death Relief Fund from April 1,2025

In August 2025, the Employees Provident Fund Organization (**EPFO**), under the Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoL&E), announced the hike of **ex-gratia** benefit under its Death Relief Fund for Central Board employees to **Rs.15 lakhs**, up from **Rs.8.80 lakhs**, with effect from **April 1, 2025**.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Increases Ex-Gratia Amount under Death Relief Fund
- ✓ **Who?** Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)
- ✓ **Whom?** Central Board employees
- ✓ **Amount:** From Rs. 8.80 lakhs to Rs.15 lakhs
- ✓ **Effective:** From April 1, 2025
- ✓ **Ex-gratia amount:** 5% annual increment from April 1, 2026

EPFO Death Relief Fund Update:

Disbursal: The ex-gratia amount will be disbursed to the family members (nominee or legal heirs) of the deceased employee of the Central Board from the Staff Welfare Fund.

Annual Increase: EPFO has announced that the ex-gratia amount will increase by **5%** annually from **April 1, 2026**, to keep pace with inflation and rising living costs.

Simplification: EPFO, with an aim to streamline the procedures for subscribers, has nullified the need for No Guardianship Certificate when settling Provident Fund (PF) claims for minor children.

- The procedure for joint declarations has been streamlined.

GoM accepts Centre's GST proposal, to recommend scrapping of 12%, 28% slabs

In August 2025, the Group of Ministers (**GoM**) on Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate rationalisation, headed by **Samrat Choudhary**, Deputy Chief Minister (DyCM) of Bihar, accepted the Government of India (GoI)'s proposal to reduce the current four-slab structure to **two-slab structure** i.e. 5% and 18%.

- This represents a major milestone in the reform of the indirect tax system.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** GoM meeting on GST
- ✓ **Chaired by:** Samrat Choudhary
- ✓ **New Tax Slabs:** 5% (merit goods); 18% (standard goods)
- ✓ **Proposed Shift:**
- ✓ 99% of items at 12% to 5%
- ✓ 90% of items at 28% to 18%
- ✓ 40% GST slab earmarked for sin & luxury goods

Proposed GST Rate Rationalisation Framework:

Members of GoM: The six member GoM includes Uttar Pradesh (UP) Finance Ministers (FM) Suresh Kumar Khanna, Rajasthan Health Minister (HM) Gajendra Singh, West Bengal (WB) FM Chandrima Bhattacharya, Karnataka Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, and Kerala FM K N Balagopal.

Proposed Structure: The existing four-rate GST structure of **5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%** is proposed to be replaced with a simplified two-rate system, **5%** for merit goods and **18%** for standard items.

- Under this reform, 99% of items currently taxed at 12% would be shifted to the 5%, while 90% of those under the 28% bracket would move to 18%.
- The panel proposed that 40% GST slab has been earmarked for sin and luxury goods under the new GST framework.

Health and Life insurance: The GoM also reviewed the GoI's proposal to exempt GST on health and life insurance for individuals, which could lead to a revenue impact of around Rs. 9,700 crores annually.

Impact: The rate rationalisation is expected to simplify the indirect tax system and also ensuring relief for households, farmers and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (**MSMEs**).

Next Step – GST Council Review: The GoM's recommendations will be forwarded to the GST Council, chaired by the Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Finance (MoF) and comprising representatives from all states.

- The Council will examine the proposals in its upcoming meeting before making a final decision.

About Goods and Services Tax (GST) :

GST: The GST is a Value-Added Tax (VAT) applied to most goods and services supplied for domestic consumption.

Background: The idea of introducing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India was first proposed in 2000, when then Prime Minister (PM) Atal Bihari Vajpayee set up a committee to design a GST model.

- The task force, headed by Vijay L. Kelkar, Advisor to the Finance Ministry, concluded that GST would significantly improve India's tax structure.

Introduction: It was introduced in India on **1st July 2017** through the **101st Constitutional Amendment Act**, marking one of the biggest indirect tax reforms in the country.

Global Adoption : The GST was first implemented as a tax regime in 1954 in France. Over time, it was gradually adopted by several other countries.

UIDAI Introduces Aadhaar-Based Authentication Framework for Cooperative Banks

On August 21, 2025, the Unique Identification Authority of India (**UIDAI**), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), introduced a new framework to onboard Cooperative banks and enable them to deliver **Aadhaar-based authentication** services as part of the observance of the International Year of Cooperatives (**IYC2025**).

- The initiative marks a significant step towards expanding digital inclusion in rural and semi-urban areas.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of new Aadhaar-based authentication framework
- ✓ **Who?** Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)
- ✓ **Whom?** For Cooperative banks
- ✓ **Purpose:** To deliver Aadhaar-based authentication services
- ✓ **Coverage:** 34 SCBs, 352 DCCBs
- ✓ **Registration:** Authentication User Agencies (AUA) and eKYC User Agencies (KUA).

Authentication Framework:

Development: The framework, developed in close consultation with Ministry of Cooperation, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**NABARD**), National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**), and Cooperative banks.

Coverage: The framework encompasses all 34 State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) and 352 District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) across India.

Registration: Under the new framework, only the SCBs will be directly registered with UIDAI as Authentication User Agencies (**AUA**) and electronic Know Your Customer (eKYC) User Agencies (**KUA**).

- Through this move, DCCBs can seamlessly use the Aadhaar authentication application and Information Technology (IT) infrastructure of their respective SCBs, eliminating the need for DCCBs to develop or maintain separate IT systems.

Services: The new framework allows cooperative banks to offer Biometric eKYC and face authentication for secure and hassle-free onboarding of customers, and Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (**AePS**) and Aadhaar Payment Bridge(APB).

- With this move, customers of the banks are benefitted as subsidies and welfare payments are directly credited into their cooperative bank accounts using Aadhaar.

About Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI):

Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) – Bhuvnesh Kumar

Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi

Established – 2009

I-T Bill 2025 gets Presidential assent, new Act to be effective from April 1, 2026

In August 2025, the President **Droupadi Murmu** has given approval to the Income-Tax Act (I-T Act), 2025 and the same was notified by the Ministry of Law and Justice (MoLJ) through a gazette notification.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Income Tax Act, 2025 Approved
- ✓ **Approved by :** President Droupadi Murmu
- ✓ **Effective from:** April 01, 2026
- ✓ **Replaces:** Income Tax Act, 1961
- ✓ **Key Structural Changes:**
 - Sections reduced: 819 – 536
 - Chapters reduced: 47 – 23
 - Word count reduced: 5.12 lakh -2.6 lakh
- ✓ **Major Change:** Follow Tax Year.

Background:

Drafting & Reintroduction: The new Income-Tax Bill was drafted in a record 6 months, involving nearly 75,000 person-hours, and first introduced during the Budget Session in February 2025.

- After the Government of India(GoI) withdrew the original Bill on August 8, 2025, it was reintroduced with 566 recommendations of the Select Committee.

Approval: The Lok Sabha passed the Bill on August 11, 2025, and the Rajya Sabha returned it the next day without any amendments.

About Income-Tax Act (I-T Act), 2025:

Implementation : The new law will come into effect from **April 01, 2026**.

- The new law will replace the decades old **I-T Act, 1961**, with a modern and simpler version to enhance ease of compliance.

Key Features: The new act does not impose any new tax rate and removes redundant provisions.

Structure: The number of sections reduced from 819 in I-T Act, 1961 to **536** and the number of chapters from 47 to **23**.

Modern Tools: The total word count has been brought down from 5.12 lakh to 2.6 lakh.

- For the first time, the Act introduces 39 new tables and 40 new formulas for clarity and ease of reference.

Major Change: A major change in the I-T Act, 2025 is the renaming of the Assessment Year (AY) and Financial Year (FY) to '**Tax Year**', to avoid confusions.

Key Provisions:

- Retains existing **tax slabs** (no rate changes), but structures them more logically.
- Introduces a **Rs.12 lakh** annual Basic Exemption Limit (BEL) with refined slab arrangements for middle-income taxpayers.
- Implements Faceless, Digital-First Assessments (**FDFA**) to minimize human interface.
- Provides clarifications on House Property (HP) deductions, Standard Deduction (SD), Pre-Construction Interest (PCI), Commuted Pension (CP), Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) certificates, taxation of Anonymous Donations (AD), and rules on Vacant Commercial Property (VCP).

About Income Tax in India:

Origin: Income tax was first introduced in India in 1860 by Sir James Wilson.

- A new Income Tax Act was passed in April 1918, introducing several changes. The 1922 Act became a milestone, shaping the modern tax structure. After numerous amendments, the Income Tax Act, 1961 was enacted in consultation with the Ministry of Law (MoL), providing a uniform framework for income taxation in India.

Constitutional Basis: Income tax in India is governed by **Entry 82** of the Union List under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India.

- This empowers the GoI to levy and collect taxes on non-agricultural income.

Administering Authority: The Central Board of Direct Taxes (**CBDT**), under the Department of Revenue (DoR), Ministry of Finance (MoF), is the administrative authority.

- It is responsible for policy formulation, administration, and enforcement of income tax laws.

GoI Constituted Rajiv Gauba-led Panels to Drive Next-Gen Reforms and Viksit Bharat Goals

In August 2025, the Government of India (**GoI**) constituted two High-Powered Groups (**HPGs**) of secretaries, technocrats, and economists, chaired by **Rajiv Gauba**, full-time member of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) and former Cabinet Secretary.

- These HPGs were formed after Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's 2025 Independence speech, where he emphasized the need for next-generation reforms and announced the formation of a task force for it.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Formation two High-Powered Groups (HPGs)
- ✓ **Headed by:** Rajiv Gauba
- ✓ **Purpose:** To drive next-gen reforms, achieve Viksit Bharat Goals and non-financial sector reforms
- ✓ **Other Members:** Secretaries of DPITT, MSME, Expenditure, and Power; DGs of FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM

About High-Powered Groups (HPGs):

Panel 1: Tasked with driving the **Viksit Bharat vision**, this panel aims to transform India into a developed nation by 2047.

Panel 2: Focused on executing **regulatory reforms** in the non-financial sector, this panel seeks to boost economic competitiveness and improve the ease of doing business.

Composition of HPGs: The newly formed groups comprises the secretaries of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**) under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoCI); Expenditure, Ministry of Finance (MoF); and Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME); and Ministry of Power (MoP).

- These groups will include the Director Generals (DGs) of industry chambers such as: Confederation of Indian Industry (**CII**), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (**FICCI**) and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (**ASSOCHAM**).

- HPGs also include industry leaders like: **Dr. Pawan Kumar**, Chairman of Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation (IN-SPACe), Goenka; Human Resources(HR) firm head **Manish Sabharwal**; and **Janmejay Sinha**, Chairperson of Boston Consulting Group India, as members of one of the committees.

Oversight: These panels are closely collaborating with ministerial committees chaired by Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs(MHA) and Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence(MoD), providing robust political backing and facilitating faster implementation of reforms.

Deregulation: A state-level deregulation committee, headed by Cabinet Secretary TVS Swaminathan, has been established to resolve regulatory bottlenecks within the states.

Nepal Officially Joined India-led International Big Cat Alliance

In August 2025, **Nepal** has officially joined the International Big Cat Alliance (**IBCA**) which is India-led international initiative to protect **7 species** of big cats, by signing the framework agreement.

- This new development will strengthen the international collaboration for big cat conservation.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Joining of new Member of IBCA
- ✓ **New Member:** Nepal
- ✓ **Member Countries:** 13 including India
- ✓ **Nepal's Tiger Population:** from 121 (in 2009) to 355 (in 2022)
- ✓ **Launched:** April 09, 2023 by PM Narendra Modi
- ✓ **Aim:** To conserve 7 big cat species (Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma)
- ✓ **Nodal Agency:** NTCA under MoEFCC
- ✓ **IBCA Headquarters:** New Delhi, Delhi

Total Members: With the joining of Nepal, the total number of IBCA members reached to **13** (including **India**, Armenia, Bhutan, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Guinea, Liberia, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Somalia and Suriname).

- Nepal has successfully tripled its tiger population from just 121 (in 2009) **to 355 (in 2022)**, the latest census carried out so far.

About International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA):

Background: The IBCA was launched by the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on April 09, 2023, during the event 'Commemorating 50 years of Project Tiger' held in Mysuru, Karnataka.

- In February 2024, the Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved the establishment of IBCA with its headquarters in India, with budgetary support of **Rs 150 crore** for 5 years i.e. **from 2023-24 to 2028-29**.

Objective: It is an international alliance of **95** range countries as well as non-range countries, mandated to conserve **7 big cat species**, namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma.

- It also aims to foster global collaboration for the sustainable future of big cats, as well as underscores India's leadership and commitment to global wildlife conservation.

Treat-based Organisation: On January 23 2025, IBCA, headquartered in New Delhi (Delhi) attained legal status as a **treaty-based intergovernmental organisation**, after 5 countries namely: India, Nicaragua, Eswatini, Somalia, and Liberia, formally signed the Framework Agreement.

Nodal Organisation: It was formally established by the Government of India (GoI), through the nodal agency i.e. National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

About Nepal:

Capital- Kathmandu

Prime Minister (PM) – Khadga Prasad (K.P.) Sharma Oli

Currency- Nepalese Rupee (NPR)

India Releases First-ever National Guidelines for Animal Blood Transfusion, Blood Banks

In August 2025, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAH&D) released **India's first comprehensive national "Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Animal blood transfusion and blood banks".**

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Guideline for animal blood transfusion released
- ✓ **Released by:** DAHD, MoFAH&D
- ✓ **Why?** To improve standards for donor screening, blood matching, typing etc
- ✓ **Key Provisions:** State-regulated blood banks, donor eligibility, voluntary donations, One Health integration, SOPs, NVBBN roadmap, training modules
- ✓ **Innovations:** Mobile blood collection units, preservation techniques, mobile app for donor-recipient matching.

About National Guidelines for Veterinary Blood Transfusion:

Current Scenario: In India, most animal blood transfusions have so far been performed in emergency situations without SOPs for donor screening, blood typing, or storage.

Aim: The DAHD released comprehensive guidelines for veterinary blood transfusion services, aimed at bridging a critical gap in emergency animal healthcare.

Collaborative Development: The guidelines were formulated after extensive consultations with the Veterinary Council of India (VCI), veterinary universities, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutes, and State Governments (SG).

- The framework is designed to align India's veterinary transfusion practices with international best standards.

Key Provisions: The new guidelines require blood typing and cross-matching to prevent adverse reactions, set donor eligibility criteria including health and vaccination standards, and promote voluntary donations with informed consent through a Donor Rights Charter.

Key Highlights of the Guidelines & SOPs:

State-Regulated Blood Banks: Establishment of veterinary blood banks with biosafety-compliant infrastructure at the state level.

Blood Compatibility: Mandatory blood typing and cross-matching to prevent incompatibility reactions.

Donor Eligibility: Criteria covering health, vaccination, age, weight, and disease screening norms.

Voluntary Donations: Emphasis on non-remunerated donations with informed consent via a Donor Rights Charter.

Integration: Incorporation of One Health principles to manage zoonotic risks.

Procedures: SOPs, forms, and checklists for donor registration, transfusion monitoring, and adverse reaction reporting.

Future plans:

Roadmap: It lays out a roadmap for a National Veterinary Blood Bank Network (**NVBBN**) featuring digital registries, real-time inventory tracking and an emergency helpline.

- Training modules for veterinary students, postgraduate programmes, and continuing education for practitioners are also included.

Innovations: Future innovations encouraged under the guidelines include mobile blood collection units, preservation techniques for rare blood types, and mobile applications for donor-recipient matching.

Livestock of India:

Livestock Sector: India's livestock sector comprises over **537 million** animals, while companion animals number more than 125 mn.

- The combined sector contributes **5.5%** to national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and over **30%** to agricultural GDP, supporting food security and rural livelihoods.

About Veterinary Council of India (VCI):

President – Dr D C Verma

Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi

Established – 1984

GoI Sets up 3 Panels to Commemorate 150th Birth Anniversaries of Patel, Birsa Munda and birth Centenary of Vajpayee

In August 2025, the Government of India (GoI) has constituted 3 High-Level Committees (HLCs) to commemorate the **150th** birth anniversaries of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, 1st Home Minister of Independent India and famously known as 'Iron Man of India' and **Birsa Munda**, famous tribal leader; and the **100th** birth anniversary of **Atal Bihar Vajpayee**, former Prime Minister (PM) of India.

- Each committee will be chaired by **PM Narendra Modi**, and will include Chief Ministers (CMs) of various States/Union Territories (UTs) as members.
- The committees were formed through separate Gazette notifications issued by the Ministry of Culture.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Formation of HLCs
- ✓ **Ministry:** Ministry of Culture
- ✓ **Purpose:** To commemorate the birth anniversaries
- ✓ **Anniversaries:** Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (150th), Birsa Munda (150th) and Atal Bihar Vajpayee (100th)
- ✓ **HLCs chaired by:** PM Narendra Modi
- ✓ **Total Members:** HLC for Patel (124), HLC for Birsa Munda (118) and HLC for Atal Bihari Vajpayee (124)

Key Details of HLCs:

Committee for Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The committee will comprise **124 members**, including several prominent leaders such as Pratibha Patil and Ram Nath Kovind, both former Presidents of India; and M. Venkaiah Naidu, former Vice President of India.

- The committee also includes Harivansh Singh, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, and Om Birla, Speaker of the Lok Sabha. Among the Union Ministers, it features Rajnath Singh (Defence), Amit Shah (Home Affairs), and Nirmala Sitharaman (Finance). In addition, veteran politician Lal Krishan (L.K.) Advani, former Deputy Prime Minister of India, is also a member.
- The committee will comprise Governors and Lieutenant Governors (L-Gs) of 20 States/UTs; It will also have CMs of 20 states such as: Hemant Soren, CM of Jharkhand; Pinarayi Vijayan, CM of Kerala; and Revanth Reddy, CM of Telangana.

Committee for Birsa Munda: The committee will have **118 members**, including Pratibha Devisingh Patil, former President of India; Ram Nath Kovind, former President of India and Om Birla, Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

- The committee also includes Cabinet Ministers such as Union Minister Amit Shah, MHA; Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, MoF; Union Minister Rajnath Singh, MoD and 20 Governors and L-Gs.
- Other than these members, the committee will also have CMs of over 20 States/UTs same as the committee for Patel.

Committee for Atal Bihar Vajpayee: The committee will have **124 members** including former Presidents, former Deputy PM Lal Krishna(L.K) Advani, Former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu and Cabinet Ministers.

- It will also have 19 Governors and L-Gs and 17 CMs including Mamta Banerjee (West Bengal, WB); Bhagwant Mann (Punjab); Hemnat Soren (Jharkhand); and K. Siddaramaiah (Karnataka).
- The committee will also have members from different fields such as: Ranjan Gogoi, former Chief Justice of India (CJI); Spiritual Guru Ravi; Kapil Dev, former Captain of Indian Cricket Team; Azim Premji, former chairman of WIPRO, among others.

Recent Related News:

In July 2025, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) constituted a National Steering Committee (NSC) headed by Rajit Punhani, Secretary of MSDE, to oversee the implementation of the Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) upgradation scheme and the establishment of five National Centres of Excellence (CoEs) for skilling.

- The scheme will operate under a hub-and-spoke model with a target to skill over 2 million youth in five years.

C-DOT Celebrates 42nd Foundation Day in Delhi Campus

On August 25, 2025, the Centre for Development of Telematics (**C-DOT**), the Telecom Research & Development (R&D) centre under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, celebrated its **42nd Foundation Day** at its campus in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The event marked **41 years** of its establishment in **1984**.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** 42nd Foundation Day of C-DoT
- ✓ **When?** 25 August 2025
- ✓ **Where?** Delhi Campus
- ✓ **Tech Milestone:** Indigenous 4G core for BSNL; AI tool disconnected 5 crore fraudulent SIMs
- ✓ **Initiative:** 10 women-led startups in ICT received grants

Event Highlights

Inauguration: The celebrations were inaugurated by Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, Minister of State, Ministry of Communications & Rural Development, with Dr. Neeraj Mittal, Secretary (Telecom), DoT as Guest of Honour.

Achievements: C-DOT showcased its role in delivering 4G core for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited(BSNL), Artificial Intelligence(AI)-based solutions preventing 5 crore cyber fraud connections, and ongoing 6G, cybersecurity, and quantum communication research.

NIDHI: During the event, 10 women-led startups in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) received grants under National Initiative for Development and Harnessing Innovations(**NIDH**), promoting innovation and aligning with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

MoEFCC Finalised 21-Member NDA to Launch Carbon Market

In August 2025, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEFCC**), Government of India(GoI), finalized the formation of a **21-member** National Designated Authority (**NDA**) chaired by the

Secretary of MoEFCC to implement and regulate India's carbon emissions trading system under the Paris Agreement's Article 6 framework.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** National Designated Authority (**NDA**) constituted
- ✓ **By whom?** MoEFCC
- ✓ **Composition:** 21-member committee from MEA, MoS, MNRE, NITI Aayog and MoP.
- ✓ **Chaired by:** Secretary, MoEFCC
- ✓ **Purpose:** To regulate India's carbon emission trading regime

About National Designated Authority (NDA):

Statutory Requirement: Established under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (2015) to regulate carbon market activities in India.

Role & Functions: Serves as the nodal regulatory body for carbon credit trading, project approvals for Emission Reduction Units (ERUs), and monitoring compliance with national and international obligations.

Alignment: Ensures all activities meet India's sustainable development goals, country-specific criteria, and international commitments.

International Participation: Facilitates India's engagement in global carbon trading mechanisms and credit transfers.

Composition: 21-member committee chaired by Tanmay Kumar, Secretary of MoEFCC, including representatives from: Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Ministry of Steel (MoS), Ministry of Renewable Energy (MNRE), National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog and Ministry of Power (MoP).

Significance: Multi-sectoral structure ensures coordination with domestic priorities and adherence to international obligations.

Article 6 of the Paris Agreement: Defines international carbon market frameworks and emissions trading, finalised at COP29, Baku in November 2024, to enable cost-effective emission reductions for achieving Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) through market-based cooperation.

DAHD Issues Revised 'National Action Plan on Glanders' to Control and Eradicate Diseases

On August 27, 2025, the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (**DAHD**), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAH&D) has issued the '**Revised National Action Plan on Glanders** (a contagious and often fatal disease of equines)', with an aim to strengthen surveillance, prevention, control and eradication of the disease.

- The move aims to ensure compassionate treatment of working equines such as horses, mules, and donkeys.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Revised National Action Plan on Glanders issued
- ✓ **Who?** Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), MoFAH&D
- ✓ **Purpose:** To prevent, control and eradicate Glanders across India
- ✓ **Zone:** 2 km (Infected Zone), 2-10 km (Surveillance area), 10 km (Restricted area)
- ✓ **Implementation:** Jointly by states, veterinary universities, ICAR institutes with DAHD guidance
- ✓ **Lab Support:** ICAR-NRCE, Hisar (Haryana)

Background:

Glanders: It is a highly contagious and often fatal disease which primarily affects equines such as horses, mules, donkeys as well as other animals. It is caused by the bacterium **Burkholderia mallei**.

- It is notifiable under the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals (**PCICDA**) Act, 2009.

National Action Plan: The National Action Plan for Control and Eradication of Glanders in India was initially released on **July 26, 2019**, by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) (Present MoFAH&D) to curb the outbreak of glanders with a series of measures.

About Revised Action Plan:

Zone: With the aim to make containment measures more targeted, the infected zone has been reduced from 5 kilometre (km) to **2 km**, and the surveillance area has been reduced to **2-10 km** from 5-25 km.

- The restrictions for movement and testing, currently apply within a **10 km** radius which was 25 km earlier.

Surveillance: The guidelines have mandated the testing of equines in endemic regions and in high-risk areas, deployment of advanced laboratory diagnostics, and frequent field inspections to ensure timely detection and containment.

Quarantine: It has suggested rigorous quarantine measures, restrictions on animal movement from affected areas and the requirement of health certificates indicating tested negative for glanders for participation in gatherings such as fairs, religious yatras, sports events, and interstate transport.

Implementation: The Revised Action Plan will be jointly implemented by state governments, veterinary universities, and ICAR institutes, with technical guidance and oversight from DAHD.

Response: The guidelines have introduced Standard Operating Procedures (**SOPs**) for immediate restriction of the affected premises, isolation of infected or suspected animals, strict control measures to prevent the spread of disease, and humane handling of positive cases, in coordination with the Animal Husbandry Department of States.

Training: Specialized training for veterinarians, para-veterinarians, and field staff, focusing on disease detection, reporting, and biosafety protocols.

Awareness: The awareness campaigns, aimed at horse owners, breeders, and local communities to encourage active participation in diseases surveillance and reporting.

Laboratory Support: Active collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research – National Research Centre on Equines (**ICAR-NRCE**), Hisar (Haryana) for advanced diagnostics, epidemiological studies.

About Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAH&D):

Union Minister – Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh (Constituency – Munger, Bihar)

Minister of State (MoS) – S P Singh Baghel (Constituency – Agra, Uttar Pradesh, UP); George Kurian (Rajya Sabha- Madhya Pradesh, MP)

Startup Policy Forum Launched 'IndiaAI in Action' Podcast

In August 2025, the Startup Policy Forum (**SPF**), in collaboration with the **IndiaAI Mission**, under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), launched the "**IndiaAI in Action**" podcast series in New Delhi(Delhi), showcasing how Indian startups are using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to address industry challenges and generate business and social impact.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of IndiaAI in Action Podcast
- ✓ **By Whom?** Startup Policy Forum, IndiaAI Mission
- ✓ **Objective:** Showcase AI adoption and innovation by Indian startups
- ✓ **Target Audience:** Founders, policymakers, global investors, and tech enthusiasts
- ✓ **Powered by:** Vultr, global cloud platform
- ✓ **Event:** AI Impact Summit 2026 – February 2026, New Delhi

About IndiaAI in Action Podcast:

Objective: Captures startup founders' journeys leveraging AI to scale innovation, competitiveness, and sector-specific solutions.

Content Focus: Highlights AI's transformative impact across fintech, travel, healthcare, content creation, enterprise tech, and other sectors.

Featured Founders (Season One): It consists of

- Harshil Mathur – Co-founder, Razorpay (Fintech)
- Vivek Raghavan – Co-founder, Sarvam AI (AI Research)
- Sanket Shah & Anshul Khandelwal – Co-founders, Invideo (Content Creation)
- Aloke Bajpai & Rajnish Kumar – Co-founders, ixigo (Travel)

Support: The podcast series is powered by **Vultr**, a privately-held global cloud platform supporting over 220,000 customers across 32 data centres.

AI Impact Summit 2026: Scheduled to take place in February 2026 in New Delhi, Delhi, India.

STATE NEWS

SP Goyal Officially Assumed Charge as New Chief Secretary of UP

In July, 2025, **Shashi Prakash (SP) Goyal**, currently the Additional Chief Secretary(CS) in the Chief Minister(CM)'s Secretariat, was officially assumed charge as the new **Chief Secretary (CS) of Uttar Pradesh (UP)**. He succeeded **Manoj Kumar Singh** following his retirement on July 31, 2025.

- With this, SP Goyal became the **7th CS** of the state ever since Yogi Adityanath assumed charge as CM of UP in 2017.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** SP Goyal appointed as new Chief Secretary (CS) of UP
- ✓ **Predecessor:** Manoj Kumar Singh (Retired)
- ✓ **Rank:** 7th Chief Secretary during Yogi Adityanath's tenure (since 2017)
- ✓ **Batch/Cadre:** 1989-batch IAS officer, UP cadre
- ✓ **Additional Charge:** Chairperson of PICUP; CEO of UPEIDA and UPSHA; and Project Director of UDASP, among others

Abou Shashi Prakash (SP) Goyal:

Batch & Cadre: He is a 1989-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from UP cadre.

Experience: With over eight years of service in the CM's Office, he is the state's senior-most bureaucrat and has held several crucial administrative positions.

Joint Secretary in MoE: Previously, he has served as the joint secretary with the Department of Higher Education (DoHE) under the Ministry of Education (MoE), from October 2014 to May 2017.

Additional Responsibilities: In addition to serving as CS, he will also hold the additional charge of Infrastructure and Industrial Development Commissioner, Additional Chief Secretary (Coordination), Chairperson of Pradeshiya Industrial & Investment Corporation of UP Limited (PICUP), Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of UP Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) and UP State Highways Authority (UPSHA), and Project Director of the UP Diversified Agricultural Support Project (UPDASP).

Pratyay Amrit Appointed as New Chief Secretary of Bihar

In August 2025, **Pratyay Amrit**, who is currently serving as the Development Commissioner of Bihar, was appointed as the new Chief Secretary(**CS**) of Bihar. He is scheduled to take office on September 1, 2025, succeeding **Amrit Lal Meena**, who will retire on August 31, 2025.

- He also currently holds the additional charge of Additional CS for Health and Disaster Management.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** IAS Pratyay Amrit appointed as the new Chief Secretary (CS) of Bihar

- ✓ **Effective from:** 1 September 2025
- ✓ **Predecessor:** Amrit Lal Meena
- ✓ **Batch/Cadre:** 1991 batch IAS officer from Bihar cadre

About Pratyay Amrit:

Batch & Cadre: He is a **1991-batch** Indian Administration Service (IAS) officer from Bihar cadre. He is the state's senior-most bureaucrat and has held several crucial administrative positions.

Leadership in Power Sector: In 2014, He served as the Chairman & Managing Director(CMD) of Bihar State Power Holding Company Limited (**BSPHC**).

- He successfully completed the 100% rural electrification of **39,073** villages in Bihar.

Awards: He was awarded the Prime Minister's (PM) Award for Excellence in Public Administration in 2011.

TN Government Signed 41 MoUs Worth Rs 32,554 Crore at TN Rising Conclave in Thoothukudi

In August 2025, the Government of Tamil Nadu (TN) has signed **41** Memorandums of Understanding (**MoUs**) across various sectors like: electronics, defence, aerospace, green energy, auto components, among others with various companies for investments worth around **Rs 32,554 crore**.

- These MoUs were signed in the presence of **Muthuvel Karunanidhi (M.K.) Stalin**, Chief Minister (CM) of TN and State Industries Minister T.R.B Rajaae during the inaugural 'TN Rising' Investors Conclave held at Tuticorin, Thoothukudi in TN.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** TN government signed MoUs with various companies
- ✓ **Where?** TN Rising Investors Conclave at Tuticorin in TN.
- ✓ **Total MoUs Signed:** 41 (worth around Rs 32,554 crore)
- ✓ **Sectoral Focus:** Electronics, Defence, Aerospace, Green energy, Auto components
- ✓ **Largest Commitment:** Sakshi Group plans a Rs 5,000 crore ammunition and propellants unit
- ✓ **4 Key Projects Inaugurated worth:** Rs 1,230 crore
- ✓ **Notable Inauguration:** VinFast's first electric vehicle assembly plant outside Vietnam



Key Details of MoUs:

Single Largest Investment Commitment: The TN government received the single largest commitment from the **Sakshi Group** which plans to establish an ammunition and propellants unit in Thoothukudi with an investment of **Rs 5,000 crore**.

To Setup a MMF Unit: A MoU was signed between TN government and Royal Golden Edge Group (RGE) to set up a Man Made Fibre Facility (MMF) in Thoothukudi district, with an investment of Rs 4,953 crore.

MoUs in Electronics Sector: Yeemak & Jeanvus pledged to invest Rs 3,400 crore to develop advanced electronics and defence components.

- A MoU was signed with Keynes Circuits India with investment worth Rs 4,995 crore to manufacture advanced electronic components in Tuticorin and other districts of the state.
- Also, Hyundai Kefico India has announced to invest Rs 720 crore to make auto-electronic control units in Kancheepuram district.

MoUs in Renewable Energy (RE): Mobius Energy Private Limited has committed to invest Rs 1,000 crore in solar cell and module manufacturing in Theni district, TN; while Pratiksha Green Fuels will invest Rs 1,500 crore for the manufacturing of bio-methanol and bio-char.

- A MoU was signed with JSW worth an investment of Rs 5,000 crore, for RE unit and expected to generate 3,630 jobs.

Other Key MoUs: A MoU was signed with Hwaseung Enterprise, which will invest Rs 1,720 crore in the non-leather footwear sector.

- Also, Michelin Tyres pledged to make an investment of Rs 686 crore in Tiruvallur to boost the region's industrial growth and development.
- Chennai Radha Engineering Works (CREW) has also committed an investment of Rs 1,500 crore for the shipbuilding component manufacturing project, which will generate over 1,400 jobs.

4 Key Announcements:

Setting Up Space Industrial Park: The state government announced plans to establish a 250-acre space (industrial and propellants) park in Thoothukudi (TN) district.

Formation of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV): The state government also announced to form a SPV to develop a shipyard and repair centre.

Common Facility Centre for Moringa Export: The government is also planning to set up a common facility centre in two districts of the state i.e. in Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli, at a cost of **Rs 5.59 crore** for export and cultivation of Moringa.

Setting up Zonal Unit of TNAPEX: It also plans to set up a zonal unit of TN Food Processing and Agri Export Promotion Corporation (TNAPEX) in Tirunelveli.

Inauguration of Key Projects:

Plant: During the event, TN CM M.K. Stalin inaugurated **VinFast's electric vehicle assembly plant** in Thoothukudi, marking the company's first manufacturing facility outside Vietnam.

Projects: He also inaugurated **four major projects** worth a total investment of **Rs 1,230 crore**, spanning sectors such as health-tech (Pro1 Health in Thoothukudi), bioenergy (Nanda Devi Bio Energy in Tirunelveli), food processing (Britannia in Tirunelveli), and electronics (Yeemak in Kanchipuram).

About Tamil Nadu (TN):

Chief Minister (CM)- Muthuvel Karunanidhi (M.K.) Stalin

Governor- R.N.Ravi

Capital- Chennai

National Parks (NPs)- Guindy NP, Mukurthi NP

Kerala Launches 'Heat Resilient Moodadi' Project to Tackle Extreme Heat

In August 2025, the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (**KSDMA**) launched the '**Heat Resilient Moodadi**' project in Moodadi Panchayat, Kozhikode district, Kerala, to mitigate rising temperatures due to extreme heatwaves.

- This is **Kerala's first** comprehensive **Heat Action Plan** by a **local self-government body**, aimed at regulating local temperatures and reducing the impact of climate change.

Note: The plan was initiated after Kozhikode recorded temperatures above 40°C in summer 2024.

Exam Hints:

- Initiative:** Heat Resilient Moodadi project
- Launched by:** Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA)
- Location:** Moodadi Panchayat, Kozhikode district, Kerala
- Techniques used:** Heat-reflecting paints, bamboo barriers, window shades

About the Heat Resilient Moodadi project

Development: Designed for over 1.5 years with expert inputs from Kerala Institute of Local Administration (**KILA**), hazard analysts, and KSDMA.

Implementation: Begins with pilot projects in Muchukunnu Valiya Mala and Muchukunnu North Anganwadis, eventually expanding to 32 Anganwadis, health centers, and other institutions.

Key Features: Contractors will follow guidelines promoting heat-resilient construction, including heat-reflecting paints, bamboo barriers, and shaded structures.

- **Cooling pavilions** will be installed for public relief during heatwaves.

Validation: Moodadi Panchayat declared a '**Living Lab**' for climate change by KSDMA for its proactive heat-resilience strategies.

J&K and Maharashtra Conduct First Interstate Agri Trade via eNAM

In August 2025, the **first-ever interstate agricultural trade** under the National Agriculture Market (**eNAM**) was successfully conducted between Jammu & Kashmir (**J&K**) and **Maharashtra**. A truck carrying **11 metric tonnes of apples and pears** from J&K reached the Gultekdi Agricultural Produce Market Committee (**APMC**) in Pune (Maharashtra).

- This development marks a significant step toward realizing eNAM's vision of a unified national market for agricultural commodities through **digital connectivity** and market consolidation across states

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** First interstate trade on eNAM.
- ✓ **Participants:** J&K and Maharashtra
- ✓ **eNAM:** Launched by MoA&FW, GoI.

eNAM Platform: It is Centralized portal launched by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW), Government of India (GoI), to connect APMCs nationwide for transparent price discovery, quality assurance, and reduced middlemen interference.

Benefits: Eliminates travel for traders; enables access to GoI-verified merchants pan-India. Real-time transactions replace physical mandi visits, while, farmers gain direct market access.

Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis Launches 'Garuda Drishti' to Detect Cyber Fraud and Hate Speech

In August, 2025, Chief Minister (CM) of Maharashtra **Devendra Fadnavis** launched "**Garuda Drishti**", a social media monitoring and cyber-intelligence initiative, at Police Bhavan in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of "Garuda Drishti"
- ✓ **Who?** Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis
- ✓ **Detect:** Cyber frauds, hate speech
- ✓ **Infrastructure:** Supported by a cyber lab

About Garuda Drishti:

Detection: Garuda Drishti, the Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled system, is designed to detect fraudulent cyber activities, including hate speech, fake news, communal misinformation, drug trafficking, and financial scams across social media platforms.

Prevention: It has analyzed around 30,000 social media posts, out of which approximately 650 posts were removed, to prevent tension, communal unrest, and law-and-order.

Development: The system was developed cost-effectively during the Cyber Hack 2025 Competition.

Infrastructure: Nagpur Police launched this initiative alongside a cutting-edge cyber lab equipped with 30 advanced workstations and forensic tools, including Call Data Record (CDR) analysis systems, mobile device examination units, and malware detection modules.

Karnataka Launches KATALYST to Set Up 500 New GCCs by 2029

On August 12, 2025, the Government of **Karnataka** launched "**KATALYST**", a new Ease of Doing Business(EoDB) Cell, to fast-track the establishment of Global Capacity Centres (**GCCs**), in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

- It was launched ahead of Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2025 which is scheduled to be held in November 2025.

Exam Hints:

- What? Launch of KATALYST
- Who? Karnataka
- Purpose: To set up 500 new GCCs by 2029
- Policy: GCC Policy 2024-2029

About KATALYST:

Aim: The launch of KATALYST, aligned with GCC Policy 2024-2029 of Karnataka, aims to attract 500 new GCCs by 2029, bringing the total to 1,000 GCCs.

- It also seeks to simplify new investments, accelerate the establishment of GCCs, and strengthen the collaboration between GCCs and the wider innovation ecosystem.

Job Creation: The initiative will create approximately 3.5 lakh new jobs and generate economic output of USD 50 billion.

GCCs: These are offshore units, set up by Multinational Companies (MNCs) to carry out strategic functions such as Information and Technology (IT), Research & Development (R&D), engineering, analytics, finance, and other business operations to support the global operation of the parent company.

MHA Approves Renaming of Jalalabad in UP to 'Parashurampuri'

On August 20, 2025, Ministry of Home Affairs (**MHA**) approved the renaming of **Jalalabad town** in Shahajanpur district of Uttar Pradesh (UP) as '**Parashurampuri**', celebrating the cultural and religious heritage of the town.

Exam Hints:

- What? Renaming of a town in Uttar Pradesh (UP)
- Change: From Jalalabad town to Parashurampuri
- Approved by? Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)
- Significance: The town is identified as the birthplace of Lord Parashuram.

Renaming of Jalalabad to Parashurampuri:

Significance: The town has been identified as the birthplace of **Lord Parashuram**, a Hindu mythological character.

Background: The UP Municipal Board had passed resolutions in March 2018 and September 2023 to initiate the renaming of the town.

- Subsequently, the UP government submitted a formal proposal on June 27, 2025, after which the MHA issued its "no objection" approval for the renaming.

Impact: The renaming of the town to Parashurampuri will boost the religious tourism linked to Lord Parashuram, strengthen the cultural identity of the town, and attract the attention of Government of UP and GOI for heritage development projects.

Odisha Signed 3 MoUs to boost Heritage, Adventure & Buddhist Tourism

In August 2025, the Tourism department of **Odisha** Government has signed **3** Memorandum of Understandings (**MoU**) with **3** premier Indian organisation: Indian Institute of Technology Madras (**IIT-M**);

National Institute of Water Sports (**NIWS, Goa**); and the Light of Buddhadharma Foundation International (**LBDFI**) to promote heritage conservation, adventure tourism, and Buddhist pilgrimage circuits in the state.

Exam Hints:

- What? Signing of 3 MoUs

- ✓ **Entities :** Odisha's Tourism Department and 3 Indian organisations (IIT-M, NIWS-Goa, and LBDFI)
- ✓ **Objective:** To promote heritage conservation, adventure tourism, and Buddhist pilgrimage circuits in the state.

Key Details of MoUs:

MoU with IIT-M: As per the provisions of MoU signed with Chennai(Tamil Nadu, TN) based IIT-M, Odisha will use advanced scientific techniques for structural audits and conservation of heritage monuments. This strategic partnership will cover detailed documentation, material testing, geo-technical investigations and preparations of project reports.

- It also features sustainable reuse plans and project management consultancy support, aimed to ensure long-term preservation of historic sites of the state.

MoU with NIWS, Goa: This MoU aimed to enhance safety and standardization in adventure and water tourism.

As per the MoU, NIWS will facilitate technical guidance on safety measures, perform safety evaluations, and deliver training programs for tourism operators and lifeguards.

MoU with LBDFI: Bihar's LBDFI in collaboration with Odia Language, Literature & Culture Department aims to revive the state's rich Buddhist heritage and integrate it with religious tourism .

Assam Govt Approves Rs.600 Crore Nelco Partnership to Boost Youth Skill Development

On August 22, 2025, Chief Minister (CM) of Assam, **Himanta Biswa Sarma**, approved a Rs.600 crore project in collaboration with **Nelco Limited**, a subsidiary of Tata Power, to develop **skill education centres** across Assam under the Samagra Shiksha Axom (**SSA**) framework.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Project Approval in Assam
- ✓ **Who?** Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma
- ✓ **Partners:** Government of Assam and Nelco Limited
- ✓ **Aim:** To develop skill education centres
- ✓ **Framework:** Samagra Shiksha Axom (SSA) framework
- ✓ **Budget:** Rs. 600 Crores
- ✓ **Funding:** Tata Group: 75%, Assam Government: 25%

About Hub-Spoke Model for Vocational Education:

Aim: The partnership aims to revolutionize vocational education across Assam through the implementation of **50 hubs and 500 spokes** (smaller hubs) model.

Features: In the first phase, 10 hubs and 70 spokes, located within secondary and higher-secondary schools, approved by SSA. Hubs will offer 10 futuristic trades or sectors and will have two trainers.

- Spokes will offer 2 trades per site, each staffed with two trainers. The hub and spoke will be connected through satellite communication, provided by Nelco.

Funding: The Tata Group will invest 75% of the total budget, and the remaining 25% of the investment will be made by the Government of Assam.

Tripura CM Dr. Manik Saha Unveils Vision Document "Viksit Tripura-2047"

On August 22, 2025, Chief Minister (CM) of Tripura, **Dr. Manik Saha**, unveiled "**Viksit Tripura-2047**", a strategic road map of Tripura, at Pragya Bhavan in Agartala, Tripura.

- The vision document presents a detailed roadmap to make Tripura a self-reliant and thriving state by 2047, in alignment with the national "Viksit Bharat 2047" objective.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Release of Vision document of Tripura
- ✓ **Released by ?** Tripura CM Dr. Manik Saha

- ✓ **Document:** "Viksit Tripura-2047"
- ✓ **Theme:** "Unnata Tripura, Shrestha Tripura"
- ✓ **Alignment:** With Viksit Bharat @2047

About Viksit Tripura-2047:

Theme: The vision document embraces the theme "**Unnata Tripura, Shrestha Tripura**" (Advanced Tripura, Best Tripura).

Goals: The launch aims to strengthen the economy of Tripura, enhance per capita income and the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) targets, to achieve 100% usage of Renewable Energy (RE), 100% literacy, to promote women empowerment across Tripura, and expand international trade and outreach.

Economic Growth: Tripura's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) has grown by 14.21%, with a target to reach **USD 124 billion by 2047**.

Partner: The vision document has been prepared following National Institution for Transforming India(NITI) Aayog's guidelines, providing a structured framework to achieve Tripura's ambitious development goals.

Maharashtra Signs MoU with GIBC to Strengthen Business Partnership Between UK and India

On August 22, 2025, the Government of **Maharashtra** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with Global India Business Corridor (**GIBC**) to enhance the business partnership between India and the United Kingdom (**UK**).

- The MoU was signed in the presence of Maharashtra Chief Minister (CM) **Devendra Fadnavis** in Mumbai(Maharashtra).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** MoU signed
- ✓ **Entities:** Maharashtra and Global India Business Corridor (GIBC)
- ✓ **Purpose:** To enhance business ties between India and the UK
- ✓ **Support:** GIBC will facilitate trade, investment, and innovation in UK and Europe.

About Maharashtra-GIBC Partnership:

Role of GIBC: Under the MoU, GIBC will act as an extended arm of the Industries Department of Maharashtra in the UK and Europe, facilitating trade, investment and innovation.

Target: The MoU targets collaboration in sectors such as Banking & Finance, Infrastructure, Manufacturing, Technology, Renewable Energy (RE), Healthcare, and Education, promoting seamless business engagement and global collaboration.

Delhi and Oslo Launch Joint Initiative 'DOSTI' to Accelerate the Adoption of Urban E-Mobility Solutions

On August 25, 2025, Pankaj Kumar Singh, the Transport Minister of Delhi, announced the Delhi-Oslo Smart Transport Initiative (**DOSTI**), a joint initiative between Delhi (India) and Oslo (Norway) at the 3rd India Clean Transportation Summit (**ICTS 2025**), with an aim to accelerate the adoption of urban electronic (e)-mobility solutions.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Announcement of Partnership
- ✓ **Announced by:** Pankaj Kumar Singh, Delhi transport minister
- ✓ **Participating Cities:** Delhi (India) and Oslo (Norway)
- ✓ **Initiative Name:** Delhi-Oslo Smart Transport Initiative (DOSTI)
- ✓ **Purpose:** To speed up the adoption of urban e-mobility solutions

About Delhi-Oslo Smart Transport Initiative (DOSTI):

Significance: The name “DOSTI” means “friendship” in Hindi, symbolizing cooperation in sustainable transport innovation.

Collaboration: The DOSTI initiative will enable Delhi and Oslo to share expertise in areas such as electric bus deployment, public charging infrastructure, and clean construction practices.

- This knowledge exchange is expected to help Delhi expand its EV ecosystem more effectively.

Focus: The partnership aims to achieve a fleet of approximately 6,000 electric buses by 2025, expanding further to 7,000–8,000 by February 2026, up from the current 3,400 e-buses in Delhi.

- Additionally, the initiative will explore **zero-emission solutions** beyond road transport, including construction machinery.

GOVT SCHEMES

CENTRAL GOVT SCHEMES

MHI Extends PM E-DRIVE Scheme Tenure by 2 Years From 31 March 2026 to 31 March 2028

On August 8, 2025, Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI), announced the extension of the Pradhan Mantri Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme tenure by two years till **31st March 2028**.

- Earlier, the scheme was notified for a period of two years till **31st March 2026**, While incentives for electric two- and three-wheelers will cease in March 2026, subsidies for other vehicle categories, including e-buses, e-trucks and e-ambulances, will continue subject to fund availability until March 2028.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** PM E-DRIVE Scheme duration has been extended
- ✓ **Extended Duration:** 2 years from 31st March 2026 to 31st March 2028.
- ✓ **Scheme under:** Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)
- ✓ **Budget:** Rs.10,900 crores
- ✓ **Target segments:** e-buses, trucks, ambulances, 2-wheelers, 3-wheelers, charging infrastructure, and testing facilities

About PM E-DRIVE Scheme:

Aim: The PM E-DRIVE Scheme aims to accelerate the adoption of Electric Vehicles (EVs), establish robust charging infrastructure, and strengthen the EV manufacturing ecosystem in India.

Incentives: Buyers of electric two- and three-wheelers are eligible for demand incentives of Rs 5,000 per (Kilo Watt hour) kWh in FY25 and Rs 2,500 per kWh in Financial Year 2026, capped at 15 per cent of the ex-factory vehicle price.

Launch: It was notified on September 29, 2024, by the MHI, Government of India (GOI) with the Budget outlay of Rs.10,900 crores and an aim to promote faster adoption of electric mobility in India, particularly for commercial and public transport segments.

- E-buses, supported by a Rs.4,391 crore allocation for deploying 14,028 units, require a post selection process from March 2026, underscoring the need for additional time.

About the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI):

Union Minister – H.D. Kumaraswamy (Constituency – Mandya, Karnataka)

Minister of State (MoS) – Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma (Constituency – Narsapuram, Andhra Pradesh)

Overview of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana: A Flame that Warms the Heart

As of July 2025, the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)** has provided over **10.33 crore** Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) connections, empowering rural households with access to clean cooking fuel.

- The union cabinet approved a subsidy of **Rs.300** per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to 9 refills per year and **Rs.2200** government support per connection for the beneficiaries of the PMUY during Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26), at an expenditure of **Rs. 12,000 crore**.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** PMUY – LPG connections
- ✓ **Provided:** 10.33 cr LPG
- ✓ **Launched:** 2016, phase -2: 2021
- ✓ **Top states:** UP, Bihar, WB
- ✓ **SDG:** 3, 5, 7, 13

PMUY Objectives:

Objective: The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), introduced the PMUY as a flagship scheme for providing LPG connections to women from Below Poverty Line (**BPL**) households.

- The scheme was launched on 1st May 2016 in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

Ujjwala-Phase 1: This phase aimed to provide 5 crore LPG connections to women from BPL households.

- Subsequently, the target was enhanced to 8 crore connections.
- This scheme initially provided financial support of Rs. 1,600 per connection by the government.

Ujjwala 2.0: This 2nd phase was launched on 10th August 2021 to expand the coverage and reach of the distribution by another **1 crore** households.

- It aimed to fill the gaps left by the 1st phase and ensure last-mile delivery of clean cooking fuel.

Eligibility criteria: The connection must be issued exclusively to adult women aged 18 years or above.

- The household must not already have an LPG connection and Eligible women must belong to the following categories:

SC (Scheduled Caste) /ST (Scheduled Tribe) households	Beneficiary of PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana)	Most Backward Classes (MBC)
Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)	Tea and Ex Tea Garden Tribes	Forest dwellers
Residents of Islands or river islands	SECC-listed households	

State-wise reach of PMUY:

The number of PMUY scheme holders state wise as of December 2024:

Uttar Pradesh (UP): UP is leading with 1.85 crore (cr) households due to its large rural population and high LPG adoption.

Bihar: Around 1.16 cr households, driven by widespread rural uptake of clean cooking fuel.

West Bengal (WB): Approximately 1.23 cr households, with strong outreach to underserved communities.

Madhya Pradesh (MP): About 88.4 lakh households, empowering women in tribal and rural regions.

Maharashtra: Nearly 52.18 lakh households have gained access to clean cooking fuel through the scheme.

Impact of PMUY:

The PMUY has accelerated India's progress in attaining the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDG):

SDG 3 – Good health and well-being

SDG 5 – Gender Equality

SDG 7 – Affordable and clean energy

SDG 13 – Combat climate change

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Releases Rs.3,200 Crores To Farmers under PMFBY

In August 2025, Union Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoAFW) announced the digital transfer of insurance payout worth **Rs.3,200 crores** directly through Digital Benefit Transfer (DBT) to the bank accounts of approximately 35 lakh farmers at an event held in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, marking 9 years of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

- It is the first installment, transferred under the PMFBY, with approximately Rs.8,000 crores to be released in next installments.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Rs.3,200 Crores transferred directly into the bank account of 35 lakh farmers
- ✓ **Scheme:** Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)
- ✓ **Announced by:** Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, MoAFW
- ✓ **Scheme launch:** 2016
- ✓ **Purpose:** To protect the farmers from financial loss due to crop failure by natural calamities, pests, and diseases.

Event Highlights:

Key Dignitaries: Several dignitaries, including Minister of State (MoS) Bhagirath Choudhary, MoAFW; Chief Minister (CM) of Rajasthan Bhajanlal Sharma, were also present.

States: Under the state-wise claim distribution, Farmers in Madhya Pradesh (MP) received Rs. 1,156 crores, farmers in Rajasthan received Rs.1,121 crores, Chhattisgarh received Rs.150 crores and farmers in other states ,and farmers in other states received Rs.773 crore.

Penalty: From Kharif 2025, any delay by states or insurers will incur a 12% penalty.

About Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY):

Aim: PMFBY, a flagship initiative by the Government of India(GoI), was launched on February 18, 2016, with an aim to protect the farmers from financial loss due to crop failure by natural calamities such as droughts, floods cyclones, pests, and diseases.

- In January 2025, the Union Cabinet approved the continuation of PMFBY and Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) till 2025-26, with a total budget of Rs.69, 515.71 Crores.
- RWBCIS is a weather index-based scheme, introduced along with PMFBY, which differs in its methodology of calculation of admissible claims to the farmers.

Cycle: PMFBY covers the entire crop cycle, from pre-sowing to post-harvest, including damage during storage if caused by a notified calamity.

Benefits:

Premium: The farmers pay **2%** of sum insured for Kharif crops, **1.5%** of sum insured for Rabi crops, and **5%** of sum insured for the horticulture/commercial crops.

Coverage: The coverage includes yield losses, prevented sowing (up to 25% of sum insured), post-harvest losses (up to 14 days post-harvest), and localized calamities.

- The GoI pays the entire premium for the farmers in the North-Eastern States, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), and Himachal Pradesh (HP).

Compensation: PMFBY aims to process claims within two months of the harvest to ensure that farmers receive the compensation quickly.

Technology: The scheme integrates advanced technologies such as satellite imaging, drones, and mobile applications(apps) for precise estimation of crop loss, ensuring accurate claim settlements.

Eligibility:

Non-Loanee Farmers: The farmers, opted for non-standard Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme-linked crop loans, farmers who have not taken crop loans are eligible. All non-loanee farmers can voluntarily enroll under the PMFBY to mitigate risk and claim insurance benefits.

Loanee Farmers: The farmers, who have been sanctioned loans from financial institutions for Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO). All loanee farmers are required to enroll under PMFBY.

Implementation:

The scheme is implemented through the departments of the state governments, empanelled insurance companies, Banks and Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), and Regulatory bodies.

Achievements :

Enrollment: Farmer enrolment rose 32% from 3.17 crore (2022-23) to 4.19 crore (2024-25).

Applications: As of June 30, 2025, a total of 78.407 crore farmer applications have been insured under PMFBY since its inception in 2016. Out of these applications, 22.667 crore farmers received claims worth Rs.1.83 lakh crore.

Expansion: Coverage grew from 371 lakh (2014-15) to 1,510 lakh (2024-25), and non-loanee applications from 20 lakh to 522 lakh.

Technology:

Remote Sensing: The schemes utilizes remote sensing and drones for estimating the crop area, yield assessment, and loss evaluation, to reduce human error.

YES-TECH: Yield Estimation System Based on Technology (YES-TECH) was introduced for paddy and wheat crops from Kharif 2023 season, which blends satellite-based yield estimated with manual data, gradually phasing out traditional Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs). From 2024 Kharif season, soyabean has also been included.

WINDS: Weather Information Network and Data System (WINDS) was developed to establish an expanded network of Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) and Automatic Rain Gauges (ARG). It will collect hyper-local weather data at Gram Panchayat and Block levels. The collected data will be integrated into a national database with interoperability.

PMFBY Strengthening Measures:

National Crop Insurance Portal (NCIP): Facilitates online farmer enrolment, data sharing, scheme monitoring, and direct transfer of claim amounts to farmers' bank accounts.

Dedicated DigiClaim Module: Operational since Kharif 2022, it links NCIP with the Public Finance Management System (PFMS) and insurance company systems. From Kharif 2024, a 12% penalty is automatically applied for delayed claim payments.

Mandatory ESCROW Account for States: From Kharif 2025, States must open an ESCROW account and deposit their premium share in advance.

Awareness Campaigns for Farmers: Since Kharif 2021, 'Crop Insurance Week/Fasal Bima Saptah' is held twice a year, along with 'Fasal Bima Pathshallas' in villages to educate farmers.

Meri Policy Mere Haath' Initiative: Crop insurance policy receipts are distributed to PMFBY-enrolled farmers via special camps held at the gram panchayat and village levels.

KRPH (KrishiRakshak Portal and Helpline): Launched to assist farmers with PMFBY queries and complaints, the KRPH platform and toll-free number 14447 provide ticket numbers for tracking issues, ensuring timely resolution and enabling government monitoring of grievance redressal.

About Rajasthan:

Chief Minister (**CM**) – Bhajan Lal Sharma

Governor – Haribhau Kisanrao Bagade

Capital – Jaipur

National Park (**NPs**) – Ranthambore NP, Mukundra Hills NP

MoF introduces one-time, one-way switch facility from UPS to NPS

In August 2025, the Ministry of Finance (**MoF**) introduced a **one-time, one-way switch facility** allowing central government employees to move from the Unified Pension Scheme (**UPS**) to the National Pension System (**NPS**).

- The option will remain open until **September 30, 2025**.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** One-time switch UPS to NPS
- ✓ **Introduced by:** Ministry of Finance (MoF)
- ✓ **Deadline:** September 30, 2025
- ✓ **When?** Any time a year or 3 months before retirement
- ✓ **Condition:** Once exercised, no reverting to UPS
- ✓ **Exit Provisions:** As per PFRDA Exit & Withdrawal Regulations, 2015

Key Features of Switch Facility:

Switch Facility: This facility may be exercised by UPS optees any time a year prior to the date of superannuation or **three months** before to the deemed date of retirement in case of voluntary retirement.

Exemptions: The switch option will not be given in case of removal, dismissal or compulsory retirement as a penalty or for cases where disciplinary proceedings are ongoing or contemplated.

Condition: Once employees opt for the switch, they will permanently forfeit UPS benefits, including assured payouts, and cannot revert to the UPS.

Exit Provisions: Upon switching, the exit provisions under the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Exit & Withdrawal Regulations, 2015 (PFRDA Regulations, 2015) will become applicable.

Government Contribution: The Government of India's(GoI) **4% differential contribution**, calculated as per the default investment pattern, will be credited to the National Pension System (NPS) corpus at the time of exit.

About National Pension System (NPS):

NPS: The NPS launched on **January 01, 2004**, a government-backed, voluntary, defined-contribution retirement savings scheme that aims to provide old-age income security for citizens.

- The PFRDA regulates and administers NPS under the PFRDA Act, 2013.

Introduction: The National Pension System (NPS) was initially introduced for new government recruits (except armed forces). From 1st May 2009, it was extended to all citizens of India, including unorganised sector workers, on a voluntary basis.

Voluntary Model: The NPS voluntary scheme is open to all Indian citizens, including those residing abroad, within the age group of 18 to 70 years.

About Unified Pension Scheme (UPS):

UPS: It is pension scheme introduced by the GoI as an option under the NPS for CG employees with effect from **1st April 2025**.

- It operates under the existing NPS architecture by the PFRDA and is applicable to both serving and retired employees.
- It provides an assured, guaranteed pension, with contributions from both employees (10% of Basic Pay + Dearness Allowance (DA)) and the government.

Applicable to: The UPS is available to:

- Existing CG Employees under NPS as on 01.04.2025.
- New Recruits joining Central Government service on or after 01.04.2025.
- Retired NPS Subscribers who superannuated or retired on or before 31.03.2025 with minimum 10 years of qualifying service.

Last Date: The last date to enrol to this scheme is September 30, 2025.

Assured Pension: 50% of the average basic pay drawn over the last 12 months prior to superannuation for a minimum qualifying service of 25 years. This pay is to be proportionate for lesser service period upto a minimum of 10 years of service.

Assured Family Pension: 60% of pension of the employee immediately before her/his demise.

Assured minimum pension: Rs. 10,000 per month on superannuation after minimum 10 years of service.

About Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA):

It was initially established as a regulatory body to promote, develop and regulate the pension sector in India. Later, it was granted a statutory body status through PFRDA Act, 2013 passed in September 2013 and the same was officially notified on February 1, 2014.

- It comes under the jurisdiction of Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance (MoF).

Chairman- Sivasubramanian Ramann

Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

Govt Approves Restructuring & Extension of PM SVANidhi scheme till 31 March, 2030

In August 2025, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi approved the restructuring and extension of the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (**PM SVANidhi Scheme**, extending its lending period from December 31, 2024, to **March 31, 2030**.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Cabinet approved restructuring of PM SVANidhi scheme
- ✓ **New Deadline:** March 31, 2030 from December 31, 2024
- ✓ **Financial outlay:** Rs. 7332 crores
- ✓ **Implementation:** MoHUA, DFS(MoF)
- ✓ **Revised Tranches:** 1st – Rs. 15,000, 2nd tranche – Rs. 25,000, 3rd tranche – 50,000
- ✓ **Credit Access:** UPI-linked RuPay Credit Card
- ✓ **Cashback incentives:** Rs. 1,600

About PM SVANidhi scheme:

Launched in: It is a central-sector micro-credit scheme launched on **1st June 2020** by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (**MoHUA**) to provide handholding support to street vendors.

- The scheme facilitates a working capital collateral-free loan of Rs. 10,000, with subsequent loans of Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 50,000 with a **7%** interest subsidy.

Milestone: As of July 30, 2025 over 96 lakh loans amounting to **Rs 13,797 crore** have been disbursed to more than 68 lakh street vendors,

- Nearly 47 lakh digitally active beneficiaries have conducted over 557 crore digital transactions worth Rs. 6.09 lakh crore, earning a total cashback of Rs. 241 crores.
- Under the 'SVANidhi se Samriddhi' initiative, 46 lakh beneficiaries across 3,564 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) were profiled, enabling over 1.38 crore scheme sanctions.

Awards received: The scheme has won the PM's Award for Excellence in Public Administration (2023) for Innovation (Central Level) and the Silver Award for Excellence in Government Process Re-engineering for Digital Transformation (2022).

Highlights of the Approval:

Outlay: The decision involves a budgetary provision of **Rs. 7,332 crore** and will extend benefits to about 1.15 crore street vendors, including 50 lakh first-time recipients.

Implementation: The scheme is a joint responsibility of **MoHUA** and the Department of Financial Services (**DFS**), under the Ministry of Finance(MoF).

- The MoHUA will act as the main coordinating authority for the scheme.

- The DFS will facilitate the access to loans and credit cards through banks and financial institutions.

About Restructured PM SVANidhi Scheme:

Enhanced Loan Slabs: The loan slabs have been revised in the restructured scheme.

- The 1st tranche has been increased to **Rs. 15,000** from the earlier Rs. 10,000.
- The 2nd tranche is enhanced to **Rs. 25,000** from Rs. 20,000 and the 3rd tranche remains unchanged at **Rs. 50,000**.

Credit Access via RuPay Card: The introduction of Unified Payments Interface(**UPI**)-linked RUPAY Credit card would provide immediate access of credit to the street vendors in order to meet any emergent business and personal requirements.

Cashback Incentives: In order to encourage digital adoption, street vendors will now be able to earn cash back incentives of up to **Rs. 1,600** on retail and wholesale transactions.

Expanded Coverage: The coverage of the scheme is also being expanded beyond the statutory towns to include census towns and peri-urban areas in a phased manner.

Capacity building measures: It also focuses on building the capacity of the street vendors with a focus on entrepreneurship, financial literacy, digital skills, and marketing through convergence.

- Standardized hygiene and food safety training programs will be organized for street food vendors in collaboration with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

Component enhanced: The '**SVANidhi se Samriddhi**' component is being strengthened to ensure convergence with other government schemes.

- Monthly Lok Kalyan Melas (Public welfare fair) will be organised to link beneficiaries and their families with welfare programmes.

About Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA):

Union Minister- Manohar Lal Khattar (Constituency- Karnal, Haryana) **Minister of State (MoS)**- Tokhan Sahu (Constituency- Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh)

PMJDY Completes 11 Years with 56.16 Crore Accounts, Rs.2.67 Lakh Crore Deposits

On August 28, 2025, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (**PMJDY**), launched by the Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi in **August 2014**, marks **11 years** of transformative impact in India's financial landscape.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** 11 years of PMJDY
- ✓ **When?** August 28, 2025
- ✓ **Launched by:** PM Narendra Modi
- ✓ **Nodal Ministry:** Department of Financial Services (DFS), MoF
- ✓ **Slogan:** Mera Khata – Bhagya Vidhata
- ✓ **Mission:** Banking the unbanked, Securing the unsecured, funding the unfunded
- ✓ **Milestone:** 56.16 crore accounts (56% women), 36.68 crore RuPay cards issued; Deposits totaling Rs.2,67,756 crore
- ✓ **World Record:** 1.8 cr accounts opened in a single week.

About Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY):

Empowerment: The world's largest financial inclusion scheme, PMJDY is a **National Mission for Financial Inclusion** that seeks to provide every unbanked adult in India with a bank account, a financial identity, and access to essential services like credit, insurance, and pensions.

Ministry: The Nodal Ministry for the PMJDY is the Department of Financial Services(DFS), Ministry of Finance(MoF).

Slogan: The slogan of PMJDY is 'Mera Khata – Bhagya Vidhata'.

Principles: The Core Principles of the PMJDY are

- **Banking the unbanked:** Opening of Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) account with minimal paperwork, relaxed Know Your Customer(KYC), e-KYC, account opening in camp mode, zero balance and zero charges.
- **Securing the unsecured:** Issuance of free **Rupay Debit cards** for cash withdrawals & payments at merchant locations, with free accident insurance coverage of **Rs. 2 lakhs**.
- **Funding the unfunded:** Other financial products like micro-insurance, overdraft for consumption, micro-pension, overdraft facility **up to Rs. 10,000** and micro-credit.

Pillar of JAM Trinity: It serves as the foundational component of India's JAM (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile) Trinity.

Benefits of PMJDY:

- **Small Account / Chota Khata:** For individuals without formal legal documents, small accounts can be opened. These are valid for 12 months and may be extended by another 12 months if proof of application for an Officially Valid Document is submitted within the first year.
- **Business Correspondents (BCs) / Bank Mitras:** BCs/Bank Mitras assist residents with savings, deposits, withdrawals, and mini-statements, ensuring last-mile delivery of banking services.
- **Eligibility for Additional Government Schemes:** PMJDY accounts are eligible for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), and Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency (MUDRA) scheme.

Key Milestone(As on 13th August 2025):

World Record: The scheme set a Guinness World Record by opening nearly 1.8 crore bank accounts in a single week during its launch phase.

Accounts: PMJDY accounts have grown from 14.72 crores (cr) in 2015 to **over 56.16 cr by August 2025**, with around 67% in rural/semi-urban areas and 33% were opened in urban/metro areas.

- **56%** PMJDY accounts belong to women, highlighting the scheme's role in promoting gender equality in financial access.

Deposits : Total deposit balances under PMJDY accounts have reached **Rs. 2,67,756 cr**.

- As on 13th August 2025, the average deposit per account is **Rs. 4,768**.
- The average deposit per account has increased by 3.7 times compared to August 2015.

RuPay Cards: A total of **38.68 cr** RuPay debit cards have been issued to PMJDY account holders, facilitating cashless transactions and providing access to the inbuilt accident insurance cover.

- The total number of digital transactions rose from 2,338 cr in Financial Year 2018-19 (FY19) to **22,198 cr in FY25**, supported by RuPay cards, PoS (Point of Sale) machines, and UPI (Unified Payment Interface).

Campaign for financial outreach:

Campaign: The Department of Finance (DoF), MoF, launched a three-month nationwide saturation campaign, effective from **1st July 2025 to 30th September 2025**, to bolster the outreach of flagship schemes such as the PMJDY, PMJJBY, PMSBY, and APY.

- In the first-month milestone, nearly **6.6 lakh** new PMJDY accounts were opened. KYC details were re-verified for over 4.73 lakhs inactive PMJDY accounts and 5.65 lakhs other savings accounts.

Recent Related News:

On July 22, 2025, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) announced that 6 crore people had been screened for Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) under the National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission, moving closer to the target of 7 crore screenings.

- Out of the 6 crore individuals, 2.15 lakh individuals are diagnosed with SCD, and 16.7 lakh have been identified as carriers.

STATE GOVT SCHEMES

AP CM Launched Annadata Sukhibhava-PM KISAN Scheme

In August 2025, **Nara (N.) Chandrababu Naidu**, Chief Minister (CM) of Andhra Pradesh (AP) formally launched the Annadata Sukhibhava- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM KISAN) scheme at Veerayapalem in Prakasam district, AP.

- During the event, AP CM also disbursed **Rs 3,175 crore** to **46.86 lakh** farmers across the state as part of the 1st installment of the scheme.
- Each eligible farmer received **Rs 7,000** in 1st tranche, comprising Rs 5,000 from the State government (**Rs 2,343 crore**) and Rs 2,000 from the Government of India (GoI) (**Rs 832 crore**).

Exam Hints:

- What? Launch of Annadata Sukhibhava- PM KISAN scheme
- Launched by: Nara (N.) Chandrababu Naidu, CM of AP
- Launched at: at Veerayapalem in Prakasam district, AP.
- Objective: To provide annual financial assistance to farmers
- Financial Assistance: Rs 20,000 per annum
- Installments: Rs 7,000 (as 1st and 2nd installment) and Rs 6,000 (3rd installment)
- Total Amount Disbursed in 1st Installment: Rs 3,175 crore (Rs 2,343 crore from state and Rs 832 crore from GoI)
- Total Beneficiaries in 1st Phase: 46.86 lakh farmers
- Each beneficiary Received: Rs 7,000 of which Rs 5,000 (state) and Rs 2,000 (GoI)
- Toll Free Number for Non-Payment Issues: 155251

About Annadata Sukhibhava-PM KISAN Scheme:

Super Six Programme: The scheme is launched as part of the 'Super Six' set of poll promises made by the Telugu Desam Party (TDP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA)-Jana Sena state government in AP, which assured 3 free cooking gas cylinders per annum to each household under Deepam-II scheme; Rs 15,000 per annum for every school-going child; and monthly financial assistance of Rs 15,000 to women aged between 19 and 59 years, and others.

Annual Financial Assistance: Under this scheme, every eligible farmer will receive total **Rs 20,000 per annum** as financial assistance.

Funding: Of the annual financial assistance of Rs 20,000, the state government will provide Rs 14,000 while the GoI will provide Rs 6,000 under PM-KISAN scheme.

Phase-wise distribution: The total amount under the scheme will be disbursed to eligible farmers in 3 installments for instance: Rs 7,000 in two tranches and Rs 6,000 in 3rd tranche.

Sukhibhava Portal/Toll-Free Number: During the launch event, AP CM Naidu advised the farmers to use the Sukhibhava portal, or call toll-free number '**155251**' to register their complaints regarding any payment issues.

About Andhra Pradesh (AP):

Chief Minister (CM) – Nara Chandrababu Naidu

Governor- Justice (Retired) S. Abdul Nazeer

Capital- Amaravati

National Parks (NPs)- Rajiv Gandhi (Rameswaram) NP, Papikonda NP

TN CM Stalin launches 'Thayumanavar scheme' in to deliver ration products at doorsteps

In August 2025, the Tamil Nadu (TN) Chief Minister (CM) Muthuvel karunanidhi(M.K) Stalin launched "**Thayumanavar Thittam**", a scheme designed to deliver essential ration items directly to the doorsteps of eligible beneficiaries, in **Chepauk-Triplicane** constituency, Chennai, TN.

- During the event, he also flagged off vehicles to deliver commodities to a certain number of beneficiaries.

Exam Hints:

- What? Launch of Thayumanavar Thittam
- Launched by: M.K.Stalin, CM of TN
- Purpose: Doorstep delivery of ration goods
- Beneficiary: Elderly citizen and disabled person
- When delivered? 2nd Saturday and Sunday
- Expense: Rs.30.16 crore

About Thayumanavar Thittam:

Purpose: The purpose of the scheme is to deliver essential ration commodities like rice, sugar, wheat, palmolein oil and toor dal at the doorsteps of over 21.7 lakh elderly citizens aged above 70 years and disabled persons across the State.

Implementation: The scheme will be implemented in 34,809 Fair Price Shops (FPS) to benefit 20,42,657 citizens above 70 years of age and 1,27,797 disabled persons under the public distribution system (PDS).

Delivery Frequency: The essential commodities from ration shops would be delivered at the doorsteps of the beneficiaries on the **second Saturday** and **Sunday** of every month, following Aadhar authentication.

- The delivery staff will be provided with an electronic weighing machine and electronic – Point of Sale (e-POS) machines.

Expenditure: This will result in an additional expenditure of **Rs 30.16 crore** annually for the Cooperation Department.

About Tamil Nadu (TN):

Chief Minister (**CM**) – Muthuvel karunanidhi(M.K) Stalin

Governor – Ravindra Narayana(R.N) Ravi

Capital – Chennai

Tiger Reserves – Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, Anamalai Tiger Reserve

West Bengal Launches 'Shramshree' Scheme to Support Returning Bengali Migrant Workers

In August 2025, West Bengal(WB) Chief Minister (CM) **Mamata Banerjee** launched the '**Shramshree**' scheme, aimed at assisting Bengali-migrant workers returning to the state after facing alleged harassment in other parts of India.

- The scheme provides financial aid and support to help these workers reintegrate into society and regain employment opportunities

Exam Hints:

- What? Launch of 'Shramshree' scheme
- Launched by: West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee
- Purpose: To support Bengali migrant workers returning to the state
- Benefits: Rs. 5,000/month for 1 year or until employment.

Key Features of Shramshree Scheme

Financial Aid: Eligible workers will receive **Rs. 5,000 per month** for up to **one year** or until they secure employment in WB.

Implementation: Managed by the Labour Department of WB. Returning workers must register on the **Shramshree portal** to access benefits, including ration cards and Swastha Sathi healthcare cards.

Skill Development: Returning workers will receive free training under the Utkarsh Bangla scheme.

Employment : Migrant workers will be provided with job cards under the Karmashree scheme to facilitate work opportunities.

Bihar Cabinet Approved 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana'

In August 2025, the **Bihar Cabinet** chaired by Chief Minister (CM) of Bihar **Nitish Kumar**, approved the **Mukhya Mantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana** (MMR Yojana), aimed at ensuring economic **empowerment of women** by providing financial assistance to start businesses of their choice.

- The scheme will be implemented by the **Rural Development Department, Bihar**, with support from the **Urban Development and Housing Department, Bihar**.

Exam Hints:

- What?** Approval of Mukhya Mantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana
- By whom?** Bihar Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar
- Implemented by:** Rural Development Department, Bihar
- Support:** Urban Development and Housing Department, Bihar
- First Assistance:** Rs 10,000 grant (from September 2025)
- Additional Assistance:** Up to Rs 2 lakh after 6 months
- Purpose:** Promote women entrepreneurship and generate employment opportunities within Bihar
- Other Support:** Development of haat bazaars in villages & towns for sale of women's products

About Mukhya Mantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana:

Objective: The scheme will help women become financially independent and also reduce migration by creating "better employment opportunities" within Bihar.

Financial Support: **Rs 10,000** will be given as the first instalment to one woman from each family. The amount is a grant and does not need to be repaid.

Additional Assistance: After 6 months, based on performance evaluation of the business, an additional grant of up to **Rs 2 lakh** will be provided.

Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT): Starting September 2025, financial assistance under the DBT scheme will be directly credited to women's bank accounts.

Market Support: **Haat bazaars** to be developed across rural and urban areas to facilitate sale of women's products.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Moldova becomes 107th member of the ISA

In August 2025, **Republic of Moldova** has officially became the **107th** member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

- Ana Taban**, Ambassador of Moldova handed over the Instrument of Ratification to **P.S. Gangadhar**, Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy, Ministry of External Affairs(MEA), Government of India(GoI) in New Delhi, Delhi.



Exam Hints:

- Country:** Republic of Moldova
- What?** Becomes the 107th member of ISA
- How?** The Instrument of Ratification was handed over to MEA
- Purpose:** To promote clean energy and sustainability through the ISA platform.

Background:

ISA Framework Agreement: In December 2024, Moldova signed the ISA Framework agreement and joined as a signatory member country in the ISA, during the inauguration of the Embassy of Moldova in New Delhi.

Key Signatories: The agreement was signed between External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. Jaishankar and Moldovan Deputy Prime Minister(DPM) Mihai Popsi.

About International Solar Alliance(ISA):

Inception: It was jointly launched by India and France during the 21st Conference of Paris (**COP21**) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change(UNFCCC) in Paris(France) in 2015.

Overview: It is an inter- governmental treaty-based organisation formed to boost solar growth and reduce the cost of financing and technology.

Goal: To mobilise **USD 1 trillion** of investments in solar-powered solutions by 2030.

- ISA is partnered with Multilateral Development Banks (**MDBs**), Development Financial Institutions (**DFIs**), private and public sector organizations, civil society, and other international institutions.

Member countries: It consists of a total of **124** Member and Signatory countries, of which over 100 countries submitted documents of ratification to become full members of the ISA.

Targeted Countries: It aims to deploy cost-effective and transformational solutions to the Least Developed Countries (**LDCs**) and the Small Island Developing States (**SIDS**).

Significance: ISA is the **first** international inter-governmental organization to be headquartered in India.

About Republic of Moldova:

President – Maia Sandu

Capital – Chisinau

Currency – Moldovan Leu (MDL)

WHO: Rubella Eliminated as a Public Health Problem in Nepal

In August 2025, the World Health Organisation (**WHO**)’s South East Asian Region (SEAR) office has officially declared that **Rubella** has been eliminated as a Public Health Problem in **Nepal**.

- Following this recognition, **Nepal** has now become the **6th** country in WHO SEAR after Bhutan, Democratic People’s Republic (DPR) Korea, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste to successfully eliminate rubella.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Nepal Declared as Rubella free
- ✓ **Announced by:** WHO’s South East Asian Region (SEAR) office
- ✓ **Countries to Eliminate Rubella:** 6 (Bhutan, DPR Korea, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Nepal & Timor-Leste)

About Rubella:

Contagious Viral Infection: Rubella, commonly known as German Measles, is a highly contagious viral infections that usually causes mild fever and red rashes on body.

Dangerous for Pregnant Women: It particularly poses serious risks to pregnant women as it can lead to miscarriage, still birth or range of debilitating birth defects.

Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS): This disease has potential to cause CRS in new born babies and can lead to a range of birth defects like: deafness, cardiac defects, cataracts, and neurologic impairment.

Reason for Declaration: Nepal achieved over 95% vaccination coverage, carried out multiple nationwide immunization campaigns, and implemented robust laboratory-based surveillance systems.

VISITS

VISIT TO INDIA

Overview of PM Narendra Modi's Visit to Varanasi, UP

On August 2, 2025, Prime Minister(PM) **Narendra Modi** visited Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh (UP) to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth **around Rs.2,200 crore**.

- During the visit, he also released the **20th** installment under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (**PM-KISAN**) scheme, transferring **20,500 crore** directly into the bank accounts of over 9.7 crore farmers across India.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What? PM Narendra Visited Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**
- ✓ **Purpose:** Inauguration and foundation laying of Rs.2,200 crore worth of development projects
- ✓ **Key Inaugurations:** Electrical Smart Distribution Project, upgradation of 53 school buildings, robotic surgery and CT scan facilities, 47 Rural Drinking Water Schemes
- ✓ **Other Release:** Released Rs. 20500 crore under PM-KISAN scheme to over 9.7 crore farmers

Key Initiatives Unveiled:

Over **100 development projects** were launched covering various sectors:

Infrastructure: PM Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for several key road infrastructure projects, including the widening of the Varanasi-Bhadoli Road, Chhitauni-Shool Tankeshwar Road, and the construction of a Railway Overbridge at Hardattpur, UP.

- The initiative also covered urban and rural road upgrades in areas such as Dalmandi, Lahartara-Kotwa, Gangapur, and Babatpur.

Power Sector: He launched power infrastructure projects valued at over **Rs.880 crore**, including the Smart Distribution Project and initiatives to underground overhead electrical cables, aimed at enhancing the safety, reliability, and modernization of Varanasi's power supply network.

Education: PM inaugurated the **upgradation of 53 school buildings**, laid the foundation for a

district **library**, and announced rejuvenation of Government High Schools at Jakhini and Lalpur in UP.

Healthcare: He inaugurated **robotic surgery** and Computed Tomography scan (**CT scan**) facilities at Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Cancer Centre and Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital.

- He also laid the foundation stone for a Homoeopathic College and Hospital and inaugurated an Animal Birth Control Centre along with a dedicated Dog Care Facility.

Tourism and Heritage: Redevelopment initiatives were launched at eight riverfront ghats along with key heritage sites including Kalika Dham, Rangildas Kutiya, Durgakund, and Kardameshwar Mahadev Temple.

- The projects also include the restoration of Munshi Premchand's ancestral home in Lamahi and the development of a Miyawaki Urban Forest in Kanchanpur.

Water and Sanitation: He also inaugurated **47** Rural Drinking Water Schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission (**JJJM**), along with purification projects at Ramkund, Mandakini, and Shankuldhara kunds, and introduced floating pujan platforms.

Sports and Law Enforcement: A synthetic hockey turf was inaugurated at Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Sports Stadium in Varanasi. PM Narendra Modi also inaugurated a 300-capacity multipurpose hall at the Pradeshik Armed Constabulary (PAC) campus in Ramnagar(UP) and laid the foundation stone for the construction of Quick Response Team (QRT) Barracks.

About Uttar Pradesh (UP):

Chief Minister (**CM**) – Yogi Adityanath

Governor – Anandiben Patel

Capital – Lucknow

Wildlife Sanctuary(**WLS**) – Katarniaghata WLS, Hastinapur WLS

Overview of the President of the Philippines Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. State Visit to India

The President of the Philippines **Ferdinand Romualdez (R.) Marcos Jr.** undertook a 5-day state visit to India from August 04, 2025 to August 08, 2025, at the invitation of the Prime Minister (PM)

Narendra Modi.

- During his visit to India, President Marcos was accompanied by First Lady **Louise Araneta Marcos** and a high-level delegation which included cabinet ministers and business leaders.
- This marked the Philippines President Marcos 1st official state visit to India, ever since he assumed office in 2022.
- President Marco's visit to India also coincided with the **75th anniversary** of establishment of India-Philippines diplomatic relations (1949).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** State Visit of Philippines President to India
- ✓ **The Philippines President Name:** Ferdinand Romualdez (R.) Marcos Jr.
- ✓ **Diplomatic Relations Established in:** November 1949 (75th anniversary)
- ✓ **Key Outcomes:** Announcement of Strategic Partnership; 14 MoUs and 18 Business Agreements
- ✓ **Philippine-Indian Business Forum Held:** Bengaluru, Karnataka
- ✓ **India Extended free-Visa facility for Philippine Tourists:** for 1 year
- ✓ **Direct Flights from Manila to Delhi will commence:** October 01, 2025
- ✓ Postal Stamps Themed on: National Flowers of India (Lotus) and the Philippines (Sampaguita)

Key Highlights:

Bilateral Meeting: President Marcos held a bilateral meeting with PM Narendra Modi in Hyderabad House, New Delhi (Delhi).

Release of Commemorative Stamp: Following the bilateral meeting, PM Modi and Philippine President jointly unveiled commemorative postal stamps to commemorate the **75th anniversary** of the establishment of diplomatic relations between two countries.

- These postal stamps were themed on National Flowers of two countries i.e. **Lotus (India)** and **Sampaguita (the Philippines)**.

Key Outcomes:**Declaration on the Establishment of a Strategic Partnership:**

Announcement of Strategic Partnership: Both India and The Philippines announced the 'Declaration on the Establishment of a Strategic Partnership between the Government of India (GoI) and the Government of the Philippines', marking a significant step toward strengthening bilateral cooperation.

- The announcement was made following the bilateral meeting held between PM Narendra Modi and Philippine President Marcos in New Delhi.
- This Strategic Partnership is guided by the comprehensive Plan of Action (2025-29) adopted by the two countries on August 05, 2025.

Aim: To promote peace, stability, and prosperity in both countries and the Indo-Pacific region, with strong emphasis to Association of South East Asian Nations (**ASEAN**) Centrality.

Bilateral Trade and Investment: Both countries appreciated the steady increase in bilateral trade, which reached nearly **USD 3.3 billion** in 2024-25.

Key MoUs Signed:

India and the Philippines signed a total **14** Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs), aimed to enhance bilateral cooperation across various sectors like: digital technologies; space; science; and tourism; among others.

- These MoUs were exchanged in the presence of PM Narendra Modi and Philippine President Marcos.

ToRs between Defence Forces: Among 14 MoUs signed, 3 Terms of References (ToRs) were signed between the Armies, Navies and Air Forces of India and the Philippines.

- Also, India and the Philippines signed a ToR for improved maritime cooperation between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Philippine Coast Guard.

Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters: Both countries signed a MoU on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. Additionally, a treaty was signed on transfer of sentenced persons between the two countries.

Science and Technology: Both countries signed a MoU aimed to promote cooperation in the field of Science & Technology for the period of **2025-28**. It aimed to bolster the cooperation between the department of Science and Technology of both the countries.

Space Programme: Also, Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) signed a Statement of Intent (**SoI**) with the Philippine Space Agency on cooperation on the Peaceful uses of Outer Space.

Tourism Cooperation: A MoU was signed on the implementation Program for tourism cooperation for a period of 2025-28.

Digital Technologies: Also, both countries signed a MoU in the field of digital technologies.

India & Philippines Signed 18 MoUs and LoIs:

Total Business Agreements: On August 07 2025, Indian companies signed a total of **18 MoUs** and Letter of Intents (LoIs) for investments in the Philippines in various sectors such as: Information Technology (IT), Telecommunication, Waste-to-Energy Generation, healthcare, business process management and digital infrastructure.

- These agreements were exchanged in the presence of the Philippine President Marcos during the Philippines-India Business Forum held in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The forum was organised by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Government of the Philippines in partnership with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) (as National Chamber).

6 Priority Sectors: While addressing, the forum President Marcos outlined 6 priority sectors for long term collaboration in areas like: Electric Vehicles (EVs), Advanced Electronics, Renewable Energy (RE), Agriculture, Healthcare and Cyber Security.

Key Details of MoUs:

Waste-to-Energy Facility: India and the Philippines signed a MoU which involved entities specialized in infrastructure and clean energy development.

MoU for Investment of USD 100 Million: DRA Group,

property developer company in India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Balajadia Family office**, Philippines to jointly develop a real estate platform, with an investment of USD 100 million.

- For the initial phase, the main focus of the project will be on Grade-A commercial and retail developments in Chennai (Tamil Nadu, TN) and Bengaluru (Karnataka).
- This equal joint venture will be implemented through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).

IT-business process management sector: Various LoIs were signed in the IT-business process management sector. These agreements have outlined plans to establish digital academies and expand

operations in health care outsourcing and business process management and Artificial Intelligence (AI) training.

3 MoUs: Both countries signed 3 separate MoUs in areas like: digital finance, commercial real estate development and sustainable last-mile logistics.

LoIs: Also, various LoIs were presented during the forum, including the expansion of dialysis centers, clinical outsourcing services and fuel cell technology ventures.

Other Key MoUs: Other MoUs and LoIs included projects for telecommunications, tower construction, expansion of precision sheet metal manufacturing, and copper smelting and refining ventures.

Key Announcements:

Sovereign Data Cloud Infrastructure: India has decided to extend its support on a pilot project for establishing Philippines' Sovereign Data Cloud Infrastructure.

IFC-IOR: India has also invited the Philippines to participate in the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) based in Gurugram, Haryana.

Visa-Free Entry for Indian Tourists: The Government of Philippines has decided to allow visa-free entry to Indian tourists.

- India reciprocated with a similar announcement that it has decided to extend free e-visa facilities to tourists from the Philippines for a period of 1 year (from August 2025).
- These announcements marked a significant step to boost tourism and people-to-people ties.

Adoption of ToR for PTA: The GoI and The Government of Philippines have agreed to adopt ToRs on PTA between the two countries.

Delhi-Manila Direct Flights: In order to enhance regional connectivity between India and the Philippines, direct flights from Delhi (India) to Manila (The Philippines) are expected to be operational from October 01, 2025.

- These flights will operate 5 days in a week i.e. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, with Airbus and A321 neo aircraft.
- These flights will include a 3-class configuration, which includes Business, Premium Economy, and Economy.

About the Philippines:

Capital- Manila

President- Ferdinand Romualdez (R.) Marcos Jr.

Currency- The Philippine Peso (PHP)

Overview of PM Narendra Modi's visit to Bihar & WB on August 22, 2025

On August 22, 2025, Prime Minister (**PM**) Narendra Modi visited Bihar and West Bengal (**WB**), inaugurating and initiating development projects totaling more than **Rs.18,000 crore**.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** PM Narendra Modi visited Bihar and WB
- ✓ **Purpose:** Inauguration and laying of foundation stone of development projects worth Rs 18,000 crore
- ✓ **Key Inaugurations in Bihar:** Auntha-Simaria Bridge; 4-lane Bakhtiyarpur to Mokama section of NH-31; 660 MW Buxar thermal power plant; flagging off two trains Amrit Bharat Express (Gaya and Delhi) and Buddhist Circuit Train (Vaishali and Koderma); among others.
- ✓ **Key Inaugurations in WB:** 13.61 km long metro network and 3 new metro services in Kolkata (WB) and a 6-lane elevated Kona Expressway

Highlights of PM Narendra Modi's Visit to Bihar:

Overview: PM Narendra Modi dedicated various development projects worth around **Rs 13,000 crore** at Gaya in Bihar.

- These development projects span across various sectors such as: power, road, health, urban development, and water supply.

Key Dignitaries: Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister (CM) of Bihar; Arif Mohammed Khan, Governor of Bihar; Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying (MoFAH&D); among others were present at the event.

PM Modi Inaugurates Key Bridges and Highway Projects:

Aunta-Simaria Project: During his visit to Bihar, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the **8.15 kilometer (km)** long **Aunta-Simaria bridge** project on National Highway (NH-31) in Gaya, Bihar.

- The project also includes a 1.86 km long six-lane bridge built across **Ganga river**, constructed at a cost of more than **Rs 1,870 crore**.
- This bridge has been built parallel to an obsolete 2-lane dilapidated rail-cum-road bridge 'Rajendra Setu', which forces heavy vehicles to re-route.
- This newly inaugurated bridge connects Mokama (in Patna) with Begusarai, offers an alternative route to the old Rajendra Setu.
- The new bridge eases traffic congestion, reduces detours of over 100 km for heavy vehicles travelling between North Bihar (Begusarai, Supaul, Madhubhani, Purnea, Araria) and South Bihar areas (Sheikhpura, Nawada, Lakhisarai, among others).

4-Lane Bakhtiyarpur to Mokam Section: He also inaugurated the 4-lane Bakhtiyarpur to Mokama section of National Highways (NH-31) worth around **Rs 1,900 crore**.

Projects Launched in Other Key Sectors:

Power Sector: PM Narendra Modi inaugurated **660 Mega Watt (MW)** Buxar thermal power plant, constructed at a cost of **Rs 6,880 crore** in Gaya, Bihar.

- This new thermal power plant is expected to enhance power generation capacity, improve energy security, and meet the rising electricity demand of the region.

Health Infrastructure: He also inaugurated the **Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital & Research Centre** at Muzzaffarpur, Bihar.

- This newly inaugurated centre features advanced Oncology Outpatient Department(OPD), Inpatient Department(IPD) wards, operation theatres, modern lab, blood bank, and a 24-bed Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and High Dependency Unit (HDU).

Swachh Bharat: He inaugurated the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and Sewerage Network at Munger (Bihar), built at a cost of **more than Rs 520 crore**.

Flagging off 2 new trains: During his visit to Bihar, he flagged off two trains, '**Amrit Bharat Express**' between Gaya (Bihar) and Delhi which will enhance passenger convenience with modern amenities, comfort and safety.

- While another train '**Buddhist Circuit Train**' between Vaishali (Bihar) and Koderma (Jharkhand), will give a boost to tourism and religious travel across key Buddhist sites in the state.

Laid Foundation for Urban Infrastructure Projects:

During his visit to Bihar, PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for several urban infrastructure projects worth around **Rs 1,260 crore**.

List of Projects: These include the STP and Sewerage Network at Daudnagar (in Aurangabad), and Jehanabad; STP and interception and diversion works at Barahiya in Lakhisarai and Jamui.

Projects under AMRUT 2.0: He also laid the foundation stone of water supply projects at Aurangabad, Bodhgaya, and Jehanabad, under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT 2.0).

- These projects will provide clean drinking water, advanced sewerage systems, and enhanced sanitation thereby improving health standards and quality of life in the region.

PMAY: Also, Grah Pravesh ceremony of 12,000 rural beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) and 4,260 beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana –Urban (PMAY-U) was held at the same event.

Highlights of PM's Visit to WB:

Overview: PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and inaugurated several important development projects worth **over Rs 5,200 crore** in Kolkata, WB.

- These projects included **13.61 km** long newly built metro network and metro services in Kolkata (WB) and a 6-lane elevated expressway, which are expected to significantly reduce travel time and ease traffic congestion.
- While addressing the gathering at the inauguration of these projects, PM Modi highlighted that currently, India has over **1,000 km** long metro networks compared to just 250 km in 2014, which makes India the **world's 3rd largest metro system**.

Key Dignitaries: The event was attended by C.V. Ananda Bose, Governor of WB; Union Minister of State (MoS) Sukanata Majumdar, Ministry of Education (MoE); Union MoS Shantanu Thakur, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW); among other key dignitaries.

3 New metro services:

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Noapara-Jai Hind Bimanbandar** metro service at the Jessore Road Metro Station in Kolkata, WB

- In addition to that, through video-conferencing, he flagged off two new metro services i.e. **Sealdah-Esplenade** metro service and **Beleghata-Hemanta Mukhopadhyay** metro service.

6-Lane Elevated Kona Expressway:

Development Cost: During his visit to Kolkata, PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of 7.2 km long 6-lane elevated Kona Expressway in NH-12 worth more than **Rs 1,200 crore**.

Significance: This new expressway will improve connectivity between Howrah(WB), surrounding rural areas, and Kolkata, reduce travel time and will give a boost to trade, commerce, and tourism in the region.

About Bihar:

Chief Minister (CM)- Nitish Kumar

Governor- Arif Mohammad Khan

Capital- Patna

Wildlife Sanctuaries (WLS)- Kaimur WLS, Gautam Budha WLS

Overview of PM Narendra Modi's Visit to Gujarat from August 25 to 26, 2025

Prime Minister (**PM**) Narendra Modi visited **Gujarat** from August 25 to 26, 2025, to inaugurate, lay foundation and dedicate various development projects worth **Rs.5,400 crores** at Ahmedabad and Hansalpur in Gujarat.

- The inaugurations encompass investments across railways, roads, power, housing, urban infrastructure, and digital governance.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** PM Narendra Modi visited Gujarat
- ✓ **Purpose:** To inaugurate, lay foundation and dedicate development projects
- ✓ **Worth:** Rs.5,400 crores
- ✓ **Where:** Ahmedabad, Hansalpur
- ✓ **Railways:** Projects worth Rs.1,400 crore, including Mehsana–Palanpur doubling, Kalol–Kadi–Katosan & Bechraji–Ranuj gauge conversion
- ✓ **Power:** Projects worth Rs.1,000 crore under UGVCL (RDSS scheme)

- ✓ **EV Sector:** e VITARA, first Made-in-India global BEV by Maruti Suzuki
- ✓ **Battery Facility:** TDS Lithium-Ion Battery Plant in Hansalpur

Highlights of PM Narendra Modi's Visit to Gujarat:

In Ahmedabad:

Overview: On August 25, 2025, PM Narendra Modi visited Ahmedabad, Gujarat, to inaugurate, lay the foundation stone, and dedicate multiple development projects.

- The event was attended by several dignitaries, including Bhupendra Patel, Chief Minister (CM) of Gujarat; Acharya Devvrat, Governor of Gujarat; C. R. Patil, Union Minister of Jal Shakti (MoJS).

Railways: PM Narendra Modi dedicated multiple railway projects worth over **Rs.1,400 crore** to the nation. It includes doubling of the 65 kilometre (km) **Mehsana – Palanpur** Rail Line worth Rs.530 crores.

- It also includes Gauge conversion on the 37 km Kalol-Kadi-Katosan line worth Rs.347 Crores and 40 Km Bechraji-Ranuj line worth Rs.520 crores, totaling around Rs.860 crores.
- He flagged a passenger train between Katosan road and Sabarmati, and a car-loaded freight train service from Bechraji to enhance connectivity, strengthen logistics network and generate employment opportunities.

Roadways: He inaugurated widening of the Viramgam-Khudad-Rampura Road, six-lane vehicle underpasses on Ahmedabad-Mehsana-Palanpur corridor, Railway overbridge on the Ahmedabad-Viramgam stretch, with an aim to boost industrial growth, improve transport efficiency, and economic opportunities in the region.

- He laid the foundation stones for widening the Sardar Patel Ring Road in Ahmedabad and key urban infrastructure projects to strengthen water and sewage management systems.

Power: Inaugurated **power distribution projects** worth **Rs.1,000 crores** in Ahmedabad, Mehsana and Gandhinagar under Uttar Gujarat Vij Company Limited (**UGVCL**), with an aim to reduce transmission losses, modernize the network, and strengthen infrastructure under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (**RDSS**).

Other Projects: Inaugurated Development of Slums at Ramapir No Tekro under In Situ Slum Rehabilitation Component of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U).

- Laid foundation stone of New Stamps and Registration Building in Ahmedabad West to streamline citizen-centric services and State-Level Data Storage Centre at Gandhinagar, aimed at securing data management and strengthening digital governance.

In Hansalpur:

Overview: On August 26, 2025, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated **green mobility initiatives** in Hansalpur, Gujarat.

e VITARA: He inaugurated and flagged off the “**e VITARA**”, the first Made-in-India global Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) of Maruti Suzuki (Suzuki), at the Suzuki Motor plant in Hansalpur, Ahmedabad (Gujarat), which is set to be exported to over 100 countries, including advanced markets such as Europe and Japan.

- Suzuki Motor Corporation of Japan has unveiled plans to invest **USD 8 billion** (around Rs.70,000 crore) in India over the next five to six years.

Hybrid Battery Manufacturing Boost: He also inaugurated the localized production of hybrid battery electrodes at the **TDS Lithium-Ion Battery Plant**, a Joint Venture (JV) of Toshiba, Denso, and Suzuki (TDS), in Hansalpur, Gujarat, aimed at boosting domestic manufacturing and advancing clean energy innovation. The initiative will ensure that 80% of the battery value is manufactured within India.

About Gujarat:

Chief Minister (**CM**) – Bhupendra Patel

Governor – Acharya Devvrat

Capital – Gandhinagar

National Park (**NP**) – Gir NP, Blackbuck NP

Overview of Fiji PM Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka's Visit to India from August 24 to August 26, 2025

The Prime Minister (PM) of the Republic of Fiji, **Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka**, undertook a 3-day official visit to India from August 24 to August 26, 2025, at the invitation of PM of India **Narendra Modi**.

- He was accompanied by his spouse Sulueti Rabuka and a delegation which included Minister of Health and Medical Services Ratu Antonio Lalabalavu; and other senior officials of Fijian government.
- This marked Fijian PM Rabuka **1st** ever official visit to India as the PM of the South Pacific nation.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Overview of Fiji's PM Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka visit to India
- ✓ **Invited by:** PM Narendra Modi
- ✓ **Total MoUs and Bilateral Documents:** 9
- ✓ **Key MoUs:** 100-bedded Super-Specialty Hospital in Fiji, for the supply of low-cost generic medicines to Fiji under Janaushadhi Scheme; DoI on migration and mobility, among others
- ✓ **Key Announcements:** gifting of 12 agricultural drones and 2 mobile soil testing laboratories to Fiji; port call by an Indian Naval Ship (INS) to Fiji in 2025; establishment of Cyber Security Training Cell (CSTC) in Fiji.

Key Highlights:

Aim: The visit of Fiji's PM to India was aimed to strengthen India-Fiji bilateral relations in a range of areas such as maritime security, trade, health, digital technology and capacity building.

Bilateral Meeting: PM Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with his Fijian counterpart Sitiveni Rabuka at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, Delhi.

- During the meeting, leaders of both countries reiterated their commitment towards 'Zero Tolerance' to terrorism.
- 9 Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) and bilateral documents across various sectors such as: agriculture, education, healthcare, mobility, defence, among others; were exchanged in the presence of PM Modi and Fiji's PM Rabuka.

Key Outcomes:

9 Bilateral Documents and MoUs:

Super-Specialty Hospital: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Government of India (GoI) and the Government of Fiji, for the design, construction, commissioning, operation and maintenance of a 100-bedded Super-Specialty Hospital in Suva, the capital city of Fiji.

- This is the largest project undertaken by the Government of India (GoI) under its Grand-in-Aid Programme in the Pacific region.

Healthcare: M/s **HLL Lifecare Limited**, Indian Public Sector Enterprise (PSE) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) has signed a MoU with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Fiji, for the supply of low-cost generic medicines to Fiji under Pradhan Mantri-Janashadhi Scheme.

Standardization: Bureau of Indian Standards (**BIS**) has signed a MoU with the Department of National Measurement and Standards (**DNTMS**) through the Ministry of Trade Cooperatives, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and Communications for and on behalf of the Government of Fiji, aimed to strengthen cooperation in the field of standardization.

Capacity Building: The National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), India has signed a MoU with the Pacific POLYTECH, Fiji, to bolster cooperation in the field of human capacity skilling and Upskilling.

Implementation of QIP: Both India and Fiji signed a MoU regarding Indian Grant assistance for implementation of 1st Quick Impact Project (QIP) in Fiji for the Tubalevu Village Ground Water Supply.

- It was 1st announced by the GoI at the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting held in Tonga, 2024.

Migration & Mobility: Also, both countries signed a Declaration of Intent (DoI) on migration and mobility. This will facilitate mobility of professionals, and students between India and Fiji.

Handing Over the Lease Title: The Government of Fiji has officially handed over the lease title for the construction of Chancery-cum-Cultural Centre for the High Commission of India in Suva.

Agriculture: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Fiji Development Bank (FDB), to foster collaboration in rural development, agricultural financing and financial inclusion.

Economy: A MoU was signed between Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Fiji Commerce & Employers Federation (FCEF) to further bolster economic and commercial ties between the two countries.

Key Announcements:

Gifting of Agricultural Drones: PM Modi announced the gifting of 12 agricultural drones and 2 mobile soil testing laboratories under India's Grants-in-Aid Programme to Fiji.

- This move aims to promote innovation and enhance productivity in sugar sector of Fiji.
- He has further announced that GoI intends to send an Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) expert to the Fiji Sugar Corporation, along with the organisation of specialized ITEC training programmes for Fijian sugar sector professionals.

Defence: Both countries announced various measures to expand defence cooperation for instance: port call by an Indian Naval Ship (INS) to Fiji in 2025;

- Creation of defence attache' post in High Commission of India in Suva, Fiji;
- Gifting of two sea ambulances by India to military forces of Fiji.

Health: The GoI has also announced plans to extend specialized/tertiary medical care services in Indian hospitals for maximum 10 Fijians under the '**'Heal in India'**'

programme, which will supplement Fiji's Overseas Medical Referral programme.

Education: The GoI has also announced the deputation of Hindi-cum-Sanskrit Teacher to the University of Fiji

Culture: PM announced that the 2nd Jaipur Foot Camp will be organised in Fiji.

- India has extended its support to train a cohort of Pundits from Fiji in India who would also participate in the 'International Geeta Mahotsav (IGM2025)' in India later this year.

Cricket: Modi announced that India would send a cricket coach to train Fiji's national team as part of broader people-to-people ties, echoing previous initiatives where India supported cricket development in Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and the Caribbean.

Other Key Announcements:

- The GoI has accepted the proposed visit of the Parliamentary Delegation and of the Great Council of Chiefs' (GCC) Delegation from Fiji to India in 2026.
- PM of Fiji Rabuka expressed interest in joining the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (**IPOI**).
- Both countries welcomed the establishment of Cyber Security Training Cell (CSTC) in Fiji.
- Fiji has extended its support for India as a Permanent Member in a reformed and expanded United National Security Council (UNSC) and has reaffirmed its support to India's candidature for UNSC non-permanent membership for the term **2028-29**.

Other Key Highlights:

Ocean of Peace: PM of Fiji Rabuka outlined his vision of an 'Ocean of Peace' which focuses on building a peaceful, stable, secure, and sustainable future and well-being for the Pacific region.

- He outlined this vision during the 54th Sapru House Lecture on 'Ocean of Peace' held in New Delhi (Delhi), organised by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA).
- **Nutan Kapoor Mahawar**, Acting Director General (DG) and Additional Secretary of ICWA, chaired the lecture.

Fiji's PM Visited UIDAI HQs: PM of Fiji Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka visited the headquarters of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) in New Delhi, Delhi.

- He was welcomed by Bhuvnesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of UIDAI and senior officials of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (IT)(MeitY).
- During the visit, he was briefed about the digital reforms of India such as Aadhaar and Digilocker initiatives, by the senior officials of UIDAI.

About Fiji:

Prime Minister (**PM**) – Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka

Capital- Suva

Currency- Fijian Dollar (FJD)

FOREIGN VISITS

Overview of EAM S. Jaishankar's 3 day Visit to Russia from August 19-21, 2025

Union Minister **Dr. Subrahmanyam (S.) Jaishankar**, Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**), Government of India (GoI) undertook a 3-day official visit to Russia from August 19 to 21, 2025, at the invitation of **Denis Manturov**, the 1st Deputy Prime Minister (PM) of Russia.

- The visit aims to further bolster the longstanding and time-tested India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Overview of EAM S. Jaishankar's visit to Russia
- ✓ **Invited by:** Denis Manturov, 1st Deputy PM of Russia
- ✓ **26th IRIGC-TEC:**
- ✓ **Co-chairs:** EAM S. Jaishankar (India) and Denis Manturov (Russia)
- ✓ **Where?** Moscow, Russia
- ✓ **Trade Target:** USD 100 billion by 2030
- ✓ **Key Outcome:** Signing of protocol for the 26th session of IRIGC-TEC

Key Highlights of the visit:

Meeting with Russian President : During his visit, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar met Russian President

Vladimir Putin, stressing the need to address trade imbalances and expand bilateral cooperation in a balanced and sustainable manner.

Bilateral Meeting: He also held a bilateral meeting with his Russian counterpart **Sergey Lavrov**. During the meeting, leaders of both countries reviewed bilateral relations and discussed preparations for the annual summit scheduled to be held later in 2025.

- They reaffirmed their shared commitment to global multilateralism, including in Group-20 (G20), BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), and jointly emphasized the need for United Nations Security Council (UNSC) reforms.

About 26th IRIGC-TEC Session:

Co-chairs: EAM S. Jaishankar co-chaired the **26th** India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade,

Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (**IRIGC-TEC**) Session with Russian Deputy PM Manturov in Moscow.

- The session aimed at further bolstering bilateral relations which was the main highlight of EAM's 3-day official visit to Russia.

Key Focus Areas: During the session, both leaders emphasized the need to address tariff and non-tariff trade barriers, remove bottlenecks in logistics, promote connectivity, effect payment mechanisms smoothly, and finalise the Programme of Economic Cooperation **till 2030**.

- During the session, discussions were held on energy cooperation and mobility of Indian skilled professionals, especially in Information Technology (IT), construction, and engineering.

Trade and Economic Cooperation: Also, both countries emphasized the early conclusion of the India-Eurasian Economic Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and regular business engagements to achieve the revised bilateral trade target of **USD 100 billion by 2030**.

Signing of Protocol: The plenary session concluded with co-chairs signing the protocol for the 26th IRIGC-TEC.

India-Russia Business Forum:

Forum: Following conclusion of 26th session of IRIGC-TEC, EAM S. Jaishankar and Russian Deputy PM addressed the India-Business Forum held in Moscow.

Focus: The participants emphasized the coordination between the Forum and Working Groups under the IRIGC.

About Russia:

President- Vladimir Putin

Capital- Moscow

Currency- Russian Ruble (RUB)

BANKING & FINANCE

RBI IN NEWS

RBI Announced 3 Consumer-Centric Schemes to Drive Financial Inclusion

In August 2025, **Sanjay Malhotra**, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced **3 schemes** aimed to boost financial inclusion among consumers during his address following the conclusion of 3rd bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting of Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26) was held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- The newly announced consumer-centric schemes include: simplified Re-Know Your Customer (KYC) procedures ; streamlined claims for deceased account holders; and enhanced features on the Retail Direct Platform for Government Securities (G-Secs).
- These reforms aimed at enhancing financial access, simplifying banking processes, and bolstering the reach of government-supported financial inclusion schemes.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Announcement of 3 consumer-centric schemes
- ✓ **Announced by:** Sanjay Malhotra, RBI Governor
- ✓ **3 Consumer-centric schemes:** simplified Re-KYC procedures ; streamlined claims for deceased account holders; and enhanced features on the Retail Direct Platform for G-Secs
- ✓ **Doorstep Bank Campus :** July 01, 2025 to September 30, 2025

About 3 Consumer-Centric Schemes:**Rural Re-KYC and Financial Progress:**

Conducting doorstep banking camps: As per RBI directions, all banks will conduct doorstep banking camps from **July 01, 2025 to September 30, 2025** at Panchayat level.

- The RBI announced a major outreach campaign for rural and unbanked populations to commemorate 10 years of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (**PMJDY**).

Key Focus Areas: These banking camps focus mainly on: Re-KYC for account holders of PMJDY; opening new bank accounts; enrolling beneficiaries in micro-insurance and pension schemes such as:

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY); and resolving customer grievances' on-site.

Key Progress: As per RBI's data released in August 2025, during the 1st month of doorstep banking camps, which started on July 01, 2025, witnessed 1.05 lakh camps being conducted in the Gram Panchayats (GPs).

- During this same time period, over 6 lakh PMJDY accounts were opened, and 7 lakh+ enrolments under PMJJBY took place, with nearly 12 lakh enrolments under PMSBY and 3 lakh enrolments under APY.
- Additionally, Re-KYC of 14.22 lakh bank accounts has been done through the camp mode.

Simplified Settlement Process for Deceased Customers:

Objective: Banks have been directed to simplify the claim settlement process for deceased account holders under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

New Framework: The RBI is expected to soon release a draft circular for public consultation to streamline and standardize the settlement procedure and will cover: deposit accounts, articles held in safe custody, and safe deposit locker contents.

Expanding Functionality of RBI Retail:

Objective: RBI plans to **expand** the functionality of its retail direct platform to allow retail investors to invest in Treasury Bills (**T-Bills**) through Systematic Investment Plans (**SIPs**).

- This move is expected to simplify G-Secs investment for individual investors.
- T-Bills are short-term debt instruments issued by the Government of India (GoI) to meet the temporary liquidity demands, with maturity time periods of 14, 91, 182, and 364 days.

Retail Direct Platform: It was launched by RBI in November 2021, to help retail investors open Gilt accounts directly with the RBI under the Retail Direct Scheme (RDS).

- The scheme allows individuals to participate in primary auctions of G-Secs and also trade them in the secondary market.

Recent Related News:

In June 2025, RBI released India's International Investment Position (IIP) data. As per the data, **over 72%** of the total growth in India's foreign financial assets during the FY25 was mainly driven by higher overseas direct investments, currency & deposits, and reserve assets.

- The data further revealed that **reserve assets** alone accounted for **over 54%** increase in Indian residents' overseas financial assets; followed by currency & deposits and direct investments.

RBI Relaxed Procedures for Opening Special Rupee Vostro Accounts

In August 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has **relaxed** norms for opening Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (**SRVAs**) and allowed banks to open these accounts for foreign correspondent banks without its prior approval.

- This RBI decision, effective immediately, streamlines the process introduced in July 2022 for settling cross-border trade transactions in Indian Rupees (INR).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Relaxation in the norms for opening SRVAs
- ✓ **Announced by:** RBI
- ✓ **Key Relaxation:** Removed the requirement for RBI's prior approval
- ✓ **SRVAs introduction:** July 2022
- ✓ **Benefit of SRVAs:** Settles trade transaction in INR

About Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs):

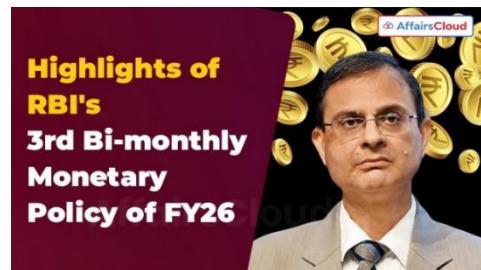
Purpose: It is an additional arrangement for the settlement of international trade through INR and helps to reduce dependence on hard (freely convertible) currency and enhances financial stability.

Previous Arrangement: Earlier, banks were allowed to open SRVAs of correspondent banks, with prior approval of RBI for situations like: invoicing, payment, and settlement of exports/imports in INR.

Highlights of RBI's 3rd Bi-monthly Monetary Policy FY2025-26

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducted the 56th and **3rd Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** meeting of Financial Year (FY) 2025-26 from August 4 to 6, 2025 under the chairmanship of **Shri Sanjay Malhotra**, Governor, RBI.

- The meeting was attended by the MPC members Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Shri Saugata Bhattacharya, Prof. Ram Singh, Dr. Poonam Gupta and Dr. Rajiv Ranjan.


Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** RBI 3rd Bi-monthly MPC
- ✓ **Policy Rates:** Repo – 5.5%, Reverse repo – 3.35%, SDF – 5.25%, MSF – 5.75%
- ✓ **GDP:** 6.5% for FY26
- ✓ **Inflation:** 3.1% for FY26
- ✓ **3 Consumer centric schemes:** Doorstep re-KYC, Simplified deceased settlement, Retail direct upgrade
- ✓ **T-Bills:** SIP in Retail Direct platform
- ✓ **RBI team:** 30 members to remove obsolete regulations

RBI MPC Keeps Repo Rates Unchanged at 5.5%, Maintains 'Neutral' Stance

Rate unchanged: All the MPC members voted unanimously to keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at **5.50%**.

- Consequently, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate shall remain unchanged at 5.25% and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 5.75%
- The MPC also decided to continue with the **neutral stance**.

Reason: The move aims to give more time for the earlier rate cuts, i.e. 100 basis points (bps) rate cut since February 2025, to pass through to lending rates and stimulate broader economic activity.

RBI Policy Rates:

Category	Rate
Repo Rate	5.50%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
SDF	5.25%

MSF	5.75%
Cash Reserve Ratio	3.00%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio	18.00%
Bank Rate	5.75%

RBI Projects GDP Growth at 6.5% For FY26

GDP Forecast: The committee has retained the real GDP growth for FY 2025-26 at **6.5%**.

- The projection for FY26 for Quarter 1(Q1: April – June 2025) at 6.5%; Q2 (July – September 2025) at 6.7%; Q3 (October – December 2025) at 6.6%; Q4 (January – March 2026) at 6.3%.
- The real GDP growth for Q1:2026-27 (April-June 2026) is projected at 6.6%.

CPI Inflation for FY26 revised to 3.1% versus 3.7% earlier

Inflation Projection: The medium-term target for Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation is 4% within a band of +/- 2%.

- The CPI inflation for FY 2025-26 is now projected at **3.1%**, a significant reduction from the 3.7% forecast made in June.
- The CPI quarterly estimates are: Q2 at 2.1%, Q3 at 3.1% and Q4 at 4.4% and projection for Q1:2026-27 is 4.9%.
- The CPI headline inflation declined for the 8th consecutive month to a 77-month low of 2.1% in June 2025, driven by a sharp decline in food inflation.

India's Current Account Deficit (CAD)

CAD: India's CAD moderated to 0.6% of GDP in 2024-25 from 0.7% of GDP in 2023-24 due to robust services exports and strong remittances receipts.

- Merchandise trade deficit further widened in Q1 of 2025-26.

RBI announces 3 consumer-centric schemes to drive financial inclusion

Schemes: The RBI announced the following three key measures for individual customers, ranging from simplifying procedures for families of deceased bank account holders to improving access to government bond markets:

- Doorstep re-KYC (Know Your Customer) and financial services:** Banks will hold camps to assist customers with re-KYC process to a large number of accounts.
- Simplified claims for deceased customers' account:** The RBI announced the streamlining procedures for accessing funds in accounts and recovering contents from deceased bank customers deposit lockers and other custodial arrangements.
- Retail Direct gets an upgrade:** The upgrade aims to enhance the user experience, making it more accessible for retail investors across the country.

[Click here to read about the Schemes](#)

RBI launches SIP, auto-bidding feature in Retail Direct Platform for T-Bills

SIP for T-Bills: The RBI announced the launch of Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) for Treasury Bills (T-Bills) via its Retail Direct Platform.

- This facility will help in the automatic placement of bids in the primary auctions of T-bills by using the NACH (National Automated Clearing House) mode of payment.

RBI's campaign for financial inclusion saturation plan, re-KYC covers a third of total gram panchayats

Campaign: The Gram Panchayat (GP) level campaign launched on July 1st and running until September

30, aims to promote financial inclusion schemes and re-verify KYC information for bank accounts to further strengthen financial inclusion.

- Apart from the above, the campaign also initiated opening of PMJDY (Pradhan Mantri Jhan Dan Accounts) for unbanked adults and enrolment under various social security schemes.
- The banks are utilizing Business Correspondents (BCs) to assist in the campaign's execution.

30-member RBI team to steer removal of obsolete regulations

30-member team: The RBI has set up a 30-member Regulatory Review Cell (RRC), a dedicated internal mechanism, to streamline financial regulations and reinforce systemic resilience.

- Currently, the RBI has approximately 8,000 active regulations, circulars, master directions and notification. The RRC aims to streamline this framework down to roughly 3000 relevant regulations.
- In the 1st phase, the cell has selected 33 core subjects for consolidation.

India's foreign exchange reserves

Forex: As on August 01, 2025 India's foreign exchange reserves stood at **USD 688.9 billion** (bn), sufficient to cover more than 11 months of merchandise imports.

Important Definitions:

Repo Rate: It is the interest rate at which the RBI lends money to commercial banks for short-term needs, against government securities.

Reverse Repo rate: It is the interest rate at which the RBI borrows money from commercial banks, usually for short durations.

Retail Direct Platform: This platform allows retail investors to buy Government securities (G-Secs) in primary auctions as well as buy and sell G-secs in the secondary market.

- The portal was launched in November 2021 to facilitate retail investors to open their Gilt accounts with the RBI.

Treasury Bills, are short-term loans that you give to the government. In return, the government promises to pay you back after a few weeks or months — with a little extra money as a reward.

RBI Issued Final Co-lending Norms to Enhance Risk Sharing and Transparency

In August 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) issued revised co-lending guidelines for banks and Non-Bank Financial Companies (**NBFCs**) under various provisions of the Banking Regulation Act (1949), Reserve Bank of India Act (1934), and National Housing Bank Act (1987). As per the revised guidelines, it is now mandatory for all Regulated Entities (REs) involved in Co-lending Arrangements (CLAs) to retain a **minimum 10%** of each individual loan on their own books.

- RBI has also clarified that digital lending arrangements will continue to be administered by the 'Reserve Bank of India (Digital Lending) Directions, 2025'.
- These revised guidelines will come into force from **January 01, 2026**.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of final co-lending guidelines for Banks and NBFCs
- ✓ **Launched by:** RBI
- ✓ **Effective From:** January 01, 2026
- ✓ **Minimum rate of Individual Loan:** 10%
- ✓ **Applicable to:** Commercial banks (excluding: SFBs, Regional Rural Banks, RRBs, and LABs), financial institutions, and NBFCs including HFCs
- ✓ **Deadline:** 15 days
- ✓ **Maximum DLG:** 5%

Key Provisions:

Timeline: The new rules mandated the loan originator to transfer the loan to the co-lender **within 15 days** of the loan being originated.

- In case of failure to adhere to the timeline specified in the rules, the loan will no longer be considered a CLA and can then only be transferred to other eligible lenders according to the provisions under Transfer of Loan Exposure norms of 2021.

Maximum DLG: As per the new rules, the originating lender may also offer maximum Default Loss Guarantee (DLG) of **5%** of the outstanding loan portfolio, subject to the condition to comply with RBI's digital lending norms and is not used for credit enhancement.

PSL: Each partner in the co-lending arrangement can classify its portion of the loan as Priority Sector Lending (PSL), provided the loan meets PSL eligibility criteria.

Applicability: RBI's approved final norms for CLA have been extended to all commercial banks (excluding: Small Finance Banks (SFBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), and Local Area Banks (LABs), financial institutions, and NBFCs including Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)).

Blended Interest Rate: RBI has mentioned that the interest rate charged to borrowers will be a blended rate, which will be determined based on the weighted average of each RE's internal rate, proportionate to their funding contribution.

Uniform Asset Classification: The new CLA rules has introduced a uniform asset classification system which means if one lender classifies a loan as a Special Mention Account (SMA) or Non-Performing Asset (NPA), then the same classification will be applicable to the co-lending partner for their exposure to that borrower.

Provisions to include in Co-Lending: Lenders have been mandated to include certain provision like: the criteria for borrower selection, product lines, geographical areas of operation, fee structures, and other relevant terms, for co-lending in their credit policies.

Other key features: As per revised norms, the loan arrangement with the borrower is required to add an upfront disclosure of the roles and responsibilities of each partner.

- In addition to that, all transactions including disbursements and repayments between REs and with the borrower must be done through an escrow account maintained with a bank.

Recent Related News:

In July 2025, **RBI** granted Scheduled Bank (SB) status to NSDL Payments Bank Limited, a subsidiary of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), in exercise of its powers given under Section 42(6) (a) of the RBI Act, 1934.

- NSDL Payments Bank Ltd. has been placed in Schedule II of the RBI Act, 1934.

AU Small Finance Bank gets RBI approval to become a universal bank

In August 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted in-principle approval to **AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB)** for transitioning from a SFB to Universal Bank (UB).

- This is the first time after 11 years that an entity has been granted a Universal bank licence by the regulator.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** AU SFB gets approval to UB
- ✓ **Operation started in:** 2017
- ✓ **Eligibility:** Net worth -Rs.1000 crs
- ✓ **States:** 5 years' satisfactory performance, listed in Stock exchange
- ✓ **Financial Metric:** Net profit last two FYs, GNPA - 3%, NNPA -1%, CRAR - 15%

Key Highlights:

Background: The AU SFB received the SFB license in 2015 and commenced its journey as a SFB in April 2017.

- The application for SFB to UB transition was submitted in September 2024, under the RBI's 'on-tap' licensing guidelines and April 2024 framework for the voluntary conversion of SFB to UBs.

Eligibility Criteria for SFB to UB:

Net Worth: SFBs must have a minimum net worth of **Rs. 1000 crores**.

Status: The bank must have a scheduled status with a satisfactory track record of performance for a minimum period of **5 years**.

- The shares of the bank should have been listed on a recognised stock exchange.

Financial Metric: The SFB must maintain a net profit in the last two financial years (FYs). AUSFB reported a rise in first quarter net profit. The net profit is Rs 581 crore. It was Rs 503 crore last year.

- They must have Gross Non Performing Asset (GNPA) and Net NPA of less than or equal to 3% and 1% respectively in the last two FYs.
- It should meet the prescribed Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) requirements of **15%**.

Note* RBI sets up Standing External Advisory Committee (SEAC) headed by MK Jain, will evaluate applications for Universal Banks as well as Small Finance Banks (SFBs).

About AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB):

Managing Director (**MD**) & Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) – Sanjay Agarwal

Headquarters – Jaipur, Rajasthan

RBI Imposes Rs. 75 Lakh Monetary Penalty on ICICI Bank

In August 2025, The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has imposed a **monetary penalty of Rs. 75 lakhs** on Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based **ICICI Bank Limited** for breaching regulatory guidelines

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** RBI imposes monetary penalty on ICICI Bank
- ✓ **Penalty Amount:** Rs.75 lakh
- ✓ **Reason:** Violation of guidelines on *Valuation of Properties – Empanelment of Valuers & Opening of Current Accounts – Need for Discipline*

Reason for Penalty

The violations were related to:

- Valuation of Properties – Empanelment of Valuers:** Failure to conduct property valuations through **independent RBI-approved valuers** for certain mortgage loans.
- Opening of Current Accounts by Banks – Need for Discipline:** Opening or maintaining current accounts in breach of RBI's regulatory restrictions.

Inspection & Action

- The action follows the Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (**ISE 2024**) of ICICI Bank, referencing its financial position as of 31 March 2024. The RBI found deficiencies in regulatory compliance, warranting the monetary penalty.

PPSL Received RBI's Approval to Operate as Online PA

In August 2025, Paytm Payments Services Limited (**PPSL**), a wholly-owned subsidiary of One 97 Communications, has received 'In-Principle' approval from the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) to operate as an Online Payment Aggregator (**PA**) under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act (**PSS Act, 2007**).

- The approval is subject to adherence to the Guidelines on Regulation of Payment Aggregators and Payment Gateways dated March 17, 2020 and related clarifications released on March 31, 2021.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Approval for Online PA
- ✓ **Granted by:** RBI
- ✓ **Granted to:** Paytm Payments Services Limited (PPSL)
- ✓ **Act:** Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS Act, 2007)

Key Directions:

Merchant Onboarding Resumes: This approval allows PPSL to restart onboarding new merchants, a process that had been on hold for over a year.

System Audit: RBI has mandated PPSL to conduct a thorough system audit, which includes a cyber security audit.

Deadline: PPSL must file the system audit report within 6 months, otherwise the RBI will withdraw its in-principle approval.

- Additionally, PPSL is required to seek prior approval for any changes in its shareholding or ownership structure.

RBI Allowed NRIs to Invest Surplus Rupee SRVAs in G-Secs & T-Bills

In August 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has allowed Non-Resident Indians (**NRIs**) holding Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (**SRVAs**) to invest their surplus rupee balances in central Government Securities (G-Secs) including Treasury Bills (T-Bills). This new measure came into immediate effect.

- The directions were issued under the sections 10(4) and 11 (1) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 and are without prejudice to permissions/approval, if any, required under any other law.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Surplus rupee funds in Special Rupee Vostro Accounts(SRVAs) to be invested in G-Secs & T-Bills
- ✓ **Allowed by:** RBI
- ✓ **Who Can Invest?** Non-Resident Indians(NRIs) / foreign entities with Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs) in Indian banks
- ✓ **Purpose:** To use surplus rupee trade settlement funds and boost rupee internationalisation

Key Changes:

Updated Master Direction: In order to incorporate new guidelines, RBI has revised its Master Direction i.e. RBI (Non-Resident Investment in Debt Instruments) Directions, 2025 issued in January 2025.

Directions to AD Cat-I: RBI has directed the Authorised Dealer Category (AD Cat-I) banks to inform their constituents and concerned customers about the new provisions.

Important Term:

SRVAs: It is a special arrangement, introduced in **July 2022**, for the settlement of international trade through Indian Rupee (INR). It helps to reduce dependence on hard (convertible) currency and improves financial stability.

RBI To Introduce Continuous Clearing and Settlement Realisation in CTS in 2 Phases

On August 13 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) issued a circular for introduction of '**Continuous Clearing and Settlement on Realisation in CTS**'. As per RBI's circular, the Cheque Truncation System(**CTS**) which currently processes cheques with a clearing cycle of **upto two working days**, is set to transition to continuous clearing with 'on-realisation-settlement'.

- The new mechanism will be implemented in two phases i.e. Phase-I will come into effect on **October 04, 2025** while Phase-2 is scheduled to commence on **January 03, 2026**.
- It aimed to enhance the efficiency of cheque clearing and reduce settlement risk for participants in the cheque clearing system, as well as to improve customer experience.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Introduction of new mechanism for processing of cheques
- ✓ **Name of New Mechanism:** 'Continuous Clearing and Settlement on Realisation in CTS'
- ✓ **Phase-wise implementation:** Phase-I (on October 04, 2025) and Phase-II (on January 03, 2026)
- ✓ **Change in Processing Time:** from current 'T+1' days to just few hours
- ✓ **Presentation Time:** 10 AM to 4 PM

About Continuous Clearing and Settlement on Realisation in CTS:

Single Presentation Time: As per the new mechanism, there will be a single (cheque) presentation session from **10 AM to 4 PM**.

Processing of Cheques: Cheques received by the bank branches will be scanned, presented, and passed to the clearing house immediately and continuously during the presentation time, thereby reducing the clearing cycle from current 'T+1 days' to just a few hours.

- The confirmation session shall start at 10 AM and close at 7 PM. For every cheque presented, the drawee bank shall generate either positive confirmation (for honoured cheques) or negative confirmation (for dishonoured cheques)

Timeline for Phase-I: During Phase-I, it is mandatory for drawee banks to confirm (positively/negatively) cheques presented on them by 7:00 pm on the same day, in failure to do the confirmation by then, the cheques will be considered as approved for settlement.

Timeline for Phase-II: During Phase-2, cheques are required to be confirmed within the 3 hours of presentation time (T+3 hours clear hours), if no confirmation is received within the specified time limit, then, the cheque will be considered approved.

Completion of Settlement: RBI has clarified that after the completion of settlement; the presenting bank is required to release the funds to the customer immediately within an hour.

About Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

Governor- Sanjay Malhotra

Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra

Established- April 01, 1935

SEBI**SEBI Extended Deadline for Implementation of Nomination Framework**

In July 2025, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has extended the timeline for the implementation of the **2nd** and **3rd** phases of its new nomination framework in the securities market, originally issued on January 10, 2025 and later, amended on February 28, 2025.

- SEBI announced these new timelines through a circular issued in exercise of powers given under Section 11 (1) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 read with Regulation 60A of the SEBI (Depositories and Participants) Regulations, 2018 and Regulation 29A of the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996, to safeguard the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate the securities market.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Extension of Implementation Timeline of Nomination Framework
- ✓ **Announced by:** Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**)

- ✓ **New Implementation Timeline:** August 08, 2025 (Phase-II) and December 15, 2025 (Phase-III)
- ✓ **Originally Introduced:** On January 10, 2025
- ✓ **Objective:** To simplify nomination process for mutual fund folios and demat accounts,

Key Changes:

New Timelines: As per SEBI's circular, the implementation date for phase-II of the framework, originally scheduled for June 01, 2025, has been extended to **August 08, 2025**.

- Similarly, the implementation date for phase-III, initially set for September 01, 2025, has been extended to **December 15, 2025**.

Other Provisions Remain Unchanged: SEBI has clarified that apart from timelines, all other provisions of Phase-I and Phase-II of nomination framework shall continue to remain unchanged.

About Nomination Framework:

Objective: The framework, originally introduced in January 2025, seeks to simplify nomination process for mutual fund folios and demat accounts, further aims to enhance transparency and prevent unclaimed assets.

Key Amendments: As per SEBI's February 2025 circular, some of the key changes introduced were:

- After the demise of one or more joint account holders, the assets will be transferred to the surviving holder(s) without the need for additional Know Your Customer (KYC) unless it was requested earlier and not provided.
- Investors with single holdings now have the option to opt-out of nomination either online or offline mode.

Choice AMC Receives SEBI Approval to Start MF Business

On August 1, 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based **Choice Asset Management Company (AMC)** Private Limited, a subsidiary of Choice International Limited, received final approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**), to operate as an AMC managing **Choice Mutual Fund(MF)**.

- This move aligns with Choice's long-term strategy to offer quality, regulated financial solutions.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Receives Approval for MF Business
- ✓ **From:** SEBI
- ✓ **Received By:** Choice AMC
- ✓ **Products :** Index Funds and ETF

Entry into Mutual Fund Market:

Initial Product Focus: Passive investment products, including Index Funds and Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs), will be launched in a phased rollout.

Target Segments: Serves retail investors, emerging affluent, and institutional clients through goal-based investing, Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs), and broad-market index solutions.

Strategic Vision: Bridges traditional financial advice with modern investment products using technology-driven distribution and robust governance.

Quant MF Gets SEBI Approval to Launch India's First SIF

On August 1, 2025, **Quant Mutual Fund** (MF) received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) to launch **India's first Specialised Investment Fund (SIF)** named 'QSIF Equity Long-Short Fund'.

- This makes Quant, the **first** Asset Management Company (AMC) in India to receive such approval under the new **SIF category**.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?**Quant MF becomes first AMC receives approval to launch SIF

- ✓ **Approved by?** Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**)
- ✓ **Fund Name:** QSIF Equity Long-Short Fund
- ✓ **Strategy:** Long-short across equity, debt, hybrid

About SIF Equity Long-Short Fund:

Features: SIFs are designed to bridge the gap between **MFs** and Portfolio Management Services (**PMS**).

- These funds offer flexible strategies, such as long-short equity, sector rotation, and use of leverage and derivatives.

Strategy: The QSIF Equity Long-Short Fund will operate across equity, debt, and hybrid instruments, allowing for both long positions (buying rising stocks) and short positions (betting against falling stocks).

Investment Norms: The minimum investment required in SIFs is **Rs.10 lakh** per investor.

- As per SEBI norms, if any investor breaches this threshold, their units across strategies will be frozen for debit.
- A 30-day window is provided for rebalancing; failure to comply will lead to automatic redemption at the prevailing Net Asset Value (NAV).

Sebi proposes single-window gateway for trusted foreign investors

In August 2025, the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed a single-window gateway called **SWAGAT-FI** to ease regulatory process for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** SWAGAT-FI framework
- ✓ **Objective:** Making it easier for FI
- ✓ **Relaxations:** Single Window, KYC review, Increased participation, Single demat account.

Key Highlights:

SWAGAT-FI: The Sebi's Single Window Automatic & Generalised Access for Trusted Foreign Investors (SWAGAT-FI) aims to offer a unified, streamlined and consistent access mechanism for certain categories of FI that are verified as low-risk category.

- This framework will help reduce regulatory complexity, simplify compliance, and enhance India's attractiveness as an investment destination.

Target: This initiative targets government-owned funds, central banks, sovereign wealth funds, multilateral entities, and highly regulated public retail funds, which currently contribute over 70% of FPI assets under custody.

Proposed relaxations under SWAGAT-FI

Single Window: It aims to provide eligible investors a streamlined, single-window registration process for both FPIs and Foreign Venture Capital Investors (FVCIs), reducing paperwork, cost, and regulatory complexity.

Review of Know Your Customer (KYC): Currently, the KYC of FPIs are reviewed every year or three years based on the risk categorisation, while FVCI, are reviewed every year/5 years.

- Now, it is proposed to increase the periodicity for continuance of registration and review of KYC of SWAGAT-FIs to **10 years**.

Increased participation of NRIs/OCI/RI: Currently, aggregate contribution from non-resident Indian (NRI), Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) and Resident Indian individuals (RI) in an FPI is capped at 50% of the total corpus of the FPI.

- Now, it has proposed that restrictions on these contributions from NRIs, OCIs and RIs will be **removed** for eligible SWAGAT-FI funds, particularly benefiting mutual funds (MFs) with diversified retail bases.

Single Demat Account: It is proposed to permit SWAGAT-FIs to use a single demat account for holding all securities acquired as FPI or FVCI or as foreign investor investing in units of investment vehicles, on an optional basis.

FPI Data: As of June 30, 2025, India had 11,913 registered FPIs, collectively holding assets valued at **Rs. 81trillion (tn)**, up from Rs 51tn in March 2022.

SEBI Extended Deadline for New Margin Pledge Framework to October 10, 2025

In August 2025, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has **extended the timeline** for the implementation of framework related to the process of **margin obligations** through pledge and re-pledge within the depository system to **October 10, 2025** instead of its original timeline i.e. September 01, 2025.

- SEBI announced this new timeline through a circular issued in exercise of powers given under Section 11(1) of Chapter IV of SEBI Act, 1992, read with Regulation 30 of Chapter VII of SEBI (Stock Brokers) Regulations, 1992.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Extension of Implementation Timeline for new margin pledge framework
- ✓ **Announced by:** Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**)
- ✓ **Original Timeline:** September 1, 2025
- ✓ **Revised Timeline:** October 10, 2025
- ✓ **Objective:** To reduce chances of brokers misusing securities and ensure a clear transaction trail

About the Framework:

Aim: SEBI introduced this framework originally in June 2025. The new framework has mandated that all margin obligations in the equity and derivatives segment be fulfilled only through the depository system of pledges and re-pledges.

Automated Invocation: Under this framework, SEBI introduced an automated invocation process where clients' margin-pledged securities, upon invocation, will be blocked for early pay-in within the demat account of the client.

- This move will help in reducing the chances of brokers misusing securities while ensuring a clear transaction trail.

Pledge Release for Pay-in: SEBI has also introduced a unique feature, 'Pledge Release for Pay-in' where, the pledge will be released and the pay-in block will be set up immediately in the demat account of the client.

- This single form of instruction eliminates the requirement for multiple instructions or manual intervention.
- Additionally, depositories will enable the required functionality for the "pledge release for pay-in" system to facilitate compliance with the new framework.

Significance: Upon implementation of the framework, the brokers will no longer require separate physical or electronic instructions to process un-pledging and delivery, and the system itself will validate and process the client's pay-in obligations automatically.

About Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**):

It was initially constituted as a non-statutory body on April 12, 1988 through a resolution of the Government of India (GoI) and was later, established as a statutory body in 1992.

Chairperson- Tuhin Kanta Pandey

Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra

SEBI Approves Reclassification of LIC as a Public Shareholder in IDBI Bank

On August 24, 2025, Securities Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) approved the request of Life Insurance

Corporation of India (**LIC**) to be classified from a promoter shareholder to a public shareholder in Industrial Development Bank of India (**IDBI**) bank.

- This move is a pre-condition for the privatization of IDBI Bank, in which LIC holds 49% stake as of June 2025.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Reclassification of LIC share holding
- ✓ **By Whom?** Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- ✓ **In which Entity:** IDBI Bank
- ✓ **Reclassification:** From a promoter shareholder to a public shareholder
- ✓ **Conditions:** No board representation, Voting rights below or of 10%, stake reduction to 15% or less in 2 years.

Conditions: SEBI has attached strict conditions such as the voting rights of LIC not exceeding 10%, no direct or indirect control over the bank, no Board Representation, reduction of stake in IDBI bank to 15% or less within 2 years.

- The non-compliance of LIC with the conditions will automatically cancel the reclassification.

Disinvestment Plan:

- The Government of India (GoI) and LIC together hold 94.72% stake in IDBI Bank (GoI – 45.48%, LIC – 49.24%).
- They will jointly divest 60.7% stake through the strategic sale.
- Financial bids are expected between Oct-Dec 2025.

LOANS ISSUED BY BANKS

CEF Group Secured EUR 38 Million Funding from German Export Finance Bank to Construct CBG Plants

On August 1 2025, **CEF Group**, an Indian cleantech company focused on converting waste into Compressed Biogas (CBG), has secured **38 Million euros** in the form of equity and debt financing from the **German Export Finance Bank**.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Financial Support of 38 Million Euros
- ✓ **Granted by:** German Export Finance Bank.
- ✓ **Granted to:** CEF Group, Indian cleantech company
- ✓ **Purpose:** To construct 2 CBG Plants across India
- ✓ **CEF's Target:** To establish 22 CBG plants nationwide
- ✓ **Significance:** Supports India's SATAT initiative, promoting CBG as a clean alternative

CEF Group Secures Fund for CBG Plant Expansion:

Funding Purpose: This funding will be used for the construction of **two CBG plants** as part of CEF Group's wider plan to construct **22** such facilities across India.

- These plants will convert agricultural and municipal waste into clean fuel, fostering a circular economy and reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

3 Projects: At present, the company has 3 projects in advanced stages of execution and these are: two municipal solid waste-based plants in Jammu (Jammu & Kashmir, J&K); Ahmedabad (Gujarat).

- Another facility established in Western Uttar Pradesh (UP), to process press mud, a sugar industry byproduct.

CEF Group: This Group functions under Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (**SATAT**), flagship initiative of the Government of India (GoI) which aims to promote CBG as a clean alternative to fossil fuels by promoting private-sector participation.

IFC Commits USD 150 Mn to HDFC Capital's H-DREAM Fund

On **August 7, 2025**, Washington D.C. (the United States of America, USA)-based International Finance Corporation (**IFC**), a member of the World Bank Group, announced a **USD 150 million (around Rs. 1,300 crore)** anchor equity investment in the **H-DREAM Fund** (HDFC Capital Development of Real Estate Affordable and Mid-Income Fund). This fund is managed by Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based HDFC Capital Advisors, the real estate private equity arm of HDFC Group, to promote **green and affordable housing** development across India.

- The total target corpus of the H-DREAM Fund is **USD 1 billion**, comprising a **primary raise** of **USD 500 million** and a **greenshoe option** of an additional **USD 500 million**

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Investors:** IFC committed USD 150 Mn to HDFC Capital's H-DREAM Fund
- ✓ **Fund Target:** USA 1 Bn (USD 500 Mn + USD 500 Mn greenshoe) for affordable/mid-income green housing
- ✓ **Housing Target:** over 25,000 EDGE-certified homes in Tier-I/II cities (addresses 18M-unit deficit)
- ✓ **Capital Mobilized:** USD 850 Mn total expected; USD 350 Mn already committed
- ✓ **Significance:** First global fund focused on green affordable housing via private credit

About IFC, HDFC Capital Collaboration:

Capital Mobilization: IFC's anchor investment of USD 150 million is expected to mobilize up to **USD 850 million** in **long-term capital** from global institutional investors.

- The in-principle commitments of **around USD 350 million** have been secured from domestic and international institutions as well as Indian family offices.

Objective: The targeted plan is to deliver at least **25,000** green, affordable, and mid-income residential units aligned with international sustainability standards, such as **Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies (EDGE)**.

- The initiative addresses India's housing shortfall, estimated at **18 million units** in Tier-I and Tier-II cities, while prioritising environmental resilience.

Impact: This scalable funding model aims to create jobs, improve urban livability, and set a standard for sustainable urban development

Importance of Greening the Housing Sector

- Globally, the buildings sector accounts for about 33% of total electricity consumption, with residential buildings contributing 24%.

About International Finance Corporation (IFC):

Managing Director (MD) – Makhtar Diop

Headquarters- Washington D.C., the United States of America (USA)

Established- 1956

AGREEMENTS & MoUs SIGNED

ICAI Signed MoUs with NSE IX & IVCA to Promote Global Investment Education

In July 2025, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (**ICAI**), the statutory body regulating the chartered accountancy profession in India, signed Memorandums of Understanding (**MoUs**) with **NSE International Financial Services Centres(IFSC) Limited** (NSE International Exchange,

IX), subsidiary of National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE), and Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association (**IVCA**).

- The MoUs aim to promote investor education, global investment awareness, and professional development in India's capital markets.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** ICAI signed MoU
- ✓ **Entities Involved:** NSE IFSC (NSE IX) & IVCA
- ✓ **Purpose:** Promote investment reporting standards
- ✓ **Key focus (ICAI-NSE IFSC):** Investor awareness, global investment, CA training, programs on derivatives & financial innovation
- ✓ **Key focus (ICAI-IVCA):** Expert groups on alternative capital, standardizing reporting, improving transparency and governance

ICAI-NSE IFSC MoU:

Focus Area: The MoU with Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)-based NSE IFSC, focuses on collaboration in investor awareness, international investment, and capacity building for chartered accountants in the capital market domain.

Educational Programmes: Both entities will undertake co-branded educational programmes covering global investing, derivative instruments, and financial innovation to strengthen professional competence in emerging financial sectors.

ICAI-IVCA MoU:

Expert Groups: The agreement with IVCA, the apex industry body representing India's alternative capital sector, aims to set up joint expert groups focused on issues related to alternative capital.

Reporting Standards: It also seeks to standardise financial reporting frameworks through industry-led consultations, thereby improving transparency and governance practices in the alternative investment ecosystem.

BoB & FSSAI Signed MoU to Launch Customized Web-based Payment Solution

In August 2025, Bank of Baroda (**BoB**), India's 2nd largest Public Sector Bank (PSB) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (**FSSAI**) to launch customized web-based payment platform named '**FSSAI Payment Solution**'.

- The MoU was signed between **Cdr Sharad Aggarwal**, Director of FSSAI and Mini TM, Chief General Manager (CGM) & Zonal Head, New Delhi Zone, BoB, in the presence various senior government officials.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Signing of MoU to launch customized web-based payment solution
- ✓ **Entities Involved:** BoB and FSSAI
- ✓ **Platform Name:** FSSAI Payment Solution
- ✓ **Objective:** To promote ease of doing business by streamlining the digital payment interface with FSSAI

About FSSAI Payment Solution:

Aim: This strategic partnership is aimed to promote ease of doing business by streamlining the digital payment interface with various stakeholders engaging with FSSAI.

Key Benefits: The platform will simplify and automate the disbursement of grants, vendor payments, and Management Information System (MIS) functionalities.

- The implementation of this Information Technology (IT)-based platform will also enable effective monitoring and seamless control over the nodal accounts, including State Child Accounts and District Sub-Child Accounts.

Role of BoB: It will provide various services, such as personal banking, corporate banking, international banking, small and medium enterprise (SME) banking, rural banking, non-resident Indian (NRI) services and treasury services.

About Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI):

It is a statutory body established under Food Safety and Standards, 2006 under the administrative control of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW).

Chairperson- Punya Salila Srivastava

Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

Established- September 05, 2008

NABARD, APGB & Aqua Exchange Signed MoU to Launch Collateral-Free Shrimp Farming Loans

On August 11, 2025, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**NABARD**), Andhra Pradesh Grameena Bank (**APGB**), and **Aqua Exchange Agritech** Private Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh, AP) to launch a pilot Internet of Things (**IoT**)-enabled **loan model** for shrimp farmers.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** MoU Signed
- ✓ **Entities Involved:** NABARD, APGB & Aqua Exchange Agritech Private Limited
- ✓ **Purpose:** Provide IoT enabled collateral-free, low-interest loans for shrimp farmers
- ✓ **Loan Amount:** Rs. 25 crores (pilot)
- ✓ **Target Disbursement:** Rs. 100 crores (FY26), Rs. 250 crores (FY27)

About Collateral-Free Shrimp Farming Loan Initiative:

Purpose: The initiative aims to integrate shrimp farmers into the formal credit system by offering **low-interest, collateral-free crop loans**, reducing reliance on informal lending, and encouraging sustainable aquaculture.

Loan Disbursement: Total of **Rs. 25 crores** in collateral-free loans to be disbursed to around 100 shrimp farmers within 3–6 months, with an initial sanction of Rs. 1.25 crore to 5 farmers.

Future Disbursement Target: Rs. **100 crores** in Financial Year (FY) 2025–26(FY26) and Rs. 250 crores in FY27.

Farm Rating Score (FRS): An FRS will be developed to assess farmers' creditworthiness, acting as a benchmark for the formal finance sector under the Unified Lending Interface (ULI) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Technology Integration: IoT devices will be deployed for real-time monitoring of water quality, feed usage, and disease control, thereby improving productivity and reducing risks.

RBL Bank Partnered with CAMSPay to Launch Digital Payment Gateway

On August 12, 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **RBL Bank** entered into a strategic partnership with **CAMSPay**, the payments unit of Computer Age Management Services (CAMS), to launch a new digital payment gateway platform targeting Indian enterprises.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** RBL Bank Partnered with CAMSPay
- ✓ **Objective:** To launch digital payment gateway platform in India
- ✓ **Role of RBL Bank:** Settlement Service Partner
- ✓ **Role of CAMSPay:** Technology Provider

About the Partnership:

RBL Bank's Role: RBL Bank uses its banking infrastructure to deliver smooth and efficient acquiring settlement services.

CAMSPay's Contribution: CAMSPay drives payment technology innovation with features such as real-time settlement capabilities, secure card processing, real-time analytics, automated reconciliation, and efficient settlement through Open APIs, delivering a scalable and regulation-ready solution.

Collaboration Benefits: Together, they tackle payment challenges across various industries, support high transaction volumes, and ensure adherence to regulatory requirements.

Note: Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of RBL Bank is **R Subramaniakumar** and CEO of CAMSPay is **Vasanth Jeyapaul**.

HDFC ERGO General Partners with PhonePe to Promote Health Insurance

On August 13, 2025, HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company Limited (**HDFC ERGO**), a Joint Venture(JV) between HDFC Ltd and ERGO International AG, has partnered with **PhonePe** to launch an affordable **health insurance** solution, with an aim to expand health insurance coverage to the underserved citizens in India.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Partnership to promote health insurance
- ✓ **Entities:** HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company and PhonePe
- ✓ **Target Audience:** 'Missing Middle', aged 18–30
- ✓ **Premium:** Rs.12 per day or Rs.4,380 per year for coverage of Rs.3 lakhs.

About HDFC ERGO-PhonePe Partnership:

Focus: The partnership focuses on the 'Missing Middle' (approximately 40 crore Indians), aged between 18 and 30 years, who are not covered by government schemes or the existing health insurance plans.

Premiums: To serve the people in lower and middle-income groups, the premium starts at **Rs.12 per day** or Rs.4,380 per year for coverage of **Rs.3 lakhs**.

Purchase: The health insurance plan can be purchased and managed through the PhonePe application(app).

Benefits: The health insurance plan offers cashless hospitalization at numerous hospitals, outpatient consultations, coverage for listed consumables, personal accident protection, and safeguards against vector-borne diseases.

NSIC Signs MoUs with Private Banks to Boost Credit Access for MSMEs

In August 2025, National Small Industries Corporation Limited (**NSIC**) operating under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME) signed Memoranda of Understanding (**MoUs**) with several private sector banks under its MSME Credit Facilitation Programme to streamline financing, improve last-mile connectivity, and support the growth and formalization of the MSME sector.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** MoU signed
- ✓ **Entities:** NSIC(MoMSME) signed MoUs with private banks
- ✓ **Participating Banks:** Axis Bank, Dhanlaxmi Bank, Karnataka Bank, AU Small Finance Bank and IndusInd Bank
- ✓ **Objective:** Streamline financing, improve last-mile connectivity, support MSME growth & formalisation
- ✓ **Programme:** MSME Credit Facilitation Programme

Highlights of NSIC's MoU:

Key People: The MoUs were **exchanged** by Gaurav Gulati, Director (Finance) of NSIC, along with senior representatives of the participating banks, in the presence of Dr. S. S. Acharya, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of NSIC, and other senior officials from both NSIC and the banks.

- The event was attended by Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, MoMSME and S.C.L. Das, Secretary of MoMSME.

Participating Banks: The NSIC signed MoUs with five private sector banks to enhance MSME credit access:

- Axis Bank Limited, headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Dhanlaxmi Bank Limited, headquartered in Thrissur, Kerala
- Karnataka Bank Limited, headquartered in Mangalore, Karnataka
- AU Small Finance Bank Limited, headquartered in Jaipur, Rajasthan
- IndusInd Bank Limited, also headquartered in Mumbai

Objective: This initiative is expected to strengthen the overall efforts of banks in supporting small enterprises and boosting their growth

Benefits: Through this collaboration, MSMEs will be supported in accessing the formal financial system while banks expand their outreach to micro and small businesses for last-mile credit delivery.

About National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC):

Chairman and Managing Director (**CMD**) – Dr. S. S. Acharya

Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi

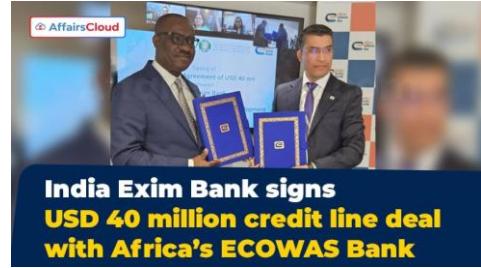
Established – 1955

EXIM Bank signs USD 40 million credit line deal with Africa's ECOWAS Bank

In August 2025, the Export-Import Bank of India (**EXIM Bank**) signed a USD40 million commercial credit line agreement with the Africa based ECOWAS Bank for Investment Development (**EBID**), the financial arm of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to support developmental projects across Africa.

Exam Hints:

- Event:** Credit line deal signed
- Entities:** EXIM bank and ECOWAS
- Amount:** USD40 million
- Signatories:** Dr. George Agyekum Donkor (EBID) & Mr. Ashok Kumar Vartia (India Exim Bank, London).
- Purpose:** Support Africa's development projects



About India-ECOWAS Bank Credit Line Agreement:

Key People: The agreement was signed by **Dr. George Agyekum Donkor**, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors (BoD) of the EBID and **Ashok Kumar Vartia**, Chief Executive of India Exim Bank, London branch in London, the United Kingdom(UK).

Purpose: This agreement is aimed at creating new opportunities for Indian businesses to contribute to Africa's growth and strengthen bilateral economic ties.

- The amount will support the infrastructure projects that are being executed by the Indian exporters.

History: India's Exim Bank has maintained a longstanding partnership with EBID, beginning with the extension of the first line of credit in 2006.

- A total of 6 facilities aggregating to **USD 1.14 billion** have been extended by the Bank to EBID to support the export of goods and services from India to Africa.

About ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID):

The EBID is a financial institution established by the 15 member states of the ECOWAS.

Members: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

President and Chairman – Dr. George Agyekum Donkor

Headquarters – Lomé, Togo

Established – 1999

About Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) :

It is fully owned by the Government of India (GoI). It is the premier export finance institution of the country that seeks to build value by integrating foreign trade and investment with the economic rise of India.

Managing Director (MD) – Harsha Bangari

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Established – 1982

Thomas Cook India Partners with Mastercard to Enable Contactless Cross-Border Payments Via Pay

On August 20, 2025, **Thomas Cook** (India) Limited, an omnichannel travel company, partnered with **Mastercard** to enable **contactless cross-border payments** via Google Pay (**GPay**), allowing users to make secure payments at merchant locations worldwide.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Contactless Cross-Border Payments enabled through GPay
- ✓ **Who?** Thomas Cook India and Mastercard
- ✓ **Integration:** Add prepaid forex cards to GPay
- ✓ **Purpose:** Secure international payments via mobile

About Cross-Border Payments via Google Pay:

Payments for International Travel: With this move, the customers can add the prepaid foreign exchange cards (forex) of Thomas Cook to Gpay and make tap-and-pay transactions across the border.

- The initiative enables Indians to make secure international payments through their mobile phones for services, including hotel accommodation, dining, and other transactions.

Tokenization: The payments are protected through tokenization, where the card number is not shared with merchants.

Elimination: This initiative eliminates the need to carry physical cards, reducing the fear of theft or loss of card.

PFC Signs EUR150 Million Loan Pact with Germany's KfW to Support RDSS Projects

In August 2025, Power Finance Corporation Limited (**PFC**), Schedule-A 'Maharatna' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Power (MoP), has signed a loan agreement worth **EUR 150 million** with Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (**KfW**), Germany's largest promotional bank, to strengthen India's power distribution under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (**RDSS**).

- This strategic partnership is expected to bolster bilateral cooperation between India and Germany in the energy sector, promoting the shared goal of driving energy transition and ensuring reliable power supply.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Signing of Loan Agreement
- ✓ **Entities :** PFC and German lender KfW
- ✓ **Loan Amount:** EUR 150 Million
- ✓ **Loan Secured by:** PFC
- ✓ **Purpose:** To fund projects under GoI's RDSS to strengthen power distribution
- ✓ **RDSS :** Launched in 2021 (Budget of Rs 3,03,758 crore)



Key Details of Agreement:

Signatories: The agreement was signed between **Parminder Chopra**, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of PFC; and **Stefan Wintels**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of KfW, in the presence of Gottfried von Gemmingen, Head of Division for Economic Affairs, German Embassy in New Delhi, Delhi.

Funding : As per the agreement, the loan proceeds will be used to fund projects under the GoI's RDSS, aimed at enhancing the operational and financial efficiency of power distribution companies nationwide.

Prior Collaboration: PFC and KfW have a history of working together on several power distribution sector projects.

RDSS: The scheme was originally launched in 2021 by the GoI, with total budget outlay of Rs 3,03, 758 crore.

About Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC):

Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)- Parminder Chopra

Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

Established- 1986

L&T Finance Partners with Google Pay to Offer Personal Loans

In August 2025, L&T Finance Limited(**LTF**), leading Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) in India, has collaborated with Google Pay(**GPay**), a mobile payment application(app) developed by Google, to offer personal loans to eligible users.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Collaboration between L&T Finance and GPay
- ✓ **Purpose:** To offer personal loan products
- ✓ **Through:** Gpay

Significance:

Strategy: This initiative aligns with L&T Finance's product diversification strategy, making personal loans fast, seamless, and digitally accessible for users.

Easy Access to Loans: This collaboration will enable the eligible users of Google Pay to easily apply for and access to personal loan products of LTF within the platform.

IndusInd Bank & NSIC Signed MoU to Strengthen Credit Access for MSMEs

In August 2025, **IndusInd Bank** Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Small Industries Corporation (**NSIC**), a Mini Ratna agency, under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME), to enhance credit access for MSMEs.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** MoU signed
- ✓ **Entities:** IndusInd Bank & NSIC
- ✓ **Purpose:** To enhance credit access for MSME
- ✓ **Offerings:** Working capital, term loans, structured credit facilities
- ✓ **Flagship Schemes Supported:** Credit Facilitation Scheme, Single Point Registration Scheme

About NSIC-IndusInd Bank Partnership:

Dignitaries: The MoU was signed in the presence of Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, MoMSME; Subhas Chandra Lal Das, Secretary, MSME; Mercy Epao, Joint Secretary, MSME; and Dr. Subhransu Sekhar Acharya, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), NSIC.

Objective: The collaboration aims to accelerate credit delivery and enhance access to comprehensive financial and digital solutions for over 6.7 crore Udyam-registered MSMEs by leveraging NSIC's ecosystem and IndusInd Bank's offerings.

Customized Banking Solutions: IndusInd Bank will offer tailored financial products, including working

capital loans, term loans, and structured credit facilities, to MSMEs associated with NSIC.

Alignment: The partnership supports NSIC's flagship schemes, namely the Credit Facilitation Scheme (CFS), which enables MSMEs to access institutional finance, and the Single Point Registration Scheme (SPRS), which provides them preference in government procurement.

Unity Bank and BharatPe Launches India's First EMI-Driven RuPay Credit Card

In August 2025, Unity Small Finance Bank Limited (**Unity Bank**) partnered with **BharatPe** to launch India's **first Equated Monthly Instalment (EMI)-driven credit card**, the '**Unity Bank BharatPe Credit Card**'. The card operates on the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) operated **RuPay** network.

- The card aims to provide transparent and inclusive access to credit, enabling salaried and self-employed individuals to manage cash flows responsibly and avoid high-interest revolving debt traps.

Exam Hints:

- What?** India's first EMI-driven credit card
- Launched by?** Unity Small Finance Bank & BharatPe
- Network:** NPCI-RuPay, UPI enabled
- Benefits:** Zero-fee, EMI up to 12 months, 2% flat rewards

About Unity Bank BharatPe Credit Card:

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants must be between **21 and 65 years** of age, with a minimum annual income of Rs.2.5 lakh for salaried individuals and Rs.5 lakh for self-employed individuals.

Auto-EMI Conversion: Monthly unpaid spends above Rs. 1000 are automatically converted into EMIs with flexible tenures of up to 12 months, with penalty-free prepayment.

Zero-fee structure: No joining charges, annual fees, or foreclosure penalties.

Rewards: Flat 2% unlimited rewards (Zillion Coins) on EMI-converted transactions, redeemable for vouchers, products, or bill payments (up to Rs. 5,000)

UPI Integration: Linkable to Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for seamless transactions.

Lifestyle Benefits: Complimentary domestic/international lounge access and health check-ups.

PFC and JBIC Sign Rs 3,500 Crore Loan Agreement to Support Bioethanol Project in Assam

On 29 August 2025, the Power Finance Corporation Limited (**PFC**), a Schedule-A Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power (MoP) and the Tokyo (Japan)-based Japan Bank for International Cooperation (**JBIC**) signed a **loan agreement** worth around **Rs 3,500 crore** (60 billion Japanese Yen (JPY)) to finance clean energy projects in India.

Exam Hints:

- What?** Signing of Rs 3,500 crore loan agreement
- By Whom?** between Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC) and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)for clean energy
- Amount:** JPY 60 billion (~Rs 3,500 crore); JBIC portion JPY 36 billion; co-financed by 4 Japanese banks
- Project:** Bamboo-based bioethanol production and power generation in Golaghat, Assam by ABEPL
- Policy Alignment:** Supports India's NPB target of E20 fuel by 2025
- Benefit:** Income boost for bamboo farmers; lower environmental impact ethanol

Co-Financers: JBIC's share of the loan is 36 billion JPY, while the balance is co-financed by four Japanese private banks—Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, The Joyo Bank Limited, Kansai Mirai Bank Limited, and Kiraboshi Bank Limited. JBIC also provides guarantees for this co-financing portion.

Project Specifics:

- The loan will fund Assam Bio Ethanol Private Limited (ABEPL) to establish a biofuel production and power generation plant in Golaghat district, Assam.
- The project focuses on second-generation bioethanol production using bamboo harvested from the Northeastern states of India, promoting renewable and cleaner energy.
- It directly supports India's National Policy on Biofuels which targets 20% ethanol blending in gasoline (E20) by 2025 to reduce fossil fuel dependency and address climate change.

Note: India is the world's third-largest emitter of Carbon dioxide (CO₂), following China and the United States of America (USA).

OTHER BANKING NEWS

Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025: Key Provisions to Take Effect from Aug 1

In July 2025, the Government of India (GoI) notified that important provisions of the **Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025** will come into effect from August 01, 2025, aiming to reshape the landscape of Indian banking.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025
- ✓ **Number of amendments?** 19
- ✓ **Substantial Interest:** From Rs.5 lakhs to Rs.2 crores
- ✓ **Director Tenure:** Extended from 8 years to 10 years
- ✓ **Unclaimed Assets:** To IEPF
- ✓ **Statutory Auditors:** PSB can fix remuneration
- ✓ **Reporting Changes:** last day of the fortnight, month or the quarter

Key Highlights:

Background: The Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025 was first published on April 15, 2025, after receiving the President's approval.

Objective: The amended legislation aims to enhance bank governance, safeguard depositors and investors, improve audits at Public Sector Banks (PSB), and increase the tenure of directors (other than the chairperson and whole-time directors) in cooperative banks.

Acts Covered: The amendment introduces 19 amendments across 5 key legislations:

- the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934
- Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- State Bank of India (SBI) Act, 1955
- Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970
- Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980

Amendments:

Redefinition of Substantial Interest: The threshold for "substantial interest" has been increased from Rs 5 lakh to **Rs 2 crore**, a limit that had remained unchanged since 1968.

- This amendment aims to modernise the definition of substantial interest to reflect inflation and sectoral growth.

Director Tenure in Cooperative Banks: The maximum tenure for directors in cooperative banks has been extended from 8 years to **10 years**, excluding the chairperson and whole-time director (WTD).

- This aligns with the 97th Constitutional Amendment and aims to promote stability in cooperative bank management.

Unclaimed Assets to Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF): The PSBs will now transfer unclaimed amounts to the IEPF, similar to practices followed by companies under the Companies Act, 2013.

- The assets included dividends remaining unpaid/unclaimed, shares where dividends haven't been claimed for 7 consecutive years, and unclaimed interest/redemption amounts on bonds.

Remuneration for statutory auditors: The PSBs now can directly fix the remuneration of their statutory auditors, replacing the earlier model where the RBI fixed it in consultation with the GoI.

- This reform gives banks greater autonomy and flexibility to attract qualified statutory auditors by offering market-aligned compensation.

Reporting Changes: The amendments also revise the reporting dates for the submission of statutory reports by banks to the RBI from reporting every Friday to the last day of the fortnight, month or the quarter.

- This adjustment streamlines regulatory compliance and reduces reporting burdens.

Note: Before the enactment of the new law, under the Banking Regulation Act, substantial interest in a company referred to holding shares of over **Rs. 5 lakhs** or **10%** of the paid-up capital of the company, whichever was lower. This may be held by an individual, his spouse, or minor child, either individually or collectively.

NPCI's New UPI Rules Effective from August 1, 2025

The National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**) issued new Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) guidelines in May 2025, which came into effect on **August 1, 2025**. The guidelines were issued with an aim to enhance the efficiency and reliability of UPI transactions.

- The new guidelines will be applicable to all participants in the UPI ecosystem, including banks, payment apps, and third-party service providers.
- The NPCI directed Payment Service Providers (PSPs) such as Googlepay (Gpay), PhonePe, and Paytm, to implement the relevant changes in their system by July 31, 2025.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** New UPI Rules are effective from August 1, 2025
- ✓ **Who issued?** National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- ✓ **Deadline for PSPs:** July 31, 2025
- ✓ **Balance Enquiry :** Up to 50 times per day
- ✓ **List Account:** Up to 25 times a day
- ✓ **Pending Transaction:** Up to 3 times a day
- ✓ **Autopay Processing Hours:** Before 10:00 AM; Between 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM; After 9:30 PM

Revised UPI Guidelines:

Balance Enquiry Limit: UPI users can check their bank account balance only up to **50 times** per UPI application per day through manual requests. The background or automated balance queries by applications are no longer permitted.

- After a successful UPI transaction, the updated account balance will be displayed automatically, reducing the need for manual enquiry.
- If the limit is exceeded, users will be restricted from checking their balance on that app for 24 hours.

List Account: UPI applications can check and list the linked bank accounts of the user for **up to 25 times** a day per application per user, to protect user privacy and control the use of backend resources.

- The List Account Application Programming Interface (API) helps users view the list of bank accounts linked to their mobile number through a specific bank in the UPI application.

- On the failure of the list account to load, retry is allowed, following the consent of the user, to avoid unnecessary system load.

Transaction status: Users can check the status of a pending transaction up to **3 times** a day at a time interval of **90 seconds** between each transaction inquiry.

- With the initial transaction, four attempts are allowed to execute a single transaction.

Autopay: The guidelines have mandated to schedule all autopay executions during non-peak hours only to reduce congestion. The non-peak hours include the time period before 10:00 AM, between 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM, and after 9:30 PM.

- If a scheduled AutoPay fails due to insufficient balance or technical issues, the application will retry up to 3 times, making it 4 total attempts.
- Peak hours are defined as the period during the day when UPI financial transactions reach the highest transactions per second.

Recipient Information Visibility: To prevent accidental transfers and reduce fraud, UPI apps will now display the recipient's registered name and transaction details before the payment is completed.

Penalties: The non-compliance of rules by an UPI application or PSP will lead to the restriction of their access to UPI APIs, pause onboarding new users and imposing technical or regulatory penalties.

About National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI):

Managing Director (**MD**) and Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) – Dilip Asbe

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Established – 2008

Generali Group, Central Bank of India Unveiled New JV Brand Identity as 'Generali Central'

In August 2025, **Generali Group**, insurance provider and the Central Bank of India (CBI), India's leading Public Sector Bank (PSB), unveiled a new brand identity for their life and general insurance Joint Venture (JV) as **Generali Central**.

- Now, Life Insurance component will operate as Generali Central Life Insurance Company Limited.
- While, the general insurance component of the JV will now General Central Insurance Company Limited.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of New JV Brand Identity
- ✓ **JV between:** Generali Group and Central Bank of India (CBI)
- ✓ **Sector:** Insurance (Life & General)
- ✓ **Name of new Brand Identity JV:** Generali Central
- ✓ **Name for Life Insurance:** Generali Central Life Insurance Company Limited
- ✓ **Name for General Insurance JV:** General Central Insurance Company Limited.

About Generali Central:

Objective: This strategic partnership aims to use global expertise of Generali Group across more than 50 countries with CBI's network of over 4,500 branches to expand insurance access in remote and rural areas of the country.

Shareholding: Both entities have clarified that the shareholding structure will remain same i.e. Generali Group and CBI will continue to hold **74%** and **26%** stake respectively, in the JV.

Key Components of JV: This newly branded JV also features new visual identity, including a new logo and typography, as well as new web portal and revamped social presence.

IDFC First Bank Ltd. & IndiGo Unveiled New 'IndiGO IDFC FIRST Dual Credit Card'

In August 2025, **IDFC First Bank Limited**, private sector bank in India, and **IndiGo**, India's largest passenger airline and amongst the world's fastest growing airlines, have launched new credit card named '**IndiGO IDFC FIRST Dual Credit Card**'.

- This newly launched dual credit card offers both **Mastercard** and **RuPay** credit cards with a common credit limit.
- Also, the new card will provide single statement for all transactions, with credit limit shared between both cards.



Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of new Dual Credit Card
- ✓ **Launched by:** IDFC First Bank Ltd. and IndiGo
- ✓ **Name of the card:** IndiGO IDFC FIRST Dual Credit Card
- ✓ **Offers Two Credit Cards:** Mastercard and RuPay

Key Features & Benefits:

Joining and Annual Fee: Any interested applicant, who wants this new dual credit, is required to submit a joining fee of **Rs 4,999** including Goods and Services Tax (GST) and annual fee (payable from the 2nd year onwards) of Rs 4,999 including GST.

Opting FD-backed Variant: However, the applicant can also get the card without paying joining fee by selecting the Fixed Deposit (FD)-backed variant, which requires the applicant to choose an FD of **Rs 1 lakh** with bank.

Set Transaction Preferences Separately: It is mandatory for users to set Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) and transaction preferences for both cards separately.

Other Key Benefits: Maximum air accident insurance cover of Rs 1 crore as well as personal accident cover up to Rs 10 lakh;

- It also provides lost card liability cover for maximum Rs 50,000.

About IDFC FIRST Bank Limited:

Managing Director (**MD**) and Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**)- V. Vaidyanathan

Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra

Tagline-"Always You First"

Established- 2018

BOB Launches Digital Forex Platform 'bob FxOne' for Corporate and MSME Customers

On August 5, 2025, Bank of Baroda (BOB) launched "bob FxOne", a digital Foreign Exchange (FOREX) platform, tailored for corporate and Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) customers. This platform marks a major leap in digitizing treasury operations and forex dealings for business clients, enabling a seamless, transparent, and efficient experience.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Bank of Baroda (BOB) launched a digital Foreign Exchange (FOREX) platform
- ✓ **Platform:** bob FxOne
- ✓ **For Whom?** Corporate and Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) customers
- ✓ **Features:** One-Click Trade (1CT), Request for Quote (RFQ)

Derivative Transactions: The platform is designed to streamline and simplify the forex and derivative transactions and provides access to real-time forex rates, automated instant deal confirmations, and downloadable deal tickets.

Features: It includes a personalized user dashboard with alerts and summaries of transactions. It also includes One-Click Trade (1CT) for instant deal booking, and Request for Quote (RFQ) support for tailored pricing.

Booking Options: Supports cash, tom (tomorrow), spot, forward, bills, and options trades—all in one interface.

IRCTC Payments Ltd. Received RBI's In-Principle Approval to Operate as Online PA

In August 2025, **IRCTC Payments Limited**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), a **Mini Ratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** under the Ministry of Railways (MoR), has received the In-Principle Approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an Online Payment Aggregator (PA).

- This approval was granted by RBI under Payment and Settlement Systems (**PSS**) Act, 2007.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** In-Principle Approval to function as online PA
- ✓ **Granted by:** RBI
- ✓ **Granted to:** IRCTC Payments Limited
- ✓ **Granted under:** Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007.

Significance:

Process Online transactions: After receiving this approval, IRCTC Payments will be able to facilitate online transactions between customers and merchants.

Pool Customer Funds: The license will also allow the company to pool customer funds and settle them with merchants after a specified period.

Note: At present, IRCTC has its own PA in place named '**IRCTC iPay**', which processes payments through all modes like: internet banking, debit and credit card, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), among others.

Axis Bank Introduces First Ever 'Lock FD' Feature to Prevent Term Deposits from Digital Frauds

On August 6, 2025, **Axis Bank** announced the launch of "**Lock FD**" feature, the first in the industry of banking, to protect Fixed Deposits (FDs) from digital fraud.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Introduction of industry-first 'Lock FD' feature
- ✓ **By whom?** Axis Bank
- ✓ **Purpose:** To safeguard fixed deposits from unauthorized access and digital fraud
- ✓ **How it works:** Disables premature closure of FDs online; closure only via in-person branch request

Activation: The 'Lock FD' feature is available to all customers and can be activated through the Axis Bank mobile application or a branch.

Branch Visit: 'Lock FD' feature restricts the premature closure of FDs through Internet Banking or mobile banking, requiring the customers to visit their branch and undergo an identity verification for early withdrawal.

Digital Frauds: The feature is designed especially for the customers who may be less familiar with digital banking and are vulnerable to digital fraud.

Tata AIA Life Insurance Launches Women-Centric Term Insurance Plan 'Shubh Shakti'

On August 5, 2025, **Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited**, a joint venture(JV) company formed by Tata Sons Private Limited and AIA Group Ltd. (AIA), launched "**Shubh Shakti**", a term insurance plan,

particularly designed for women, to encourage the participation of women in the insurance sector.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Term insurance plan for women Launched
- ✓ **Launched by?** Tata AIA Life Insurance
- ✓ **Name of the Plan:** Shubh Shakti
- ✓ **Premium:** 15% lower premiums compared to men

About Shubh Shakti:

Premiums: The plan allows women to pay approximately **15%** lower premiums compared to men, applied each year during the tenure of the premium payment.

- Single mothers will receive an additional 1% lifetime discount from the premium paid by other women.

Post-Childbirth Benefits: The policyholders can take two premium holidays of up to 12 months each during pregnancy and after childbirth, allowing women to focus on health and childcare without financial burden.

Health support: The policy covers Polycystic Ovarian Disease (PCOD) support, In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) counselling, weight-management programs, vaccinations for Human Papillomavirus (HPV), flu, and cervical cancer, annual health checkups, etc.

Education: The plan provides an optional add-on feature that provides a monthly income benefit for up to **three children until age 25**, ensuring continued support for their education.

Waive: The future payment of premiums is waived in case of the husband's or accidental death of the policyholder.

IDFC FIRST Bank Launches RemitFIRST2India for NRIs to transfer Money to India

In August 2025, **IDFC First Bank** has launched **RemitFIRST2India**, a modern digital remittance platform, in partnership with **SingX**, a leading remittance provider, licensed by Monetary Authority of Singapore, for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to send money to their families in India with seamless cross-border payment experience.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of **RemitFIRST2India** digital remittance platform
- ✓ **By Whom?** IDFC FIRST Bank
- ✓ **For whom?** Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)
- ✓ **Purpose:** To send money to India quickly, securely, and without transfer fees

Countries: Currently, the platform enables transactions from Singapore and Hong Kong, with plans to expand across other countries.

Transaction fees: The initiative aims to offer a quick, secure, and seamless transaction with no fees. It also aims to provide live tracking of the transaction, competitive Foreign Exchange (FOREX) rates, and paperless transfers.

Access: The existing NRI customers of IDFC FIRST bank can access the platform through the web portal or the mobile application of the bank. New NRI customers can access by onboarding digitally without the requirement of paperwork.

DSP Mutual Fund Launches India's First Flexi Cap Index Fund

On August 7, 2025, **DSP Mutual Fund**, a subsidiary of DSP Group, launched **DSP Nifty500 Flexicap Quality 30 Index Fund**, India's first Passive flexicap fund developed in partnership with **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** which combines quality-only stocks and dynamic market cap allocation based on momentum.

- The fund will replicate the Nifty 500 Flexicap Quality 30 Index. The index picks 30 high-quality stocks 10 each from the Nifty 100 (large-cap), Nifty Midcap 150, and Nifty Smallcap 250 based on quality factors such as return on equity.

Exam Hints:

- What? DSP MF launched India's first Passive flexicap fund
- Name: DSP Nifty500 Flexicap Quality 30 Index Fund
- Partnership: NSE
- Picks: 30 high-quality stocks from Large, Mid and Small Cap
- Criteria: High Return on Equity (ROE), low debt-equity ratio

Features of the Fund:

Flexi Cap Fund: It is an equity Mutual Fund (MF) that invests across large, mid, and small-cap stocks without fixed allocation limits. It allows the fund managers or the index to shift the investments based on market conditions.

- The fund will adjust its exposure between Small and Mid-Caps (SMID) and large caps to either 33% or 67% every quarter relative to its moving average of 200 days.

Metrics: 10 companies are identified, each from large-cap, mid-cap, and small-cap segments, using metrics such as Return on Equity (ROE), debt levels, and earnings growth.

- The index assigns equal weight to each stock within its respective market segment.

Challenges: The fund addresses challenges such as identifying high quality stocks, automating optimal allocation to large, mid and small caps at a low cost.

Passive: Passive fund does not rely on the active decisions of a fund manager.

About DSP Mutual Fund:

Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Kalpen Parekh

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Established – 1996

SBI Life Launches Term Insurance Plan 'SBI Life- Smart Shield Plus'

On August 14, 2025, SBI Life Insurance Company Limited (**SBI Life**), a Joint Venture (JV) between State Bank of India (SBI) and BNP Paribas Cardif, launched "**SBI Life-Smart Shield Plus**", a future-ready term insurance plan, designed for the growing needs of the customers.

Exam Hints:

- What? Launch of SBI Life – Smart Shield Plus, a versatile term insurance plan
- By Whom? SBI Life Insurance
- Plan: individual, non-linked, non-participating, pure risk insurance plan
- Options: Level Cover, Increasing Cover Benefit, and Level Cover with Future Proofing Benefit
- Life Coverage: 100 years (Whole life option), 79 years (other term options)

Risk: It is an individual, non-linked, non-participating, pure risk insurance plan that adapts to the evolving needs of the customers.

Options: The plan offers three options, including Level Cover, under which a fixed sum is assured throughout the policy term; Increasing Cover Benefit, the assured sum increases at a simple rate of 5% annually with maximum increase of 100% of sum assured.

- It also includes Level Cover with Future Proofing Benefit, which allows sum assured to increase at various stages of life such as Marriage, Childbirth, and Purchase of a House.

Life Cover: The plan provides life coverage up to 100 years of age under the Whole life option, or up to 79 years of age for other term options.

SBI Launches collateral-free Rs.4 lakh loan at 10.5% interest for Agniveers

In August 2025, the State Bank of India (**SBI**) has launched a special **personal loan scheme** for **Agniveers** on the occasion of the **79th Independence day**(August 15, 2025).

- This scheme builds on its existing Defence Salary Package (DSP), which provides preferential banking services to armed forces personnel, including Agniveers.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** SBI Launches Special personal loan scheme
- ✓ **For Whom?** Agniveers
- ✓ **Loan amount :** 4 lakhs
- ✓ **Interest Rate:** 10.5%
- ✓ **Till When?** September 30, 2025

About SBI Agniveer Loan Scheme:

Borrowers: This personal loan scheme is applicable for **Agniveers** – young men and women serving in the armed forces under Government's short-term "**Agnipath recruitment programme**".

Loan Amount: The scheme is available to the Agniveer account holders at SBI, offering loans up to **Rs. 4 lakhs** without collateral and processing fees.

Interest Rate: The bank is offering a flat interest rate of **10.50%** to all defence personnel until **September 30, 2025**.

Tenure: The repayment tenure will align with the term of the Agnipath scheme, offering maximum flexibility and convenience for service members transitioning to civilian life.

About Agnipath Programme:

Launch: The Agnipath recruitment programme is a central government scheme launched in 2022.

Agnipath: It is a recruitment scheme for Indian youth to serve in the Armed Forces for four years and the youth selected under this scheme will be known as Agniveers.

About State Bank of India (SBI):

Chairman – Challa Sreenivasulu(C.S) Setty

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Established – 1955

Tagline – Pure Banking, Nothing Else

Kotak Mahindra International Secured UAE Licence to Sell Funds to Retail Investors

In August 2025, **Kotak Mahindra (International)** Limited, an international arm of India's 3rd largest Private Sector Bank Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL), has secured a license from the United Arab Emirates (UAE)'s capital markets regulator, Securities and Commodities Authority (**SCA**), to sell investment funds and portfolios to onshore retail investors.

- Following this approval, Kotak Mahindra (International) became the **1st Indian company** to get this license from SCA, marking a major step in the evolution of cross-border financial services.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Securing a license from UAE
- ✓ **Who?:** Kotak Mahindra (International) Limited
- ✓ **Purpose:** To sell investment funds and portfolios to onshore retail investors
- ✓ **Minimum investment:**USD 500.
- ✓ **Significance:** First Indian financial institution to offer India-focused retail funds

Significance:

Retail Access: Kotak Mahindra (International) aims to use this license to support the investment fund industry of the UAE by offering retail-focused solutions.

Investment: The funds can be accessed with a minimum investment of approximately USD 500.

Future Plans: The company is also planning to launch funds which are aligned with its successful Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities (UCITS) (Luxembourg-domiciled) and India-domiciled strategies, with subscriptions will be open for UAE investors by the final quarter of Calendar Year 2025 (**Q4 CY25**).

SBI Report: UPI Transactions Surged in 2025; Maharashtra Emerged as the No.1 State in UPI Usage

In August 2025, India's largest Public Sector Bank (PSB), State Bank of India (**SBI**)'s Economic Research Department (**ERD**) released its latest report on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions. The report highlighted that UPI transactions have expanded significantly in 2025, both in terms of value and volume.

- In terms of value, the report showed that the average daily UPI transactions have increased from Rs 75, 743 crore (in January 2025) to Rs 80, 919 crore (in July 2025) and **to Rs 90, 446 crore** in August 2025 (so far).
- In terms of volume, the average daily transaction volume has increased by 127 million, **to 675 million** in August 2025 compared with January 2025.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Release of Report on UPI Transactions in India (in terms of value and volume)
- ✓ **Released by:** SBI's Economic Research Department Report (ERD)
- ✓ **Average Daily UPI transactions increased to:** Rs 80, 919 crore (in July 2025) and to Rs 90, 446 crore in August 2025 (so far)
- ✓ **Average daily transaction volume Increased to:** 675 million (in August 2025)
- ✓ **Top 5 states on UPI usage:** Maharashtra (9.8%), Karnataka (5.5%), UP (5.3%), Telangana (4.1%) and TN (4%)
- ✓ **Top 5 state in terms of transaction value:** Maharashtra (9.2%), Karnataka (5.8%), UP (5.3%), Telangana (5.1%) and TN (4.7%)
- ✓ **Overall share of UPI value has increased to:** 91% (as of May 2025)
- ✓ **Top Remitter Bank:** SBI (handling 5.2 billion transactions)
- ✓ **Top Beneficiary Bank:** Yes Bank Limited (nearly 8 billion transactions)

Key Findings:

State-wise UPI usage: **Maharashtra** has topped among all Indian states in UPI usage, accounting for **9.8%** volume share in July 2025. It is followed by Karnataka (5.5%), Uttar Pradesh (UP) (5.3%), Telangana (4.1%) and Tamil Nadu (TN) (4%).

State-wise share in terms of value: **Maharashtra** emerged as the number one state in terms of transaction value, with 1,905 million UPI transactions worth **Rs 2.30 lakh crore** (accounting for **9.2%** value share in July 2025).

- It is followed by Karnataka with Rs 1.45 lakh crore (5.8%), UP with Rs 1.31 lakh crore (5.3%), Telangana (5.1%) and TN (4.7%).

Structural Shift to UPI over Cash & debit cards: The report highlighted structural transition from cash and debit cards to UPI for instance; the share of UPI in value has increased from 40% (in November 2019) to 62% (in January 2021) to **91% (in May 2025)**.

Top Remitter & Beneficiary Bank: As per the report, **SBI** emerged as the top remitter bank with **5.2 billion** transactions, which is **3.4 times** higher than HDFC Bank Limited, the 2nd -biggest remitter bank.

- While, **Yes Bank Limited** emerged as the leading beneficiary bank with nearly 8.0 billion transactions.

Top 3 UPI Platforms: PhonePe topped among all UPI platforms used for transactions, with 8,931 million transactions worth Rs 12.20 lakh crore, followed by Google Pay (with 6,923 million transactions worth Rs 8.91 lakh crore), and Paytm (with 1,366 million transactions worth Rs 1.43 lakh crore).

Recent Related News:

In July 2025, SBI Research, the economic research division of SBI, released its latest [research report on Octennial Anniversary of Goods and Services Tax \(GST\)](#). As per the report, **5 states** namely, **Uttar Pradesh (UP), Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu (TN) and Karnataka**, account for nearly **50%** of the total active GST taxpayers in India.

- **UP** led the top 5 states, contributing **13.2%** of all active GST taxpayers in India, followed by Maharashtra (12.1%), Gujarat (8.4%), TN (7.7%), and Karnataka (6.9%).

BoM and SBI Card Launches 'Bank of Maharashtra SBI Card' on Rupay and Visa

On August 18, 2025, Bank of Maharashtra (**BoM**) and SBI Cards & Payment Services Limited (**SBICPSL**), a subsidiary of the State Bank of India (SBI), jointly launched a co-branded credit card '**Bank of Maharashtra SBI Card**' to offer customers a premium and rewarding shopping experience across diverse segments.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of Co-branded credit card
- ✓ **Who?** Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) and SBI Cards & Payment Services Limited (SBICPSL)
- ✓ **Card:** Bank of Maharashtra SBI Card
- ✓ **Variants:** ELITE, PRIME, and SimplySAVE
- ✓ **Network:** Visa, Rupay

About Bank of Maharashtra SBI Card:

Aim: The partnership aims to provide enhanced value and convenience, fulfilling the needs of customers across India.

Variants: The credit card is available in three variants- ELITE, PRIME, and SimplySAVE, catering to diverse customer needs

Network: The cards support **Rupay** and **Visa** payment platforms, ensuring wide domestic and international acceptance.

Benefits: The cards offer benefits, including accelerated reward points, a fuel surcharge waiver, utility bill payments, discounts on travel, dining, and shopping.

PNB becomes 1st PSB in India to Migrate to '.bank.in' Domain

In August 2025, Punjab National Bank (**PNB**), India's 2nd largest Public Sector Bank (PSB), has become the **1st Indian PSB** to migrate its corporate website www.pnb.bank.co.in to the secure '**.bank.in**' domain(<https://pnb.bank.in>).

- This move is in alignment with Reserve Bank of India's(RBI) circular on 'Migration to '.bank.in' Domain' issued in April 2025.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Migration from existing corporate website to new Domain
- ✓ **By Which Bank:** PNB (1st PSB)
- ✓ **Domain:** .bank.in
- ✓ **Introduced by:** RBI
- ✓ **Registrar for domain:** IDRBT
- ✓ **Purpose:** Strengthen cybersecurity, prevent phishing/fraud

About .bank.in Domain:

Aim: The '.bank.in' internet domain reserved exclusively for **Indian banks**, aims to combat fraud in digital

payments, cyber security threats and malicious activities such as phishing, and enhance public confidence in the digital banking.

Exclusive Registrar: As per RBI directions, the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (**IDRBT**) will act as the exclusive registrar for this domain.

New Domain for Financial Sector: RBI is also planning to introduce an exclusive domain i.e. 'fin.in' for other non-bank entities in the financial sector.

JICA Invests USD 40 Million in Aavishkaar Capital Fund to Boost SMEs in Asia and Africa

On August 22, 2025, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (**JICA**) announced a **USD 40 million** investment in "**Global Supply Chain Support Fund**", managed by **Aavishkar Capital**, with an aim to boost Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) that are engaged in the global supply chain across Asia and Africa.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Investment in Aavishkaar Capital's fund
- ✓ **Who?** Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- ✓ **Value:** USD 40 million
- ✓ **Purpose:** To Boost SMEs in Asia and Africa
- ✓ **Fund:** Global Supply Chain Support Fund

About JICA's invests in Aavishkaar Capital:

Support: With this move, JICA will help Aavishkar Capital expand into the emerging markets of Asia and Africa.

Target Sectors: The fund primarily supports SMEs engaged in global supply chains across agriculture, food processing, and manufacturing.

Supply Chain: The funding is intended to strengthen supply chain resilience by providing capital to SMEs that deliver strong social, environmental, and impact-driven outcomes.

Background: This is the eighth fund launched by Aavishkaar Capital, with the Global Supply Chain Support Fund established in collaboration with the German Development Bank (KfW).

South Indian Bank Launches 'SIB Gold Xpress' with Loans Up to 90% of Gold Value

In August 2025, South Indian Bank (**SIB**) launched "**SIB Gold Xpress**", a gold loan product, designed to offer quick and convenient access to credit for the customers.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of Gold Loan Product
- ✓ **Launched by :** South Indian Bank (**SIB**)
- ✓ **Product:** SIB Gold Xpress
- ✓ **Purpose:** to provide quick and convenient access to credit
- ✓ **Value:** Up to 90% of the gold value
- ✓ **Amount:** From Rs.25,000 to Rs. 25 lakhs

About SIB Gold Xpress:

Value: The product offers Loan-to-Value (LTV) of up to **90%** of the gold's assessed value, with loan amount ranging from Rs. 25,000 to Rs.25 lakhs. It also offers a repayment period of up to **3 years**.

Target: The product is designed with an aim to target the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), non-MSMEs, and small businesses, enabling the customers to fund the expansion of business, working capital, or personal ventures.

USGIC Receives ISO 27001:2022 & ISO 22301:2019 Certifications

In August 2025, Universal Sompo General Insurance Company Limited (**USGIC**) received two international certifications, **ISO 27001:2022** for Information Security Management Systems (**ISMS**) and **ISO 22301:2019** for Business Continuity Management Systems (**BCMS**).

- The achievement strengthens Universal Sompo's global credibility, boosts policyholder confidence in operational resilience, and establishes the company as a reliable insurer in a dynamic market.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Received 2 international certifications
- ✓ **Who?** Universal Sompo General Insurance
- ✓ **Certification:** ISO 27001:2022 (ISMS) & ISO 22301:2019 (BCMS)
- ✓ **Significance:** Strengthens governance, information security, and operational resilience.

About ISO 27001:2022 (ISMS):

Implementation: Confirms adoption of a robust ISMS.

Focus: Ensures protection of sensitive data, intellectual property, and financial information.

Benchmark: Recognized as the most trusted global standard for information security.

About ISO 22301:2019 (BCMS):

Validation: Confirms adherence to a BCMS.

Preparedness: Ensures readiness to respond to and recover from disruptions.

Types of Disruptions: Covers risks arising from natural disasters, cyberattacks, and other unforeseen events.

Continuity: Helps maintain uninterrupted critical business operations.

Malaysia Launched Ryt Bank, World's 1st AI-powered Bank

In August 2025, **Malaysia** scripted history with the launch of **Ryt Bank**, the World's 1st Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered bank developed by Malaysians, for local users.

- This initiative was led Malaysia's **YTL** in partnership with Singapore's tech firm **Sea Limited**, marks a major step in the country's digital future.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of World's 1st AI-powered Bank
- ✓ **Name:** Ryt Bank
- ✓ **Where?** Malaysia
- ✓ **Collaboration:** Malaysia's YTL and Singapore's tech firm Sea Limited
- ✓ **Supports Languages:** Bahasa, Malaysia and English (Mandarin by September 2025)

Multilingual App: The **Ryt AI** application (app) is currently available in 3 languages namely, Bahasa, Malaysia and English; with Mandarin support is expected to be available by **September 2025**.

- **Ryt AI:** It is an always-on banking assistant tool powered by ILMU, Malaysia's 1st indigenously developed Large Language Model (LLM).

Licensed by: This new Ryt Bank is licensed by Bank Negara Malaysia.

GoI Appoints Goldman Sachs as Sole Banker for Stake Divestment in IOB, CBI, UCO Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank

On August 25, 2025, Government of India (**GoI**) has appointed **Goldman Sachs**, global investment banking firm, as the **sole transaction advisor** for divestment of stakes in four Public Sector Banks (PSBs) such as Indian Overseas Bank (**IOB**), Central Bank of India (**CBI**), UCO Bank, and **Punjab & Sind Bank**.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Goldman Sachs appointed as Sole transaction advisor
- ✓ **Who?** Government of India (GoI)
- ✓ **Banks Involved:** IOB, CBI, UCO Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank
- ✓ **Divestment Size:** Up to 5% of GoI's equity
- ✓ **Current Stake:** Over 90% in each bank
- ✓ **SEBI Deadline:** August 1, 2026

About Plan of Stake Sale in PSBs:

Advisor: Goldman Sachs will oversee the entire process such as structuring the deal, identifying potential investors, and facilitating smooth execution of the stake sale.

Divestment: At present, the GoI holds over **90%** equity in each of these banks. It plans to **divest up to 5%** of its stake in the four PSBs in two tranches.

Objective: This divestment forms part of the government's broader strategy to lower its stake in PSBs and comply with Securities Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) **25%** minimum public shareholding requirement before the **August 1, 2026** deadline.

TATA AIA Launches 'Health SIP Plan' and 'Health Buddy App'

In August 2025, **TATA AIA Life Insurance** Company Limited, a Joint Venture(JV) company, formed by Tata Sons Private Limited and AIA Group Ltd. (AIA), launched two innovative offerings: the '**Health Systematic Investment Plan (SIP)**' and the '**Health Buddy**' Application.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of Health SIP and Health Buddy App
- ✓ **Launched by:** TATA AIA Life Insurance Company Limited
- ✓ **Variants:** Health SIP Plus and Health SIP Plus Pro
- ✓ **Health Buddy Coverage:** Access to 24+ medical specialties

About Health SIP Plan:

Key Benefits : It is a first-of-its-kind Non-Participating Unit-Linked Health Insurance Plan that imposes **zero premium** allocation charges and provides a maturity booster to enhance long-term fund value.

- It will enable the policyholders to make tax-free withdrawals from the 6th policy year for health-related expenses.
- This new product covers critical illness with maximum premium lock-in period of **30 years**.

Two Variants: It is available in two different variants namely, **Health SIP Plus** with accidental total and permanent disability benefits;

- **Health SIP Plus Pro**, covers terminal illness with term booster coverage for enhanced protection.

About Health Buddy:

First-of-its-Kind: It is India's first 24x7 virtual health and wellness companion offered by a life insurance provider.

Services: The app provides access to preventive health check-ups, women's healthcare support, dental consultations, and services across 24+ medical specialties.

PNB Unveils its First Startup-Centric Branch in New Delhi

On August 27, 2025, Punjab National Bank (**PNB**) has opened its **first startup-focused branch**, in alignment with the Startup India initiative, to support entrepreneurial growth, at Bhikaji Cama Place in **New Delhi**, Delhi.

- The branch was inaugurated in the presence of Arvind Kumar, Director General, Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), and Ashok Chandra, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), PNB.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Startup Branch launched, MoU signed
- ✓ **Who?** Punjab National Bank (PNB)
- ✓ **Alignment:** Startup India initiative
- ✓ **MoU entities:** PNB and STPI

About Startup-Centric Branch:

Purpose: To provide tailored financial services, including startup-specific banking solutions, advisory support, and access to government schemes, facilitating the growth of emerging businesses.

Support: This initiative supports the Government of India (GoI)'s Startup India mission, promoting entrepreneurship and fostering innovation across India.

Partnership: During the event, PNB signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the **STPI** to bridge startups with the financial products and schemes of PNB.

- Under this MoU, STPI will share a curated list of incubated, onboarded, or graduated startups with PNB.

ABCDL Receives In-Principle Payment Aggregator License from RBI

In August 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) granted in-principle authorisation to Aditya Birla Capital Digital Limited (**ABCDL**), a wholly owned subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), to operate as an **Online Payment Aggregator** (PA) under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Received in-principle approval to operate as an Online Payment Aggregator
- ✓ **Who?** Aditya Birla Capital Digital Ltd. (ABCDL)
- ✓ **Approving Authority:** RBI
- ✓ **Act:** Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007
- ✓ **Services:** Digital payment aggregation for merchants & e-commerce

ABCDL Strengthens Digital Financial Services:

Digital Payments Enablement: As a licensed payment aggregator, ABCDL will empower merchants and e-commerce platforms to securely accept and process online payments.

Expansion: This move strengthens ABCL's existing financial services portfolio and lays the foundation for its growing digital business operations.

SBI Card, Flipkart Launched Co-branded Credit Card 'Flipkart SBI Credit Card' for Seamless Shopping

In August 2025, **SBI Card and Payment** Services Limited, Indian Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), in collaboration with **Flipkart**, e-commerce marketplace, has announced the launch of a co-branded credit card named '**Flipkart SBI Credit Card**', designed with curated cash back benefits to offer a seamless shopping experience to its customers.

- The Flipkart SBI Credit Card was formally launched in the presence of Challa Sreenivasulu (**C.S. Setty**), Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI); and **Ashwini Kumar**, Managing Director (MD) of SBI in New Delhi, Delhi.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of new Co-branded Credit Card
- ✓ **Launched by:** SBI Card and Flipkart

- ✓ **Card Name:** Flipkart SBI Credit Card
- ✓ **Purpose:** Cashback benefits for seamless Shopping
- ✓ **Platform:** Mastercard, VISA

About Flipkart SBI Credit Card:

Platform: This newly launched co-branded credit card is available on both **Mastercard** and **VISA** platforms.

Application Mode: Interested customers can easily apply for the credit card digitally through the Flipkart Application (App), and SBI Card SPRINT; or by visiting the card website 'SBI Card.com'.

Cashback Offers: The new credit card offers 7.5% cashback on spends made on Myntra; and 5% cashback on spends made on Flipkart, Shopsy, and Cleartrip, subject to quarterly limits of Rs 4,000 for each category.

Automatic Cashback Credit: This new co-branded credit card offers an auto-credit cashback facility, which allows automatic credit of entitled cashback to the SBI account within two days of statement generation.

Jio Payments Bank Unveils 'Savings Pro' for Higher Returns on Idle Deposits

In August 2025, Jio Payments Bank Limited (**JPBL**), a wholly owned subsidiary of Jio Financial Services Limited (**JFSL**), announced the upcoming launch of '**Savings Pro**', India's first savings account that automatically invests idle balances in overnight Mutual Funds (MFs), allowing depositors to earn higher returns without additional effort.

- This announcement was made by Hitesh Sethia, Managing Director(MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of JFSL, during the company's 2024-25 Annual General Meeting(AGM).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of '**Savings Pro**'—India's first savings account linking idle deposits to overnight mutual funds(MFs)
- ✓ **Who?** Jio Payments Bank Limited (**JPBL**)
- ✓ **Announced by:** Hitesh Sethia, MD & CEO, Jio Financial Services Limited (**JFSL**)
- ✓ **Why?** To provide higher returns on idle balances, following a cut in savings account interest rate to 2.5%
- ✓ **Returns Comparison:** Savings account: 2–4% p.a.; Overnight MFs: 4–6% p.a.
- ✓ **Deposit Cap:** ₹2 lakh per customer (payments bank limit)
- ✓ **Suitability:** Best for emergency funds and short-term surplus cash; not for large long-term holdings

How Savings Pro Works:

- Idle balance in the account will be seamlessly moved into overnight mutual funds—open-ended debt funds investing in money market instruments that mature overnight.
- Earnings through overnight MFs could substantially exceed those from conventional savings, enhancing returns with minimal customer intervention
- Idle money in a savings account earns low interest, typically around 2% to 4% annually.
- With Savings Pro, this idle cash will automatically get invested in overnight MFs, which offer better returns (usually in the range of 4% to 6%) with minimal risk.

Note: Overnight MFs are open-ended debt funds that invest in debt and money market instruments with a maturity of one day.

FINANCE NEWS

KSFE Becomes India's First Miscellaneous NBFC to Cross Rs 1 Lakh Crore Business Turnover

In August 2025, Kerala State Financial Enterprises (**KSFE**), headquartered in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, became the first miscellaneous non-banking financial company (NBFC) in India to surpass a business turnover of **Rs 1 lakh crore**, doubling its business from Rs 50,000 crore within **four years**.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** KSFE crosses Rs 1 lakh crore turnover (August 2025)
- ✓ **Significance:** 1st miscellaneous NBFC in India to achieve Rs 1 lakh crore turnover.
- ✓ **Contributions:** Rs 504 crore interest waiver, Rs 920 crore to state govt, Rs 8,925 crore fixed deposits.

Achievement of KSFE:

Industry Significance – KSFE's achievement sets a new standard for India's miscellaneous NBFC sector, highlighting its strong growth, financial stability, and important role in Kerala's and India's financial system.

Celebrations: To mark this milestone, Kerala's Chief Minister (CM) Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated celebrations in Thiruvananthapuram, (Kerala) with kerala's Finance Minister (FM) K N Balagopal chairing the event.

Launches: KSFE launched the '**Onam Samriddhi Gift Card**' and unveiled its new tagline, "**KSFE: The Courage of Kerala**," with KSFE Brand Ambassador actor Suraj Venjaramoodu as the guest of honour.

AU SFB Launches UPI for NRE, NRO Account Holders with International Mobile Numbers

On August 20, 2025, AU Small Finance Bank (**AU SFB**) launched Unified Payment Interface (**UPI**) services for Non-Resident External (**NRE**) and Non-Resident Ordinary (**NRO**) account holders using international mobile numbers, following the directive of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** UPI service launched
- ✓ **For:** NRE and NRO account holders
- ✓ **Who?** AU Small Finance Bank
- ✓ **Purpose:** For a seamless and secure UPI transaction without the need of an Indian Mobile Number
- ✓ **Countries:** 12

UPI Access for NRIs:

Benefit: With this move, NRIs are benefitted with seamless, secure, real-time UPI transactions for transactions, including bill payments, merchant purchases, and money transfer without the need of an Indian Mobile Number.

Countries: The launched feature is available for NRIs across 12 countries, including Australia, Canada, France, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States of America (USA).

IRFC Sanctions Rs. 199.7 Cr Loan to SITCO for Multi-Modal Transport Hub

In August 2025, Indian Railway Finance Corporation (**IRFC**), a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) and the financing arm of the Ministry of Railways (MoR), sanctioned a term loan of **Rs. 199.70 crore** to Surat Integrated Transportation Development Corporation Limited (**SITCO**), for developing **India's first** international-standard Multi-Modal Transport Hub (**MMTH**) in Surat, Gujarat

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** IRFC sanctions loan to SITCO

- ✓ **Loan Amount:** Rs. 199.70 crore
- ✓ **Purpose:** To develop India's 1st international-standard Multi-Modal Transport Hub (MMTH)
- ✓ **Location:** Surat, Gujarat
- ✓ **Feature:** Integration of rail, metro, BRTS, buses, autos, and taxis

About Multi-Modal Transport Hub (MMTH):

Developer: SITCO, a Joint Venture(JV) between MoR and the Government of Gujarat.

Integrated Connectivity: The hub will integrate rail, metro, Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS), city/regional buses, autos, and taxis, alongside upgrading passenger amenities and station infrastructure

Goal: Enhance connectivity, reduce congestion, and boost regional economic growth in Surat, one of Gujarat's fastest-growing cities

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

Google to Build a 1-GW Data Centre Worth USD 6 Billion in Visakhapatnam, AP

On July 30, 2025, **Google**, a wholly owned subsidiary of Alphabet Inc., planned to establish a 1-Gigawatt (**GW**) Data Centre and its supporting infrastructure, worth **USD 6 billion** (around Rs. 50,000 crore) by in Visakhapatnam, **Andhra Pradesh (AP)**.

- This data centre marks the **first data centre investment by Google in India** and the largest in both capacity and size across Asia.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Google has planned to build a Data Centre
- ✓ **Where?** Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP)
- ✓ **Investment:** USD 6 billion
- ✓ **Capacity:** 1 Gigawatt
- ✓ **1st in India:** 1st data centre investment by Google in India

Investment Breakdown:

Total Outlay: USD 6 billion

Renewable Energy Allocation: USD 2 billion for solar/wind power infrastructure to sustain operations.

Global Context: Part of Alphabet's USD 75 billion global data centre expansion in 2025, including projects in Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand.

Fitch Ratings Lowers India's GDP Growth forecast for FY26 to 6.3%

In August 2025, **Fitch Ratings Inc.**, an American credit rating agency, released its latest report titled '[India Corporates Credit Trends: July 2025](#)'. In this report, **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** growth forecast for Financial Year 2025-26 (**FY26**) was revised downward to **6.3%**, from its previous estimate of **6.4%** in its Global Economic Outlook (GEO) report published in April 2025.

- The global credit rating agency cited a limited direct impact on Indian corporates from the higher tariffs imposed by the United States of America (USA) due to generally low to moderate the USA export exposure.
- However, it cautioned about potential 'second-order risks' which may arise from global excess supply.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Release of 'India Corporates Credit Trends: July 2025' Report.
- ✓ **Released by:** Fitch Ratings Inc.
- ✓ **India's GDP:** 6.3% for FY26
- ✓ **Basis points (bps) decrease:** 10 bps (FY26)

- ✓ **Previous Projection:** 6.4%
- ✓ **India's GDP forecast by S&P:** less than 6.2% for FY26

Key Findings:

Increase in Demand across Core Sectors: The report also highlighted that robust infrastructure spending is expected to boost the healthy demand across core sectors such as: Cement and Building Materials; Electricity; Petroleum Products; Steel; and Engineering & Construction (E&C) in FY26.

Improvement in Credit Metrics: The report has projected that credit metrics will improve for rated Indian Corporates in FY26 as wider Earnings Before Interest, Tax Depreciation, and Amortisation (EBITDA) margins are projected to offset the effects of high capital expenditure (capex).

Decline in Aggregate Revenue: As per the report, combined revenue of Indian corporates is expected to **decline by 3%** in FY26, driven by a high-single-digit decline for the oil and gas production, and oil refining and marketing companies.

Sectors to Remain Insulated from USA Tariffs: The report has outlined certain sectors focused on the domestic market such as oil and gas upstream and downstream, cement and building materials, E&C, among others, expected to see minimal direct effects of USA tariffs due to strong local demand and regulatory stability.

- However, the report highlighted that tariff uncertainty may dampen discretionary Information Technology (IT) and auto supplier exports to the USA and Europe in FY26, while potential US policy shifts could affect pharmaceuticals.

S&P Report Anticipates India's GDP for FY26 Could Fall Below 6.2%

GDP Projection for FY26: In August 2025, S&P Global Market Intelligence (MI) released its latest report and warned that India's GDP could fall below **6.2%** in FY26 if the 25% tariff imposed by the USA continues in effect post September 2025.

Previous Projection: The rating agency has projected India's GDP at **6.2%** for FY26 in July 2025, 30 basis points (bps) down from a GDP growth of 6.5% in FY25.

Key Concerns: The report has raised concerns over India's exposure to **Section 232** which includes 'national security' tariffs on exports such as electronics and pharmaceuticals, accounting for **12.3%** and **17.8%** of Indian exports to the USA, respectively.

About Fitch Ratings Inc.:

President- Ian Linnell

Headquarters- New York, the United States of America (USA)

Established- 1914

BIAL Completed India's Largest Unlisted NCDs Issuance worth Rs 9,000 Crore for Airport Expansion

In August 2025, the Bangalore International Airport Limited (**BIAL**), the Joint Venture (JV) company operating the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru (Karnataka), has successfully completed the issuance of unlisted Non-Convertible Debentures (**NCDs**) in India's airport sector, raising a total of **Rs 9,000 crore**.

- The funds raised through issuance of NCDs will be used to refinance existing debt and support future infrastructure expansion.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Completion of Issuance of Unlisted NCDs
- ✓ **NCDs issued in which sector?** Airport
- ✓ **Issued by:** BIAL
- ✓ **Total Amount Raised:** Rs 9,000 Crore
- ✓ **Amount Raised in 1st Tranche:** Rs 4,362 crore (July 25, 2025)

- ✓ 2nd Tranche scheduled for: October 2025

About Issuance of Unlisted NCDs:

Fundraising Divided into Two Tranches: The fundraising is being undertaken in two tranches of Rs 4,362 crore completed on July 25, 2025, and Rs 4,638 crore scheduled for early October 2025.

Sole Arranger for the Funds: As per BIAL, State Bank of India (SBI) Capital Markets (**SBICAPS**) acted as the sole arranger for the issuance of these unlisted NCDs

Conserve Capital: The refinancing with tenure of 15 years enables the BIAL to conserve capital and focus resources on funding future expansion plans.

Key Benefits: The fundraising also provides significant savings in borrowing cost, supported by the AAA credit rating, a transition from Marginal Cost of funds-based Lending Rate (MCLR)-linked to fixed interest rate, and the extended maturity profile.

NCAER's Business Confidence Index Rises to 149.4 from 139.3 in April-June of FY 26

In August 2025, the National Council of Applied Economic Research (**NCAER**) released the results of its **Business Expectations Survey**, conducted in June 2025, which covered 479 companies across six major Indian cities.

- As per the Survey, India's Business Confidence Index (**BCI**) surged to **149.4** in the Quarter 1 (Q1-April-June) of the Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26), from the 139.3 in the Q4 of the FY25.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Business Confidence Index has increased to 149.4 in April-June Q1 of FY-26
- ✓ **Who released?** National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)
- ✓ **Previous data:** 139.3 in Q4 of FY-25.
- ✓ **Positive responses:** 60% above in across all the four components

About Business Confidence Index:

Components: The index is based on four key components such as Improvement of overall economic conditions, Improved financial position of the firms, positive assessment of investment climate, and high or optimal capacity utilization.

Positive Responses: The share of positive responses across the four components remains above 60%. The firms which anticipate increasing the import of raw materials have increased from 46.1% to 54.3%.

- Most respondents anticipated an increase in production (78.7%) and domestic sales (79.1%) over the next six months, while export sentiment also improved to 66.5% in Q1 of FY26.

Goldman Sachs Revised India's GDP Forecast for 2025 & 2026 Amid USA Tariff Impact

In August 2025, **Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.** revised its economic outlook for India, lowering the real Gross Domestic Product (**GDP**) growth projections to **6.5%** for Calendar Year 2025 (CY25) and **6.4%** for CY26, due to renewed trade tensions following the imposition of a 25% reciprocal tariff on Indian imports by the United States of America (USA) effective from 1st August 2025.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Goldman Sachs revised India's GDP forecast
- ✓ **Timeline:** CY2025 & CY2026
- ✓ **Reason:** Due to 25% tariff imposed by USA on Indian goods.
- ✓ **GDP Estimates:** 6.5% in CY25 and 6.4% in CY26.
- ✓ **Inflation Outlook:** 3.0% for both CY25 and FY26.
- ✓ **External Sector:** CAD raised to 0.9% of GDP for CY25 & CY26.

Revised GDP Forecast:

Calendar Year 2025 (CY25): Revised to **6.5%** from 6.6% (down by 0.1 percentage point).

Calendar Year 2026 (CY26): Revised to **6.4%** from 6.6% (down by 0.2 percentage points).

Inflation Outlook:

Revised Forecasts: Goldman Sachs has lowered its headline inflation projections for CY25 and Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26) to 3.0%, down by 0.2% points.

Recent news:

On 30th July 2025, the RBI kept the repo rate unchanged and retained its GDP growth forecast for Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26) at 6.5%, while lowering its Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation estimate from 3.7% to 3.1%, partly in line with Goldman Sachs' view of easing inflation.

About Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

Chairman & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – David Michael Solomon

Headquarters – New York, United States of America (USA)

Founded – 1869

BEML to Set Up Vande Bharat, Amrit Bharat Train Coach Manufacturing Unit in MP

In August 2025, **Dr. Mohan Yadav**, Chief Minister (CM) of Madhya Pradesh (MP) announced that Bharat Earth Movers Limited (**BEML**), Multi-technology Schedule 'A' Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Defence (MoD), will manufacture the country's premium Vande Bharat, Amrit Bharat and metro rail coaches in Goharganj tehsil of Umaria in Raisen district, Madhya Pradesh (MP).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Announcement to set up BEML manufacturing unit
- ✓ **Announced by:** Dr. Mohan Yadav, CM of MP
- ✓ **Purpose:** To manufacture Vande Bharat, Amrit Bharat and Metro Rail Coaches
- ✓ **Location:** Umaria in Raisen district of MP
- ✓ **Development Cost:** Rs 1,800 crore
- ✓ **Project Name:** BRAHMA
- ✓ **Initial Production:** 125 to 200 coaches annually

About BEML Manufacturing Unit:

Total Cost: The new train coach manufacturing unit will be constructed at the total cost of **Rs 1,800 crore** under the project named **BRAHMA** (BEML Rail Hub for Manufacturing).

Annual Production: For the initial phase, BEML will manufacture 125-200 coaches annually and further expected to increase the production capacity to 1,100 coaches annually within 5 years.

BEML Secured USD 1 Million Overseas Rail and Metro Contract from Malaysia

On August 9, 2025, Bengaluru (Karnataka) based Bharat Earth Movers Limited (**BEML**), a Schedule 'A' company under the Ministry of Defence, secured its first overseas rail and metro contract worth **USD 1 million** (around Rs 8.3 crore) from **Malaysia** for retrofitting and reconditioning its Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** BEML Secured Overseas Rail and Metro Contract
- ✓ **From Whom?** Malaysia
- ✓ **Contract Worth:** USD 1 million
- ✓ **Purpose:** retrofit and reconditioning of Malaysia's MRT system

About the Contract:

Significance – This contract represents BEML Rail & Metro division's first international order. The project includes upgrading and refurbishing key parts of Malaysia's MRT System to improve efficiency and safety.

Note: BEML operates across Defence and Aerospace, Mining and Construction, and Rail and Metro sectors and a nationwide sales and service network catering to multiple industries.

Tata's Nelco to Roll Out Eutelsat OneWeb LEO Satellite Services in India

In August 2025, Tata Group's satellite communications firm, **Nelco Limited**, has partnered with French satellite service provider **Eutelsat** to deliver **OneWeb Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** satellite connectivity across India.

- This collaboration aims to provide secure, low-latency, and high-speed satellite internet services covering India's landmass, territorial waters, and remote regions.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of OneWeb Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite broadband services in India
- ✓ **By Whom?** Tata Group's Nelco Limited in partnership with Eutelsat OneWeb
- ✓ **Purpose:** Provide secure, high-speed, low-latency satellite internet; bridge connectivity gaps in underserved areas

Significance:

Coverage: The services will cover a wide range of government and enterprise applications, strengthening India's digital infrastructure and national security while enhancing connectivity in underserved or remote regions of the country.

Protection: This strategic partnership will provide reliable, secure, and high-speed communication solutions based on LEO services for critical sectors across land, sea and air.

Note: OneWeb, a satellite services company backed by Bharti Enterprises, merged its operations with Eutelsat in 2023. This became the second-largest satellite operator globally, with 669 satellites in orbit.

India's Retail Inflation Declines to 8-Year Low of 1.55% in July 2025

On August 12, 2025, the National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), released the "[**Consumer Price Index \(CPI\) for Rural, Urban and Combined for the month of July 2025**](#)". As per the official data, India's retail inflation, measured by CPI, declined to a 95-month low (8 years) to **1.55%** in July 2025, down from 2.10% in June 2025.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** India's retail inflation declined in July 2025
- ✓ **Retail Inflation:** 1.55%
- ✓ **Who released?** National Statistics Office (NSO)
- ✓ **Food Inflation:** 1.76%

Low: This is the lowest Year-on-Year inflation (Y-o-Y) registered since June 2017. It also marks the 6th consecutive month that inflation has stayed below the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s medium-target of 4%.

Factors: Food inflation has dropped to **1.76%**, lowest registered since January 2019, with food inflation rates in urban (1.74%) and rural (1.90%) in July 2025.

- The headline inflation in rural areas is 1.18% in July 2025, while the urban sector has witnessed a drop in headline inflation to 2.05%.

Hindustan Zinc becomes 1st Indian firm to join the International Council on Mining and Metals

In August 2025, the **Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL)**, India's only and the world's largest integrated zinc producer, has become the 1st Indian company to join the **International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM)**.

- This marks ICMM's first new member since Boliden, Swedish company joined in 2021.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** HZL joined ICMM
- ✓ **Pioneer:** 1st Indian company
- ✓ **ICMM group:** 25 companies

Key Highlights:

ICMM: The United Kingdom (UK) based leadership body is a collaborative group of **25** top global mining and metal companies committed to advancing sustainable development, transparency and ethical practices across the mining value chain.

Assessment: Hindustan Zinc's induction followed a comprehensive independent review by ICMM's Independent Expert Review Panel (IERP).

- It was later approved by the organisation's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Council.

Commitment: By joining ICMM, HZL will follow **40** performance expectations covering Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) areas.

About Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL):

The HZL operates underground mines, smelters, and related infrastructure across northwest India. In 2024, HZL was ranked the world's most sustainable mining company by S&P Global for the second year in a row.

Chairperson – Priya Agarwal Hebbar

Headquarters – Udaipur, Rajasthan

About International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM):

President – Rohitesh Dhawan

Headquarters – London, United Kingdom

ICRA Projects India's GDP Growth at 6.7% for Q1FY26

In August 2025, India's Credit Rating Agency **ICRA Limited**, formerly Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited, has projected that India's Gross Domestic Product (**GDP**) at **6.7%** for 1st Quarter (**Q1: April-June**) of Financial Year 2025-26(**FY26**), supported by the higher government spending and robust export performance.

- This growth projection is higher than Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s forecast of 6.5%, though lower than 7.4% recorded in Q4FY25.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** India's GDP projection for Q1FY26
- ✓ **By whom?** ICRA Limited
- ✓ **GDP for Q1FY26:** 6.7% (higher than RBI's forecast of 6.5%)
- ✓ **GVA for Q1FY26:** 6.4%
- ✓ **Growth Projections for sectors:** industry (4.0%), agriculture (4.5%) and services sector (8.3%)

Key Projections:

Gross Value Added (GVA): ICRA has further projected that GVA growth will decrease from 6.8% (in Q4FY25) to **6.4%** (in Q1FY26).

CapEx: The Centre's Gross Capital Expenditure (CapEx) surged by 52% year-on-year to **Rs.2.8 trillion** in Q1 FY2026, compared with 33.4% growth in Q4 FY2025 and a 35% contraction in Q1 FY2025.

Gap between GDP & GVA growth: As per ICRA, the gap between GDP and GVA growth is projected to remain positive i.e. at **30 basis points (bps)** in Q1FY26, though lower than 62 bps recorded in Q4FY25.

Sector-wise Growth Projections: The agency has also highlighted that the slowdown in industrial sector and agriculture is expected to dampen the strong performance of the services sector.

- Industry sector: It has projected that Industrial growth is expected to decrease from 6.5% (in Q4FY25) to 4.0% (in Q1FY26).
- Agriculture sector: This sector is projected to grow at 4.5% (in Q1FY26) compared with 5.4% (in Q4FY25).

- Services Sector: Services are expected to increase to an 8-quarter high of 8.3% (in Q1FY26) over 7.3% registered in Q4FY25. This sector will continue to support the overall GVA as it is backed by robust government expenditure.
- Other Sectors: Sectors like forestry and fishing, are expected to grow at moderate rate i.e. to 4.5% (in Q1FY26) from 5.4% (in Q4FY25), though remains strong compared with 1.5% (in Q1FY25).

Key Contributors:

Combined Capital Outlay and Net Lending: The rating agency has further highlighted that aggregate capital outlay and net lending of 24 state governments increased by 23.0% Y-o-Y to **Rs 1.1 trillion (in Q1FY26)**.

New Project Announcements: ICRA revealed that the value of new project announcements nearly doubled from Rs 3 trillion (a year ago) to Rs 5.8 trillion (in Q1FY26).

- Also, Project completions were recorded at Rs 2.3 trillion compared with projects worth Rs 0.7 trillion completed in same quarter of last financial year, though slightly lower than Rs 2.5 trillion in Q4FY25.

Non-Interest Value: It has noted that the GoI's non-interest revenue expenditure has registered a positive growth rate i.e. **at 6.9%**, after witnessing a contraction of 6.1% in the previous quarter.

About ICRA Limited:

Managing Director (**MD**) and Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**)- Ramnath Krishnan

Headquarters- Gurugram, Haryana

Established- 1991

Suzlon Becomes First Indian Energy Firm to Join RE100 Initiative, Commits to 100% Renewable Energy

In August 2025, Pune (Maharashtra)-based **The Suzlon Group** has taken a major step in clean energy by joining the Renewable Energy 100 (RE100) Initiative, becoming the **first** Indian company from the energy sector to do so.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Suzlon Joined RE100 Initiative
- Highlights:** First Indian Energy Firm to Join
- ✓ **Purpose:** Commits 100% Renewable Energy by 2030

RE 100 Initiative: RE100 is a global platform that brings together leading businesses committed to running entirely on renewable electricity.

- Globally, more than 400 companies are part of RE100, and Suzlon now joins this network of firms moving towards a 100% green future.

Targets: Under this pledge, Suzlon plans to power all its 15 factories only with renewable sources by 2030.

- The company has also set bigger climate goals—achieving carbon neutrality for its direct and purchased electricity emissions (Scope 1 and 2) by 2035, and reaching net zero across its full value chain (Scope 1, 2, and 3) by 2040.

SBI Research Report Projects India's GDP Growth at 6.8%-7.0% in Q1FY26

In August 2025, **SBI Research**, the economic research division of the State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest Public Sector Bank (PSB), released its latest [Ecowrap report](#). The report has estimated that the Indian economy may have recorded a growth rate of around **6.8%-7.0%** in 1st Quarter (Q1: April to June) of Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26), which is higher than Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s forecast of 6.5%.

- The report highlighted this growth is supported by government capital expenditure (Capex) and resilient consumption, but with limited private investment holding back the growth trajectory.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Release of SBI Research latest report
- ✓ **India's GDP for Q1FY26:** 6.8%-7%
- ✓ **Real GDP for Q1FY26:** 6.9%
- ✓ **GVA for Q1FY26:** 6.5%
- ✓ **India's GDP for full FY26:** 6.3%

Key Projections:

Real GDP & GVA: The report highlighted that its analysis results based on the estimated model showed India's Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth at **6.9% Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y)** for Q1FY26.

- It has also estimated Gross Value Added (GVA) at **6.5%** for the same quarter of FY26.

GDP for full FY26: The report has projected India's GDP growth at **6.3%** for full FY26, 20 basis points (bps) lower than RBI's target of 6.5% for full FY26.

GDP projection for Remaining Quarters of FY26: The report has further reduced RBI's GDP projection by **20 bps** for Q2, Q3 and Q4 of FY26 i.e. to 6.5%, 6.3%, and 6.1%, respectively.

Akums & Government of Zambia Announced JV to Setup Pharmaceutical Facility in Zambia

In August 2025, India's Contract Manufacturing and Development Organisation (CDMO) **Akums Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited** has signed a framework agreement to incorporate Joint Venture (JV) with the Government of Zambia (**GRZ**) to establish a new pharmaceutical manufacturing facility in Zambia as well as to supply medicines for GRZ's national health programs.

- This new project will be implemented through incorporation of a new JV company expected to be operational by **December 2025** in Zambia.
- As per agreement, Akums will be a majority partner with 51% stake in new JV company, while the remaining 49% stake will be owned by Zambian state instrumentality.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Announcement of New JV
- ✓ **JV between:** The Government of Zambia (GRZ) (49%) and India's Akums Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (51%)
- ✓ **Purpose:** To establish a new pharmaceutical manufacturing facility in Zambia
- ✓ **JV established by:** December 2025
- ✓ **Cost of Procurement:** USD 50 million (or, Rs 425 crore) for two years (2026 to 2027)

Key Details:

Products: The new green facility is expected to start its operations by 2028. It plans to manufacture general oral solids, liquids injectables, as well as beta-lactam products.

Procurement of Medicines: According to the agreement, GRZ will also procure medicines of minimum aggregate value of USD 50 million (**Rs 425 crore**) over the next two years (2026 and 2027).

- These medicines will manufactured and supplied from Akum's and/or its subsidiaries' facilities in India.

Exports: On the establishment of this new facility, the company will export medicines to neighbouring countries such as: Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana, Malawi, Tanzania, Mozambique, among others.

About Zambia:

Capital- Lusaka

President- Hakainde Hichilema

Currency- Zambian Kwacha (ZMW)

Air India Express Becomes Fourth Indian Airline to Join IATA

In August 2025, **Air India Express**, a wholly owned subsidiary of Air India, has joined the International Air Transport Association (**IATA**), an airline trade association, making it the fourth Indian carrier to join after **Air India**, **IndiGo**, and **SpiceJet**.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** An Indian Airline joined IATA
- ✓ **Who?** Air India Express
- ✓ **Indian Airlines in IATA:** Air India, IndiGo, SpiceJet, and Air India Express
- ✓ **Benefits of Membership:** Grants access to industry-standard tools

Benefits of Joining IATA:

Global Standards: With this move, Air India Express will gain access to global standards and key systems such as ticketing, settlement platforms, safety audits, and working groups.

Experience: The membership will enhance the passenger experience such as improved baggage handling, seamless booking, and better interline connectivity when traveling on multi-carrier itineraries.

Air India Express: Established in 2005, the airline operates approximately 500 flights everyday to 38 domestic and 17 international destinations, with a fleet of 115 aircraft encompassing 75 Boeing 737s and 40 Airbus A320s.

MoU's & AGREEMENTS

India & UAE sign agreement to strengthen defence ties at 13th JDCC meet

In July 2025, **India** and the United Arab Emirates(**UAE**) reaffirmed their commitment to improve bilateral defence co-operation during the **13th Joint Defence Cooperation Committee(JDCC)** meeting held at the Secretary level for the first time, in New Delhi.

- They signed bilateral defence agreements on joint military exercises, maritime security, joint manufacturing and technological development.
- The Indian Coast Guard (**ICG**) and the **UAE National Guard** signed a Memorandum of Understanding(**MoU**) for cooperation in maritime security operations.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Topic:** India & UAE sign agreement to strengthen defence ties
- ✓ **Event:** 13th JDCC meeting at New Delhi, India.
- ✓ **Signatories:** Indian Coast Guard and UAE National Guard
- ✓ **Objective:** For cooperation in maritime security operations.
- ✓ **Manufacturing initiative:** similar joint collaboration between ICOMM (India) and CARACAL(UAE) for small arms production.

Background: The meeting was co-chaired by **Rajesh Kumar Singh**, Defence Secretary and Lieutenant General (**Lt Gen**) **Ibrahim Nasser M. Al Alawi**, Under Secretary of Defence(UAE), who is leading a high-level defence delegation on a two-day visit to India.

- Later, they are set to participate in the 2nd India – UAE Defence Industry Partnership forum and meet **Sanjay Seth**, Minister of State for Defence(India).

Key Highlights:

Maritime Agreements: The Indian Coast Guard(ICG) and the UAE National Guard signed a Memorandum of Understanding(**MoU**) for cooperation in Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE), military exercises, search & rescue operations (M-SAR), anti-piracy operations and marine pollution response (MPR).

- It was signed by the Director General(**DG**) **Paramesh Sivamani**(ICG) and **Brigadier Staff Khalid Obaid Shamsi**, Commander of the Coast Guard Group(UAE).

- It marks the 10th agreement signed by ICG with friendly foreign countries.

Manufacturing Initiatives: Both agreed to a similar joint manufacturing collaboration between **ICOMM** Tele Limited(India)and **CARACAL** International LLC(UAE) for small arms production.

Military Initiatives: After the JDCC meeting, both nations conducted 4th Army-Army staff talks, 9th Navy-Navy staff talks and inaugurated 1st Air Force-Air Force staff talks to enhance training and Subject Matter Expert (SME) Exchanges from July 28 to 29, 2025.

Technological initiatives: Co-development of next-generation defence technologies in Artificial Intelligence(AI), shipbuilding, refits, upgrades, and maintenance.

About the United Arab Emirates(UAE):

Capital- Abu Dhabi

Currency- UAE dirham (AED)

DPIIT Signs MoU with HDFC Capital Advisors Limited to Promote Affordable Housing and PropTech Sectors

On July 31, 2025, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with HDFC Capital Advisors Limited (HDFC Capital), a subsidiary of HDFC Bank Limited, to promote innovation in the affordable housing and Property Technology (PropTech) sectors.

- The MoU was formally signed by Mohammad Ishrar Ali, Director, DPIIT, and Vipul Roongta, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), HDFC Capital.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** DPIIT Signed 2 MoUs
- ✓ **Parties:** HDFC Capital Advisors Limited, Roche India
- ✓ **DPIIT & HDFC Capital:** To promote innovation in the affordable housing and Property Technology (PropTech) sectors.
- ✓ **DPIIT & Roche India:** to strengthen India's healthcare and life sciences startup ecosystem

Promoting Innovation in Affordable Housing:

Focus: A central focus of the partnership is the **H@ART Programme** (HDFC Affordable Real Estate and Technology Programme), launched by HDFC Capital.

Aim: The initiative aims to increase efficiency and reduce costs throughout the residential real estate development cycle.

- It also aims to support and invest in emerging PropTech startups, facilitate mentorship, networking, and developer ecosystem linkages through accelerators, academic institutions, and investors.

National Vision: It supports national initiatives like Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat@2047 by promoting technology-driven solutions in vital urban infrastructure sectors.

DPIIT Signs MoU with Roche India

The **DPIIT** signed an MoU with Roche Products (India) Private Limited (**Roche India**), subsidiary of Switzerland based Roche Group, with an aim at strengthening India's **healthcare and life sciences** startup ecosystem.

- The MoU was signed by Dr. Sumeet Jarangal, Director, DPIIT, and Rajwinder Mehdwan, Managing Director (MD), Roche India.

Aim: The MoU aims to support DPIIT-recognized startups, focused on high-impact therapeutic areas, including oncology, neurology, ophthalmology, haematology, and rare diseases.

Mentorship: As part of the MoU, Roche India will provide mentorship by global experts, access to cutting-edge technologies and infrastructure, support pilot and validation studies, and international platforms to

help scale promising innovations.

About Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I):

Union Minister – Piyush Goyal (Constituency – Mumbai North, Maharashtra)

Minister of State (MoS) – Jitin Prasada (Constituency – Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh, UP)

ITBPF & DBT Signed a MoU for Collaborative Biomedical Research and Training in New Delhi

In July 2025, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (**ITBPF**) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Department of Biotechnology (**DBT**) under the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T), to drive **biomedical research and training** for the welfare of India's paramilitary forces.

- The MoU was signed in the presence of Rajesh S. Gokhakle, Secretary of DBT, MoS&T; and Rahul Rasgotra, Director General (DG) of ITBF, during a ceremony held at ITBPF headquarters in New Delhi, Delhi.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** MoU Signed
- ✓ **Where?** New Delhi, Delhi
- ✓ **Entities involved:** ITBPF and DBT, MoS&T
- ✓ **Objective:** To use biotechnology solutions for critical health and environmental challenges faced by ITBPF Personnel
- ✓ **Focus Areas:** Human adaptability to high altitudes, biosecurity, biomedical devices, prosthetics and food biotechnology

Key Details of MoU:

Aim: To leverage ITBPF's medical expertise and DBT's research ecosystem to tackle key scientific and technological challenges of national importance.

Focus Area: Both ITBPF and DBT will undertake joint research projects on key areas like: human adaptability to high altitudes, biosecurity, biomedical devices, prosthetics and food biotechnology, among others.

Significance: This strategic partnership is likely to result in innovative, science-driven solutions customized to the unique operational challenges faced by the ITPB personnel.

- The joint effort will use DBT's robust biotechnology infrastructure, world-class Research and Development (R&D) facilities and proven track record in translational research.

ICAI Signed a MoU with IAGES to Strengthen Accreditation in Gold Industry

In August 2025, The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (**ICAI**) under the administrative control of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MoCA) and Indian Association of Gold Excellence and Standards (**IAGES**) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to implement a robust accreditation framework for value chain partners in the gold industry, which currently includes an estimated 6 lakh partners across India.

- The MoU was signed between **Charanjot Singh Nanda**, President of ICAI and **Kaushlendra Sinha**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), IAGES in the presence of Union Minister Arjun Meghwal, Ministry of Law and Justice (MoL&J).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** MoU Signed
- ✓ **Entities Involved:** ICAI and IAGES
- ✓ **Objective:** To bolster accreditation in gold industry
- ✓ **Signatories:** Charanjot Singh Nanda, President of ICAI and Kaushlendra Sinha, CEO, IAGES

About the MoU:

Objective Evaluation: The MoU will provide a comprehensive and objective evaluation based on well-defined parameters and will also introduce a code of conduct applicable to the gold industry.

Professional Development Committee: The Professional Development Committee (PDC) will raise awareness among its members about the MoU and the opportunities that will be generated by it.

- Also, PDC will supply a panel of Chartered Accountant (CA) firms to IAGES as per their requirement to enroll them for undertaking the work arising out of this MoU.

Significance: This strategic collaboration is expected to generate meaningful professional opportunities for members of the ICAI and contribute significantly to enhancing governance and standardisation of processes within the gold industry.

NMPB Signs MoUs with Ish Ved-Bioplants Venture, AIIA & AIIMS to Strengthen Conservation of Medicinal Plants

On August 4, 2025, the National Medicinal Plants Board (**NMPB**) under the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with **Ish Ved-Bioplants Venture** along with a tripartite agreement involving the All India Institute of Ayurveda (**AIIA**) and All India Institute of Medical Science (**AIIMS**) – New Delhi to strengthen the conservation of medicinal plants.

- The MoUs were signed in the presence of Union Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge, IC) **Prataprao Jadhav**, Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) at Nirman Bhawan in New Delhi, Delhi.



Exam Hints:

- What?** National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) signed MoUs
- Entities:** Ish Ved-Bioplants Venture, All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) and All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS)- New Delhi
- MoU signing witness:** Union Minister of State (MoS) Prataprao Jadhav, Ministry of AYUSH (Independent Charge)
- Ish Ved Bioplants MoU Purpose:** To conserve and maintain the germplasm of Rare, Endangered and Threatened (RET) medicinal plants
- AIIMS, AIIA MoU purpose:** To establish a national level medicinal plants garden.

Details of MoUs Signed:

Ish Ved Bioplants Venture: NMPB signed MoU with Ish Ved Bioplants Venture to conserve and maintain the **germplasm** of Rare, Endangered and Threatened (RET) medicinal plants using tissue culture methods.

- The MoU also aims to develop sustainable and scalable cultivation protocols to strengthen the supply chain of medicinal plants for manufacture of Ayush products.

Medicinal plants garden: The tripartite (involving three parties) MoU was signed to establish a national level **medicinal plants garden** in the premises of AIIMS-New Delhi, through the AIIA, to create awareness about medicinal plants among patients, visitors and students.

- The garden will serve as a center for education and awareness, enabling patients, students, and visitors to learn about the healing properties of medicinal plants.

About National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB):

Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) – Dr. Mahesh Kumar Dadhich

Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi

Established – 2000

SAP Labs India Inks MoU with GSV to Digitally Skill Professionals in Logistics and Transport Sector

On August 5, 2025, **SAP Labs India** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (**GSV**) to digitally upskill professionals in the logistics and transport sector in India during the inauguration event of the Innovation Park of SAP Labs India in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed
- ✓ **Entities:** SAP Labs India and Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)
- ✓ **Event:** Inauguration of the Innovation Park of SAP Labs India
- ✓ **Location:** Bengaluru, Karnataka
- ✓ **Objective:** to digitally skill the professionals in logistics and transport sector in India

Three Pillars: The MoU is designed with an emphasis on three key pillars such as

- Employment enablement for Graduates and Postgraduates (PGs), trained by GSV through industry relevant skills
- Curriculum enhancement and capacity building for students and government professionals to ensure alignment with real-world needs
- industry linkages for research, development, and employment to boost national logistics capabilities.

Aim: With the integration of digital logistics tools and SAP solutions into GSV's curriculum, the collaboration aims to create a future-ready workforce that meets the needs of the logistics ecosystem.

India-Russia Sign Pact to Strengthen Industrial and Technological Ties

On August 6, 2025, **India** and **Russia** have signed a Protocol to deepen industrial and technological cooperation, reaffirming their strategic partnership during the **11th Session of the India-Russia Working Group** on Modernization & Industrial Cooperation, held at Vanijya Bhawan in New Delhi, Delhi.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** India and Russia signed a Protocol
- ✓ **Where?** 11th Session on India-Russia Working Group on Modernization & Industrial Cooperation
- ✓ **Location:** New Delhi, Delhi
- ✓ **Signatories:**
- ✓ India: Amardeep Singh Bhatia, Secretary, DPIIT, MoC&I
- ✓ Russia: Alexey Gruzdev, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade
- ✓ **Objective:** Reaffirm strategic partnership; deepen industrial & technological cooperation
- ✓ **Framework:** India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation



About India-Russia Protocol :

Signatories: The protocol was signed by co-chairs **Amardeep Singh Bhatia**, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), and the Russian delegation was led by **Alexey Gruzdev**, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation.

Aim: The protocol aims to strengthen collaboration in aluminium, fertilizers, and railway transport, while promoting capacity building and technology transfer in the mining sector, covering equipment, exploration, and industrial and domestic waste management.

About 11th Session of the India-Russia Working Group:

Framework: The meeting was held under the framework of the India-Russia Intergovernmental

Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation.

Focus Areas: The cooperation focuses on aerospace technology, including a modern wind tunnel and small aircraft engines, carbon fibre, additive manufacturing, 3-Dimensional(3D) printing, and the extraction of rare earth minerals, underground coal gasification, and industrial infrastructure development.

Participation: The session featured the participation of approximately 80 delegates from both countries, including senior government officials, experts, and industry representatives.

About Russia:

Prime Minister (**PM**) – Mikhail Mishustin

Capital – Moscow

Currency – Russian Ruble (RUB)

Amazon India & FIEO Signed MoU to Boost E-commerce Exports of MSMEs in India

On 6th August 2025, **Amazon India** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Federation of Indian Export Organisations (**FIEO**) to enhance e-commerce export potential of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (**MSMEs**) in India.

- The collaboration aims to establish a dedicated e-commerce export task force to create a policy and infrastructure roadmap that enables seller readiness and increases awareness about e-commerce export opportunities.

Exam Hints:

- What? Amazon India & FIEO signed MoU
- Objective: Enable MSMEs to access global markets via e-commerce
- Initiatives: E-commerce export task force; MSME workshops; seller communities.
- Focus Sectors: Handicrafts, home textiles, apparel, toys.

About the MoU:

Export Task Force: The initiative aims to develop infrastructure and policy recommendations to streamline export processes by addressing operational challenges such as customs clearance, logistics, and regulatory compliance.

Capacity Building: Amazon and FIEO will jointly conduct workshops and training sessions for exporters across key product categories such as home textiles and décor, health and personal care, apparel, toys, packaged foods, and handicrafts to improve operations, compliance, and access global market.

Local Seller Communities: The initiative will set up offline seller support communities to help MSMEs in their export journey by providing peer learning and access to service providers.

NITI Aayog's AIM and DIBD sign SoI to promote vernacular innovation

In August 2025, the Atal Innovation Mission (**AIM**) of National Institution for Transforming India (**NITI Aayog**) signed the **Statement of Intent** (SoI) with the Digital India Bhashini Division (**DIBD**) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY) to foster vernacular innovation and enhance Indian language inclusivity in the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

- The SoI was signed between **Deepak Bagla**, Director of AIM and **Amitabh Nag** Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of DIBD, during a meeting in New Delhi, Delhi.

Exam Hints:

- What? Statement of Intent (SoI) signed
- Entities Involved: AIM (NITI Aayog) and DIBD (MeITY)
- Purpose: to embed language technology into AIM's nationwide innovation programs.
- Initial step: Translation of WIPO Academy content using DIBD tech

- ✓ **Centres involved:** Atal Incubation Centres (AICs), Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACICs), and new Language Inclusive Program for Innovation (LIPI).

About the initiative:

Purpose: It aims to focus on strategies to integrate **Indian language** technology into AIM's nationwide programs.

Initial step: The content from the World Intellectual Property Organisation (**WIPO**) Academy on intellectual property rights (**IPR**) will be translated into multiple Indian languages using **DIBD's advanced AI-powered translation tools**.

- It is part of the ongoing collaboration under the **Joint Letter of Intent** signed between AIM and WIPO.

Key Highlights: This initiative allows access to DIBD tools to startups, innovators, and entrepreneurs in the AIM ecosystem, which enables them to develop, test, and deploy multilingual digital solutions.

- The AIM ecosystem includes Atal Incubation Centres (**AICs**) and Atal Community Innovation Centres (**ACICs**), and other grassroots initiatives.

DARPG Partners with RTS Commissioners for Improvement of e-services under NeSDA, Issues Guidelines for NAeG 2026

On August 8, 2025, The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (**DARPG**), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (MoPPGP), has partnered with Right to Services (RTS) Commissioners of States and Union Territories (UTs) to enhance the e-services and strengthen the public service delivery framework under the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (**NeSDA**) Way Forward.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** DARPG and RTS Commissioners of states and UTs have partnered to enhance e-services across India.
- ✓ **DARPG under:** Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (MoPPGP)
- ✓ **Sectors:** land, labour, finance, and environment
- ✓ **Framework:** National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA)

States: Currently, the states and UTs across India are reporting more than 22,000 e-Services under the NeSDA Framework. The services offered are evaluated through the AAKLAN benchmarking tool, developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).

DARPG Notifies the Scheme for NAeG 2026:

DARPG issued the scheme guidelines for the **23rd** National Awards for e-Governance (**NAeG**), which is presented annually to honour and encourage excellence in implementing e-Governance initiatives.

- The award aims to recognize the achievements, foster the sharing of effective practices, and promote innovation in digital governance.

Categories: The nominations can be submitted under 7 categories, including

- Government Process Re-engineering by use of technology for Digital Transformation
- Innovation by Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other new age technologies for providing Citizen-Centric Services.
- Best e-Gov Practices/ Innovation in Cyber Security
- District Level Initiatives in e-Governance
- Grassroots Level Initiatives by Gram Panchayats or equivalent Traditional Local Bodies for Deepening/ Widening of Service Delivery.
- Replication and Scaling of Nationally Awarded and Mission-mode e-Governance Projects by States/UTs/ Districts.

- Digital Transformation by use of data analytics in digital platforms by Central Ministries/ States/ UTs

Award: The NAeG 2026 will comprise a trophy, a certificate, an incentive of **Rs.10 lakhs** for each Gold Awardee, and **Rs. 5 lakhs** for each Silver Awardee.

- Under NAeG 2026, **16** awards, including 10 Gold Awards and 6 Silver Awards will be awarded.

About the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG):

Secretary – V Srinivas

Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi

Established – 1964

BSNL and NRL signs MoU to Implement India's First 5G CNPN through Industry 4.0 Adoption

On August 3, 2025, New Delhi (Delhi)-based Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (**BSNL**) and Guwahati (Assam)-based Numaligarh Refinery Limited (**NRL**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) during the "*Industry 4.0 Workshop for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)*" organised by the Ministry of Finance (**MoF**) in Guwahati, Assam.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** MoU signed by BSNL and Guwahati, Assam based NRL in an event
- ✓ **Why?** To implement India's first 5G CNPN technology in the refinery sector as part of Industry 4.0 adoption.
- ✓ **Event:** Industry 4.0 Workshop for CPSEs
- ✓ **Purpose:** Enhance industrial efficiency, cybersecurity, and industrial automation through AR/VR-based training, Digital Twins, and real-time IoT applications

About the BSNL and NRL Collaboration:

Objective: The collaboration aims to implement India's **first 5G Captive Non-Public Network (CNPN)** in the refinery sector to deliver secure, ultra-reliable, and real-time industrial connectivity.

Scope: Facilitates **Industry 4.0** adoption, enabling technologies such as Digital Twins, Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered 3D Printing, Virtual Formulation, Augmented/Virtual/Mixed Reality (AR/VR/MR), Internet of Things (IoT), and Big Data Analytics.

Impact: It is expected to be a replicable model for other industrial sectors and create employment, especially in the North Eastern Region.

- The initiative supports Atmanirbhar Bharat and the Government of India's "*Whole of Government*" (*WoG*) approach

Chhattisgarh Government Inks Agreement with NHPC for 1,800 MW PSP

In August 2025, Government of **Chhattisgarh**, along with Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company Limited (**CSPGCL**), signed an agreement with NHPC Limited (formerly known as National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited) to develop two Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs) with capacity of **1800 Megawatt (MW)**.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Agreement to build pumped storage projects
- ✓ **By Whom?** Government of Chhattisgarh, NHPC, and CSPGCL
- ✓ **Location:** Korba and Kurund districts of Chhattisgarh
- ✓ **Investment:** ₹3,417 crore (Hasdeo Bango), ₹6,000 crore (Kurund)
- ✓ **Purpose:** to develop two Pumped Storage Projects, totaling 1800 Megawatt (MW)

Two Projects: The two projects include development of a PSP of 800 MW at Hasdeo Bango in Korba district worth **Rs.3,417 crores**, and a PSP of 1000 MW in Kurund district, with an estimated investment of **Rs.6,000 crores**.

Pumped Storage: The Pumped Storage systems also called Pumped Storage Hydropower (PSH), stores energy in the form of elevated water. During the off-peak hours, the surplus power from Renewable Energy (RE)-based plants is used to pump water from the lower reservoir to the upper reservoir.

- During peak hours, the water is released from the upper reservoir, flows through turbines, generating electricity.

BSNL Partners with Ericsson, Qualcomm, Cisco, and Nokia to Promote 5G, AI and Digital Skills

In August 2025, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (**BSNL**) signed a Memorandums of Understanding (**MoUs**) with 4 global tech giants namely: **Ericsson India Pvt. Limited; Qualcomm Technologies Inc., Cisco Systems, and Nokia Solutions and Networks India Pvt. Limited**, aimed to drive digital transformation as well as strengthen the skilling ecosystem in India.

- The program will train over 2,000 students annually, with Phase 1 investments exceeding Rs1 crore and These MoUs were signed in the presence of Union Minister **Jyotiraditya Madhavrao (M.)Scindia**, Ministry of Communications (MoC) during a ceremony held in New Delhi, Delhi.

Key Signatories: MoUs were signed between A. Robert J. Ravi, Managing Director (MD) of BSNL and Tarun Chhabra, Country Head, Nokia India; Harish Krishnan, MD and Chief Policy Officer of CISCO; Nitin Bansal, MD of India Head Network Solutions, South East Asia, Oceania, and India, Ericsson India; and Savi Soni, President of Qualcomm India.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Signing of MoU
- ✓ **Entities Involved:** BSNL and Ericsson India, Qualcomm Technologies Inc., Cisco Systems, and Nokia Solutions and Networks India.
- ✓ **Key Areas of Digital Skilling:** 5G, AI/ ML, networking, and digital technologies
- ✓ **Location:** BRBRAITT in Jabalpur, MP
- ✓ **Setup 5G CoE:** by Ericsson India Pvt. Limited; to train 2,000 students annually

About MoUs:

Areas of Advance Training: These MoUs will roll out advance skilling programmes in 5G, Artificial Intelligence (AI)/ Machine Language (ML), networking, and digital technologies at Bharat Ratna Bhim Rao Ambedkar Institute of Telecom Training (BRBRAITT) in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh (MP).

- These MoUs align with the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under the MoC plans to establish a Telecom Innovation, Research and Training Centre (TIRTC) at BRBRAITT, envisioned as industry-led national hub.

key initiatives under these MoUs

Ericsson India: It will help in establishing a dedicated Ericsson 5G Centre of Excellence (CoE) at BRBRAITT.

It will offer hands-on 5G training as well as online learning modules under the Ericsson Educate Program to more than 2000 students annually.

Qualcomm Technologies Inc.: Under the agreement, Qualcomm will establish a Qualcomm Institute at BRBRAITT. It will mainly focus on advanced 5G and AI training for students, BSNL trainers, and government stakeholders.

Cisco Systems: As part of the MoU, Cisco Systems will use its Cisco Networking Academy Program to improve skills in networking, cyber security, and Information Technology (IT) infrastructure.

Nokia Solutions and Networks India Pvt. Ltd.: It will provide support in the development of 5G CoE and AI/ML Lab at BRBRAITT to train 300 students every year in areas like: 5G radio, core networks, and AI/ML applications.

About Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL):

Managing Director (MD)- A. Robert Jerad Ravi

Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

Established- 2000

DPIIT Signs MoU with Zepto to Support Manufacturing Startups through ‘Zepto Nova’ Innovation Challenge

On August 12, 2025, Department of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Zepto Private Limited (**Zepto**) (formerly known as Kiranakart Technologies Private Limited) to launch the “**Zepto Nova**” **Innovation Challenge**, with an aim to support the startups at their early stage in the manufacturing sector.

- The MoU was signed by Dr. Sumeet Jarangal, Director, DPIIT, and Kaivalya Vohra, Co-founder, Zepto.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** MoU Signed
- ✓ **Entities:** DPIIT with Zepto Private Limited & Hero MotoCorp
- ✓ **DPIIT with Zepto:** To launch “Zepto Nova” innovation challenge.
- ✓ **Duration:** 6 months
- ✓ **DPIIT with Hero MotoCorp:** To support and scale startups through “Hero For Startups”.



About Zepto Nova Innovation Challenge:

Programme: The MoU aims to discover and mentor startups through a six-month programme, to advance from prototype to market-ready solutions by leveraging the robust delivery network and digital infrastructure of Zepto.

Focus: Under the program, the startups, developing technologies in hardware, Internet of Things (IoT), packaging and sustainable manufacturing are targeted to mentor.

Role of parties: The collaboration will provide support through mentorship and capacity building through expert-led workshops and startup India initiative, with an emphasis on women-led ventures and startups from tier II and tier III cities.

- Zepto will integrate 100 Indian startups to its supply chain, offering direct market exposure and a platform to showcase their innovation.

DPIIT Signs MoU with Hero MotoCorp:

Partnership: DPIIT signed an MoU with Hero MotoCorp Limited (**Hero MotoCorp**) to support and scale startups and entrepreneurs at their early stage through its innovation accelerator programme **“Hero For Startups”**.

- The MoU was signed by Dr. Sumeet Jarangal, Director of DPIIT, and Utkarsh Mishra, Global Innovation Portfolio Lead, Hero MotoCorp.

Areas: Under the MoU, DPIIT and Hero MotoCorp will jointly support the startups focused on future mobility, clean technology, and deep technology.

Access: The selected startups will be provided with exclusive access to Hero MotoCorp’s Research and Development (R&D) facilities in Germany and India, the extensive network of dealers, suppliers and partners, and mentorship.

Opportunity: The startups will be provided with opportunities to develop paid Proofs of Concept (PoCs), enabling real-world validation and market exposure.

About Zepto Private Limited (Zepto):

Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) Aadit Palicha

Headquarters – Bengaluru, Karnataka

Established – 2021

NLCIL and BARC Signs MoU for Rare Earth Extraction from Fly Ash

In August 2025, NLC India Limited (**NLCIL**), a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Coal, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (**BARC**), for the **extraction** of Rare Earth Elements (**REEs**) from fly ash.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** MoU Signed
- ✓ **Entities Involved:** NLCIL & BARC
- ✓ **Why?** For the extraction of Rare Earth Elements (REEs) from fly ash.
- ✓ **How?** By establishing a pilot project at Neyveli, TN
- ✓ **Role of BARC:** Provide technical support for the extraction

About Pilot Project:

Pilot Project: A pilot project will be established at Neyveli, Tamil Nadu (TN) with BARC's technical support to demonstrate the extraction of REEs from fly ash, a by-product of thermal power generation.

Significance: REEs are essential for healthcare, clean energy, electronics, defence, and research.

- This initiative will reduce dependence on imports, strengthen India's strategic mineral security, and promote the circular economy.

Applications: REEs are critical for renewable energy systems, medical equipment, electronics, defence systems, and high-tech manufacturing.

India Signs trade cooperation agreement with Zambia

On August 12, 2025, the Government of India (**GoI**) signed a **trade cooperation pact** with the **Republic of Zambia** to enhance trade alliances between cooperatives of both nations.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Trade cooperation pact
- ✓ **Between whom?** India & Zambia
- ✓ **Objective:** Promote cooperative trade alliances
- ✓ **Indian Ministry & Entity involved:** Ministry of Cooperation & National Cooperative Exports Ltd

About the trade cooperation pact:

MoU Signed: India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with Zambia on July 18, 2025.

Objective: To promote cooperatives and create facilities for trade alliances between Indian and Zambian cooperative entities.

Implementation: The Ministry of Cooperation (MoC), GoI is working with **Indian Missions abroad** to strengthen the cooperative export ecosystem.

Other Collaboration of NCEL: National Cooperative Exports Limited (**NCEL**) has expanded its international reach by signing MoUs with the Government of Senegal and with entities in Indonesia, which includes Sinton Vantage Trading and PT Sinton Surini Nusantara.

- These collaborations aim to facilitate the exchange of goods, services, and technical expertise, boosting Indian cooperatives' global presence

LТИ Mindtree Joins India's First Quantum Valley at Amaravati, AP

On August 11, 2025, **LTI Mindtree**, an Information Technology (IT) services and consulting company, in partnership with its parent group, Larsen & Toubro (L&T), announced a strategic collaboration with

Government of Andhra Pradesh (**AP**) and industry partners to develop **India's first Quantum Valley Tech Park in Amaravati, AP.**

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** LTIMind Tree partnered with Andhra Pradesh (AP)
- ✓ **Purpose:** To develop India's first Quantum Valley Tech Park
- ✓ **Location:** Amaravati, AP.
- ✓ **Role:**
- ✓ LTIMindtree set up a Centre of Excellence (CoE);
- ✓ L&T manage the design & development.

Key Collaborations:

Partner: With this move, LTIMindtree and L&T have become the core technology and infrastructure partner in the Quantum Valley Ecosystem.

- Under this partnership, LTIMindtree will establish a Centre of Excellence (**CoE in the Quantum Valley**, to spearhead deep-tech research, quantum incubation, and applied Research and Development (R&D).
- L&T will oversee the design, development, and management of the physical infrastructure, utilizing its expertise in large-scale construction projects.

IBM: A key feature of the project is the deployment of the IBM Quantum System Two at the Quantum Computing Centre, a collaboration between International Business Machines (IBM) and the Government of AP, making it India's largest quantum computer.

UIDAI Signs Agreement with ISI for Joint R&D to Enhance Aadhar Operations

On August 12, 2025, the Unique Identification Authority of India (**UIDAI**), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), signed a **five-year** umbrella agreement with the Indian Statistical Institute (**ISI**), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), to collaborate on Research and Development (R&D), with an aim to bolster security, reliability, and robustness of Aadhaar.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Agreement signed
- ✓ **Entities:** UIDAI and Indian Statistical Institute (ISI)
- ✓ **Purpose:** To bolster security, reliability, and robustness of Aadhaar
- ✓ **Period:** 5 years
- ✓ **Focus Areas:** Fraud and anomaly detection, biometric liveness detection tools



About UIDAI-ISI Collaboration:

Signatories: The agreement was signed by Tanusree Deb Barma, Deputy Director General(DG) (Technology Centre) at UIDAI and Professor B.S. Daya Sagar, head of ISI in the presence of Bhuvnesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of UIDAI and Puja Singh Mandol, Additional Secretary, MoSPI.

Objective: This initiative aims to leverage ISI's expertise in statistical analysis and data science to bolster Aadhaar's infrastructure, ensuring a more secure and efficient biometric identity system.

Focus: The agreement focuses on areas such as fraud and anomaly detection, development of biometric liveness detection tools, identification of high-risk enrolment and update categories, improvements in biometric matching algorithms, and other priority areas mutually decided by UIDAI and ISI.

About Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI):

Launch: It was launched in January 2009 by the Government of India (GoI). It was granted statutory status through the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016.

- Operating under the MeitY, UIDAI's primary mandate is to issue a unique **12-digit** identification number, known as "Aadhaar," to all residents of India.

About Indian Statistical Institute (ISI):

ISI has been declared an Institute of National Importance by an Act of Parliament in 1959. It is a premier academic and research institution under MoSPI.

- It was founded by Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis (also known as Father of Modern Statistics in India).

President – Sankar Kumar Pal

Headquarters – Kolkata (West Bengal, WB)

Established- 1931.

Tata Power Joins Hands with Suzlon for 700 MW Wind Project in AP

In August 2025, **Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL)** signed an agreement worth **Rs 6,000 Crore** with **Suzlon Energy Limited**, one of the leading global Renewable Energy (RE) solution provider for the development of 700 MegaWatt (MW) wind energy project in Anantpur district of Andhra Pradesh (AP).

- This newly announced project is part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL) and AP government in March 2025.
- The MoU aims to build Renewable Energy (RE) capacities up to a capacity of 7 Giga Watt (GW).

Exam Hints:

- What?** MoU to develop 700 MW wind power project
- By Whom?** Tata Power Renewable Energy & Suzlon Energy
- When?** Announced in March 2025; project revealed August 2025
- Investment:** Rs.6,000 crore
- Where?** Anantpur district, Andhra Pradesh(AP)
- Significance:** Supports state's renewable targets, boosts local manufacturing, creates jobs, first big wind project in AP since 2019

Key Details:

Annual Energy Capacity: The project is expected to generate 1840 million units of power annually.

Investment: The 7 GW of RE which includes solar, wind, and hybrid projects with or without storage solutions, is projected to attract investments worth Rs 49,000 crore, making it one of the largest RE investments in the state.

MY Bharat Signs MoU with SOUL for Youth Leadership Development

In August 2025, **MY Bharat** under the Department of Youth Affairs (DoYA), Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS), signed a **three-year** Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with School of Ultimate Leadership Foundation (**SOUL**) to advance youth leadership development across India.

- The collaboration aims to develop **100,000** youth leaders (aged **18–29 years**) nationwide through programs in governance, public policy, social entrepreneurship, digital literacy, and financial literacy.

Exam Hints:

- What?** MoU signed
- Entities?** MY Bharat & SOUL for 3 years
- Purpose:** Youth leadership development
- Target:** 1,00,000 youth leaders aged 18–29
- Starting From:** September 2025.

Implementation Framework:

Selection: Merit-based online quizzes ensuring representation from rural, urban, tribal, women, and marginalised communities.

- Selection will follow a pan-India, inclusive approach.
- An online leadership program will launch in **September 2025**.

Key Activities: Planned activities include leadership programs, youth conclaves, workshops, fellowships, policy advocacy, curriculum development, and networking events.

Governance: Activities will be executed through designated contact points and a joint working group, with a focus on capacity building for educational institutions.

IGNCA and BSIP Sign MoU for India's Science-Culture Integration

In August 2025, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (**IGNCA**), an autonomous trust under the Ministry of Culture, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (**BSIP**), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology(MoS&T) at IGNCA in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The MoU marks the **first initiative** in India that aims to create a unified platform for showcasing India's scientific and cultural achievements to national and global audiences.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** MoU Signed
- ✓ **By Whom?** IGNCA & BSIP
- ✓ **Signatories:** Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi (IGNCA), Prof. Mahesh G. Thakkar (BSIP)
- ✓ **Purpose:** Science–Culture integration, heritage preservation, Project Mausam

Key People:

Signatories: The MoU was signed by Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary of IGNCA, and Prof. Mahesh G. Thakkar, Director of BSIP.

Nodal Officers: Dr. Achal Pandya, Head & Professor of the Conservation Division at IGNCA, and Dr. Shilpa Pandey, Senior Scientist at BSIP, will serve as nodal officers for the collaboration.

MoU's Objectives:

Heritage Preservation: Joint research, documentation, and conservation of India's cultural-scientific heritage.

Public Outreach: Create documentaries and awareness campaigns to protect endangered traditions from the Himalayas to Kanyakumari

Digitization: Digitize cultural and scientific resources for wider accessibility

Support: The partnership will actively support **Project Mausam**, examining the effects of climate change on India's maritime history.

NHA & C-DAC Signed MoU to Launch 'e-Sushrut@Clinic' for Digital Healthcare Infrastructure

In August 2025, the National Health Authority (**NHA**) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare(MoHFW) and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (**C-DAC**) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to launch '**e-Sushrut@Clinic**', a lightweight, cloud-based Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) for Outpatient (OP) clinics in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The MoU was signed in the presence of Punya Salila Srivastava, Secretary of the Department of Health and Family Welfare(DoHFW), MoHFW.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** MoU signed
- ✓ **Entities:** NHA (MoHFW) & C-DAC (MeitY)

- ✓ **Purpose:** To launch e-Sushrut@Clinic – lightweight, cloud-based HMIS for OP clinics
- ✓ **Mission:** Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)
- ✓ **Status:** Adopted by 17 AIIMS + 4000+ health facilities

About e-Sushrut@Clinic:

Accessibility: This affordable, government-backed HMIS is designed specifically for small and medium healthcare providers.

Integration: The system represents a crucial expansion of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (**ABDM**), launched in September 2021, creating an interoperable digital health ecosystem in India.

Key Features: The eSushrut@Clinic is tailored for OP management, pharmacy, and nursing modules, facilitates digital patient records, offers telemedicine services, etc.

- Healthcare providers can easily onboard through their Health Facility Registry (HFR) and Health Professionals Registry (HPR).
- It also enables free All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Clinical Decision Support Systems (CDSS) for hypertension and diabetes.

Status: Currently, 17 AIIMS and over 4000 health facilities already use C-DAC's e-Sushrut software.

IBM Signs LoI with Maharashtra Government on Quantum Computing

In August 2025, International Business Machines (**IBM**) Corporation signed a Letter of Intent (**LoI**) with the Government of **Maharashtra** to advance the state's quantum computing ecosystem.

- The LoI was signed during the inauguration of IBM's India Client Experience Centre in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** LoI signed
- ✓ **Between:** IBM & Government of Maharashtra
- ✓ **Purpose:** Quantum ecosystem development
- ✓ **Mission:** National Quantum Mission

About Letter of Intent(**LoI**):

Quantum Vision: IBM will provide technical expertise to help Maharashtra design and implement its quantum computing initiative, aligning with India's National Quantum Mission (**NQM**).

Ecosystem: The collaboration includes workshops and skills development programmes aimed at creating a talent pool in quantum technologies and fostering a vibrant state-level quantum ecosystem.

IBM India Client Experience Centre: The newly inaugurated **centre**, will focus on AI through the **watsonx** platform, data and automation, cybersecurity, hybrid cloud, and consulting-led transformation solutions tailored to India's business challenges.

JSW and POSCO Sign HoA for 6 MTPA Steel Plant in India

On August 18, 2025, **JSW Steel Limited**, India, and South Korea-based **POSCO Group** signed a non-binding Heads of Agreement (**HoA**) to jointly explore setting up a **6 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA)** integrated steel plant in India through a **50:50 joint venture (JV)**.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Agreement:** Non-binding Heads of Agreement (**HoA**)
- ✓ **Signing Entities:** JSW Steel (India) and POSCO Holdings (South Korea)
- ✓ **Project:** 6 MTPA integrated steel plant in Odisha via 50:50 JV
- ✓ **Investment:** Rs. 65,000 crore (USD 7.44 billion)

Project Overview

Capacity & Location: The plant's capacity was upgraded from **5 MTPA** under the October 2024 Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to **6 MTPA**.

- Odisha is the preferred location due to its iron ore/coal reserves and logistical advantages

Investment: Estimated at **Rs. 65,000 crore (USD 7.44 billion)**, pending feasibility studies.

Scope: Includes exploring opportunities in battery materials for electric vehicles (EVs) and renewable energy

Strategic Objective: Supports India's Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) initiative by creating a globally competitive manufacturing hub for domestic and export markets.

IIT-M Signed Agreement worth Rs 1 crore to License India's 1st Silicon Photonics-based QRNG

In August 2025, the Technology Transfer Office (TTO), Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) has signed a licensing agreement worth **Rs 1 crore** with **Indrarka Quantum Technologies Private Limited**, to **transfer India's 1st** indigenously developed silicon (Si) photonics-based high-speed Quantum Random Number Generator (**QRNG**) technology to industry for commercial deployment.

- This agreement is expected to play a pivotal role in bolstering India's quantum innovation ecosystem.

Exam Hints:

- What? Signing of licensing agreement
- Value: Rs 1 crore
- Signed Between: TTO, IIT-M and Indrarka Quantum Technologies Pvt. Limited
- Purpose: Granted license for commercial deployment of Silicon photonics-based QRNG technology
- Developed at: Centre for Programmable Photonic Integrated Circuits and Systems (CPPICS), IIT-M

About Silicon Photonics-based QRNG:

Development: This technology was developed at the Centre for Programmable Photonic Integrated Circuits and Systems (CPPICS), IIT-M.

Led by: Bijoy Krishna Ds, Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering at IIT-M and chief investigator at CPPICS, led the project.

Previous Prototypes of QRNG: Previous prototype of QRNG module was delivered to the (DRDO)'s Young Scientist Laboratory-Quantum Technologies (DYSL-QT).

- Later, advanced prototype of QRNG was deployed at the Society for Electronic Transactions and Security (SETS Chennai) in Tamil Nadu (TN), for quantum security applications.

Applications: The QRNG has wide range of applications in various critical sectors like: defence, cryptographic algorithms, scientific simulations, financial transactions, among others.

Assam Rifles Signs MoU with IIIT Manipur to Promote Drone Technology

On August 18, 2025, **Assam Rifles** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with Indian Institute of Information Technology (**IIIT**) Manipur to promote drone technology for defence and security.

Exam Hints:

- What? MoU signed
- Entities: Assam Rifles and IIIT Manipur
- Signed by: Major General Ravroop Singh (Assam Rifles), Professor Krishnan Baskar (IIIT Manipur)
- Purpose: To promote drone technology
- Initiative: Advanced Drone Training and Refresher course was launched.

About Partnership for Enhanced Defence Capabilities:

Signatories: The MoU was signed by Major General Ravroop Singh, Inspector General(IG) (South) of Assam Rifles and Professor Krishnan Baskar, Director, IIIT Manipur at Mantripukhri in Manipur.

Aim: The MoU aims to enhance the technical and operational readiness of personnel, particularly in areas

like surveillance, reconnaissance, and logistics support in challenging terrains.

Course Launch: Under the MoU, an Advanced Drone Training and Refresher course was launched for Assam Rifles personnel, covering drone flight operations, maintenance protocols, and Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)-certified training, aligning with civil aviation standards.

IIT-M, FedEx Launched SMART Centre for AI-driven Logistics Solutions

In August 2025, Indian Institute of Technology Madras (**IIT-M**) in collaboration with American transportation company, Federal Express Corporation (**FedEx**) launched the **FedEx SMART Centre** (Supply, Chain Modelling, Algorithms, Research and Technology Centre) at IIT-M campus in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).

- This newly launched centre aims to develop sustainable, Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven logistics solutions.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of FedEx SMART Centre
- ✓ **Launched by:** IIT-M and FedEx
- ✓ **Where?** IIT-M Campus in Chennai, TN
- ✓ **Objective:** To develop sustainable, AI-driven logistics solutions.
- ✓ **Financial Support:** USD 5 million or Rs 44 crore
- ✓ **Time Period:** 5 Year
- ✓ **Received financial support from:** FedEx

About FedEx SMART Centre:

Investment Cost: This first-of-its-kind facility is supported by a 5-year, **USD 5 million** (Rs 44 crore) from FedEx.

Key Function: It will combine cutting-edge research, advanced digital tools, and industry expertise to redesign supply chains for flexibility, resilience, and environmental sustainability.

Key Areas of Research: The centre will promote research in interdisciplinary projects spanning from carbon neutral operations, autonomous delivery systems, Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure and predictive analytics to AI-driven worker safety.

Centum Electronics partners with BEL for advanced defence electronics projects

In August 2025, Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based Centum Electronics Limited (Ltd) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a defence Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Defence, to work together in the field of **defence electronics**.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **News:** Defence MoU
- ✓ **Entities:** Centum Electronics & BEL
- Objective:** advanced defence electronics projects

Signing of the MoU: The MoU was signed at BEL's Corporate Office between Suresh Kumar K V, Director (Marketing) of BEL, and Apparao V Mallavarapu, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Centum Electronics Ltd

- The signing was **witnessed** by Manoj Jain, CMD of BEL, and Dr. Vinod Chippalkatti, President of Centum Electronics Ltd.

Key Focus: The cooperation will mainly focus on strengthening India's defence capabilities by developing advanced Electronic Warfare systems, next-generation Radar technologies, and highly secure communication solutions for Indian Armed Forces.

Indian Oil and Air India Signed MoU for SAF Supply

In August 2025, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (**IOCL**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Air India** for the supply of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (**SAF**).

- This development came after IOCL became the **1st** Indian oil company to get the International Sustainability & Carbon Certification (ISCC) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) certificate for production of SAF at its Panipat Refinery (Haryana).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Signing of MoU for SAF supply
- ✓ **Entities Involved:** Air India and IOCL
- ✓ **ISCC CORSIA certificate Issued to:** IOCL (1st Indian oil company to get this certificate)
- ✓ **ISCC CORSIA Certificate for:** SAF production at IOCL's Panipat Refinery

Key Details of MoU:

Significance: This MoU reflects a shared commitment to accelerate adoption of low-carbon fuels in aviation sector, support global decarbonisation goals and contribute to the transition toward more sustainable air transport operations.

IATA Net Zero Target: Through this strategic partnership, Air India has reaffirmed its commitment in pursuing sustainability initiatives as part of its wider strategy to align with the International Air Transport Association (IATA)'s target of achieving **Net-Zero emissions by 2050**.

Key Objectives: As per this MoU, both IOCL and Air India will collaborate on SAF supply for international flights, and will exceed CORSIA targets while ensuring a reliable and transparent green fuel supply chain.

UIDAI Partners with Starlink for Aadhaar-based Customer Verification

In August 2025, the Unique Identification Authority of India (**UIDAI**) works under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has collaborated with American satellite internet provider, **Starlink Satellite** Communication Private Limited, to enable Aadhaar-based customer verification

which will make the entire process smooth, secure and very easy.

- This strategic partnership reflects the scalability and reliability of India's digital infrastructure.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Collaboration between Starlink and UIDAI
- ✓ **Purpose:** For Aadhaar-based authentication for customer verification
- ✓ **Authentication:** Done by Starlink
- ✓ **Designation:** Starlink as SUA and Sub-eKYC User Agency

About Starlink and UIDAI Collaboration:

Designation: Starlink was appointed as a Sub-Authentication User Agency (SUA) and Sub-electronic Know Your Customer (e-KYC) User Agency, in the presence of Bhuvnesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of UIDAI; Manish Bhardwaj, Deputy Director General (Dy-DG) and Parnil Urdhwareshe, Director of Starlink India.

Significance : This process will enable Starlink to seamlessly onboard users while ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements as it rolls-out high speed satellite internet to households, businesses and institutions across India.

Voluntary Authentication: UIDAI has clarified that Aadhaar authentication by users will continue to be voluntary as per the existing norms.

DEPwD, Nipman Foundation & YLAC Sign MoU to Launch 'Breaking Barriers Fellowship'

On August 21, 2025, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (**DEPwD**), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with **Nipman Foundation** and Young Leaders for Active Citizenship (**YLAC**) to launch the '**Breaking Barriers Fellowship**'.

- The MoU was signed by Ashish Thakare, Director, DEPwD, MoSJE; Nipun Malhotra, Founder, Nipman Foundation; and Rohit Kumar, Co-Founder, YLAC.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** MoU signed
- ✓ **Entities:** DEPwD, Nipman Foundation, and Young Leaders for Active Citizenship (YLAC)
- ✓ **Purpose:** To launch Breaking Barriers Fellowship
- ✓ **Act:** Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016, Official Secrets Act, 1923

About 'Breaking Barriers Fellowship':

Fellowship: The Breaking Barriers Fellowship is a program, designed to place young professionals across DEPwD offices to strengthen policy support and enhance the implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (**RPWD**) Act, 2016.

Selection: The fellows are selected on a merit-based, transparent process, and are required to provide quarterly reporting and comply with confidentiality under the Official Secrets Act, 1923.

Duration: The MoU is signed for a period of one year, with potential for extension by mutual agreement.

Objectives: The key objectives of the program are to strengthen the institutional capacity through professional placements, provide young people with mentorship and government experience, and incorporate fresh perspectives into policymaking.

BVFCL Signed 5-Year Pact with Bhutan's NSC for Fertilizer Supply

In August 2025, Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (**BVFCL**), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (MoCF), has signed a **5-year Business-to-Business (B2B)** agreement with the National Seed Centre (**NSC**) of Bhutan at Siliguri in West Bengal (WB).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Signing of B2B Agreement
- ✓ **Entities Involved:** BVFCL and Bhutan's NSC
- ✓ **Objective:** For the Export of Fertilizers to Bhutan
- ✓ **Term of Agreement:** 5 Years
- ✓ **Fertilizers:** Urea, Suphala (NPK), SSP, MOP, and Borax

Key Details of Agreement:

Purpose: Under this agreement, BVFCL will supply essential fertilizers to Bhutan, including Urea, Suphala (NPK), Single Super Phosphate (SSP), Muriate of Potash (MOP), and Borax.

- This will guarantee timely and uninterrupted access to essential agricultural inputs, supporting Bhutan's food security and agricultural productivity goals.

Significance: This strategic partnership marks a major milestone in India-Bhutan bilateral relations, especially in the agriculture and allied sectors, and is expected to further enhance cooperation in cross border fertilizer supply and food security.

India, EAEU Sign ToR to Begin Free Trade Agreement Negotiations

In August 2025, India and Eurasian Economic Union (**EAEU**), comprising Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Russia, signed the Terms of Reference (**ToR**) to launch negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement (**FTA**) in Moscow, Russia.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** ToR Signed
- ✓ **Signed by:** India and EAEU
- ✓ **Signatories:** Ajay Bhadoo,(India); Mikhail Cherekaev(EAEU)
- ✓ **Objective:** Enhance trade relations, diversify market access, and support MSMEs.
- ✓ **EAEU Members:** Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Armenia.

About Terms of Reference (ToR)

Signatories: The ToR was signed by **Ajay Bhadoo**, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce(DoC) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry(MoC&I), Government of India(GoI) and **Mikhail Cherekaev**, Deputy Director of Trade Policy Department, Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC).

Objective of FTA: The proposed Free Trade Agreement aims to increase India's exports, support Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises(MSMEs), and diversify market access for Indian products.

Significance: This establishes the framework for negotiations and is anticipated to unlock untapped trade potential, enhance investment flows, and foster a stronger and more sustainable India-EAEU economic partnership.

Growth: The trade turnover between India and the EAEU reached **USD 69 billion** in 2024, marking a 7% rise from 2023. The proposed FTA is supported by the EAEU's combined GDP of USD 6.5 trillion.

Current Trade Negotiations: India is actively negotiating a trade agreement with the United States of America (USA).

About Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU):

EAEU: The EAEU or EEU is an international economic union of countries located in northern Eurasia. It provides for the free movement of goods, services, capital, and labor.

Formed in: It was established via the Treaty on the EEU and entered into force on **January 1, 2015**.

- It succeeds the Eurasian Economic Community (EvrAsEs) as its successor organization.

Objective: The main objectives of the EAEU are to upgrade the competitiveness of the member states economies, increase cooperation among member states, and promote stable development to raise the standard of living in all member states.

Member States: It consists of five member states: Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Armenia. Currently, **Belarus** has taken over the presidency of the EAEU.

MOL, Suzuki, and TradeWaltz Sign MoU to Strengthen Automobile Trade between India and Africa

On August 21, 2025, Japanese companies Mitsui O.S.K Lines Limited (**MOL**), **TradeWaltz Inc.** and Suzuki Motor Corporation (**Suzuki**), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to strengthen the cooperation in automobile trade between **India** and **Africa**.

- The MoU was signed at the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9) in Yokohama, Japan.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** MoU signed
- ✓ **Entities:** MOL, Suzuki, and TradeWaltz
- ✓ **Where?** 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9) in Yokohama, Japan
- ✓ **Purpose:** For cooperation in automobile trade between India and Africa

India-Africa Automobile Trade Enhancement

Aim: The MoU aims to identify the existing challenges in automobile trade operations between India and Africa, explore potential solutions including digitalization, and promote decarbonization.

Focus: The agreement will target two main priorities: Digitising documentation in vehicle trades and decarbonising transport links.

Alignment: The initiative aligns with the “Japan-India Cooperation Initiative for Sustainable Economic Development in Africa”, launched at the Japan-India-Africa Business Forum in February 2025.

EIL Signed MoU with NPCIL to Develop Bharat SMR

In August 2025, Engineers India Limited (**EIL**), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with National Power Corporation of India Limited (**NPCIL**), a PSU works under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), to develop **Bharat Small Modular Reactors (BSMRs)**.

- The MoU was signed in the presence of Vartika Shukla, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of EIL; B.C. Pathak, CMD of NPCIL; and other senior officials from both organisations, at NPCIL's office in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Signing of MoU
- ✓ **Entities :** EIL and NPCIL
- ✓ **Objective:** To develop Bharat Small Modular Reactors (BSMRs)
- ✓ **Target:** 100 GW by 2047

Key Details of MoU:

Purpose: As per the MoU, EIL will provide engineering services required for the development of conceptual design and engineering of structures, systems and components of BSMR.

Significance: This collaboration supports the Government of India (GoI)'s vision to drive nuclear power, enabling clean, green, and reliable energy to bolster India's energy security.

Target: It also marks a major step towards the Nuclear Energy Mission for Viksit Bharat, targeting a nuclear power capacity of **100 Giga Watt (GW)** by **2047**.

Karnataka Signs MoU with BEL to Deliver Real-Time Advisory Services to Farmers

On August 21, 2025, the **Karnataka Agriculture Department** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with Bharat Electronics Limited (**BEL**) to deliver tech-driven, real-time advisory services to farmers in Karnataka.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** MoU signed
- ✓ **Entities:** Karnataka Agriculture Department and BEL
- ✓ **Purpose:** To deliver advisory services to farmers
- ✓ **Phases:** Pilot phase (one year), Full-scale (Four years)

About Advisory Services:

Integration: Under this MoU, the key agricultural datasets such as the crop information, weather data, Farmers Registration & Unified Beneficiary Information System (**FRUITS**) database, state and central government schemes will be integrated and analyzed to provide real-time services to the farmers.

Implementation: The initiative will be implemented in **two phases**, including pilot phase for a period of one year, and full-scale implementation for four years.

Role of BEL: Under the agreement, BEL will customize its **Equinox** platform for agriculture, provide technical consultancy, and support data integration.

DoP and AMFI Sign MoU to Distribute Mutual Funds Through Post Offices

In August 2025, Department of Posts (**DoP**) (also known as **India Post**), Ministry of Communications (**MoC**), Government of India (GOI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Association of

Mutual Funds in India (**AMFI**) during the 30th Foundation Day Celebration of AMFI in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- The MoU was signed by Manisha Bansal Badal, General Manager(GM) (Business Development), DoP, and V N Chalasani, Chief Executive, AMFI, in the presence of Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Chairman, Security Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** MoU for mutual fund distribution via post offices
- ✓ **By Whom?** Department of Posts(DoP) and Association of Mutual Funds in India(AMFI)
- ✓ **When?** During the 30th Foundation Day celebrations of AMFI
- ✓ **Duration:** MoU valid for three years from August 22, 2025, to August 21, 2028.
- ✓ **Purpose:** Facilitate mutual fund investments across India, focusing on rural and semi-urban areas to increase financial inclusion

Invest: Under the MoU, the citizens in rural and semi-urban areas will be able to invest in MF directly through the branches of the India Post for the first time.

Role of DoP: It will function as MF distributors to enhance fund penetration in underserved areas.

Validity: The MoU is valid for three years from August 22, 2025, to August 21, 2028, with provisions for renewal in the future.

RRU Signs MoU with SSB to Strengthen Training and Academic Collaboration in National Security

In August 2025, Rashtriya Raksha University (**RRU**), the pioneering national university dedicated to national security and policing education under the Ministry of Home Affairs (**MHA**), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Sahastra Seema Bal (**SSB**), Alwar (Rajasthan) of Central Armed Police Force (CAPF), MHA, to foster cooperation in the areas of training, research, and academic development related to national security.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** MoU signed
- ✓ **Entities:** Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) and Sahastra Seema Bal (SSB), Alwar (Rajasthan).
- ✓ **Purpose:** To foster the development in professional training and academic collaboration related to national security.
- ✓ **Exposure:** cutting-edge academic and professional modules

Integration: The partnership will provide the trainees of SSB with exposure to cutting-edge academic and professional modules and enhance their preparedness to meet the evolving challenges of internal security, border management, and law enforcement with greater efficiency.

Role of entities: Under this collaboration, RRU will provide academic inputs and advanced training to strengthen the operational capabilities of SSB. The field experience of SSB will enhance the research and training framework of RRU.

Note: Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU), based in Gandhinagar (Gujarat), is a national security and policing university dedicated to teaching, research, and training in the areas of policing, national security, law enforcement, correctional administration, and strategic studies.

- It provides diploma and degree certification to personnel over various national security organizations.

India Signed LoI with WFP to Combat Global Hunger

In August 2025, the Department of Food and Public Distribution (**DFPD**), under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MoCAF&PD), signed a Letter of Intent (**LoI**) with the United Nations

(UN's) World Food Programme (**WFP**) in New Delhi, Delhi to strengthen cooperation in addressing **global hunger**.

- The initiative underscores "**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**", the world is one family, highlighting India's global humanitarian outlook.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Signing of a Letter of Intent (LoI)
- ✓ **Signed by:** India & UN's WFP
- ✓ **Nodal Department:** DFPD, MoCAF&PD
- ✓ **Purpose:** Combat global hunger in crisis zones
- ✓ **Supply Commitment:** Up to 200,000 MT of fortified rice over 5 years
- ✓ **Initiatives:** Fortified rice rollout, grain ATMs, smart warehousing
- ✓ **Philosophy:** Guided by "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"

About Letter of Intent (LoI):

Dignitaries: The event was attended by **Ashutosh Agnihotri**, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), Food Corporation of India (FCI); Samir Wanmali, Regional Director (RD), WFP Asia and Pacific Regional Office (APARO); Carl Skau, Deputy Executive Director (DED), WEP; Elisabeth Faure, Country Director, WFP India; Sanjeev Chopra, Secretary, DFPD, along with senior officials from the DFPD, GoI.

Supply Commitment: The agreement foresees supplying up to **200,000 metric tonnes(MT)** of fortified rice over the next **5 years**.

Background:

WFP Discussions: The LoI is a continuation of the discussions held during the WFP Executive Board side event in Rome(Italy) in February 2025.

India's Transition: India has moved from being a food-scarce nation to becoming a global supplier of humanitarian food aid.

Ongoing Cooperation with WFP:

Rollout: Implementation of **fortified rice** across nutrition programmes to address malnutrition.

Optimisation: Operational savings of around **USD 30 million** achieved in Ethiopia and Sudan through improved supply chain management.

Annapurni Devices (Grain ATMs): Deployment of Annapurni devices, Automated Teller Machines(ATMs)for food grains, to enhance access to subsidised food for communities.

Smart Warehousing & Flospans: Introduction of smart warehousing and mobile storage units (Flospans) to modernise food storage and logistics.

Jan Poshan Kendras(JPK): Establishment of JPK to promote community-based nutrition awareness and services.

India's Role in Global Hunger Solutions:

Global Recognition: India, Brazil, and South Africa have been recognised for their food security models and diplomatic influence.

CoE in India: The WFP is exploring the establishment of a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in India to share best practices globally.

Policy Models: India's National Food Security Act (NFSAct), 2013 and Mid-Day Meal Scheme are serving as models for countries like Sudan and Haiti.

About World Food Programme (WFP):

Executive Director (**ED**)– Cindy McCain

Headquarters– Rome, Italy

Established– 1961

MoPSW Partners with NMC, ChPA, NTCPWC to Launch 'MAR-a-THON 2025' at IIT Madras

On August 25, 2025, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (**MoPSW**), in collaboration with National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways & Coasts (**NTCPWC**), Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT**) **Madras**, the National Maritime Complex (**NMC**), and the Chennai Port Authority (**ChPA**) launched '**MAR-a-THON 2025**', maritime hackathon, at IIT Madras in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of MAR-a-THON 2025
- ✓ **Where?** IIT Madras in Chennai, TN
- ✓ **Launched by:** MoPSW, NMC, ChPA, and NTCPWC of IIT Madras
- ✓ **When:** From 16 to 18 October 2025
- ✓ **Alignment:** Maritime AmritKaal 2047
- ✓ **Fund:** Up to Rs.10 lakhs (PoC), Rs.60 lakhs (Seed Funding), Rs.1 Crore (Tech Pilot Grant)

About 'MAR-a-THON 2025':

Initiative: The marathon is organized under the Sagarmala Start-up Innovation Initiative (**S2I2**) and serves as the curtain-raiser to India Maritime Week 2025 (October 27 to 31).

Aim: The programme aims to advance Research, Innovation, Start-ups, and Entrepreneurship (RISE) in the maritime sector.

Alignment: The MAR-a-THON 2025 initiative is aligned with the vision of 'Maritime AmritKaal 2047'.

Timeline: The application window for the startups will be open from August 25 to September 29, 2025. The hackathon will be conducted from 16 to 18 October 2025.

Fund: The selected startups will receive funding support based on milestones achieved to scale their innovations. It includes Up to **Rs. 10 lakhs** for Proof of Concept (PoC), Up to **Rs. 60 lakhs** for Seed Funding (Minimum Viable Product, MVP), and Up to **Rs.1 Crore** for Tech Pilot Grant (Commercial Scale-up).

DESW Signs MoU with QCI to Enhance Military Veteran Welfare Services

On August 26, 2025, the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (**DESW**) under the Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Quality Council of India (**QCI**) in New Delhi, Delhi, to improve the delivery of pension, healthcare, resettlement, and welfare services for over 63 lakh military veterans and their dependents.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** MoU Signed
- ✓ **Entities:** DESW(MoD) & QCI
- ✓ **Coverage:** Over 63 lakh veterans and dependents
- ✓ **Key Focus Areas:** Pension, healthcare resettlement, welfare, veteran entrepreneurship
- ✓ **Tech Initiatives:** Digital evaluations, AI, evidence-based policy.

About the MoU:

Signatories: The MoU was signed by Dr. P.P. Sharma, Joint Secretary(JS) & Officer on Special Duty(OSD), DESW; and Chakravarthy Kannan, Secretary General, QCI.

QCI's Role: Assist DESW with Digital evaluations, impact assessments, and policy support

DESW's Responsibility: Enable data access and coordinate with State Governments, Zila Sainik Boards (ZSBs), Armed Forces headquarters, and empaneled hospitals.

Focus Areas: Strengthening healthcare, re-employment, entrepreneurship, and the institutional framework of Sainik Boards through the use of digital platforms, Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, and social media.

SIA-India Signs MoU with Philippines's EI API for Joint Research and Co-Development

On August 28, 2025, Satcom Industry Association-India (**SIA-India**), a non-profit organization, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Electronic Industry Association of the Philippines Inc. (**EI API**), with an aim to deepen cooperation in the fields of **electronics, space and satellite communication technologies**.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** MoU signed
- ✓ **Entities:** SIA-India and EI API
- ✓ **Purpose:** To deepen collaboration in electronics, space, and satellite communication
- ✓ **Commemoration:** 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between India and Philippines.

Key Details of MoU:

Aim: The partnership aims to foster joint research, innovation, and product development in areas such as satellite communications hardware, embedded systems, Internet of Things (IoT) devices, Space electronics, and Next-generation technologies.

Ecosystem: The MoU was signed to build a collaborative manufacturing ecosystem, enabling Philippines to integrate into the robust electronics manufacturing base of India, valued at USD 115 billion.

Commemoration: The signed MoU marks the commemoration of the **75th** anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and the Philippines.

HCLTech, Pearson India, and MeitY Startup Hub Partner to Launch 'ARISE FOR YOU'

On August 27, 2025, HCL Technologies Limited(**HCLTech**), a global technology company, launched '**ARISE** (Aspire.Rise.Inspire.Skill.Excel) **FOR YOU**', an innovation and entrepreneurship challenge for students, in collaboration with **Pearson India** and MeitY Startup Hub(**MSH**), an initiative under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), with an aim to promote entrepreneurial spirit among the youth of India.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of Entrepreneurship challenge for students
- ✓ **Name of Challenge:** "ARISE FOR YOU"
- ✓ **Launched by** HCL Technologies, Pearson India, and MeitY Startup Hub (MSH)
- ✓ **Prize:** Grant up to Rs.10 lakhs
- ✓ **Finale:** March 12-13, 2026
- ✓ **Alignment:** Viksit Bharat Mission

About 'ARISE FOR YOU':

Participation: The challenge, with participation of over 150,000 students across more than 3,000 campuses, will culminate in a national grand finale, scheduled for **March 12-13, 2026**.

Role of Entities: Pearson India will provide the Entrepreneurship & Small Business (ESB) Certification and the related learning content. MSH contributes its innovation ecosystem and features around 62 hubs for mentorship and counselling.

Prize: The Prize for winners includes grants up to **Rs.10 lakhs**, incubation support, and national media coverage.

Institution Benefits: The participating colleges and universities receive national branding, opportunities to host regional challenges, and an enhancement in their National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings through the achievement of their students.

Alignment: Supports the Viksit Bharat Mission, contributing to India's vision for inclusive innovation and sustainable development.

India & Bhutan Signed MoU on Technical Cooperation in Agriculture & Allied Sectors

In August 2025, **India** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with **Bhutan**, to bolster the technical cooperation in **agriculture and allied sectors**, including livestock.

- This MoU marks a major milestone in the enduring partnership between India and Bhutan as it reflects the shared commitment of two countries to food security, sustainable farming, and rural prosperity.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Signing of MoU
- ✓ **Entities :** India and Bhutan
- ✓ **Where?** Thimpu, Bhutan
- ✓ **Purpose:** To strengthen technical cooperation in agriculture and its allied sectors

Key Details of MoU:

Key Signatories: The MoU was signed by **Devesh Chaturvedi**, Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW) on behalf of the Government of India (GoI) and **Thinley Namgyel**, Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock (MoAL), on behalf of the Royal Government of Bhutan; in Thimpu, Bhutan.

Key Areas of Collaboration: This MoU will provide a framework to foster collaboration between the two countries in various areas such as: agricultural research and innovation; livestock health and production; post-harvest management; value chain development; among others.

1st session of JTWG: In order to implement this MoU, the 1st session of the Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG) was convened in Thimpu.

- During the session, both countries agreed on the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the JTWG and identified priority areas for immediate collaboration.
- Also, the next JTWG meeting is scheduled to be held in India at a mutually convenient date.

Bisleri International Partners with Indian Army to Develop Eco Zone in Sikkim

In August 2025, **Bisleri International** Private Limited, one of the largest premium beverage businesses in India, has signed a Letter of Association (**LoA**) and a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**), with the Indian Army (**IA**), **Sikkim**, to develop **eco zone for plastic waste management** through its flagship program 'Bottles for Change (BFC)', at Gangtok Military Station in Gangtok, Sikkim.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Signing of LoA and MoU
- ✓ **Entities :** Bisleri International, Indian Army (IA), Sikkim
- ✓ **Purpose:** To develop Eco Zone for plastic waste management
- ✓ **Developed by:** Bisleri International under BFC program
- ✓ **Where?** At Gangtok Military Station, Sikkim

About Eco Zone in Sikkim:

Aim: To create awareness, drive behavioural change, and promote sustainable practices for a cleaner and greener future.

Significance: Through this strategic collaboration, BFC will contribute to develop plastic waste management & sent all post-consumer plastic from the station for recycling.

Model: With the establishment of the BFC program, the Station's Eco Zone will act as a model for sustainable development and environmental conservation in the region.

COMMITTEES & MEETINGS

SUMMITS, EVENTS & CONFERENCE

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Unveiled Digital Maritime Initiatives at IT Conclave 2025

On 7th August 2025, Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal**, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), along with Union Minister of State (MoS) Shantanu Thakur, MoPSW, inaugurated the transformative digital Information Technology (IT) initiatives "IT Conclave 2025 - Leveraging Technology in Maritime" in New Delhi (Delhi).

- The event was hosted by the Directorate General of Shipping (**DGS**) under MoPSW in collaboration with the Company of Master Mariners of India (**CMMI**).

Exam Hints:

- What? 'IT Conclave 2025 – Digital Maritime Initiatives' Inaugurated
- By Whom? Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal & MoS Shantanu Thakur (MoPSW).
- Organised by? DGS & CMMI
- Platform launched: Revamped DGS Website-GIGW 3.0 & e-Samudra Platform–Phase 1
- Other Launches: Vision Document, AI-based Exam System, LMS & Simulators, Digital Archival, ERP Integration, Command & Control Centre and Cybersecurity



About the IT Conclave 2025:

Objective: The conclave aimed to showcase digital initiatives that will build a smart, secure, and transparent maritime ecosystem, strengthening India's position in the global maritime domain.

- It aligns with the Government of India's (GoI) broader vision under "Digital India," "Maritime India Vision 2030," and "Amrit Kaal Vision 2047" to position India as a global maritime leader.

Initiatives Launched:

Revamped DGS Website: The platform has been upgraded to comply with Guidelines for Indian Government Websites (**GIGW**) 3.0, featuring a multilingual and mobile-responsive interface to enhance accessibility for seafarers, shipowners, training institutes, and other maritime stakeholders.

e-Samudra Platform – Phase 1: The cloud-native platform integrates over 60 maritime services, aiming to streamline service delivery and enhance governance within the maritime sector. Modules in Phase 1 include:

- Chartering Permissions & Licenses:** Enables digital approval for vessel chartering
- Ship Building Financial Assistance (SBFA) module:** Facilitates financial incentives for shipbuilders
- Multi-Modal Transport Operator (MTO) module:** Enables online registration and regulatory compliance
- Visitor Access Management System:** Automates access to DGS offices, improving office security.

Vision Booklet Launch: Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, MoPSW, released a digital roadmap booklet outlining the maritime sector's technology interventions.

Digital Interventions:

AI-Based Exam System: A pilot Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered digital examination system for seafarer certification has been launched at the Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) in Noida (Uttar Pradesh, UP) to improve transparency and efficiency.

LMS & Simulators: Learning Management Systems (LMS) and web-based simulators are developed in compliance with the Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) to improve maritime training standards.

ERP Integration: Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems are being adopted for Seafarers' Provident Fund Organisation (SPFO) and Seafarers' Welfare Fund Society (SWFS) to improve administrative efficiency.

Technology Vision – Maritime 2030:

Digital Transformation Goal: The roadmap aims to build a digitally advanced and sustainable maritime sector, envisioning a secure, autonomous, and technology-driven ecosystem by 2030 to support India's future-ready blue economy.

About Guidelines for Indian Government Websites (GIGW):

Development & Adoption: GIGW were developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and adopted by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions (MOPPG&P), GoI.

About Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW):

Union Minister – Sarbananda Sonowal (Constituency – Dibrugarh, Assam)

Minister of State (MoS) – Shantanu Thakur (Constituency – Bangaon, West Bengal)

India Elected as Chairman of AIBD Executive Board at 23rd General Conference in Thailand

India has been elected as the **Chairman** of the Executive Board of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (**AIBD**), by securing the highest number of votes during the **23rd** AIBD General Conference, held from August 19 to 21, 2025, in Phuket, Thailand.

- Currently, India holds the position of **President** of the AIBD General Conference since 2022, which ends in August 2025.

Note: Earlier, India held the position of Chairman of AIBD in 2016.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Election of Chairman of AIBD Executive Board has been elected
- ✓ **Who?** India
- ✓ **Event:** 23rd General Conference of AIBD
- ✓ **Where?** Phuket, Thailand
- ✓ **Theme:** "Media for People, Peace & Prosperity"
- ✓ **President, AIBD:** Gaurav Dwivedi, PB(India)

About 23rd AIBD General Conference:

Chair: The 23rd AIBD General Conference and Associated Meetings of AIBD was chaired by **Gaurav Dwivedi**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Prasar Bharati(PB).

Theme: The 2025 theme of the 23rd AIBD General Conference was "Media for People, Peace & Prosperity".

Participation: The event brought together international stakeholders in electronic media and focused on building a vibrant and cooperative media environment across the Asia-Pacific region through policy exchange and resource sharing.

Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD):

Affiliation: AIBD, based in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) is an intergovernmental organization, established in **1977**, under the auspices of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**).

Members: The AIBD currently comprises over 92 member organizations from 45 countries, including:, including 26 Government Members represented by 48 national broadcasters, 44 Affiliate Members from 28 countries and regions, spanning Asia-Pacific, Europe, Africa, Arab States, and North America.

India's Role: India is a founding member of AIBD, with PB, the nation's public service broadcaster, representing the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting(MIB) in the organization.

About Thailand:

Prime Minister (PM) – Paetongtarn Shinawatra
Capital – Bangkok
Currency – Thai Baht (THB)

56th BSF-BGB DG-Level Border Conference Held in Dhaka, Bangladesh

The **56th Directors General (DG)-level Border Coordination Conference** between the Border Security Force (BSF) of India and the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) was held in **Dhaka**, Bangladesh, from August 25–28, 2025, with a focus on enhancing cooperation in border management and security matters.

- The Indian delegation was headed by **Daljit Singh Chawdhary**, Director General (DG) of BSF, while Major General **Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui**, DG of BGB, led Bangladesh side.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** 56th DG-level Border Coordination Conference (BSF-BGB)
- ✓ **Where?** Dhaka, Bangladesh
- ✓ **Leaders:** Daljit Singh Chawdhary (DG, BSF) & Maj.Gen.Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui (DG, BGB)
- ✓ **Key Focus Areas:** Cross-border crimes, attacks, riverbank protection, water-sharing, border demarcation, advancing CBMP
- ✓ **Outcomes:** Joint patrols, zero tolerance to insurgent groups with real-time intel sharing

Background:

Biannual Meetings: India and Bangladesh organise DG-level meetings twice a year, once in each country, to strengthen border cooperation.

- The previous meeting took place in New Delhi (Delhi) from 17 to 20 February 2025.

Upcoming Conference: The next DG-level conference is scheduled to be held in New Delhi in March 2026.

Key Focus Areas:

Discussions: The two sides discussed various concerns such as **attacks** on BSF personnel and Indian citizens by groups from Bangladesh, **cross-border crimes** including smuggling of drugs, weapons, fake currency, and gold, as well as challenges related to border infrastructure.

Concerns Raised: They also discussed riverbank protection, water-sharing issues, border demarcation, and construction within 150 yards of the boundary.

- They highlighted riverbank protection, equitable water sharing, preservation of border rivers, along with countering propaganda, easing bilateral tensions, and advancing the Coordinated Border Management Plan (CBMP).

Outcomes and Agreements:

Joint Record of Discussions (JRD): Signed a JRD, reinforcing cooperation and agreeing to uphold peace and security across the 4,096 kilometer(km) border.

- Both forces **agreed** to strengthen precautionary steps by carrying out joint patrols, increasing surveillance along the border, and organising awareness programmes to guide local residents on respecting the international boundary.

Zero Tolerance Approach: India and Bangladesh agreed to act jointly with zero tolerance against insurgent groups through real-time information sharing.

About Border Security Force (BSF):

Director General (DG)– Daljit Singh Chawdhary

Headquarters– New Delhi, Delhi

Motto– Duty Unto Death

Established– 1965

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RANKING

RIL Ranked at 88th Spot in Fortune Global 500 List for 2025; Walmart topped the list for 12th Consecutive Year

In July 2025, **Fortune**, an American global business magazine released the **71st** edition of '[Fortune Global 500 List for 2025](#)'. As per the list, India's Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), led by Mukesh Ambani, saw a marginal dip in its ranking from 86th (2024) to **88th (2025)**, with total revenue of **USD114.12 billion**. Despite the decline in global ranking, RIL retained its highest ranking among Indian corporates featured on the list.

- Also, RIL featured on the list for the **22nd** consecutive year, the longest for any private sector company.
- Walmart Inc.** (the United States of America, USA), the world's largest retailer company, with total revenue of **USD 680.98 billion** has topped the list as the largest company by revenue for the 12th consecutive year and the 20th time since 1995.
- American e-commerce company **Amazon.com, Inc** and Chinese state-owned electric utility, **State Grid Corporation of China**, have also retained their rankings i.e. 2nd and 3rd positions respectively.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Release of Fortune Global 500 List for 2025
- ✓ **Released by:** Fortune
- ✓ **Edition:** 71st
- ✓ **Top 5 Companies:** Walmart Inc. (1st), Amazon.com, Inc (2nd), State Grid (3rd), Saudi Aramco (4th) and China National Petroleum (5th)
- ✓ **Highest Ranked Indian Company:** Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) (88th); 22nd consecutive year
- ✓ **Total Indian Companies:** 9
- ✓ **Debut Indian Bank:** ICICI Bank Limited (464th)

Fortune Global 500 List for 2025:

Criteria for Ranking: Fortune ranked companies based on total revenues for their respective fiscal years ending on or before March 31, 2025.

- Other key parameters used for ranking are: profits, balance sheets, employees, medians, and credits.

Dominant Sectors: The financial sector with 121 companies continued to dominate this year's list; followed by energy (79), motor vehicles and parts (35), technology (34), and healthcare (33).

- Cumulatively, these sectors represent 60% of the total companies featured on the list and account for 66% of the total revenue generated.

World's Top 5 Companies for 2025:

Rank	Name of the Company	Country	Revenue (in USD Billion)
1	Walmart Inc.	The United States of America	680.98

2	Amazon.com, Inc	The USA	637.95
3	State Grid	China	548.41
4	Saudi Aramco	The United Arab Emirates (UAE)	480.19
5	China National Petroleum	China	412.64

Top 5 Indian Companies for 2025:

Rank	Name of the Company	Location	Revenue (in USD Billion)
88	Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)	Mumbai, Maharashtra	114.12
95	Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)	Mumbai, Maharashtra	104.97
127	Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)	New Delhi, Delhi	90.09
163	State Bank of India (SBI)	Mumbai, Maharashtra	78.47
181	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)	New Delhi, Delhi	72.181

Key Highlights:

Cumulative Revenue: The combined revenue generated by the companies featured on the list reached **USD 41.7 trillion** in 2024 (1.8% increase compared to last year), accounting for more than 1/3rd (33.33%) of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Combined Profit: Together, these companies have employed 70.1 million people worldwide and have also generated **USD 2.98 trillion** in profit (an increase of 0.4% over the last year) in its **2nd**-most profitable year.

Most Profitable Company: As per latest rankings, Saudi Aramco with net profit of USD 105 billion recorded in 2024 has emerged as the most profitable company on the list for the **4th** consecutive year.

Most Represented Countries: The USA with 138 companies, has emerged as the most represented country on the list; followed by Greater China which comprises Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan (130 companies).

Debutant Companies: This year, total 9 companies featured for the 1st time on the list, including QNB Group (ranked at 419th), Lithia Motors (434th).

India Firms:

Total Indian Companies: This year, total 9 Indian companies featured on the list.

- Among them, 5 are from the public sector namely, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), State Bank of India (SBI), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).
- While the remaining 4 are from the private sectors: RIL, HDFC Bank Limited, ICICI Bank and Tata Motors.

LIC's Ranking Unchanged: LIC, India's largest insurance company, has maintained its previous ranking i.e. 95th spot in 2025, with total revenue USD 104.97 billion

Debut Indian Bank: For the 1st time, **ICICI Bank Limited** (ranked at 464th spot), India's 2nd largest private sector bank, featured on the list with total revenue of USD 34.84 billion.

Gain in Indian Bank's Ranking: India's largest Public Sector Bank, SBI has improved its ranking by 15 places, from 178th (in 2024) to 163rd (in 2025), with total revenue of USD 78.47 billion.

- While HDFC Bank Limited saw significant improvement in global ranking by 48 places, to 258th (in 2025).

About Fortune Magazine:

Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**)- Anastasia Nyrkovskaya

Headquarters- New York City, the United States of America (USA)

Established- 1929

IATA: Indian Emerged as World's 5th Biggest Aviation Market; Mumbai-Delhi among Busiest Airport Pairs

In August 2025, the International Air Transport Association (**IATA**), a global airline body representing approximately 350 carriers, released the latest edition of the [World Airport Transport Statistics \(WATS\) for 2024](#). As per the report, **India** ranked as the **world's 5th largest** aviation market in 2024, handling **211 million** passengers, marking an 11.1% year-on-year(Y-o-Y) growth from 2023.

- The United States of America (**USA**) retained its position as the world's largest aviation market in 2024, handling **876 million** passengers, followed by China in second place with 741 million passengers.
- Also, **Mumbai-Delhi** route ranked **7th** among the world's top 10 busiest airport pairs, carrying 5.9 million passengers in 2024.



Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Release of World Airport Transport Statistics (WATS) for 2024
- ✓ **Published by:** IATA
- ✓ **World's Largest Aviation Market:** USA (876 million passengers)
- ✓ **India's Rank:** 5th spot (211 million passengers)
- ✓ **World's Busiest Airport Pairs:** Jeju-Seoul Gimpo in South Korea (13.2 million)
- ✓ **India's Busiest Airport Pairs:** Delhi-Mumbai route (globally ranked at 7th spot).

About World Air Transport Statistics (WATS):

Overview: The **WATS** is an annual, comprehensive aviation data publication released by the **IATA**.

Coverage: It covers passenger and cargo traffic, fleet usage, financial performance, and key aviation metrics such as Revenue Passenger Kilometres (RPK), Available Seat Kilometres (ASK), Cargo Tonne Kilometres (CTK), passenger load factors, and airline cost and revenue structures.

Highlights of WATS 2024:

Other Countries in Top 5: The United Kingdom (**UK**) with 261 million passengers ranked at 3rd position in terms of biggest passenger market in 2024; followed by **Spain** ranked at the 4th position with 241 million passengers.

International Premium Class Travel: The report revealed that international premium class travel including business and first class, has increased by **11.8%**, outpacing growth in global economy travel of 11.5%.

- It also showed that the total number of international premium-class travelers in 2024 was 116.9 million, representing 6% of total international passengers.

World's Top 5 Biggest Aviation Market in 2024:

Rank	Name of the Country	Passenger Handling (Million)
1	The United States of America (USA)	876
2	China	741
3	The United Kingdom (UK)	261
4	Spain	241
5	India	211

Top Busiest Airport Pairs: Asia-Pacific region topped among the world's busiest airports, with **Jeju-Seoul Gimpo(CJU-GMP)** in South Korea emerged as the most popular route globally, with **13.2 million** passengers flying between two airports in 2024.

- Among the world's top 10 busiest airports pairs in 2024, 9 were in Asia-Pacific region except one: Jeddah-Riyadh (JED-RUH) in Saudi Arabia ranked at 6th spot and carried 6.3 million passengers in 2024.

World's Top 5 Busiest Airport Pairs in 2024:

Rank	Name of the Route	Name of the Country	Carried Passengers (Million)
1	Jeju-Seoul Gimpo	South Korea	13.2
2	Sapporo-Tokyo Haneda	Japan	9.2
3	Fukuoka-Tokyo Haneda	Japan	9
4	Hanoi-Ho Chi Minh City	Vietnam	8
5	Melbourne Tullamarine-Sydney	Australia	7.2
7	Mumbai-Delhi	India	5.9

Region-wise International Premium Class Travel: Asia Pacific region, with a Y-o-Y growth of **22.8%**, with 21 million premium passengers, topped among the regions in terms of percentage growth in premium travel.

- However, it was outpaced in growth by economy class passenger numbers, increase of 28.6% to 500.8 million passengers.
- Europe continued to be the largest premium market (with 39.3 million passengers); while the Middle-East region had the highest share of premium passengers at 14.7%.
- Premium travel growth outpaced economy class travel in regions like: Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and North America.

Region-wise Busiest Airport Pairs: Bogota-Medellin (BOG-MDE) was the busiest route in **Latin America** region, with 3.8 million passengers;

- Cape Town-Johannesburg (CPT-JNB) in South Africa (with 3.3 million passengers), was the busiest route in the **Africa** region.
- New York John F. Kennedy International Airport-Los Angeles (JFK-LAX) in the USA (with 2.2 million passengers), was the busiest route in the **North America** region.
- Barcelona-Palm de Mallorca (BCN-PMI) in Spain (with 2million passengers), was the busiest route in **Europe**.

Most Flown Aircrafts: As per the report, The **Boeing 737** (all variants) topped usage in 2024 with 10 million flights and generated 2.4 trillion Available Seat Kilometers (ASKs), a key indicator used to measure airline capacity.

- It was followed by the Airbus A320, with 7.9 million flights and 1.7 trillion ASKs, and the Airbus A321, with 3.4 million flights and 1.1 trillion ASKs.

About International Air Transport Association (IATA):

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- Willie Matthew Walsh

Headquarters- Montreal, Canada

Established- 1945

Global AI City Index 2025: Bengaluru ranked 26th; Singapore Topped

In August 2025, the market research firm **Counterpoint Technology Market Research** released the “**Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) City Index 2025**”, in which Bengaluru(Karnataka) has secured the 26th rank in the index, emerging as India’s top AI Research & Development (R&D) and data centre hub.

- **Singapore** secured the top position in the Global AI City Index 2025, followed by Seoul (South Korea) and Beijing (China).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Global AI City Index 2025 Released
- ✓ **Released by:** Counterpoint Technology Market Research
- ✓ **Top 3:** Singapore, Seoul(South Korea), Beijing(China)
- ✓ **Top 3 in India:** Bengaluru(Karnataka), Mumbai(Maharashtra), New Delhi(Delhi).
- ✓ **Top Industries:** Microsoft, Google, Amazon

About Global AI City Index:

Purpose: A global benchmarking report that evaluates cities on their capacity, investment, and innovation in artificial intelligence.

- To identify and rank leading global urban centres driving AI development across R&D, infrastructure, governance, and real-world AI use.

Criteria: The following criteria are used for the evaluation purpose:

- AI research & development ecosystem
- Number of startups and tech hubs
- Investment inflows and public-private partnerships (PPP)
- AI applications in sectors like transport, healthcare, education
- Data centre expansion and digital infrastructure

Report highlights:

Other Top Cities: **Dubai** (United Arab Emirates, UAE) and **San Francisco** (United States of America, USA) also featured among the top five in the Global AI City Index 2025.

Fastest-Growing AI Cities: Bengaluru (Karnataka, India), Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), Hangzhou (China), and São Paulo (Brazil) are among the fastest-growing AI cities globally.

Industry front: Microsoft emerged as the most active player in expanding AI infrastructure and initiatives. It extended its AI data center presence, launched training programs, and established innovation hubs.

- Google and Amazon also expanded their AI operations in similar directions.

India-specific data: Among Indian cities, **Bengaluru(26th)** came first on the list, with city's thriving startup ecosystem, global AI R&D leadership, and expanding data center infrastructure have positioned it as a magnet for foreign investment.

- It is followed by Mumbai (Maharashtra), New Delhi (Delhi), Chennai (Tamil Nadu, TN), and Kolkata (West Bengal, WB) with Mumbai and Delhi gaining traction through AI-driven traffic management and public security projects.

Top 5 AI cities worldwide:

Rank	City	Country
1	Singapore	Singapore
2	Seoul	South Korea
3	Beijing	China
4	Dubai	United Arab Emirates, UAE
5	San Francisco	United States of America, USA

Top 5 AI cities in India:

Rank	City
26	Bengaluru, Karnataka
27	Mumbai, Maharashtra
28	Delhi, New Delhi
29	Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN)
30	Kolkata, West Bengal (WB)

Top 3 Industries:

Rank	City
1	Microsoft
2	Google
3	Amazon

About Counterpoint Technology Market Research:

It is a global industry and market research firm specializing in the technology sector. They provide data, intelligence, thought leadership, and consulting services across the technology ecosystem, focusing on areas like smartphones, consumer electronics, semiconductors, and more.

Headquarters – Hong Kong

Established – 2012

FIEO Releases Overview of States' Exports 2024-25: Gujarat Tops with Rs.9.83 Lakh Crore Exports in FY 25

On August 5, 2025, the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (**FIEO**) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), released "[Overview of States' Exports 2024-25](#)", an analysis based on the export data from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCIS), MoCI.

- **Gujarat** has remained the top exporter state of India in Financial Year 2024-25 (FY-25), with export shipments worth approximately **Rs.9.83 lakh crore** (USD 116.33 billion), accounting for 26.6% of the total exports by India.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Overview of States' Exports 2024-25 Analysis Released.
- ✓ **Released by :** Federation of Indian Export Organizations (**FIEO**)
- ✓ **Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI)
- ✓ **Top Exporter:** Gujarat with Rs.9.83 lakh crore , Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu (TN),
- ✓ **Jamnagar:** Highest contributor of Gujarat with 36.91% (Rs.3.63 lakh crore) of the total exports of Gujarat.

Performance of the States:

Top performer: Gujarat, the top exporter, has shown a slight decline in exports over the shipment worth USD 134.39 billion in FY24. The top 5 export destinations of Gujarat include the United States of America (USA), the Netherlands, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Singapore, and Australia.

- Gujarat exported 158 out of the 169 commodities that India exports overall, reflecting its extensive and diversified export portfolio.
- The top 10 commodities such as Petroleum products(37.72%); cotton fabrics; Ceramics and allied products; Ship, boat and floating structure; Residual chemical and allied products; Iron and Steel products; Agro chemicals; Organic chemicals; Drug formulations, biologicals; Pearl, precious and semi-precious stones, comprise a share of 63.07% of total exports of Gujarat in FY25.
- **Jamnagar** district of Gujarat stands high with a contribution of 36.91% (Rs.3.63 lakh crore) of the total exports of Gujarat.

Top five exporting states in FY25:

The top 5 states collectively contributed around 71% of India's total exports in FY25, amounting to approximately ₹27.07 lakh crore.

Rank	State	Export
1	Gujarat	Rs.9.83 lakh crore
2	Maharashtra	Rs 5.57 lakh crore
3	Tamil Nadu(TN)	Rs.4.40 lakh crores

4	Karnataka	Rs.3.85 lakh crores
5	Uttar Pradesh(UP)	Rs.1.86 lakh crores

About Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO):

Director General (**DG**) & Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) – Dr. Ajay Sahai

Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi

Establishment – 1965

Fortune 100 Most Powerful People in Business List: Jensen Huang Topped, Mukesh Ambani Ranked 56th

On August 5, 2025, **Fortune**, an American global business magazine, released the **2nd** edition of the "**Fortune 100 Most Powerful People in Business List**". **Jensen Huang**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and President of NVIDIA, an American Technology company, has topped the list. **Mukesh Ambani**, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Reliance Industries Limited(RIL) has been ranked **56th** in the 2025 list.

- Indian Origin women, **Dr. Reshma Kewalramani**, CEO of Vertex Pharmaceuticals, ranked **62nd** on the list, marking her first appearance on the ranking.



Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** List of 100 Most Powerful People in Business List Released
- ✓ **Released by:** Fortune
- ✓ **Edition:** 2nd
- ✓ **First Rank:** Jensen Huang, CEO and President of Nvidia.
- ✓ **Indian Businessmen:** Mukesh Ambani (CMD, Reliance Industries), Gautam Adani (Founder, Adani Group)
- ✓ **Indian Origins:** Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft (rank 2) Sundar Pichai, CEO of Alphabet (Rank 6), Neal Mohan, CEO of YouTube (83), and Dr. Reshma Kewalramani, CEO of Vertex Pharmaceuticals (62)
- ✓ **Region wise:** USA (62), Asia (17), Europe (13), and Middle East (1)
- ✓ **Women:** 19 (1 Indian Origin).

About Fortune 100 Most Powerful People in Business:

Global Representation: The list highlights the world's most influential business leaders, spanning ages from their 30s to 90s, who have shaped the global corporate landscape across 40 industries.

Leadership Diversity: It features a diverse mix of founders, Fortune 500 CEOs, disruptors, and forward-thinking innovators.

Selection Criteria: Compiled by Fortune's editors, the list is based on key factors such as business size and performance, innovation, influence, growth trajectory, and overall impact.

Recognition: The list recognizes global business leaders such as Tech innovators, financial giants, industrialists, healthcare pioneers, and CEOs and founders of the most valuable firms who shape industries, economies, and innovations in a transformational manner.

Regions: The list includes **62** leaders from United States of America (USA)-based organizations, **17** leaders from Asian companies, Europe (13), and Middle East (1).

Top 5 Powerful People in the list:

Rank	Name	Designation and Company Name	Headquarters
1	Jensen Huang	President & CEO, NVIDIA	California, the United States of America (USA)
2	Satya Nadella	Co-Founder, Chairman & CEO, Microsoft	Washington, USA
3	Mark Zuckerberg	Founder, Chairman & CEO, Meta	California, USA
4	Elon Musk	Founder & CEO, Tesla, SpaceX, xAI	Tesla-Texas, USA SpaceX & xAI – California, USA
5	Wang Chuanfu	Founder & CEO, BYD (Build Your Dreams)	Shenzhen, China
56	Mukesh Ambani	CMD, Reliance Industries	Mumbai, Maharashtra
96	Gautam Adani	Founder & Chairman, Adani Group	Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Highlights of Fortune 100 Most Powerful People in Business:

Top 10: The top 10 ranks include Sundar Pichai, Ren Zhengfei, Founder and CEO of Huawei Technologies (7), Sam Altman, CEO & Co-Founder of OpenAI (8), Jamie Dimon, Chairman & CEO of JPMorgan Chase (9), and Mary Barra, Chair & CEO of General Motors (10).

- Elon Musk has slipped to 4th rank from 1st rank in 2024 list. Jensen Huang, ranked 2nd in 2024, climbed to the top spot. Jamie Dimon ranked 5th in 2024 and slipped to 9th rank in 2025. Sundar Pichai climbed to 6th spot from 10th rank.

Declined spots: Several leaders have slipped away from their 2024 ranks, including Warren Buffet, ranked 4th in 2024 has slipped to 27th in 2025, Tim Cook, CEO of Apple, has been ranked 15th, who was ranked 6th in 2024.

- Jeff Bezos ranked 11th in 2024, has been ranked 18th in 2025 list.

Indian-Origin: As per the list, four Indian origin business leaders have featured on the list, including **Satya Nadella**, **Sundar Pichai**, CEO of Alphabet (Rank 6), **Neal Mohan**, CEO of Youtube (83), and **Dr. Reshma Kewalramani**.

Women: The list includes 19 women, including Julie Sweet, Chairperson and CEO of Accenture (Rank 11), Jane Fraser, CEO of Citigroup (12), Lisa Su, Chairperson and CEO, AMD (14), and Ana Botin, Executive Chairman of Banco Santander (20).

About Fortune Magazine:

Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) – Anastasia Nyrkovskaya

Headquarters – New York, USA

Established – 1929

Numbeo Safety Index Mid-2025: Mangalore Ranked as Safest City in India, Abu Dhabi Tops Globally

In August 2025, **Numbeo**, a crowd-sourced global database, released **Numbeo Safety Index Mid-2025 Rankings**. As per the Index, Mangalore is ranked as the safest city in India and 49th globally with the score of 74.3. Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates, UAE) has topped the list with the score of 88.8.

- **Delhi** has been ranked as the most unsafe city in India, **316th** globally with the score of 41.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Numbeo released Numbeo Safety Index Mid-2025 Rankings
- ✓ **First Rank:** Mangalore in India, Abu Dhabi, UAE (Globally)
- ✓ **Safest Country:** United Arab Emirates (UAE) 85.2
- ✓ **Most Unsafe country:** Haiti (148th rank) 19.0
- ✓ **Total cities in the list:** 391

Ranking Methodology:

Surveys: The data is derived from surveys, answered by the visitors of websites. The responses are assigned a numerical value between -2, indicating a negative perception, and +2, indicating a positive perception.

Category: The responses are scaled from 0 to 100, which are categorized into different levels. It includes Very low (below 20), Low (20 - 40), Moderate (40 – 60), High (60-80), and Very High (above 80).

Features: The index features 391 cities from across the world.

Highlights of the Index:

Top 5 Safest cities Worldwide:

Rank	City	Country	Score
1	Abu Dhabi	United Arab Emirates (UAE)	88.8
2	Ajman	United Arab Emirates (UAE)	85.5
3	Sharjah	United Arab Emirates (UAE)	84.4
4	Doha	Qatar	84.3
5	Dubai	United Arab Emirates (UAE)	83.9

Top 5 Indian Cities:

Rank	Global Rank	City	State	Score
1	49	Mangalore	Karnataka	74.3

2	85	Vadodara	Gujarat	69.2
3	94	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	68.2
4	106	Surat	Gujarat	66.6
5	118	Jaipur	Rajasthan	65.2

Top 5 Safest Countries:

Rank	Country	Score
1	United Arab Emirates (UAE)	85.2
2	Andorra	84.8
3	Qatar	84.6
4	Taiwan	83.0
5	Macao (China)	81.8
67	India	55.8

Performance of the Cities:

Global: The Middle East region has dominated the list with 5 cities ranked in top 5. Four cities of UAE and one city of Qatar has occupied the spots. Ras al-Khaimah of UAE has been ranked 6th with a score of 83.8.

- Other top 10 cities include Taipei (Taiwan) (7th rank) with a score of 83.4. Muscat (Oman) (8th) with a score of 81.2, The Hague (Den Haag) (Netherlands) (9th) (79.9), and Tampere (Finland) (10) (79.5).

Indian Cities: Other top 10 Indian cities include Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra) (6) (127th globally) with the score of 63.5, Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) (7) (148th globally) (61.3), Chennai (Tamil Nadu, TN) (8) (158th globally) (60.3), Pune (Maharashtra) (9th) (167th globally) (58.7), and Chandigarh (Punjab and Haryana) (10) (175th globally) (57.4).

- Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh, UP) (19) has been ranked among the most unsafe cities, ranked 313th globally with the score of 41.6, and Noida (UP) (18) (285th globally) (44.9).

Countries: Other top 10 countries include Oman (6th rank) with a score of 81.4, Isle of Man (7) (79.1), Hong Kong (China) (8) (78.5), Armenia (9) (77.6), and Singapore (10) (77.4).

- Countries including Haiti (148th rank) with the score of 19.0 has been ranked as the most unsafe country in the world.

About Numbeo:

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Mladen Adamovic

Headquarters – Belgrade, Serbia

Established – 2009

TopBrand Union Releases TopBrand 2025 'Top 500 Global Brands List' : Microsoft Topped

The TopBrand Union released the 4th edition of its "Top 500 Global Brands List" during the 19th China Brand Festival held from August 7 to 11, 2025, in Shenzhen, China. As per the list, **Microsoft** has ranked first with a brand value of approximately **USD 1,062.5 billion**.

- The event, held under the theme “AI and Global Expansion”, brought together 10,000 guests to participate in parallel forums, the Brand Expo, and other events.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Release of TopBrand 2025 “Top 500 Global Brands List”
- ✓ **Who?** TopBrand Union
- ✓ **When?** During the 19th China Brand Festival
- ✓ **Where?** In Shenzhen, China
- ✓ **Top Brand:** Microsoft with USD 1,062.5 billion, NVIDIA, Apple
- ✓ **Edition:** 4th

About Top 500 Global Brands List:

About the List: The “Top 500 Global Brands” list for 2025 highlights the world’s most valuable brands based on their market influence and brand strength.

- The 2025 list marks the 4th edition of the “Top 500 Global Brands” rankings.

Technology Dominance: These rankings underscore the continued dominance of technology companies, especially in sectors like cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and digital services.

Top 5 Global Brands in 2025 Top 500 Global Brands List:

Rank	Brand	Country	Valuation (in billion)
1	Microsoft	United States of America (USA)	USD 1,062.5
2	NVIDIA	USA	USD 1,046.7
3	Apple	USA	USD 997.6
4	Amazon	USA	-
5	Google (Alphabet)	USA	-

Global Performance:

Top 5: The brands from the United States of America (**USA**) have dominated the top 5 spots, by occupying all 5 spots. The brand, Apple, which claimed the top rank since the first edition has slipped to the third spot for the first time.

- Microsoft, which ranked 2nd place in the 2024 list, climbed to the first place in 2025. NVIDIA has shown significant progress by climbing 2 places from 4th in 2024 to 2nd in 2025.
- Amazon has slipped one spot to 4th place in 2025 compared to 3rd in 2024. Google has retained its 5th position.

Other top 10: Saudi Aramco (Saudi Arabia) is ranked 6th, Walmart (USA) (7th), Facebook (Meta) (USA) (8th), Berkshire Hathaway (USA) (9th), and Broadcom (USA) (10th) have been ranked among the top 10 spots.

- Saudi Aramco is the only non-American brand to gain a spot in the top 10 global brands.
- PetroChina has been ranked 14th, making it the highest valued brand of China.

Feature: 130 Chinese companies have been featured on the list.

About TopBrand Union:

Chairman – Dr. Wang Yong

Headquarters – Beijing, China

Established – 1996

NCW Launches NARI 2025 Report: Kohima, Visakhapatnam, and Bhubaneswar Ranked Safest Cities for Women

On 28 August 2025, the National Commission for Women (NCW) released the 'National Annual Report and Index on Women's Safety 2025 (NARI 2025)'. The report was launched by Vijaya Rahatkar, Chairperson of NCW.

- According to NARI 2025, India has a **65% safety score**, capturing women's perceptions of safety, effectiveness of law enforcement, reporting mechanisms, and experiences in public spaces.

Exam Hints:

- What? Release of National Annual Report and Index on Women's Safety (NARI 2025)
- Released By: Vijaya Rahatkar, Chairperson of NCW
- India's Overall Safety Score:** 65%
- Methodology:** Survey of 12,770 women from 31 cities
- Publisher:** Group of Intellectuals and Academicians (GIA)
- Top 3 Safest Cities :** Kohima(Nagaland), Visakhapatnam(Andhra Pradesh, AP), Bhubaneswar (Odisha).
- Lowest-Safety Cities:** Ranchi(Jharkhand), Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir(J&K), Kolkata(West Bengal, WB)

About NARI 2025:

Methodology: The report is based on a survey of **12,770** women from **31 cities**.

Survey Parameters: The survey assessed overall city safety, infrastructure, harassment incidence and reporting, domain-specific safety (neighbourhood, transport, education, work, health, recreation, online), and confidence in authorities, among other factors.

Categories: Cities have been grouped into four categories: "much above", "above", "below", and "much below" the benchmark.

Purpose: The index not only ranks cities but also looks at how well local systems respond and what women actually experience in their daily lives.

Publisher: The 2025 NARI index is conceived by The NorthCap University and Jindal Global Law School and published by the Group of Intellectuals and Academicians (GIA).

Highlights of NARI 2025 :

Safest Cities for Women: As per the report, **Kohima** (Nagaland), **Visakhapatnam** (Andhra Pradesh, AP), and **Bhubaneswar** (Odisha) are the top scorers among the 7 cities that qualified as the safest for women.

- Aizawl(Mizoram) ranked 4th, stands out for its high social trust and safe urban culture.
- Gangtok(Sikkim, ranked 5th, is noted for strong community support and responsive policing.
- Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh, AR) ranked 6th, helped by inclusive governance, awareness drives, and active role of women in local bodies.
- Mumbai (Maharashtra) ranked 7th, supported by proactive policing, safer transport, and strong workplace policies despite metro challenges

Least Safe Cities for Women: Ranchi (Jharkhand), Srinagar (Jammu & Kashmir, J&K) and Kolkata (West Bengal, WB) were among the cities ranked at the bottom of the NARI 2025 index.

- The NARI 2025 index also ranks Patna(Bihar); Jaipur(Rajasthan); Faridabad(Haryana); and New Delhi(Delhi) among the lowest in women's safety.
- These cities were ranked at the bottom of the index, indicating the need for strengthened safety measures, awareness campaigns, and responsive governance to improve women's safety.

Top 5 Safest Indian Cities for Women in 2025:

Rank	City	State	Score	Reasons for Ranking
1	Kohima	Nagaland	82.9%	Strong gender equity, and active public participation
2	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh, AP	72.7%	Well-developed infrastructure and reliable policing
3	Bhubaneswar	Odisha	70.9%	Good governance and planned urban facilities
4	Aizawl	Mizoram	70.6%	High social trust, safe urban culture
5	Gangtok	Sikkim	70.4%	Community support, responsive policing

Least Safe Indian Cities for Women in 2025:

Rank	City	State	Score
1	Ranchi	Jharkhand	56.3%
2	Srinagar	Jammu & Kashmir, (J&K)	58.1%
3	Kolkata	West Bengal(WB)	58.2%
4	New Delhi	Delhi	58.5%
5	Faridabad	Haryana	58.7%

Key Findings of NARI 2025:

Perception of safety: Among the women surveyed, about 60% feel safe in their city, while the remaining 40% do not. The gap shows that many women still lack confidence in their surroundings.

Day vs night safety: Most women felt reasonably secure during the day, but their sense of safety dropped sharply at night, especially in public transport, and in recreational spaces.

Harassment: In 2024, around 7% of women faced harassment, but the number was much higher (14%) among young women aged 18–24 years.

- Verbal harassment was the most common at 58%, while physical, psychological, economic, and sexual harassment occurred less frequently. The main hotspots were neighborhoods (38%) and transport (29%).

Workplace safety: A positive finding was that 91% of women felt safe at their workplaces.

Reporting of incidents: In response, 28% of women confronted harassers, 25% left the scene, 21% sought safety in crowds, and 20% reported incidents to authorities.

- The report stressed that two out of three women do not report harassment, pointing to gaps in trust and effectiveness of complaint systems.

About National Commission for Women (NCW) :

Chairperson – Vijaya Rahatkar
Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi
Established – 1992

REPORTS

India's Marine Fish Catch Drops 2% in 2024, Gujarat Leads

In July 2025, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)- Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) released a report titled "[ICAR-CMFRI Annual Report 2024](#)". As per the report, India's marine fish catch recorded a decline of 2% in 2024 compared to 2023, reaching 3.47 million tonnes.

- **Gujarat** has topped the landings at 754,000 tonnes, followed by Tamil Nadu (TN) with 679,000 tonnes and Kerala (610,000 tonnes).

Exam Hint:

- ✓ **What?** India's marine fish catch has dropped by 2% in 2024
- ✓ **Report:** ICAR-CMFRI Annual Report 2024
- ✓ **Who released?** ICAR- Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)
- ✓ **Which state topped?** Gujarat with 754,000 tonnes
- ✓ **Largest catch:** Indian mackerel with 2.63 lakh tonnes

Recorded Fish Catch:

Species: Among the fish species, Indian mackerel was the biggest marine resource, with a record of total catch of 2.63 lakh tonnes, followed by oil sardine (241,000 tonnes).

- Pelagic species account for 54% of total landings, followed by demersal fishes, crustaceans, and molluscs.

Progress: Species, including lesser sardines, penaeid shrimps, anchovies, and tune have seen a progress compared to 2023.

Decline: Several species, including mackerel, threadfin breams, ribbonfish, non-penaeid shrimps and cephalopods recorded decline in fish catch.

Regional Fish Catch:

Progress: Several states in the East Coast such as Maharashtra have surged by 47%, West Bengal (WB) (35%), TN (20%), and Odisha (18%).

Decline: States in the West coast region such as Karnataka, Goa, Daman & Diu, recorded a drop in fish catch. Gujarat, located on West Coast has declined 8%, despite contributing 22% of the fish catch in India.

Sectors:

Motorised sector: The motorised sector recorded a surge of around 10 lakh tonnes, especially in TN and other East Coast regions.

Mechanised sector: This sector has recorded a decline of about 1.7 lakh tonne, making contributions to 76%.

Monitoring: CMFRI monitored around 2.5 lakh fishing trips, offering an in-depth analysis of productivity across India. The Mechanised fishing vessels reported an average catch of 2,959 kg per trip, with motorized ships used by traditional fishermen recorded 174 kg per trip.

- Non-motorized vessels recorded 41 kg per trip.

About Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI):

Director – Grinson George
Headquarters – Kochi, Kerala
Established – 1947

PLFS released Quarterly (April – June 2025) and Monthly Bulletin – July 2025: Unemployment Rate at 5.4% and 5.2%

In August 2025, the National Statistics Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the [Quarterly bulletin of the Periodic Labour Force Survey \(PLFS\) for April-June 2025](#) and the [Monthly Bulletin of PLFS for July 2025](#).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** PLFS Monthly and quarterly bulletin
- ✓ **Released by:** NSO, MoSPI
- ✓ **Unemployment Rate (UR):** 5.2% monthly and 5.4% quarterly
- ✓ **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** 52.0% (both quarterly & monthly)
- ✓ **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** 55.0% (quarterly), 54.9% (monthly)
- ✓ **Total Employment:** 56.4 crore employed
- ✓ **Sectoral Employment:** Agriculture leads in rural, Tertiary sector leads in urban

About Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS):

The NSO launched the PLFS in April 2017 to provide labour force data at more frequent intervals. The objectives include:

- Estimating key employment and unemployment indicators, such as LFPR, WPR and UR in urban and rural areas.

Revamped PLFS methodology:

To enhance the frequency and coverage of labour force data, the MoSPI has revamped the PLFS methodology effective **January 2025**. Key changes include:

- **Monthly Estimates:** Introduction of monthly estimates for Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR) and Unemployment Rate (UR) at the all-India level, covering both rural and urban areas using the Current Weekly Status (CWS) approach.
- **Quarterly Rural data:** Extension of quarterly employment estimates to include rural areas, providing a more comprehensive view of the labour market.
- **Calendar Year Reporting:** Transition to Calendar Year(CY)-based annual reporting (**January–December**), aligning with international standards and facilitating timely policy intervention.

Highlights of Quarterly Bulletin April – June 2025:

Sample Size:

First Stage Units (FSU): At the all-India level, a total number of **11,274** FSUs (6,213 rural sub- units and 5,061 urban sub-units) have been surveyed during the quarter April – June, 2025.

Households: The number of households surveyed was 1,34,128 (73,960 in rural areas and 60,168 in urban areas) and number of persons surveyed was 5,70,805 (3,25,989 in rural areas and 2,44,816 in urban areas).

Key Findings:

Unemployment Rate (UR): The UR for both males and females of age 15 years and above was recorded as **5.4%** during the quarter April – June 2025.

- The overall rural unemployment rate stood at **4.8%**, lower than the **6.8%** recorded for urban areas.
- Among the rural male of age 15 years and above, the UR was **5.0%** compared to **4.3%** observed for rural females.
- In urban areas, among females of age 15 years and above, the UR was **8.9%** compared to **6.1%** observed for male.

Note: An individual is considered unemployed in a reference week if they did not engage in any work but were actively seeking or available for at least one hour during that week.

UR (in %) in CWS for persons of age 15 years and above:

Sector	Age Group	Male	Female	Person
Rural	15-29 years	13.4	12.4	13.1
	15 years and above	5.0	4.3	4.8
	All Ages	5.0	4.3	4.8
Urban	15-29 years	15.8	24.7	17.9
	15 years and above	6.1	8.9	6.8
	All Ages	6.1	8.9	6.8
Rural + Urban	15-29 years	14.1	16.0	14.6
	15 years and above	5.4	5.4	5.4
	All Ages	5.4	5.4	5.4

Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR): The LFPR in CWS for persons aged 15 years and above was **55.0%**, with **57.1%** in rural areas and **50.6%** in urban areas.

- LFPR in CWS for male of age 15 years and above in rural and urban areas were **78.4%** and **75.1%** respectively during April – June, 2025.
- LFPR among females of age 15 years and above for rural areas was **37.0%** and in urban areas it was **25.6%** during the same quarter.

LFPR (in %) in CWS for persons of age 15 years and above:

Sector	Age Group	Male	Female	Person
Rural	15-29 years	62.6	22.5	42.3
	15 years and above	78.4	37.0	57.1
	All Ages	57.0	27.9	42.3
Urban	15-29 years	59.3	21.3	41.3
	15 years and above	75.1	25.6	50.6
	All Ages	58.5	20.4	39.9
Rural + Urban	15-29 years	61.5	22.1	42.0

	15 years and above	77.3	33.4	55.0
	All Ages	57.5	25.6	41.5

Worker Population Ratio (WPR): The WPR in CWS for person aged 15 years and above at the national level stood at **52.0%** during the above quarter.

- WPR in CWS among persons of age 15 years and above was **54.4%** in rural areas and **47.1%** in urban areas.
- WPR for female of age 15 years and above for rural and urban areas were **35.4%** and **23.3%**, respectively during April – June 2025 and the overall females WPR of the same age group at the country level was observed as **31.6%**.

WPR (in %) in CWS for persons of age 15 years and above:

Sector	Age Group	Male	Female	Person
Rural	15-29 years	54.2	19.7	36.8
	15 years and above	74.5	35.4	54.4
	All Ages	54.1	26.7	40.3
Urban	15-29 years	50.0	16.0	33.9
	15 years and above	70.5	23.3	47.1
	All Ages	55.0	18.6	37.2
Rural + Urban	15-29 years	52.8	18.6	35.8
	15 years and above	73.1	31.6	52.0
	All Ages	54.4	24.2	39.3

Other Key highlights:

Total Employment : On average, **56.4 crore persons** (39.7 crore men and 16.7 crore women) aged 15 years and above were employed in India during this quarter.

Employment Patterns: In rural areas, self-employment was dominant (55.3% of men and 71.6% of women), whereas in urban areas, regular wage or salaried jobs prevailed (47.5% of men and 55.1% of women).

Sectoral Employment Trends: Agriculture dominated rural employment (44.6% of men, 70.9% of women), whereas the tertiary sector led in urban areas (60.6% of men, 64.9% of women).

Highlights of Monthly Bulletin July 2025:

The July 2025 Monthly Bulletin is the fourth installment in the series of Monthly Bulletins.

Sample Size:

FSU: At the all-India level, a total number of **7,519** FSUs (4,144 rural sub- units and 3,375 urban sub-units) have been surveyed for July 2025.

Households: The number of households surveyed was 89,505 (49,355 in rural areas and 40,150 in urban areas) and number of persons surveyed was 3,78,222 (2,16,832 in rural areas and 1,62,390 in urban areas).

Key Findings:

Unemployment Rate (UR): The UR in CWS among persons of age 15 years and above declined to **5.2%** in July 2025 from 5.6% in June 2025.

UR (in %) in CWS for persons of age 15 years and above:

Sector	Age Group	Male	Female	Person
Rural	15-29 years	13.0	13.0	13.0
	15 years and above	4.6	3.9	4.4
	All Ages	4.6	3.9	4.4
Urban	15-29 years	17.1	25.1	19.0
	15 years and above	6.6	8.7	7.2
	All Ages	6.7	8.7	7.2
Rural + Urban	15-29 years	14.3	16.7	14.9
	15 years and above	5.3	5.1	5.2
	All Ages	5.3	5.1	5.2

Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR): The LFPR in CWS among persons of age 15 years and above was **54.9%** as compared to 54.2% during June 2025.

LFPR (in %) in CWS for persons of age 15 years and above:

Sector	Age Group	Male	Female	Person
Rural	15-29 years	61.7	21.1	41.2
	15 years and above	78.1	36.9	56.9
	All Ages	56.7	27.7	42.0
Urban	15-29 years	59.1	21.2	41.2
	15 years and above	75.1	25.8	50.7
	All Ages	58.7	20.7	40.1

Rural + Urban	15-29 years	60.9	21.1	41.2
	15 years and above	77.1	33.3	54.9
	All Ages	57.4	25.5	41.4

Worker Population Ratio (WPR): The WPR in CWS in rural areas among persons of age 15 years and above increased to 54.4% from WPR of 53.3% observed in June 2025.

WPR (in %) in CWS for persons of age 15 years and above:

Sector	Age Group	Male	Female	Person
Rural	15-29 years	53.7	18.3	35.8
	15 years and above	74.5	35.5	54.4
	All Ages	54.1	26.6	40.2
Urban	15-29 years	49.0	15.9	33.4
	15 years and above	70.1	23.5	47.0
	All Ages	54.8	18.9	37.2
Rural + Urban	15-29 years	52.1	17.6	35.1
	15 years and above	73.0	31.6	52.0
	All Ages	54.3	24.2	39.2

[Click Here to View More](#)

Key Terms:

Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR): It is defined as the percentage of persons in the labour force (i.e. working or seeking or available for work) in the population.

Worker Population Ratio (WPR): It is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population.

Unemployment Rate (UR): It is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.

Current Weekly Status (CWS): The activity status determined on the basis of a reference period of last 7 days preceding the date of survey is known as the current weekly status (CWS) of the person.

About Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI):

Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge, IC) – Rao Inderjit Singh (Constituency: Gurgaon, Haryana)

EY August 2025 Report: India Projected to Become World's 2nd-Largest Economy In PPP Terms By 2038

In August 2025, Ernst & Young (EY) released the '[August 2025 issue of EY Economy Watch](#)', projecting that India could become the **world's second-largest economy** in terms of Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) by **2038**, with an estimated Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of **USD 34.2 trillion(tn)**.

- This projection is based on International Monetary Fund (IMF) growth forecasts for 2028–2030. By 2030, India's GDP is expected to reach **USD 20.7 tn** in PPP terms, while China is projected to remain the largest economy with a PPP GDP of USD 42.2 tn.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Release of EY August 2025 Report
- ✓ **India situation:** India become second largest Economy in 2038
- ✓ **2030 Projection:** India's GDP in PPP terms – USD 20.7 trillion
- ✓ **GDP Growth Rate:** India – 6.5% (average 2028–2030, IMF)

Key Drivers of India's Projected Economic Growth:

Growth Trajectory: India's growth is supported by its following strong fundamentals

- Youthful demographics: Median age of **28.8 years** in 2025,
- Domestic Demand: The second-highest savings rate, and
- Sustainable fiscal outlook: A government debt-to-GDP ratio projected to decline from 81.3% in 2024 to **75.8% by 2030**.

Reforms: Also, India's reforms such as Goods and Services Tax (GST), Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), financial inclusion through UPI (Unified Payment Interface) and production-linked incentives are strengthening competitiveness across industries.

Resilience: Apart from the above public investment in infrastructure and adoption of emerging technologies like AI (Artificial Intelligence), semiconductors, and renewable energy are setting the stage for long-term resilience.

Global Outlook:

Other countries: The United States of America (USA) remains strong but faces high debt levels exceeding **120% of GDP** and slower growth rates.

- Germany and Japan, though advanced, are constrained by high median ages and heavy reliance on global trade.
- If India and the USA maintain their projected growth rates beyond 2030, India is expected to surpass the USA in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP) by 2038.

Growth Projection: The report added that the average predicted growth rates of India and the USA over the period 2028 to 2030 are **6.5%** and **2.1%** (as per IMF) respectively.

- India is also projected to become the third-largest economy in market exchange rate terms by 2028, overtaking Germany.

Tariff Impact: The report has highlighted that the USA tariffs may affect nearly 0.9% of India's GDP, their impact on GDP growth can be contained to just 0.1%, supported by export diversification, stronger domestic demand, and advancing trade partnerships

About Purchasing Power Parity (PPP):

PPP: It measure the total amount of goods and services that a single unit of a country's currency can buy in another country.

Comparison: The PPP between countries A and B measures the amount of country A's currency required to purchase a basket of goods and services in country A as compared to the amount of country B's currency to purchase a similar basket of goods and services in country B.

MoSPI Released Result of Annual Survey of Industries 2023-24 data: TN tops in number of factories

In August 2025, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (**MoSPI**) published the results of the '[Annual Survey of Industries \(ASI\) for the period April 2023 to March 2024 \(Financial Year 2023-24, FY24\)](#)', referred to as **ASI 2023-24**.

- The field work for this survey was carried out during October 2024 to June 2025 for ASI 2023-24.
- Tamil Nadu (TN)** was the top State in terms of the number of factories and persons employed in the manufacturing sector, according to the results of the ASI 2023-24.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Release of the Result of ASI 2023-24 data
- ✓ **Released by:** MoSPI
- ✓ **Capital:** Fixed Capital- Rs. 46,24,09,035 cr, Invested capital – Rs. 68,01,32,999 cr
- ✓ **GVA:** grew by 11.89%
- ✓ **Top States in Factories:** TN, Gujarat, Maharashtra
- ✓ **Top states in workforce:** TN, Gujarat, Maharashtra
- ✓ **Top industries in GVA:** Basic metal, Motor vehicles, Chemical and Chemical products
- ✓ **Top States in GVA:** Maharashtra, Gujarat, TN

About Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) :

Survey: Conducted every year by the MoSPI, the ASI includes all factories registered under the **Factories Act, 1948**, employing 10 or more workers with power, or 20 or more workers without power.

Scope: The survey evaluates critical indicators, including the number of factories, workforce size, fixed capital investment, production output, and Gross Value Added (GVA).

Objective: To provide a meaningful insight into the dynamics of change in the composition, growth and structure of various manufacturing industries in terms of output, value added, employment, capital formation and a host of other parameters.

ASI Coverage: The ASI broadly covers the following:

- Factories registered under Sections 2m(i) and 2m(ii) of the Factories Act, 1948
- Bidi and cigar manufacturing establishments registered under the Bidi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966
- Electricity undertakings engaged in generation, transmission and distribution of electricity, not registered with the Central Electricity Authority (CEA)
- Units with 100 or more employees registered in the Business Register of Establishments (BRE) prepared and maintained by the State Governments (SG) as and when such lists are shared by the respective SG.

Key Highlights of ASI 2023-24:

Key Parameters:

Capital: The Fixed capital rose to **Rs. 46,24,09,035 crore (cr)** in FY24 from Rs. 41,21,79,458 cr in FY23 and invested capital to **Rs. 68,01,32,999 cr** from Rs. 61,39,21,255 cr in FY23.

Value of a few key parameters

Year	FY24	FY23
Fixed Capital	46,24,09,035	41,21,79,458
Invested Capital	68,01,32,999	61,39,21,255

Total Persons Engaged	1,95,89,131	1,84,94,962
Total Emoluments	7,16,46,903	6,40,49,070
GVA	24,58,33,605	21,97,05,605

Employment: The total employment grew from 1,84,94,962 in FY23 to **1,95,89,131** in FY24.

- The sector added more than 57 lakh jobs during the last decade 2014-15 to 2023-24.

Gross Value Added (GVA): The GVA grew by 11.89% in current prices in the FY24 over the previous year.

Other Parameters: The inputs rose by **4.7%**, while output increased by **5.80%** in FY24.

Industries: **Top 5 industries** in respect of **GVA** are Basic metal, Motor vehicles, Chemical and Chemical products, Food Products and Pharmaceutical products.

Top Industries:

Rank	GVA
1	Basic Metals (11.56%)
2	Motor Vehicles, Trailers & Semi-Trailers (9.11%)
3	Chemicals & Chemical Products (8.81%)
4	Food products (7.40%)
5	Pharmaceuticals, Medicinal Chemical and Botanical Products (7.24%)

Top States:

GVA: The top 3 states by GVA in FY24 were **Maharashtra** at 1st, followed by Gujarat and TN at 2nd and 3rd place respectively.

Factories: Out of 2,60,061 factories across India, Tamil Nadu topped the list, being home to 15.43% of them, followed by Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh (UP), and Andhra Pradesh (AP).

Workforce: In terms of employment, TN tops in this category, then Gujarat at 2nd and Maharashtra at 3rd.

Fixed Capital (FC): Gujarat tops under the fixed capital category, followed by Maharashtra and TN.

Output: The top states by output were Gujarat, followed by Maharashtra and TN.

Top 5 states in terms of their % shares in the value of overall aggregates

Rank	Total no. Factories	Fixed Capital (FC)	Total persons engaged	Output	Gross Value Added (GVA)
1	TN (15.43%)	Gujarat (19.53%)	TN (15.24%)	Gujarat (17.22%)	Maharashtra (15.95%)
2	Gujarat (12.81%)	Maharashtra (11.94%)	Gujarat (13.07%)	Maharashtra (14.47%)	Gujarat (14.20%)
3	Maharashtra (10.20%)	TN (8.09%)	Maharashtra (12.95%)	TN (10.11%)	TN (10.26%)
4	Uttar Pradesh (UP) (8.51%)	Odisha (7.96%)	UP (8.30%)	Haryana (7.23%)	Karnataka (7.47%)

5	Andhra Pradesh (AP) (6.16%)	Karnataka (6.11%)	Karnataka (6.29%)	UP (7.19%)	UP (6.80%)
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Important Terms:

GVA: It is defined as additional value created by the process of production and calculated by deducting the value of total input from total output.

About Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI):

Minister of State (Independent Charge) – Rao Inderjit Singh (Constituency – Gurugram, Haryana)

Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi

MoE Released Report on UDISE+ 2024-25 on School Education of India; India's School Teacher Count Breaches 1 Crore Mark

In August 2025, the Ministry of Education (**MoE**) released a comprehensive report on [Unified District Information System for Education Plus \(UDISE+\)](#) for academic Year **2024-25** on school education of India.

- The report showed that for the 1st time in any academic year, since the inception of UDISE+ in 2018-19, the total number of teachers has breached the mark of **1 crore** (1,01,22,420) in 2024-25 as compared with 98,07,600 (in 2023-24) and 94,83,294 (2022-23).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Release of UDISE+ Report for academic Year 2024-25
- ✓ **Released by:** MoE
- ✓ **Total Teacher Count:** 1 crore (1,01,22,420)
- ✓ **PTR:** 10 (foundational level), 12 (preparatory level), 17 (middle level) and 21 (secondary level)
- ✓ **GER:** 90.3% (at middle level) and 68.5% (at secondary level)

About Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) :

Overview: In 2018-19, the Department of School Education and Literacy (**DoSE&L**) under MoE, introduced UDISE+, which is one of the largest management information systems.

- Now, it has covered over 14.72 lakhs of schools, 98.08 lakhs of teachers and 24.08 crores of children in India.

Launches: It was initially launched as **UDISE** in **2012-13** by integrating information management systems in place separately for elementary education and secondary education.

- It was then being managed by the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (**NIEPA**).

Data Management: The UDISE+ provides online uploading of data at school level with inbuilt validation checks and subsequent data verification at the block, district and state level ensures data reliability and timely competition.

Key Findings of UDISE+ 2024-25:

Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR): The report revealed that **PTR** has improved in 2024-25 compared to 2014-15 at all educational levels i.e. from 15 to **10** (foundational), from 18 to **13** (preparatory), from **26 to 17** (middle) and from **31 to 21** (secondary).

- These ratios indicate improvement compared to National Education Policy (NEP 2020)'s recommended ratio of **1:30** (one teacher for 30 students).

School Enrolment Distribution: Currently, India has almost 15 lakh schools with more than 24 crore students. Out of these, 50% students are enrolled in government schools; followed by private schools (41%) and government-aided schools (9%).

School Enrolment: The data of the report showed that the total school enrolment number (from Class-I to Class XII) has decreased by **11 lakh students**, from 24.8 crore (2023-24) to **24.69 crore (2024-25)**, all-time low since 2018-19. The report outlined that this decline in enrolment is mainly due to falling birth rates, except in few states such as: Uttar Pradesh (UP), Bihar, and Meghalaya.

- **At Middle School (Class VI to VIII):** The report showed that total enrolment of students increased by nearly 6 lakh, from 6.31 crore students (in 2023-24) to 6.36 crore (in 2024-25).
- **At Secondary School (Class IX-XII):** As per the report, the total enrolment of students increased by nearly 8 lakh, from 6.39 crore students (in 2023-24) to 6.48 crore (in 2024-25).

Drop Out Rates: The report highlighted that the academic year 2024-25 has seen a significant decrease in dropout rates across **3 educational levels (Preparatory, Middle and Secondary)** as compared to previous two academic years (2023-24 and 2022-23).

- At the Preparatory stage, the dropout rate declined from 3.7% (2023-24) to 2.3% (2024-25); at the Middle stage, from 5.2% to 3.5%; and at the Secondary stage, from 10.9% to 8.2%.

Improved Student Retention Rate: As per the report, the academic year 2024-25 has shown a **positive trend** in student retention across all educational levels i.e. foundational, preparatory, middle and secondary.

- The report showed that student retention rates have increased significantly compared to last academic year (2023-24), from 98.0% to 98.9% (at the foundational level); 85.4% to 92.4% (at the preparatory level); 78.0% to 82.8% (at the middle level); and 45.6% to 47.2% (at the secondary level).

Improved GER: The report showed that Gross Enrollment Ratio (**GER**) at the Middle and Secondary levels, increased from 89.5% to **90.3%** and from 66.5% **to 68.5%**, respectively.

Improved Transition Rate: The report revealed the transition rate has increased across all education levels i.e. from 98.1% in 2023-24 **to 98.6% in 2024-25** (from foundational to preparatory level);

- From 88.8% to 92.0% (from preparatory to middle level) and from 83.3% to 86.6% (from middle to secondary level) for the same time period.

Improved Female Representation: As per the report, the academic year 2024-25 has witnessed increase in female teacher's representation i.e. women account for **54.2%** of the teaching workforce in India (in 2024-25) as against the 53.3% (2023-24) and 52.3% (2022-23).

- Similarly, girls' enrolment has **increased to 48.3%**, up from 48.1% (in 2023-24) and 48% (in 2022-23).

Other Key Findings:

Zero Enrolment and Single Teacher Schools: As per the report, academic year 2024-25 recorded decline in single teacher and zero-enrolment schools. Single teacher schools have declined by around **6%**, from 110,971 (in 2022-23) to 104,125 (in 2024-25).

- While, **zero-enrolment schools** have witnessed a significant drop of around **38%**, from 12,954 to 7,993 during the same time period.

Improved Infrastructure: The report noted that digital access has increased in the reporting year as compared to last year like: computer access (from 57.2% to 64.7%); internet connectivity (from 57.2% to 64.7%).

- Basic infrastructure facility that includes: Electricity (from 91.8% to 93.6%); drinking water (from 98.3% to 99.3%); hand-washing facilities (from 94.7% to 95.9%), among others.
- Also, schools equipped with ramps and hand rails, increased from 52.3% to 54.9%.

About Ministry of Education (MoE):

Union Minister- Dharmendra Pradhan (Constituency- Sambalpur, Odisha)

Minister of State (MoS)- Jayant Chaudhary (Rajya Sabha- Uttar Pradesh, UP); Dr. Sukanta Majumdar (Constituency- Balurghat, West Bengal, WB)

MoP Releases 6th Edition of State Energy Efficiency Index 2024; Maharashtra AP, and Assam Among Top Performers

On 29 August 2025, the Ministry of Power (MoP) released the **sixth** edition of the State Energy Efficiency Index for fiscal year 2023-24 (SEEI 2024) to assess and track the progress of states in managing and improving energy efficiency.

- The index has been prepared by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (**BEE**) together with the Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (**AEEE**). It was released by **Akash Tripathi**, who is the Additional Secretary in the MoP and also the Director General (DG) of BEE.
- According to the index, the top performing states are **Maharashtra**, Andhra Pradesh (AP), Assam, and Tripura for their respective group.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** MoP Releases 6th Edition of State Energy Efficiency Index 2024
- ✓ **Prepared by:** BEE with AEEE
- Top Performer:** Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh (AP), Assam, and Tripura
- Categories:** Front Runners (above 60%), Achievers (50–60%), Contenders (30–50%), and Aspirants (below 30%).
- ✓ **Groups:**
 - Group 1: >15 MToE (Million Tonnes of Oil Equivalent)
 - Group 2: 5–15 MToE
 - Group 3: 1–5 MToE
 - Group 4: <1 MToE

About State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2024:

The SEEI 2024 reviews how **36** States and Union Territories (UTs) performed in energy efficiency during the financial year 2023-24 (FY 24). The index promotes healthy competition, highlights best practices, and encourages states to take stronger steps towards saving energy.

Indicators: This edition uses a stronger, implementation-based framework with **66** indicators covering seven important sectors—buildings, industry, municipal services, transport, agriculture, power distribution companies (DISCOMS), and cross-sector programmes

Categories: The states are grouped into four categories based on their performance:

- Front Runners (above 60%),
- Achievers (50–60%),
- Contenders (30–50%), and
- Aspirants (below 30%).

Groups Based on TFEC: States and Union Territories (UTs) are divided into four groups based on their Total Final Energy Consumption (TFEC):

- Group 1: >15 MToE (Million Tonnes of Oil Equivalent)
- Group 2: 5–15 MToE
- Group 3: 1–5 MToE
- Group 4: <1 MToE

Top Performing States by Energy Consumption Group

Energy Consumption Group	Top Performers
Group 1	Maharashtra
Group 2	Andhra Pradesh (AP)

Group 3	Assam
Group 4	Tripura

Note: Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh scored 80.5% and 79.3%, respectively

Top Performers: Maharashtra has emerged as the leader among Group 1 states with energy use above 15 MToE. Andhra Pradesh led Group 2 (5–15 MToE), Assam came first in Group 3 (1–5 MToE), and Tripura topped Group 4 (<1 MToE).

Front Runner States: The 2024 index shows some changes compared to 2023. The number of Front Runner states has reduced from seven to five, with AP, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu (TN) still holding this position.

Achievers and Contenders: Assam and Kerala have been placed in the Achievers category, while Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Odisha, and Uttar Pradesh (UP) are identified as Contenders.

Key Sectoral Progress:

Progress has also been recorded across different sectors.

Buildings Sector: In the buildings sector, 24 states have put the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) 2017 into place, and 20 states have linked it with their municipal by-laws.

Industrial Sector: For the industrial sector, 10 states have policies to support energy efficiency in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and seven require energy audits in industries that are not covered under the PAT (Perform, Achieve and Trade) scheme.

Municipal and Transport Sector: In the municipal sector, 25 states have prepared Climate or Heat Action Plans, and 12 report joint work between state agencies and local urban bodies.

- In transport, 31 states now have electric mobility policies, and 14 states have made Electric Vehicle (EV) charging facilities mandatory in new buildings.

Agriculture Sector: In agriculture, 13 states are promoting cold storage facilities and solar-powered pumps, with **Kerala** leading the way by achieving 74% adoption of efficient or solar pumps.

Note: These efforts support India's climate goals of cutting emission intensity by 45% by 2030 and achieving net-zero by 2070.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Myanmar Announced Formation of New Interim-Union Government Led by U Nyo Saw

In July 2025, the National Defence and Security Council (NDSC) of Myanmar, announced the formation of a new Interim-Union Government and National Security and Peace Commission, to oversee defence and manage the election.

- While, **U Nyo Saw** will lead the new interim-union government as 13th Prime Minister (PM) of Myanmar.
- As per military junta in Myanmar, **Senior General Min Aung Hlaing** will lead the National Security and Peace Commission.



Exam Hints:

- What? Myanmar formed new Interim-Union Government
- Appointed: U Nyo Saw as PM
- NDSC formed: new National Security and Peace Commission
- Headed by: Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

Other Key Announcements:

End of State Emergency: Following this announcement, Myanmar's military government officially ended the state of emergency imposed over 4 years ago, to hold national elections by year-end (December 2025).

Acting President: Despite the announcement, **General Min Aung Hlaing** will continue to serve as acting President and Chief of the Armed Forces of Myanmar.

- He has also issued a decree to dissolve the NDSC, which was formed in February 2021 during a military coup.

Annulment of Transfer Power: The NDSC has also decided to revoke the order of transferring sovereign powers to the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

Background:

Military Coup: In February 2021, Myanmar's military ousted the elected government led National League for Democracy (NLDC) leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, citing the widespread fraud in 2020 general elections.

Declared State Emergency: Myanmar's then-Acting President U Myint Swe declared the state of emergency for 1 year in February 2021, and transferred sovereign powers to the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

About Myanmar:

Interim- Prime Minister (PM)- U Nyo Saw

Acting President- Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

Capital- Naypyidaw

Currency- Myanmar Kyat (MMK)

Lt. General Pushpendra Singh Assumed Charge as New VCOAS; Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan as 47th VCNS

On August 1, 2025, Lieutenant **(Lt.)General Pushpendra Singh**, General Officer (GO) of the Parachute Regiment, has officially assumed charge as the new Vice-Chief of Army Staff **(VCOAS)**. He succeeded **Lt. General NS Raja Subramani**, who superannuated on July 31, 2025.

- In addition to that, **Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan**, a gunnery and missile systems specialist, officially took charge as the **47th Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS)**.
- He succeeded **Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan**, who assumed charge as the Flag Officer Commander-in-Chief (FoCinC) of the Western Naval Command (WNC), replacing Vice Admiral Sanjay J Singh.



Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Lt.General Pushpendra Singh as the new VCOAS; Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan as the 47th VCNS
- ✓ **When:** Both assumed charge on August 1, 2025
- ✓ **Predecessors:** Lt. General NS Raja Subramani (India Army, IA) and Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan (Indian Navy, IN)
- ✓ **New FoCinC of WNC:** Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan
- ✓ **Predecessor of FoCinC of WNC:** Vice Admiral Sanjay J Singh

About Lt. General Pushpendra Singh:

Parachute Regiment: In December 1987, the GO Singh was commissioned into 4th Battalion, The Parachute regiment (Special Forces).

Key Operations: During his extensive career spanning nearly 4 decades, he has served in some of the most demanding operations like: Operation PAWAN (Sri Lanka); Operation MEGHDOOT (Siachen);

Operation ORCHID (North East); and several tenures as Operation RAKSHAK (Jammu & Kashmir, J&K).

Commanded Key Operations: During his extensive career spanning nearly 4 decades, he has held various command and staff appointments for instance: he commanded a Special Forces Unit in the Kashmir Valley and on the Line of Control (LoC); commanded an Infantry Brigade and a Mountain Division in 'OP SNOW LEOPARD' along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Previous Role: Before this appointment, Lt. Gen. Singh served as the Director General (DG) of Operational Logistics & Strategic Movement at the IA headquarters.

Awards/Accolades: He has been awarded Ati Vishist Seva Medal (**AVSM**) and Sena Medal Bar(SMB), for his distinguished service to India..

About Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan:

Commissioned: Vice Admiral Vatsayan was commissioned into the Indian Navy (IN) on January 01, 1988.

Previous Appointments: Before taking over VCNS, Vatsayan has held various important operational, staff and training appointments, including at the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS), and Naval Headquarters (NHQ) in New Delhi.

- He also served as the Deputy Commandant of the National Defence Academy (NDA) and later, he was appointed as Chief of Staff (CoS), Eastern Naval Command (ENC) in December 2021.
- He took over as the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet in February 2020.

Commanded Frontline Warships: The flag officer Vatsayan has served onboard various frontline warships such as: the commissioning crew of the Guided Missile Destroyer INS Mysore, INS Nishank and pre-commissioning crew of Coast Guard Open Patrol Vessel (OPV) Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Sangram.

- He also served as the Executive Officer of INS Mysore and has commanded Coast Guard Ship C-05, Missile Vessels INS Vibhuti, among others.

Awards/Accolades: In 2021, he was awarded the AVSM for his distinguished service to the nation.

Dr.A.Rajarajan Appointed as Director of VSSC

On August 1, 2025, **Dr.A. Rajarajan**, Director of Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh(AP), assumed charge as the **Director** of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (**VSSC**), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

- He succeeds S. Unnikrishnan Nair, who superannuated on 31 July 2025.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Appointment:** A. Rajarajan as Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)
- ✓ **Predecessor:** S. Unnikrishnan Nair
- ✓ **Previous roles:** Director of Satish Dhawan Space Centre(SDSC)
- ✓ **Expertise:** Composite Systems

About Dr.A.Rajarajan:

Career Overview: With close to 40 years of expertise in India's space programme, Dr. A. Rajarajan joined VSSC in January 1987.

- Throughout his tenure, he has held several senior leadership roles, notably serving as Deputy Director of three vital divisions: Composites, Propulsion & Space Ordnance (PRSO), and Structures Entity (STR).

Specialization: Expert in composite materials for lightweight, high-strength structures in satellites and launch vehicles. Established a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in composite tech, fostering industry collaboration.

Contributions: At SDSC, he modernised launch complex infrastructure to support human spaceflight (Gaganyaan), Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), Chandrayaan-3, Aditya L1, and the Launch Vehicle Mark-3-Mission 2(LVM3 M2)/OneWeb India-1 commercial mission under India's new space policy.

- He also managed the launch of Vikram-S, India's first rocket built by a private company.

Strategic Roles: He is also a board member of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe).

IndusInd Bank Appointed Rajiv Anand as MD & CEO for 3 Years

In August 2025, **IndusInd Bank Limited** approved the appointment of **Rajiv Anand** as the Managing Director (**MD**) and Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) for a tenure of three years, effective from 25th August 2025, following the approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- He succeeds **Suman Kathpalia**, who resigned from the post of MD & CEO on 1st May 2025.
- Currently, the IndusInd Bank is being overseen by its Executives Committee (EXCO) comprising **Soumitra Sen**, Head of Consumer Banking, and **Anil Rao**, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).



Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Appointment of Rajiv Anand
- ✓ **Organisation:** IndusInd Bank
- ✓ **Position:** MD & CEO
- ✓ **Tenure:** Three years from August 25, 2025
- ✓ **Predecessor:** Suman Kathpalia
- ✓ **Previous Position:** Deputy MD, Axis Bank

About Rajiv Anand:

Career Experience: Rajiv Anand is a Chartered Accountant with over 35 years of experience in banking and financial services, including retail and wholesale banking, treasury, capital markets, and asset management.

Leadership at Axis Bank: He joined Axis Asset Management Company Limited in 2009 as the founding MD & CEO.

- In 2013, he became President of Retail Banking at Axis Bank Limited, where he led the division for five years and contributed to major milestones.
- From 2018, he headed the Wholesale Banking division at Axis Bank, focusing on sustainable growth.
- He served as the Deputy Managing Director (DMD) of Axis Bank from 2021 and retired on 3rd August 2025, after completing his third term on the bank's board.

External Roles: He also serves on the National Committee on Banking of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and holds the position of Senior Vice President at the Bombay Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI).

- He is also a director on the Boards of Axis Bank UK Limited, Axis Max Life Insurance Company Limited and BCCI.

About IndusInd Bank Limited:

IndusInd Bank Limited is a banking and financial services company in India, established under the sponsorship of the **Hinduja Group**.

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Tagline – We Make You Feel Richer

Established – 1994

Zomato Roped in Shah Rukh Khan as Brand Ambassador

In August 2025, **Zomato**, online food delivery platform in India, announced that it has roped in Bollywood Actor and National Film Awardee for 2023, **Shah Rukh Khan** as its brand ambassador.

- Earlier, He was featured in Zomato's campaign '**Fuel Your Hustle**' along with renowned celebrities such as Singer and Music Composer A.R. Rehman; Indian Cricketer Jasprit Bumrah, and Olympic Medalist Mary Kom.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Announcement of Zomato's Brand Ambassador
- ✓ **Who?** Bollywood Actor Shah Rukh Khan
- ✓ **Featured in Campaign:** Fuel Your Hustle
- ✓ **Purpose:** To emphasize hard work, consistency, and ambition, aligning with Zomato's vision to support people's journeys with great food.

About Shah Rukh Khan:

- Shah Rukh Khan, popularly known as the "King of Bollywood", is one of India's most successful and influential film actors, producers, and entrepreneurs.
- He co-owns the IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders and has been honoured with the Padma Shri in 2005 for his contribution to Indian Cinema in the field of Arts.
- Known for his versatility, charisma, and exceptional acting skills, he has won numerous awards, including 14 Film fare Awards.

Odisha Government Appointed Madhuri Dixit as Brand Ambassador of Handloom Industry

In August 2025, **Mohan Charan Majhi**, Chief Minister (CM) of Odisha formally announced the appointment of Bollywood icon and Padma Shree Awardee, **Madhuri Dixit** as brand ambassador of the state's handloom industry.

- The announcement was made during the inauguration ceremony of Exhibition-cum-Knowledge Sharing for Textile Advantage (EKTA), on the occasion of **11th National Handloom Day** (August 07, 2025) celebrations held at Janta Maidan, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- This EKTA initiative aims to provide market access, training and financial assistance to handloom artisans across Odisha.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Appointment of Brand Ambassador for Odisha's Handloom industry
- ✓ **Who?** Madhuri Dixit
- ✓ **Appointed by:** Mohan Charan Majhi, CM of Odisha
- ✓ **Occasion:** Inauguration Ceremony of EKTA Initiative
- ✓ **Handloom Day :** August 07 (annually)

About Madhuri Dixit:

Profession: Madhuri Dixit is a renowned Indian actress, dancer, and philanthropist. She has starred in over 70 films during a career spanning four decades.

Awards: She was honoured with Padma Shri, India's 4th highest civilian honour in 'Arts' category in 2008.

- In 2023, She was honoured with the Special Recognition to Bharatiya Cinema Award at 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) held in Goa.

H.E. Zeenat Kureshi Becomes 1st Indian Woman Appointed as GCC-India Trade Commissioner in Luxury Diplomacy

In August 2025, Indian Actor, Producer and Investor, **H.E. Zeenat Kureshi** has become the **1st woman from India** to be appointed as the Gulf Cooperation Council (**GCC**)-India Trade Commissioner under the

global chamber of commerce.

- Her appointment marks a significant milestone in luxury diplomacy and economic cooperation between India and the GCC.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Appointment of 1st Indian Women as GCC-India trade Commissioner
- ✓ **Who?** H.E. Zeenat Kureshi
- ✓ **Significance:** Strengthens luxury trade and economic cooperation
- ✓ **GCC:** Established: 1981;
- ✓ Members: 6 Arab countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE)

Key Highlights:

Pioneering Role: H.E. Zeenat Kureshi is currently the sole Indian woman representing a GCC-India diplomatic trade body.

Focus Areas: Her work is aimed at building strategic partnerships between premium Indian industries and the GCC's burgeoning luxury markets, spanning fashion, jewelry, fine arts, hospitality, and real estate.

About GCC: It is a political and economic alliance of 6 Arab countries, established in 1981.

- It comprises countries namely, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Ajay Kumar Bhalla Takes Additional Charge as Governor of Nagaland

In August 2025, President of India, **Droupadi Murmu** appointed **Ajay Kumar Bhalla**, Governor of Manipur, to assume the additional charge as Governor of Nagaland with immediate effect.

- He succeeds **La. Ganesan** who passed away on August 15, 2025.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Appointment of Governor of Nagaland
- ✓ **Appointed by :**President of India Droupadi Murmu
- ✓ **Who?** Ajay Kumar Bhalla(additional)
- ✓ **Succeeded:** La. Ganesan
- ✓ **Effective:** August 15, 2025
- ✓ **Current charge:** Governor of Manipur
- ✓ **Batch:** 1984-batch IAS Officer of the Assam cadre



Ajay Kumar Bhalla:

Civil Service: He is a 1984-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Assam cadre.

Roles: He was appointed as the Director General of Foreign Trade (**DGFT**), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I) and Director of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), MoC&I between 2016 and 2017.

- He served as the Secretary of the Ministry of Power (MoP) from 2017 to 2019.
- He served as the Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs (**MHA**) from 2019 to 2024, making him the longest-serving officer in this position. He held several responsibilities including implementation of changes since Abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).
- He has also served as Additional Secretary in MoC&I and Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Coal.

Governor: In Dec 2024, he was appointed as the Governor of Manipur. He assumed office on Jan 3, 2025.

- Following the imposition of President's Rule in Manipur in Feb 2025, he oversees the administration of Manipur.

About Nagaland:

Chief Minister (CM) – Neiphui Rio

Governor – Ajay Kumar Bhalla

Capital – Kohima

National Park (NP) – Ntangki NP

TCL Appoints Olympic Ski Champion Eileen Gu as its Global Brand Ambassador

On August 18, 2025, **TCL**, a global technology company, appointed **Eileen Gu**, a freestyle skier, as its global **brand ambassador**. This collaboration underscores TCL's dedication to advancing the Olympic Movement as a Worldwide Olympic Partner, ahead of the 2026 Milano Cortina Winter Olympics in Italy.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** TCL appointed its global brand ambassador
- ✓ **Who?** Eileen Gu
- ✓ **Sport:** Freestyle Skiing
- ✓ **Medals:** 2 Gold and 1 Silver at 2022 Winter Olympics



About Global Ambassador:

Initiative: The appointment aligns with the "**TCLforHer**" initiative

of TCL, which supports women empowerment through technology and culture.

Role: As the brand ambassador, She will represent TCL globally, embodying the motto "Inspire Greatness", and participate in marketing campaigns, product launches, and global events.

Eileen Gu: She became the youngest Olympic champion in freestyle skiing by winning three medals (2 Gold, 1 Silver) in the 2022 Winter Olympics held in Beijing, China.

- She was the first person to win three medals at a single Winter Olympics.

RBI Appoints Indranil Bhattacharyya as Ex-Officio Member of MPC

On August 22, 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**)'s Central Board of Directors, during its 618th meeting in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP), approved the nomination of **Indranil Bhattacharyya**, Executive Director (ED) of RBI, as an **ex-officio member** of the Monetary Policy Committee (**MPC**). The meeting was chaired by Sanjay Malhotra, Governor of RBI.

- Indranil Bhattacharyya succeeds **Rajiv Ranjan**, who was shifted to lead the Department of Economic & Policy Research (DEPR).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** RBI Appoints Indranil Bhattacharyya as Ex-Officio Member of MPC
- ✓ **When?** During the 618th Central Board of Directors meeting, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ **Predecessor:** Rajiv Ranjan, now heads DEPR
- ✓ **Governor of RBI:** Sanjay Malhotra (25th)

RBI Central Board Meeting Highlights:

Agenda: Reviewed the global and domestic economic environment, focusing on geopolitical developments and financial market challenges.

- Assessed functioning of Central Office Departments, Committees of the Central Board, and the Ombudsman Scheme.

Key Attendees of the Meeting:

- **Deputy Governors:** M. Rajeshwar Rao, T. Rabi Sankar, Swaminathan J, and Dr. Poonam Gupta.
- **Government Representatives:**
- Nagaraju Maddirala, Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS).
- Anuradha Thakur, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA).
- **Board Members:** Satish K. Marathe; Revathy Iyer; Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi; Anand Gopal Mahindra (Chairman, Mahindra Group); Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel (Chairman, Zydus Lifesciences Ltd.); and Dr. Ravindra H. Dholakia.

About Indranil Bhattacharyya

Career Profile: With over 28 years of experience in central banking, he has spent more than two-thirds of his career in the Monetary Policy Department (MPD). He also served as an Adviser in RBI's MPD.

International Experience: Served as an Economic Expert at the Qatar Central Bank (QCB), Doha, for 5 years (2009-2014).

About the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

- Constituted under the **RBI Act, 1934**.
- Responsible for setting benchmark policy interest rates to control inflation and support growth.
- Structure: 6 members – 3 RBI nominees and 3 external experts.

PCI Re-Appoints Vishwas Patel as Chairperson; Appoint Srinivasu, Nalin Bansal as Co-Chairs

On August 21, 2025, the Payments Council of India (PCI) approved the **re-appointment of Vishwas Patel**, Joint Managing Director of Infibeam Avenues Limited, as **Chairperson** for the **2025-2027** term.

- The executive council also appointed **M N Srinivasu**, Director, of BillDesk and **Nalin Bansal**, Chief of Corporate Fintech Relationships & Key Initiatives, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), as **Co-Chairpersons** for the same period.



Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** PCI re-appointed leadership
- ✓ **Term:** 2025-2027 term
- ✓ **Chairperson:** Vishwas Patel (Reappointed 3rd time)
- ✓ **Co-Chairpersons:** M N Srinivasu and Nalin Bansal

About Vishwas Patel:

Third Term as Chairman : Vishwas Patel has been re-elected as the Chairman of the PCI for the **third time** in 2025, reflecting continued confidence in his leadership.

Previous Roles:

He was first elected as Chairman in 2018, re-appointed in 2022, and had earlier contributed as Co-Chairman in 2013.

Committee Appointments:

The PCI structured specialized committees to address sector-specific challenges within the digital payments ecosystem.

Name of the Committee	Chairperson	Co-Chairperson(s)
Card Networks Committee	Nalin Bansal (NPCI)	Gautam Aggarwal (Country Corporate Officer, India – Mastercard)
International Remittances and Trade Committee	Nath Parameshwaran (Senior Director – PayPal)	Partha Sinha (Executive Director – Wise)
Merchant Aggregators and Acquirers Committee	M N Srinivasu (BillDesk)	Harshil Mathur (Chief Executive Officer, CEO – Razorpay), Manish Patel (CEO – Mswipe)
Payments Banks Committee	Rishi Gupta (Managing Director (MD) & CEO – Fino Payments Bank)	Anubrata Biswas (MD & CEO – Airtel Payments Bank)

Prepaid Payment Issuers (PPI) Committee	Bipin Preet Singh (CEO – MobiKwik)	Vikas Bansal (CEO – Amazon Pay)
UPI Committee	Rahul Chari (Chief Technology Officer (CTO) – PhonePe)	Kunal Rana (Director of Merchant Services Payments India – Google Pay)
Technology Enablers Committee	Balasubramanian Viswanathan (CEO – FSS)	Muthu Krishnan S (Head – Business Development – Gemini)
BBPOU (Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit) Committee	Vishwas Patel (Infibeam Avenues)	Pranay Jhaveri (MD – India & South Asia, Euronet)

About Payments Council of India (PCI):

It is a body representing non-banking companies in India's digital payments ecosystem and was formed under the aegis of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).

- The Payments Council of India (PCI) is overseen by an Executive Council consisting of 16 members from the digital payments industry, along with an ex-officio seat held by the Chairman of IAMAI.

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Established – 2013

Ajay Singh Elected as the President of the BFI for the Third Time

On August 21, 2025, **Ajay Singh**, Managing Director (MD) of SpiceJet Airlines, was **re-elected as President**

of the Boxing Federation of India (**BFI**) for a third consecutive term. He secured 40 votes against Olympian Jaslan Pradhan's 26 votes in the elections held in Gurugram, Haryana.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Election of BFI President
- ✓ **Who?** Ajay Singh
- ✓ **Term:** Third consecutive term
- ✓ **Other Positions:** Pramod Kumar (Secretary General), and Pon Baskaran (Treasurer)

Other Appointments:

Polls: The polls were conducted under the supervision of Rajesh Tandon, Returning Officer Justice (Retired), and Fairuz Mohammed, Chairperson, BFI Interim Committee and Observer.

Secretary General: **Pramod Kumar** of Uttar Pradesh (UP) was elected as the new secretary general, defeating Digvijay Singh of Madhya Pradesh (MP), replacing Hemanta Kalita of Assam.

Treasurer: **Pon Baskaran** from Tamil Nadu(TN) was elected as the Treasurer defeating Anil Kumar Bohidar and R. Gopu.

ACC Approves Appointment of Rajit Punhani as CEO of FSSAI in Major Reshuffle

In August 2025, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (**ACC**), headed by Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi , approved the appointment of **Rajit Punhani**, a 1991 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Bihar cadre, as the Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (**FSSAI**).

- Rajit Punhani, who currently held the position of Secretary in the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), will succeed **Ganji Kamala V. Rao** upon his retirement on 31st August 2025.
- The appointment was part of a major top-level bureaucratic reshuffle involving senior IAS and Indian Postal Service (IPoS) officers across various ministries and departments of the Government of India (GoI).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Major bureaucratic reshuffle approved by ACC
- ✓ **New CEO, FSSAI:** Rajit Punhani (1991 batch, Bihar cadre IAS)
- ✓ **New Mines Secretary:** Piyush Goyal (1994 batch IAS)
- ✓ **Other Key Changes:** Secretaries appointed in MoPSW, MoFAHD, CVC, BIS, DGFT and PMO.
- ✓ **Why?** Succession planning for superannuating officers and key transfers.



Major Bureaucratic Reshuffles & New Appointments:

Debashree Mukherjee: A 1991 batch IAS officer of the Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram-Union Territories (AGMUT) cadre, Debashree Mukherjee has been appointed as Secretary, MSDE. She succeeds Rajit Punhani in this position.

- She is currently serving as secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWRGR), Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS).

V L Kantha Rao: A 1992 batch IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh (MP) cadre, V L Kantha Rao has been appointed as Secretary, DoWRGR, MoJS.

- He is currently serving as Secretary, Ministry of Mines (MoM).

Piyush Goyal: A 1994 batch IAS officer of Nagaland cadre, Piyush Goyal has been appointed as Secretary, MoM.

- He is currently serving as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Vijay Kumar: Vijay Kumar, Chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), has been appointed Officer on Special Duty (OSD), Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW).

- He will take over as Secretary after T. K. Ramachandran's retirement on September 30, 2025.

Alka Upadhyaya: A 1990 batch IAS officer of the MP cadre, Alka Upadhyaya has been appointed as Secretary, National Commission for Minorities (NCM).

- She is currently serving as Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (MoFAHD).

Naresh Pal Gangwar: A 1994 batch IAS, Rajasthan cadre, has been appointed as Secretary, DAHD, MoFAHD, replacing Alka Upadhyaya.

- He is currently serving as Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC).

Atish Chandra: A 1994 batch IAS, Bihar cadre, has been appointed as Special Secretary, Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Sukriti Likhi: A 1993 batch IAS, Haryana cadre, has been appointed as Officer on Special Duty (OSD), Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DoESW), Ministry of Defence (MoD).

- He will assume charge as Secretary after the superannuation of Nitin Chandra on 31st October 2025.

Roli Singh: A 1994 batch IAS, Rajasthan cadre has been appointed as Chairperson, National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC), succeeding Sukriti Likhi.

Trishaljit Sethi: An Indian Postal Service (IPoS) officer, has been appointed as Secretary, Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).

Niraj Verma: A 1994 batch IAS, has been appointed as OSD, Department of Justice (DoJ), and will take over as Secretary after the superannuation of Raj Kumar Goyal on 31st August 2025.

Ranjana Chopra: A 1994 batch IAS, Odisha cadre, has been appointed as OSD, Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), and will assume charge as Secretary after the superannuation of Vibhu Nayar on 31st October 2025.

Sanjay Garg: A 1994 batch IAS, Kerala cadre, has been appointed as OSD, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), and will assume charge as Director General (DG) after the superannuation of Pramod Kumar Tiwari on 31st October 2025.

Ajay Bhadoo : A 1999 batch IAS) officer, Gujarat cadre, has been given additional charge as Director General(DG), Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry(MoC&I), for the period 21st April 2025 to 20th October 2025.

- He is currently serving as Additional Secretary in the MoC&I.

About Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI):

FSSAI is a statutory authority established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, functioning under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi

Established– 2008

Former CRPF DG Anish Dayal Singh Appointed as Deputy NSA

The Government of India (GoI) has appointed **Anish Dayal**, former Director General (DG) of paramilitary forces i.e. Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Indo-Tibetan Force (ITBP), as the new **Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA)**, effective August 24, 2025. He will report directly to NSA Ajit Doval.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Appointment of new Deputy NSA
- ✓ **Who?** Anish Dayal
- ✓ **Key Responsibility:** To oversee internal affairs
- ✓ **Reports to:** NSA Ajit Doval
- ✓ **Past Roles:** 30 years in Intelligence Bureau (IB); DG of ITBP & CRPF

About Anish Dayal:

Cadre & Batch: Anish Dayal is a 1988-batch IPS officer from Manipur cadre, and he retired from service in December 2024.

Current Role: He is entrusted with the responsibility to handle **internal affairs** which includes security in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), the fight against Left-Wing Extremism(LWE), and insurgency in the Northeast.

Past Roles: He has an extensive experience of nearly 30 years in the Intelligence Bureau (IB), before leading ITBP and CRPF.

- He also monitored crucial deployments during the 2024 Lok Sabha (Lower House of the Parliament) general elections and the 1st assembly elections in J&K after its reorganization.

SEBI Appoints Amit Pradhan, Avneesh Pandey, Sanjay Chandrakant Puroo as its Executive Directors

In August 2025, Securities Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) appointed **Amit Pradhan, Avneesh Pandey, and Sanjay Chandrakant Puroo** as its Executive Directors (EDs) to strengthen key functional verticals within the regulator.

- Earlier, they served as the Chief General Managers (CGM) of Sebi.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** SEBI appointed its Executive Directors (EDs)
- ✓ **Who?** Amit Pradhan, Avneesh Pandey, and Sanjay Chandrakant Purao
- ✓ **Amit Pradhan:** Legal Affairs Department, Prosecution & Settlement Department
- ✓ **Avneesh Pandey:** Information Technology Department (ITD)
- ✓ **Sanjay Chandrakant Purao:** Corporation Finance Investigation Department(CFID), Recovery & Refund Department, and Internal Investigation Department

Legal Affairs: Amit Pradhan will take charge of the Legal Affairs Department (Vertical 1) and Prosecution & Settlement Department.

Information Technology (IT): Avneesh Pandey will oversee the Information Technology Department (ITD), with expertise in IT strategy, SupTech, Cybersecurity, Big Data Analytics, and Business process innovation.

Corporation Finance: Sanjay Chandrakant Purao will handle the Corporation Finance Investigation Department(CFID), Recovery & Refund Department, and Internal Investigation Department of SEBI.

IRSE Officer S.C. Jain Appointed with Additional Charge as CMD of RVNL

In August 2025, the Ministry of Railways (**MoR**) approved the appointment of **S.C.Jain**, an Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE) officer, to take additional charge as Chairman and Managing Director (**CMD**) of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (**RVNL**), MoR.

- He will assume charge on **September 1, 2025**, following the superannuation of **Pradeep Gaur** on August 31, 2025.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Approval of an appointment
- ✓ **Who?** Ministry of Railways (MoR)
- ✓ **Appointee:** S.C.Jain, IRSE officer
- ✓ **Designation:** Additional charge as CMD of RVNL
- ✓ **Succeed:** Pradeep Gaur(superannuated on 31 Aug 2025)

About S.C.Jain:

Profile: He is a 1988-batch IRSE officer and has over 28 years of service in railway projects.

- He possesses strong expertise in infrastructure development, project execution, and project management.

Current Role: He is presently serving as Advisor (Land & Amenities) in Railways.

RVNL: It is a Navratna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), established in 2003 to implement rail infrastructure projects. It focuses on project execution, doubling of lines, electrification, metro works, and other railway infrastructure projects.

NDB Appointed Dr. Rajiv Ranjan as VP and CRO for 5-year Term

In August 2025, the Board of Governors of the New Development Bank (**NDB**), a multilateral bank established by BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries, has appointed **Dr. Rajiv Ranjan**, former Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) member of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as its new Vice-President (**VP**) and Chief Risk Officer (**CRO**) for a period of **5 years**.

- He is expected to assume his role at the NDB in September 2025, following his retirement from the RBI.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Appointment of new VP & CRO of NDB
- ✓ **Who?** Dr. Rajiv Ranjan

- ✓ **Term:** 5 year
- ✓ **Previous Roles:** ED of RBI and former Member of MPC

About Dr. Rajiv Ranjan:

Experience: Dr. Rajiv Ranjan has an extensive experience of more than 35 years in the RBI, India's central bank.

Roles in RBI: He joined the RBI in 1989 and has served in key roles, including Executive Director (ED) and MPC member since 2022.

Other Key Roles: He also headed the RBI's Department of Economic and Policy Research and served as an Economic Policy Expert at the Central Bank of Oman between 2012 and 2015.

Global Engagements: He has worked with the Group of 20 (G20), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank Group (WBG), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and several central banks from the Global South.

Akash Tripathi Appointed as MD of SECI Limited

In August 2025, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, approved the appointment of **Akash Tripathi** as the new Managing Director (MD) of Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE).

- He succeeds **Santosh Kumar Sarangi**, Secretary of MNRE, who held additional charge of the post following RP Gupta's exit.
- Santosh Kumar Sarangi continues in his role as Chairman of SECI.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Appointment:** Akash Tripathi as MD of SECI
- ✓ **Approving Authority:** Appointments Committee of the Cabinet
- ✓ **Key Role:** To drive India's 500 GW renewable energy target by 2030
- ✓ **Successor:** Santosh Kumar Sarangi Chairman of SECI
- ✓ **Previous Post:** Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power.

About Akash Tripathi

Professional Overview: A 1998-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Madhya Pradesh (MP) cadre.

Career: He served as an Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Power.

Has held key positions, including:

- MD and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Digital India Corporation (DIC)
- CEO of India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)
- CEO of MyGov.in

Role at SECI: His leadership will enhance SECI's contribution towards achieving India's 500 Gigawatt (GW) Renewable Energy (RE) capacity target by 2030.

Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel Appointed as India's New ED at IMF

In August 2025, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has approved the appointment of Renowned Economist **Dr. Urjit Patel**, former Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), to the post of Executive Director (ED) representing India at International Monetary Fund (IMF)



- As per the official notification, Patel will remain at this post for a period of **3 years** from the date he assumes charge, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Appointment of India's ED at IMF
- ✓ **Who?** Dr. Urjit Patel, former Governor of RBI
- ✓ **Approved by:** ACC chaired by PM Narendra Modi
- ✓ **Tenure:** 3 years
- ✓ **Predecessor:** Krishnamurthy Subramanian, former CEA to GoI

Succeeding: This appointment came nearly 4 months after the Government of India (GoI) terminated the term of **Krishnamurthy Subramanian**, former Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) to GoI, who has been serving as India's ED at IMF since 2022.

About Dr. Urjit Patel:

Previous Role in RBI: In September 2016, Patel took over as the 24th Governor of RBI, succeeding Raghuram Rajan.

- However, in December 2018, he resigned 9 months prior to the end of his tenure as RBI's Governor. With this, he became the 1st RBI Governor since 1990 to step down before the completion of his tenure.
- Prior to assuming the RBI Governor post, he served as the Deputy Governor of RBI from **2013 to 2016**.

Previous Role at IMF: From 1990 to 1995, he worked as Economist at the IMF covering the United States of America (USA), India, Bahamas, and Myanmar.

Other Key Roles: Patel also worked as Vice-President (VP) of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) (2022-24); Chairman of National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP); Advisor at Boston Consulting Group (BCG).

About Executive Board of IMF:

Composition: The board comprises **25** EDs, who are elected by member countries of the IMF and the MD who serves as Chairman of the board. These EDs are arranged into 25 constituencies, or groups.

Key Function: It is responsible for administering day-to-day business of the IMF.

Group: India is part of The Indian Group comprising countries namely India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan.

About International Monetary Fund (IMF):

Managing Director (MD)- Kristalina Georgieva

Headquarters- Washington D.C., the United States of America (USA)

Established in- 1944

Railway Board Chairman Satish Kumar Gets One-Year Tenure Extension

In August 2025, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved a **one-year extension** in the tenure of **Satish Kumar**, Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS) (Retired), as **Chairman** and Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of the Indian Railway Board (**IRB**), under the Ministry of Railways (MoR), effective from **September 1, 2025**.

- He was the first individual from the Scheduled Castes (SC)/Dalit community to hold this position in the history of the IRB.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Tenure extension of Satish Kumar by ACC
- ✓ **Role:** Chairman & CEO, Indian Railway Board
- ✓ **Effective from:** September 1, 2025
- ✓ **Significance:** First Chairman & CEO from SC

About Satish Kumar:

Service: A 1986 batch officer of the Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers (IRSME)

Key Positions Held:

- Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Lucknow Division, Uttar Pradesh (UP) (2017–2019)
- General Manager (GM), North Central Railway, Prayagraj (UP) (2022)
- Senior Deputy General Manager (SDGM) & Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO), North Western Railway (NWR), Jaipur (Rajasthan)
- Member (Traction & Rolling Stock), Railway Board

Contributions : His leadership has been marked by initiatives such as the **Fog Safe Device** for train safety and the implementation of Total Quality Management (TQM) to enhance operational efficiency and safety across Indian Railways

Rajeev Shukla Appointed Interim BCCI President

In August 2025, **Rajeev Shukla**, Vice-President (VP) of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) since 2020, assumed charge as the interim President of BCCI after Roger Binny stepped down upon reaching the age limit of 70 years as per BCCI rules. Binny turned 70 on July 19, 2025, leading to his resignation under the age-limit clause.

- Rajeev Shukla (65), who has been serving as the BCCI vice-president since 2020, will serve as interim president until the next BCCI elections, expected in September 2025.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Appointment of Interim president of BCCI
- ✓ **Who?** Rajeev Shukla
- ✓ **Why?** Roger Binny resigned after turning 70 (age limit rule)
- ✓ **Shukla's Background:** Vice-President since 2020; MP from Chhattisgarh; former IPL Chairman (2011)
- ✓ **Next Steps:** Elections expected in September 2025
- ✓ **Age Rules:** Current cap 70 years; new rules allow 70-75 years with conditions

Note: Earlier, C.K. Khanna had served as acting BCCI president between 2017-2019 during the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators' tenure that governed the board for 33 months.

About Rajeev Shukla and Roger Binny:

Rajeev Shukla: Member of Parliament in Rajya Sabha from Chhattisgarh, he earlier chaired the Indian Premier League (IPL) in 2011.

Roger Binny: Former President of BCCI since 2022, replacing Sourav Ganguly. Binny also served as President of Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) and coached India's U-19 team that won the 2000 ICC U-19 Men's World Cup in Sri Lanka..

Governance Changes:

- In August 2025, Parliament passed the National Sports Governance Act (2025), but it will take 4–5 months to come into effect.
- Until then, elections will be conducted under the existing BCCI constitution, based on the Supreme Court's Lodha Committee recommendations.
- The current age cap for office bearers is 70 (Lodha Committee recommendations), but the new act allows those aged 70-75 to contest if international governing body rules permit.
- As per the new rule, the office bearers must step down after 9 years in total or 6 consecutive years.

Justices Alok Aradhe, Vipul Pancholi Sworn in as Judges of Supreme Court of India

On August 29, 2025, Justice **Alok Aradhe** and Justice **Vipul Manubhai Pancholi** sworn in as the **Judges** of the Supreme Court (**SC**) of India by taking oath administered by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) **B.R. Gavai**.

- With their appointment, the SC now operates at its full sanctioned strength of **34 judges**, including the CJI.

Exam Hints:

- What?** Appointment of Judges of Supreme Court
- Appointees:** Justices Alok Aradhe and Vipul Manubhai Pancholi
- Oath Administrator:** B.R. Gavai, CJI
- Appointment:** Article 124 (2) of the Constitution of India
- Who?** President Draupadi Murmu

Career Highlights:

Constitution: The judges of the SC are appointed by the President of India under **Article 124 (2)** of the Constitution of India.

Justice Alok Aradhe: He began his judicial career in the Madhya Pradesh(MP) High Court(HC) in 2009. He has served in various HC, including Jammu & Kashmir(J&K), Karnataka, Telangana, and Maharashtra.

- Currently, he was the Chief Justice of the Bombay HC before his elevation to the SC. His tenure in the SC will conclude on **April 13, 2029**.

Vipul Manubhai : He commenced his judicial career in the Gujarat HC in 2014. He was transferred to the Patna HC in July 2023 and became its Chief Justice in July 2025. His term in the Supreme Court is set to end on May 28, 2033

AWARDS

71st National Film Awards for the Year 2023: '12th Fail' Bags the Best Feature Film Award

On August 1, 2025, the Jury of the **71st** National Film Awards announced the list of winners of the National Award for the year **2023** at an event held at the National Media Centre in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The list of awardees was presented to Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB), and Minister of State (MoS) Dr. L. Murugan, MIB.
- The National Film Awards are presented by the National Film Development Corporation of India (NFDC), under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting(MIB).

Exam Hints:

- What?** Winners of the 71st National Film Awards are announced
- Year:** 2023
- By Whom?** Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB)
- Who Organised?** Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF), MIB
- Best Actor for feature films:** Actor Vikrant Massey for 12th Fail (Hindi), Actor Shah Rukh Khan for Jawan (Hindi)
- Best Actress:** Actress Rani Mukerji for Mrs. Chatterjee V/s Norway (Hindi)
- Best Feature Film:** "12th Fail", directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra.
- Best Non-Feature Film:** 'Flowering Man' (Hindi) directed by Soumyajit Ghosh Dastidar
- Most Awards:** 'Sam Bahadur' (Hindi) won 3 awards
- Presented by:** NFDC under MIB



Highlights of the Awards:

Best Actor: The Best Actor award was shared by **Vikrant Massey** for the Hindi film “12th Fail” and **Shah Rukh Khan** for the Hindi film “Jawan”. The actors share the Rajat Kamal (Silver Lotus award) and the cash prize of Rs. 2 lakhs.

- This marks the first National Film Award for Shah Rukh Khan in his cinema career.

Best Actress: Actress **Rani Mukerji** has won the Best Actress award for the Hindi film Mrs. Chatterjee V/s Norway. She will be honoured with a silver lotus award and a cash prize of Rs. 2 lakhs.

Best Feature Film: The Hindi film “**12th Fail**”, directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra, bagged the Best Feature Film Award.

- The movie follows the journey of a boy from a small village, who fails in class 12 exams but refuses to give up on his dream of becoming a civil servant. The movie emphasizes resilience, honesty, and hard work, which made the boy achieve his goal.

Best Non-Feature Film: The Hindi film ‘**Flowering Man**’, directed by Soumyajit Ghosh Dastidar, was awarded the Best Non-Feature Film.

- The film portrays a deep human, poetic narrative, focusing on rural life, personal transformation, or environmental harmony.

Best Popular Film: The Hindi film ‘**Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani**’ has bagged two awards, including Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment and Best Choreography.

Most Awards: The Hindi film ‘**Sam Bahadur**’ won 3 awards, including Best Film Promoting National/Social/Environmental Values, Best Costume Design, and Best Make-Up Artist.

Best Director: The Hindi film ‘Kerala Story’ won two awards, including Best Director for **Sudipto Sen** and Best Cinematography.

National Film Awards:

Presented: The National Film Awards is the most prominent film award, presented by the Government of India (GOI) to celebrate excellence in cinema across all languages, regions, and formats.

Organised: It is organised by the Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF) under MIB.

Established: It was established in **1954** to encourage production of films which are aesthetic, technical, and are of social relevance.

Sections: The awards are divided into **three sections** such as Feature films, Non-Feature films, and Best Writing on Cinema.

Categories: **Six** categories from the Feature film section, Two from the Non-Feature films and Best Writing on Cinema sections have been made eligible for Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus Award), and the rest of the categories for Rajat Kamal (Silver Lotus Award).

Jury of 71st National Film Awards:

Feature Films: The Feature Film Jury was chaired by Director and Actor, **Ashutosh Gowariker** (Central Panel), Director Jose Antony Palackapillil (North Panel), Actor Shivadhvaj Shetty (East Panel), Director and Screenwriter Tushar Hiranandani (West Panel), Actor Abhijeet Shirish Deshpande (South Panel I), and Cinematographer Malay Ray.

Non-Feature Film: The Non-Feature Film Jury was chaired by Director P Sheshadri

Best Writing: The Best Writing on Cinema Jury was chaired by Writer Gopalkrishna Pai.

71st National Film Awards – Best Film Critic

Awardee	Language	Medal & Cash Prize
Utpal Datta	Assamese	Swarna Kamal and Rs. 1 lakh

Winners of 71st National Film Awards- Non-Feature Film

Category	Film (Language)	Awardee	Medal & Cash Prize
Best Non-Feature Film	Flowering Man (Hindi)	Producer: Film and Television Institute of India Director: Soumyajit Ghosh Dastidar	Swarna Kamal Rs. 3 lakh each
Best Debut Film of a Director	Mau: The Spirit Dreams of Cheraw (Mizo)	Director: Shilpika Bordoloi	Swarna Kamal Rs.3 lakh each
Best Biographical/ Historical Reconstruction/ Compilation Film	Mo Bou, Mo Gaan (Odia)	Producer: Kicksy Wicksy Films, RNV 1820 Films Director: Subash Sahoo	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs (shared)
	Lentina Ao- A Light on the Eastern Horizon	Producer: NFDC Director: Sanjib Parasar	
Best Arts/ Culture Film	Timeless Tamil Nadu (English)	Producer: Celebrities Management Private Limited Director: Kamakhya Narayan Singh	Rajat Kamal Rs.2 lakh
Best Documentary	God Vulture and Human (English, Hindi & Telugu)	Producer: Studio Lichi, Dr. Rajesh Chandwani Director: Rishiraj Agarwal	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakh each
Best Non- Feature Film Promoting Social and Environmental Values	The Silent Epidemic (Hindi)	Producer: Cinema4good Private Limited, Raahgiri Foundation Director: Akshat Gupta	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakh each
Best Short Film (Up to 30 minutes)	Giddh The Scavenger (Hindi)	Producer: Ellanar Films Director: Manish Saini	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakh each
Best Direction	The First Film (Hindi)	Director: Piyush Thakur	Swarna Kamal Rs. 3 lakh each

Best Cinematography	Little Wings (Tamil)	Cinematographer: Saravanamaruthu Soundarapandi & Meenakshi Soman	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs (shared)
Best Sound Design	Dhundhgiri Ke Phool	Sound Designer: Shubharun Sengupta	Rajat Kamal Rs.2 lakhs
Best Editing	Moving Focus (English)	Editor: Niladri Roy	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs
Best Music Direction	The First Film (Hindi)	Music Director: Pranil Desai	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs
Best Narration/ Voice Over	The Sacred Jack-Exploring the Tree of Wishes (English)	Narrator: Harikrishnan S	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs
Best Script	Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know.... (Kannada)	Script Writer: Chidananda Naik	Rajat Kamal Rs.2 lakhs
Special Mention	Nekal – Chronicle of the Paddy Man (Malayalam)	Director & Producer: M K Ramadas	Certificate (each)
	The Sea and Seven Villages (Odia)	Producer: Kadambini Media Private Limited Director: Himansu Sekhar Khatua	Certificate (each)

Winners of 71st National Film Awards - Feature Film

Category	Film (Language)	Awardee	Medal & Cash Prize
Best Feature Film	12th Fail (Hindi)	Producer: VC Films LLP	Swarna Kamal Rs. 3 lakhs each
Best Debut Film of a Director	Aatmapamphlet (Marathi)	Director: Ashish Bende	Swarna Kamal Rs. 3 lakhs
Award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani (Hindi)	Producer: Dharma Productions Private Limited Director: Karan Johar	Swarna Kamal Rs.3 lakhs each

Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social, and Environmental Values	Sam Bahadur (Hindi)	Producer: Unilazer Ventures Private Limited Director: Meghna Gulzar	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs each
Best Children's Film	Naal 2 (Marathi)	Producer: Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited, Aatpat Productions Director: Sudhakar Reddy Yakkanti	Swarna Kamal Rs. 3 lakhs each
Best Film in AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming & Comic)	Hanu-Man (Telugu)	Producer: Primeshow Entertainment Private Limited Director: Prasanth Varma	Swarna Kamal Rs. 3 lakhs each
		Animator: Jetty Venkat Kumar	Swarna Kamal Rs. 3 lakhs
		VFX Supervisor: Jetty Venkat Kumar	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs
Best Direction	The Kerala Story (Hindi)	Director: Sudipto Sen	Swarna Kamal Rs.3 lakhs
Best Actor in a Leading Role	Jawan (Hindi)	Actor: Shah Rukh Khan	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs (shared)
	12th Fail (Hindi)	Actor: Vikrant Massey	
Best Actress in a Leading Role	Mrs. Chatterjee V/s Norway (Hindi)	Actress: Rani Mukerji	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs
Best Actor in a Supporting Role	Pookkaalam (Malayalam)	Supporting Actor: Vijayaraghavan	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs (shared)
	Parking (Tamil)	Supporting Actor: Muthupettai Somu Bhaskar	

Best Actress in a Supporting Role	Ullozhuku (Malayalam)	Supporting Actress: Urvashi	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs (shared)
	Vash (Gujarat)	Supporting Actress: Janki Bodiwala	
Best Child Artist	Gandhi Tatha Chettu (Telugu)	Child Artist: Sukriti Veni Bandreddi	Rajat Kamal Rs 2 lakhs (Shared)
	Gypsy (Marathi)	Child Artist: Kabir Khandare	
	Naal 2 (Marathi)	Child Artist: Treeshaa Thosar, Shrinivas Pokale & Bhargav Jagtap	
Best Male Playback Singer	Baby (Premisthunna) (Telugu)	Singer: PVN S Rohit	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs
Best Female Playback Singer	Jawan (Chaliya) (Hindi)	Singer: Shilpa Rao	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs
Best Cinematography	The Kerala Story (Hindi)	Cinematographer: Prasantanu Mohapatra	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs
	Baby (Telugu)	Screenplay Writer (Original): Sai Rajesh Neelam	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs (Shared) Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs (shared)
	Parking (Tamil)	Screenplay Writer (Original): Ramkumar Balakrishnan	
	Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai (Hindi)	Dialogue Writer: Deepak Kingrani	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs
Best Sound Design	Animal (Hindi)	Sound Designer: Sachin Sudhakaran, Hariharan Muralidharan	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs (Shared)

Best Editing	Pookkaalam (Malayalam)	Editor: Midhun Murali	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs
Best Production Design	2018-Everyone Is A Hero (Malayalam)	Production Designer: Mohandas	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs
Best Costume Designer	Sam Bahadur (Hindi)	Costume Designer: Sachin Lovalekar, Divyya Gambhir, and Nidhhi Gambhir	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs (shared)
Best Make-up	Sam Bahadur (Hindi)	Make-up Artist: Shrikant Desai	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs
Best Music Direction	Vaathi (Tamil)	Music Director (Songs): G V Prakash Kumar	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs
	Animal (Hindi)	Music Director (Background Music): Harshavardhan Rameshwar	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs
Best Lyrics	Balagam (Ooru Palleturu) (Telugu)	Kasarla Shyam	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs
Best Choreography	Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani (Dhindhora Baje Re) (Hindi)	Choreographer: Vaibhavi Merchant	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs
Best Action Direction Award (Stunt Choreography)	Hanu-Man (Telugu)	Stunt Choreographer: Nandhu Prudhvi	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs

Best Feature Film- Language Wise

Category	Film	Awardee	Medal & Cash Prize
Best Feature Film in the language specified in Schedule VIII of the Constitution			
Best Assamese Film	Rongatapu 1982	Producer: BRC Cine Production Director: Adityam Saikia	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs each

Best Bengali Film	Deep Fridge	Producer: Colors of Dream Entertainment Director: Arjun Dutta	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs each
Best Gujarati Film	Vash	Producer: Big Box Series Private Limited, K S Entertainment LLP Director: Krishnadev Yagnik	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs each
Best Hindi Film	Kathal: A Jackfruit Mystery	Producer: Netflix Entertainment Services Private Limited, Balaji Telefilms Limited, Sikhya Entertainment Private Limited Director: Yashowardhan Mishra	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs each
Best Kannada Film	Kandeelu- The Ray of Hope	Producer: Swastik Entertainment Director: K Yashoda Prakash	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs each
Best Malayalam Film	Ullozhukku (Undercurrent)	Producer: Unnilazer Ventures Private Limited, Macguffin Pictures Director: Christo Tomy	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs each
Best Marathi Film	Shyamchi Aai	Producer: Amruta Films Director: Sujay Sunil Dahake	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs each
Best Odia Film	Pushkara	Producer: Tarang Cine Productions Director: Subhransu Das	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs each

Best Punjabi Film	Godday Godday Chaa	Producer: VH Entertainment, Zee Studios Director: Vijay Kumar Arora	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs each
Best Tamil Film	Parking	Producer: Soldiers Factory, Passion Studio Director: Ramkumar Balakrishnan	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs each
Best Telugu Film	Bhagavanth Kesari (I Don't Care)	Producer: Shine Screens (India) LLP Director: Anil Ravipudi	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs each

Best Feature Film in the Languages other than those specified in the Schedule VIII of the Constitution

Best Garo Film	Rimdogittanga	Producer: Anna Films, Uncombed Buddha, Joicy Studio Director: Dominic Megam Sangma	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs each
Best Tai Phake Film	Pai Tang Step of Hope	Producer: Naba Kumar Bhuyan Director: Prabal Khaund	Rajat Kamal Rs. 2 lakhs each
Special Mention	Animal (Re-Recording Mixer) (Hindi)	M R Rajakrishnan	Certificate

About the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB):

Union Minister – Ashwini Vaishnav (Rajya Sabha – Odisha)

Minister of State (MoS) – Dr. L. Murugan (Rajya Sabha – Madhya Pradesh, MP)

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Honoured with 43rd Lokmanya Tilak National Award

In August 2025, Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari**, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) has been honoured with the **43rd Lokmanya National Award** at a ceremony held in Pune, Maharashtra.

- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari was honoured for his impactful work in road and highway infrastructure, reflecting his dedication to national development and good governance.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Lokmanya National Award was presented

- ✓ **To Whom?** Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, MoRTH
- ✓ **Award Edition:** 43rd
- ✓ **Where?** Pune, Maharashtra
- ✓ **Occasion:** Death anniversary of Bala Gangadhar Tilak (also known as Lokmanya Tilak)
- ✓ **Prize:** Rs. 1 lakh, a citation, and a memento.

About Lokmanya Tilak National Award:

Established: The Lokmanya Tilak National Award was instituted in 1983 by the Tilak Samark Mandir Trust.

- The award, presented annually on the **death anniversary of Bala Gangadhar Tilak** (also known as Lokmanya Tilak), recognizes remarkable contributions to the progress and development of India.

Prize: The award includes a cash prize of **Rs. 1 lakh**, a citation, and a memento.

Previous Awardees: The Award has been previously conferred upon former Prime Ministers(PM), including Indira Gandhi, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and Dr Manmohan Singh and Current PM Narendra Modi.

PM Narendra Modi's initiative 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2025' creates a Guinness World Record

In August 2025, Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi's flagship platform **Pariksha Pe Charcha** (PPC), organised by the Ministry of Education (**MoE**) in collaboration with MyGov, has been conferred with the **Guinness World Record** on title the "Most people registered on a Citizen Engagement Platform in one month"

- This recognition marks the accomplishment of **3.53 crore** valid registrations in one month during the **8th** edition of the PPC program.
- It was formally conferred during the event held in New Delhi, Delhi in the presence of Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Education(MoE), Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Information and Broadcasting(MIB) and Nand Kumar, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MyGov.



Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** Pariksha Pe Charcha(PPC) 2025
- ✓ **Edition:** 8th
- ✓ **Organised by:** MoE and MyGov platform
- ✓ **Recognised by:** Guinness World Records
- ✓ **Record Title:** Most people registered on a Citizen Engagement Platform in one month
- ✓ **Key Achievement:** 3.53 crore valid registrations on MyGov platform

About Pariksha Pe Charcha 2025:

Overview: It is an annual worldwide program where students, teachers, and parents can directly connect during exam time.

Launch: It was launched in **2018** as a national movement, under the MoE, to align with the goals of the NEP 2020, and to promote stress-free education to students.

Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport Bags International Architectural Award 2025

On August 8, 2025, Terminal 2 (T2) of the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (also known as Guwahati International Airport) in Guwahati (Assam) won the International Architectural Award 2025 in the Transport Category.

- The award is conferred by The Chicago Athenaeum: Museum Architecture and Design, in collaboration with The European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies, and Metropolitan Arts Press Limited.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** International Architectural Award 2025 was announced
- ✓ **Awardee:** Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (Terminal 2)
- ✓ **Airport Location:** Guwahati, Assam
- ✓ **Category:** Transport
- ✓ **Conferrer:** The Chicago Athenaeum: Museum Architecture and Design, The European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies, Metropolitan Arts Press Limited.

Airport: Guwahati International Airport, operated by Adani Airport Holdings Limited, connects the Northeast to the rest of India and other foreign destinations.

Design: The architectural design of T2 as a tribute to the Northeast India, has drawn inspiration from the resilience of bamboo and the grace of the foxtail orchid, symbolizing the cultural and natural heritage of Assam.

Rajasthan's Manika Vishwakarma Crowned Miss Universe India 2025

On 18th August 2025, **Manika Vishwakarma** from Sri Ganganagar(Rajasthan), was crowned **Miss Universe India 2025** in a grand finale held in Jaipur, Rajasthan. She will represent India at the 74th Miss Universe pageant, scheduled for November 2025 at Thailand.

- The crown was passed on to Manika Vishwakarma by **Rhea Singha**, Miss Universe India 2024.


Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Crowned **Miss Universe India 2025**
- ✓ **Who?** Manika Vishwakarma (Rajasthan)
- ✓ **Other Winners:** Tanya Sharma, Mehak Dhingra , Amishi Kaushik.
- ✓ **Successor:** Rhea Singha (Miss Universe India 2024).
- ✓ **Manika's Initiative:** Founder of Neuronova (neurodivergence awareness)
- ✓ **International Representation:** Represent India at **74th Miss Universe pageant** in Thailand, November 2025

Key Details of the Event

Participants: The finale featured **48 contestants** from states including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh(MP), Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Odisha, West Bengal(WB), Jammu and Kashmir(J&K), Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh(UP), Punjab, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and Delhi.

Judges: Panel included Miss Universe India owner Nikhil Anand, actress Urvashi Rautela (Miss Universe India 2015), and filmmaker Farhad Samji and Founder of Act Now Organisation Rajiv K Shrivastava, among others.

Organizer : The event was organized by the Glamanand Group.

Runners-up: Tanya Sharma (Uttar Pradesh, UP) – 1st Runner-up; Mehak Dhingra (Haryana) – 2nd Runner-up; Amishi Kaushik(Haryana) – 3rd Runner-up.

About Manika Vishwakarma:

Education: 22-year-old, Final-year Political Science and Economics student based in New Delhi, Delhi.

Artistic Recognition: She is a trained classical dancer and recognised by Lalit Kala Academy (New Delhi) and JJ School of Arts (Mumbai, Maharashtra) for her artistic talent

Advocacy: Founder of **Neuronova**, an initiative promoting neurodivergence awareness, encouraging inclusivity and viewing conditions such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (**ADHD**) as cognitive

strengths rather than disorders.

Global Representation: Represented India at Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Sewocon, organized by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)

Previous Achievement: Winner of Miss Universe Rajasthan 2024

PFA Award 2025: Liverpool's Mo Salah & Arsenal Star Mariona Caldentay Named Player of the Year for 2024-25

In August 2025, Liverpool forward **Mohamed Salah** (Egypt) has been named as the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) Player of the Year Award for 2024-25. Following this recognition, he has become the 1st ever player in the history of football as well as 1st Egyptian footballer to win this title for the 3rd time (in 2018, 2022 and 2025).

- While, Arsenal midfielder **Mariona Caldentey (Spain)** has been named the PFA Women's Player of the Year Award for 2024-25.
- The official ceremony for PFA Awards for 2024-25 was held at the Manchester Opera House, the United Kingdom (UK).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) Awards for 2024-25
- ✓ **Where?** Manchester Opera House, UK
- ✓ **Winners:** Mohammed Salah (Men's category) and Mariona Caldentey (in women's category)
- ✓ **Salah's Achievement:** for 3rd time (2018, 2022 and 2025)
- ✓ **PFA Merit Award Winners:** Sir Gareth Southgate and Emma Hayes OBE



Other Winners:

PFA Championship Player Award: **James Trafford** (Manchester City) has become the 1st goalkeeper to be named the PFA Championship Player of the Year Award.

PFA Merit Award: **Sir Gareth Southgate** and **Emma Hayes OBE** named as the recipient of the PFA Merit Award for 2025.

PFA Young Player Award: Aston Villa midfielder **Morgan Rogers** won the PFA Men's Young Player of the Year title for 2025. This marked Villa's 1st victory for this title since James Milner won the title in 2010.

- While, Canadian forward **Olivia Smith** (from Arsenal) has been named PFA Women's Young Player of the Year Award.
- She transferred to Arsenal for GBP 1 million (British Pounds), becoming the first female footballer to surpass the GBP 1 million transfer milestone.

Winners of PFA Awards 2024-25:

Award	Name of the Player	Name of Football Club (FC)
PFA Men's Player of the Year	Mohammed Salah (Egypt)	Liverpool
PFA Women's Player of the Year	Mariona Caldentay (Spain)	Arsenal
PFA Men's Young Player of the Year	Morgan Rogers (England)	Aston Villa

PFA Women's Young Player of the Year	Olivia Smith (Canada)	Arsenal
PFA Championship Player of the Year	James Trafford (England)	Manchester City
PFA League One Player of the Year	Richard Kone (Ivory Coast)	Wycombe Wanderer
PFA League One Player of the Year	Michael Cheek (England)	Bromley
Special Recognition Award		
PFA Merit Award	Sir Gareth (England) and Emma Hayes OBE (England)	

Winner of PFA Premier League Team for 2024-25:

Position	Name of the player
Goalkeeper	Matz Sels (Nottingham Forest)
Defenders	Virgil van Dijk (Liverpool), Milos Kerkez (Bournemouth), William Saliba (Arsenal), Gabriel Magalhaes (Arsenal)
Midfielders	Declan Rice (Arsenal), Ryan Gravenberch (Liverpool), Alexis Mac Allister (Liverpool)
Forwards	Mohamed Salah (Liverpool), Alexander Isak (Newcastle), Chris Wood (Nottingham Forest)

About Professional Footballers' Association (PFA):

It is the union for all current and former footballers and scholars in the Premier League, the FA Women's Super League and the English Football Leagues.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- Maheta Molango

Headquarters- Manchester, the United Kingdom (UK)

Established- 1907

ACQUISITION & MERGERS

RBI approves merger of New India Co-operative Bank with Saraswat Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) have approved the merger of New India Co-operative Bank (**NICBL**) with **Saraswat Co-operative Bank**, effective from August 4, 2025.

- After the merger, all branches of New India Co-operative Bank Ltd will function as branches of Saraswat Co-operative Bank Ltd.

Exam Hints:

- What? Approves merger of NICBL with Saraswat Bank
- Approved by: RBI

- ✓ **Effective from:** 4th August 2025
- ✓ **Under:** Section 44A(4) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

Amalgamation of New India Co-operative Bank with Saraswat Bank:

Amalgamation: The RBI sanctioned the Scheme of Amalgamation under **Section 44A(4) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, after the approval of the boards and shareholders' Special General Meeting of both banks.

- It is sanctioned to give full access to deposits, with no haircut post-amalgamation for the depositors of NICBL.

Background: In February 2025, NICBL was placed under RBI moratorium for an embezzlement of **Rs 122 crore** and poor governance of the bank.

- It resulted in a transaction ban sanction on the bank, including withdrawals, deposits and other financial forms.

CCI Approvals on 5th August 2025

On 5th August 2025, the Competition Commission of India (CCI), under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), has approved the following two proposals:

- Approved the acquisition of **100%** stake in Jaiprakash Associates Limited (**JAL**) by **Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited**, a wholly owned subsidiary of Dalmia Bharat Limited (DBL).
- Approved the acquisition of 90% equity shareholding of **Theobroma Foods Private Limited** by three private equity entities – **Infinity Partners, Aqua Investments Limited, and Atreides Investments B.V.**, which collectively belong to the ChrysCapital Group.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** CCI Approvals
- ✓ **Acquirer:** Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited
- ✓ **Target:** Jaiprakash Associates Limited
- ✓ **Stake ownership:** 100%
- ✓ **Transaction Value:** Rs. 5,666 crore
- ✓ **Acquirer:** Infinity Partners, Aqua Investments Limited and Atreides Investments B.V. (ChrysCapital entities)
- ✓ **Target:** Theobroma Foods Private Limited
- ✓ **Stake ownership:** 90%
- ✓ **Transaction Value:** Rs. 2,410 crore

CCI Approves Acquisition of Jaiprakash Associates by Dalmia Cement (Bharat):

Approval: The CCI approved the proposed acquisition of 100% stake in Noida, Uttar Pradesh (UP) based JAL by New Delhi (Delhi)-based **Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited** (Acquirer), a wholly owned subsidiary of DBL.

- The acquisition was proposed under the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (**IBC**), 2016.

Valuation: The acquisition deal was valued at **Rs. 5,666 crore** and was initiated in December 2022.

NCLT Admission: The acquisition follows the admission of JAL into CIRP by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Allahabad Bench(Uttar Pradesh, UP), on 3rd June 2025.

About Entities:

DBL: It is the parent company of the **Dalmia Bharat Group**, which mainly operates in the manufacture and sale of cement.

JAL: A part of the Jaypee Group, JAL is involved in various sectors including real estate, cement, hospitality, and EPC (Engineering, Procurement & Construction).

CCI Approves Equity Acquisition in Theobroma Foods Private Limited by ChrysCapital Group Entities

Approval: The CCI approved the acquisition of **90%** equity shareholding of Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based **Theobroma Foods** Private Limited by three private equity entities (Acquirer), namely Infinity Partners, Aqua Investments Limited, and Atreides Investments B.V., which collectively belong to the ChrysCapital Group.

- The founders are expected to retain approximately 10% ownership in the company.

Transaction Value: The transaction is valued at **Rs. 2,410 crore**.

Stake Acquisition: The acquisition involved purchasing the stake from **ICICI Ventures**, subsidiary of ICICI Bank and a part of the promoter family's shareholding.

About Entities:

Theobroma Foods Private Limited: It is a bakery and confectionery brand that manufactures and sells food and beverages through over 200 patisseries and stores in 30 Indian cities.

ChrysCapital: It is a private equity investment firm with a focus on growth-oriented investments across sectors like financial services, healthcare, consumer goods, and technology.

Ant Financial Sells 5.84% Stake in Paytm for Rs.3,803 Crores

On August 5, 2025, **Antfin (Netherlands) Holding B.V.** (formerly known as Ant Financial), a subsidiary of Alibaba Group, exited Pay Through Mobile(**Paytm**), a subsidiary of One97 Communications, by selling its stake of **5.84%** (3.73 crore shares) for **Rs.3,803 crores** (approximately USD 455 million), valued at an average price of Rs.1,020 per share, through open market transactions in two slots.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Ant Financial Sells 5.84% Stake in Paytm
- ✓ **Value:** Rs. 3,803 Crores
- ✓ **Mode:** Open Market transaction

Buyers: Societe Generale purchased 1.06% stake (67.50 lakh shares) in Paytm for Rs.720.56 crores. MY Asian Opportunities Master Fund LP, a subsidiary of MY. Alpha Management purchased 0.55% stake (35 lakh equity shares) in Paytm for Rs.373.62 crores.

Indian Ownership: Following the exit of Antfin, Paytm is fully owned by Indian companies, paving way for smoother regulatory approvals and enhanced confidence of the investors.

Antfin Singapore Divests 1.46% Stake in Eternal for Rs. 4,097 Crores

On August 7, 2025, Antfin Singapore Holding Private Limited (**Antfin Singapore**), a subsidiary of Ant Group (formerly known as Ant Financial), has sold its **1.46%** stake (14.13 crore shares) in Eternal Limited, the parent company of Zomato and Blinkit, for **Rs.4,097 crores** (approximately USD 612 million), valued at an average price of Rs.289.91 per share, through open-market transactions.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Antfin Singapore Holding Divests 1.46% Stake in Eternal
- ✓ **Value:** Rs.4,097 crores
- ✓ **Mode:** open-market transactions

Holdings: Prior to the sale, Antfin held approximately 1.95% stake (18.84 crore shares). With this move, the holdings of Antfin have been reduced to 0.49%.

Eternal: Zomato, founded in 2008, was rebranded to Eternal Limited in March 2025. It includes businesses such as Zomato, food delivery platform; Blinkit, Quick-commerce platform; Hyperpure, supplies high quality ingredients to restaurants, and District; live events and ticketing services.

Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Acquires 2.1% Stake in JM Financial Home Loans for Rs 65.5 Crores

On August 9, 2025, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Limited (**Bajaj Allianz Life**), a Joint Venture (**JV**) between Allianz SE and Bajaj Finserv Limited, has acquired **2.1%** stake (1.36 crore equity shares) in JM Financial Home Loans Limited (JMFHLL) for **Rs.65.5 crores**, valued at a price of Rs.48 per share.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance acquired 2.1% Stake in JM Financial Home Loans
- ✓ **Value:** Rs.65.5 crores (Rs.48 per share)
- ✓ **Seller:** JM Financial Credit Solutions (JMFCSL)
- ✓ **Shareholding:** the shareholding of JMFCSL has dropped from 8.98% to 6.88%

Purchase: Bajaj Allianz purchased the stake from JM Financial Credit Solutions (JMFCSL), a wholly owned subsidiary of JM Financial Limited.

Shareholding: With this transaction, the shareholding of JMFCSL has reduced from 8.98% to 6.88%, and JM Financial's holding in JMFHLL through its subsidiaries has reduced from 98.76% to 96.66%.

ADSTL, Prime Aero Signed Agreement to Acquire 100% Stake in ITPL

In August 2025, Adani Defence Systems and Technologies Limited (**ADSTL**), in collaboration with **Prime Aero Services LLP**, has signed a binding agreement for the acquisition of **100%** stake in Indamer Technics Private Limited (**ITPL**), a private sector Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) company.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Agreement signed
- ✓ **Entities Involved:** ADSTL and Prime Aero Services LLP
- ✓ **Objective:** To acquire 100% stake in ITPL
- ✓ **Acquisition Vehicle:** Horizon Solutions Limited, a 50:50 JV between ADSTL and Prime Aero.
- ✓ **MRO Facility:** 30-acre greenfield site at MIHAN SEZ in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

ADSTL-Prime Aero ITPL Acquisition:

Acquisition Structure: This acquisition will be executed through **Horizon Solutions Limited**, a 50:50 Joint Venture (JV) between ADSTL and Prime Aero.

Integration Plan: After completing the acquisition of Air Works, ADSTL will integrate ITPL's capabilities to enhance and expand services for both commercial and defence aircraft.

About MRO Facility: The acquired MRO facility spans 30 acres and is situated within the Multi Modal International Cargo Hub & Airport at Nagpur (MIHAN) Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Maharashtra.

- The facility is equipped to handle 15 aircraft bays spread across 10 hangars.

Infosys to Acquire 75% Stake in Versent Group for USD 153 million

On August 14, 2025, **Infosys**, India's second-largest Information Technology (IT) firm, announced its strategic move to acquire **75%** stake in **Versent Group**, a telecommunication company and wholly owned subsidiary of Australia's Telstra, for **USD 153 million** (approximately Rs 1,300 crores) to establish a Joint Venture (JV) focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered cloud and digital services.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Infosys is set to acquire 75% stake in Versent Group
- ✓ **Value:** USD 153 million (approximately Ras 1,300 crores)
- ✓ **Ownership Structure:** Infosys(75%) and Telstra(25%)
- ✓ **Purpose:** To establish a Joint Venture (JV) focused on AI-powered cloud and digital services.

Acquisition Details:

Stake: Under the deal, **Telstra** retains a **25% stake** in Versent Group, while Infosys assumes operational

control of Versent, Epicon, Telstra Purple Digital, and Cloud Access products.

Venture: The JV will integrate advanced technologies of Infosys such as Infosys Topaz, an AI platform; Infosys Cobalt, a cloud suite; and the Missing Link, a cybersecurity arm of Infosys with connectivity infrastructure of Telstra and local digital transformation strengths of Versent.

Timeline: The acquisition is expected to be finalized in the second half of Financial Year 2025-26(FY26), subject to approvals from Australia's Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC).

CCI Approvals on August 19, 2025

On August 19, 2025, the Competition Commission of India (**CCI**) under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MoCA) has approved the following proposals:

- Acquisition of all outstanding shares of the **Skechers U.S.A, Inc.** by **3G Capital Partners** and investment by **Kakapo Investment Pte. Ltd.**
- Acquisition of certain shareholding of Micro Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd. (**MLSPL**) by **Platinum Jasmine A 2018 Trust**.
- Acquisition of remaining 49% shareholding of Island Star Mall Developers Private Limited (**ISMDPL**) by The Phoenix Mills Limited (**PML**) for Rs.5,449.16 crore.
- Acquisition of certain equity stake in Quest Global Services Pte. Ltd. (**QGSPL**) by **CA Plume Investments** and **Bequest Inc(BI)**.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Acquisitions approved by CCI
- ✓ **Approval 1:** 100% of Skechers U.S.A by 3G capital
- ✓ **Approval 2:** Shares of MLSPL by Platinum Jasmine A 2018 Trust
- ✓ **Approval 3:** 49% of ISMDPL by PML or Rs.5,449.16 crore
- ✓ **Approval 4:** Shares of QGSPL by CA Plume Investments and Bequest Inc

Acquisition of Skechers U.S.A by 3G Capital:

Approval: The CCI has approved the indirect acquisition of the United States of America (USA) based **Skechers U.S.A, Inc** by affiliates of investment funds managed by 3G Capital Partners LP (**3G Capital**) i.e., the Beach Acquisition Co Parent, LLC (Beach Parent) and Beach Acquisition Merger Sub, Inc. (Beach Merger Sub).

Investment: GIC Investors, via its investment arm **Kakapo Investment**, will infuse capital to partly finance the 3G Transaction, granting it certain rights in Skechers U.S.A, Inc.

3G Capital: It is a global investment firm and private partnership that was established in 2004 and has been built on an owner-operator approach to investing over a long-term horizon.

GIC Investor: Wholly owned by GIC Blue Holdings, **GIC Investor** is part of the broader GIC ecosystem, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund.

Skechers U.S.A: The entity operates in the footwear, apparel and accessories sector.

Acquisition of MLSPL by Platinum Jasmine:

Approval: The CCI has approved the proposed acquisition of certain shareholding in Micro Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd. (**MLSPL**) by **Platinum Jasmine A 2018 Trust**, acting through its trustee Platinum Owl C 2018 RSC Limited.

Transaction Structure: The Platinum Jasmine A 2018 trust will subscribe to:

- Certain equity shares proposed to be issued by the MLSPL.
- Certain equity shares from Bilakhia Holdings Pvt. Ltd., amounting to approximately **3.06%** shareholding in Micro Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd.

Platinum Jasmine A 2018 Trust: It is an investment entity owned and controlled by the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority(ADIA).

MLSPL: Gujarat-based company specializing in the manufacture and sale of medical devices, including stents, heart valves, orthopaedic implants, and diagnostic products

Acquisition of Island Star Mall Developers by The Phoenix Mills:

Approval: The CCI approved The Phoenix Mills Ltd.'s (**PML**) proposal to acquire the remaining **49%** stake in Island Star Mall Developers Pvt Ltd (**ISMDPL**) from the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPP Investments) for **Rs.5,449.16 crore**.

Post-Acquisition Ownership: Following the transaction, Phoenix Mills will gain full control of ISMDPL, increasing its stake to **100%**.

PML: It is a leading developer and operator of commercial and retail spaces in India.

ISMDPL: It is engaged in designing, developing, operating, and leasing retail and commercial properties, along with its subsidiaries.

Acquisition of equity in QGSPL:

Approval: The CCI has approved the acquisition of certain shareholdings of **QGSPL** by the **CA Plume Investments**, an investment vehicle linked to The Carlyle Group, and Bequest Inc.(BI).

QGSPL: It is a company incorporated and currently headquartered in Singapore, that is primarily engaged in the business of providing Engineering Research & Development (ER&D) services worldwide.

CA Plume Investments: Incorporated in Mauritius, CA Plume is indirectly controlled by funds managed by affiliates of The Carlyle Group Inc., a leading global alternative asset manager.

Bequest Inc.(BI): Incorporated in the Cayman Islands, BI is a holding entity owned by Ajit Aravind Prabhu (AAP), Chairman, CEO, and co-founder of Quest Global. Its sole purpose is to hold shares in the company

Recent Related News:

On 18 July 2025, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Ahmedabad Bench in Gujarat, approved the merger of Adani Cementation Limited (ACL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL) into Ambuja Cements as a significant step to combine the cement and infrastructure businesses of the Adani Group as one unit. NCLT announced April 1, 2024, as the effective date of the merger.

Japan's SMBC Received RBI's approval to Acquire 25% Stake in Yes Bank

In August 2025, Japanese lender Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (**SMBC**), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Inc. (SMGF) has received the approval from Reserve Bank of India

(RBI) to acquire **up to 24.99%** paid-up capital and voting rights in **Yes Bank Limited**, India's leading private sector bank.

- As per the RBI, this approval is valid for **1 year** and has also clarified that SMBC will not be classified as a promoter of the bank.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** SMBC Received Approval to Acquire stake
- ✓ **Approved by:** RBI
- ✓ **Acquisition:** 24.99% (approx. 25%)
- ✓ **Target Entity:** Yes Bank Limited
- ✓ **Time Period:** 1 year

Key Details:

Background: In May 2025, SMBC had signed a definitive agreement to buy **20%** stake in YES Bank through a secondary stake purchase valued at around **Rs 13, 483 crore**, making it the largest cross-border investment in the Indian banking sector.

- This deal includes acquisition of **13.19%** stake from the State Bank of India (SBI).

- While, remaining **6.81%** stake collectively from 7 other existing shareholders of Yes Bank i.e. ICICI Bank Limited, HDFC Bank Limited, Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL), Axis Bank Limited, IDFC First Bank Limited, Federal Bank Limited, and Bandhan Bank Limited.

Regulatory Compliance: The approval (2025) is subject to compliance with the Banking Regulation Act (BRA), 1949, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) guidelines on acquisition of bank shares, the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999, and other applicable laws.

CCI Approvals on 27 August 2025

On 27th August 2025, the Competition Commission of India (**CCI**) under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MoCA) approved the following proposals:

- Acquisition of **PSA Bharat Investments** by **PSA India**
- Acquisition of **JAL** by **Adani Group Entities**
- Acquisition of **V.I.P. Industries Limited** by **Multiples Private Equity Funds**

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Acquisitions approved by CCI
- ✓ **Approval 1:** 40% of PSA Bharat Investments by PSA India (100% ownership achieved)
- ✓ **Approval 2:** 100% shareholdings of Jaiprakash Associates Limited by Adani Group Entities
- ✓ **Approval 3:** 32% stake in V.I.P. Industries Limited by Multiples Private Equity Funds, Samvibhag Securities, and individual investors

Acquisition of PSA Bharat Investments by PSA India:

Approval: The CCI approved PSA India Private Limited's (acquirer) acquisition of an additional **40%** shareholding in PSA Bharat Investments Private Limited (target) from AIN Investment Limited (seller).

Post-Acquisition Ownership: PSA India now holds **100%** equity in PSA Bharat Investments.

PSA India: A Singapore-based company and subsidiary of one of the world's largest port groups PSA International Private Limited (formerly Port of Singapore Authority), holds investments in India's maritime supply chain companies.

PSA Bharat Investments: A Singapore-based investment holding company, owns Indian subsidiaries that provide Container Terminal Services in India.

AIN Investment Ltd.: A Singapore-based investment holding company engaged in managing equity stakes across multiple entities.

Acquisition of Jaiprakash Associates Limited by Adani Group Entities:

Approval: The CCI approved the acquisition of up to **100%** shareholding of Jaiprakash Associates Limited (**JAL**) (Target) by Adani Enterprises Limited (**AEL**) and Adani Infrastructure and Developers Private Limited (**AIDPL**), or other Adani Group entities (acquirers).

Corporate Insolvency: JAL is undergoing Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (**IBC**, 2016), directed by National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Allahabad Bench in Uttar Pradesh (UP).

Adani Group Entities: It include **AEL**, the flagship company of the Group, and **AIDPL**, a wholly owned subsidiary of Adani Properties Private Limited serving as the holding company for its realty businesses.

JAL: UP-based JAL is a diversified infrastructure conglomerate with business interests across engineering & construction, cement, power, real estate, fertilizers, hospitality, and sports.

Acquisition of V.I.P. Industries Limited by Multiples Equity-led consortium:

Approval: The CCI approved the proposal of a consortium led by Multiples Equity, including Multiples Private Equity Fund IV (**MPEF**), Multiples Private Equity Gift Fund IV (**MPGF**), Samvibhag Securities Private Limited, Mithun Padam Sacheti, and Siddhartha Sacheti (acquirers) to acquire up to **32%** stake in V.I.P. Industries Limited (Target).

Management Transition: Upon completion of the acquisition, the consortium will take over management control of VIP Industries, while Dilip Piramal will continue to serve as Chairman Emeritus, with the Piramal family retaining their role as investors.

MPEF: Category II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) registered with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and managed by Multiples Alternate Asset Management Private Limited.

MPGF: Registered with the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), managed by Multiples Asset Management International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Limited Liability Partnership (LLP).

Samvibhag Securities: Investment entity, portfolio company of Akash Bhanshali.

- **V.I.P. Industries:** It is a listed Indian company engaged in the manufacture and sale of luggage, handbags, and travel accessories.

Recent Related News:

In July 2025, the CCI has approved the acquisition of the remaining 51% stake held by Nissan in Renault Nissan Automotive India Private Limited (RNAIPL)(Target) by Renault Group B.V. (Acquirer 1) and its nominee, Renault S.A.S. (Acquirer 2).

With this acquisition, Renault now holds full (100%) ownership of the Indian joint venture (JV), which operates a large vehicle manufacturing facility in Oragadam, near Chennai, Tamil Nadu(TN).

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NASA-ISRO NISAR Satellite Successfully Launched for Advanced Earth Observation

On July 30, 2025, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite aboard the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)-F16 rocket from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

- This marks the **first-ever joint Earth observation mission** between ISRO and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States of America (USA), with a joint investment exceeding USD 1.5 billion over 10+ years of development.
- It is the **world's first radar imaging satellite to operate with dual-frequency bands**, L-band and S-band on a single platform, enabling accurate monitoring of the cryosphere, ecosystems, and solid Earth processes.
- This mission marked the 18th launch of the GSLV and the 12th using India's indigenous cryogenic upper stage.



Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** NISAR satellite launched for Earth observation.
- ✓ **Launched from:** Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP)
- ✓ **Vehicle:** Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)-F16
- ✓ **Developed by:** ISRO and NASA (USA)
- ✓ **Uniqueness:** 1st satellite fitted with two SARs (L-band & S-band)
- ✓ **Orbit:** Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbit (SSPO) at approximately 747 km altitude
- ✓ **Objective:** To provide high-resolution, all-weather, day-and-night imagery of Earth's surface every 12 days
- ✓ **Mission duration:** 5 years

About NISAR Satellite:

Objective: The mission aims to provide high-resolution, day-and-night, all-weather imagery across a **242-kilometer (km)** swath, scanning nearly all of Earth's land and ice surfaces every **12 days**. It will systematically monitor:

- **Ecosystem Changes:** Woody biomass, cropland extent, wetlands, and soil moisture.
- **Cryosphere:** Monitoring glacier retreat, sea ice, and ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica.
- **Geohazards:** Studying earthquakes, volcanic activity, landslides, and land subsidence.
- **Ocean & Disaster Management:** Enabling storm tracking, flood mapping, shoreline erosion, and real-time disaster response.

NISAR Specifications:

Total Mass: Approximately **2,392 kilograms (kg)**

Orbit Type: Sun-synchronous polar orbit at an altitude of around **747 kilometers (km)**, circling Earth 14 times daily.

Mission Duration: Designed for a **5-year** mission life, with consumables supporting around 3 years of active operations

Payload:

NASA's Contributions: L-band SAR (24-centimeter (cm) wavelength radar), developed by Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), featuring a 12-meter (m) reflector antenna, 9 m deployable boom.

- Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers, the solid-state recorder, and a high-rate telecommunications subsystem.

ISRO Contributions: S-band SAR (12 cm wavelength), the I-3K satellite bus with around 2,400 kg lift-off mass.

- Spacecraft platform, data handling and downlink systems, and the GSLV-F16 launch vehicle and associated services.
- The S-band radar was built by Ahmedabad (Gujarat)-based Space Applications Centre (SAC).

Imaging Technology:

NISAR employs the **SweepSAR technique**, enabling wide-swath imaging with high-resolution radar capability under all weather and lighting conditions.

- Detects surface changes as small as 0.4 inches (1 cm) vertically.

Three-axis stabilization: NISAR satellite is designed to be three-axis stabilized. This means it uses reaction wheels to maintain its orientation towards Earth and the Sun, ensuring the radar instruments and solar panels are correctly positioned.

Phases of Mission:

Launch Phase: Completed on 30th July 2025. The satellite reached its orbit within 19 minutes of launch.

Deployment Phase: The 12 m mesh reflector antenna will be deployed via a 9 m boom within a few days after launch.

Commissioning / In-Orbit Checkout (IOC): A 90-day calibration and commission phase during which corner reflectors hosted by the National Centre of Geodesy at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh, UP) and IIT-Patna (Bihar) support radar calibration and course correction for high precision data accuracy.

Science Operations Phase: Begins after commissioning (Around Day 90) and continues until the end of mission life. Jointly managed by NASA and ISRO, this phase includes regular observation planning, orbit corrections, and ongoing calibration (CalVal) activities.

Global Impact:

Data Accessibility: All NISAR data will be freely available, aiding global scientific research, developing countries, and disaster management agencies.

Technological First: First time GSLV places a satellite into sun-synchronous orbit.

Australia's First Indigenous Rocket 'Eris' Launch Fails after 14 Seconds into Flight

On July 30, 2025, Australia's first indigenously designed and built orbital rocket, "Eris", developed by **Gilmour Space Technologies**, was launched from the Bowen Orbital Spaceport in North Queensland, Australia. The rocket failed to achieve orbit and crashed 14 seconds after liftoff.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Australian rocket 'Eris' crashed after lift off
- ✓ **Location:** Bowen Orbital Spaceport in North Queensland, Australia.
- ✓ **Developed by:** Gilmour Space Technologies
- ✓ **Type:** 23-metre, 3-stage small satellite launcher
- ✓ **Payload Capacity:** 215 kg to 305 kg
- ✓ **Propulsion:** Hybrid rocket engines

Indigenous: The 23-meter(m) (75-foot) rocket was an indigenously built launch vehicle designed to place small satellites into Low Earth Orbit (LEO), including sun-synchronous orbits.

Eris Specification:

Payload Capability: It is a three-stage launcher built to carry small satellites, with a payload capacity ranging from approximately **215 kilogram (kg)** to a maximum of 305 kg.

Propulsion: It uses hybrid rocket engines, combining solid fuel with liquid oxidizers, a safer and cost-effective technology.

Mission Purpose: Aimed at offering affordable, dedicated launch services for small satellites and enhancing Australia's space capabilities.

Pakistan Launches PRSS Satellite to Enhance Climate Change Response

On 31 July 2025, **Pakistan** launched an advanced Earth observation satellite, Pakistan Remote Sensing Satellite(**PRSS**), aboard a Kuaizhou-1A (KZ-1A) carrier rocket, with technical assistance from Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (**SUPARCO**) from Xichang Satellite Launch Centre, in Sichuan Province, China.

- This marks the fourth Earth observation satellite under Pakistan's **URAAN** Space Program, reflecting deepening space cooperation between Pakistan and China.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Pakistan Launches PRSS Satellite
- ✓ **From?** Xichang Satellite Launch Centre, China.
- ✓ **Operator:** Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO)
- ✓ **Applications:** Disaster management, CPEC development, climate resilience
- ✓ **Mission:** 4th satellite under Pakistan's URAAN Space Program

Climate Monitoring Commitment: This launch reinforces Pakistan's commitment to leveraging satellite technology to tackle climate-related challenges and strengthen its capabilities in environmental observation and disaster response.

Applications: Enables 24/7 monitoring for disaster management (floods, landslides, earthquakes), deforestation tracking, and glacier-recession analysis

- Supports precision farming, urban planning, water resource management, tracking deforestation and climate change mitigation.
- Enables infrastructure mapping and identifies geohazards for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

SpaceX launches Crew-11 joint astronauts to the ISS for NASA

In August 2025, **SpaceX** successfully launched its **11th** operational astronaut mission for the National

Aeronautics and Space Administration(**NASA**), sending four astronauts aboard the ‘Crew Dragon Endeavour spacecraft’ on a **Falcon 9 rocket** to the International Space Station (ISS).

- It was launched from Launch Complex 39A at Kennedy Space Centre, United States of America (**USA**).
- The Crew-11 mission comprises 4 astronauts : Zena Cardman and Mike Fincke from the United States of America(USA), Kimiya Yui from Japan (JAXA), and Oleg Platonov from Russia (Roscosmos).



Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Title:** SpaceX launches four Crew-11 astronauts to ISS
- ✓ **Launched from:** Kennedy Space Centre, USA.
- ✓ **Name of the Rocket:** Falcon 9
- ✓ **Name of the Spacecraft:** Crew Dragon Endeavour spacecraft
- ✓ **Duration of mission:** 6 to 8 months (Long duration mission)
- ✓ **Crew Members:** Zena Cardman(USA), Mike Fincke (USA), Kimiya Yui(Japan) and Oleg Platonov(Russia)

About Crew- 11 mission:

Overview: It is the NASA Crew program, in collaboration with other space agencies, including Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and Russian Space Agency (ROSCOSMOS), to send astronauts to ISS.

Crew members: The Crew-11 consists of **four** astronauts from the joint space operation to ISS.

- It marks the **first** spaceflight for Crew Commander Zena Cardman(USA) and Oleg Platonov(Russia), a Mission specialist.

Name	Title	Space Agency	Country
Zena Cardman	Crew Commander	NASA	USA
Mike Fincke	Pilot	NASA	USA
Kimiya Yui	Mission Specialist	JAXA	Japan
Oleg Platonov	Mission Specialist	ROSCOSMOS	Russia

Purpose: The main purpose is to relieve the **Crew-10** astronauts, who were launched in **March 2025**.

- This mission extends the work of Expedition 73 aboard the International Space Station (ISS), reinforcing global cooperation in space research and exploration.

Duration: The mission is scheduled to last between 6 to 8 months, making it a long-duration spaceflight.

Mission Objectives:

- To conduct scientific research on human exploration beyond low Earth orbit.
- To study plant cell division and microgravity effects on bacteria-killing viruses.
- To perform experiments to produce a higher volume of human stem cells and generate on-demand nutrients
- To perform maintenance and upgrades on ISS systems.

Milestone Mission: This flight coincides with the **25th anniversary** of continuous human presence on the ISS, which is to be celebrated in November 2025.

About SpaceX:

Chief Executive Officer(CEO): Elon Musk

Headquarters- California, the United States of America(USA)

Established- 2002

Dhruva Space to Launch First Commercial Satellite Aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9

On August 4, 2025, **Dhruva Space** will launch its first commercial satellite mission, Launching Expeditions for Aspiring Payloads (**LEAP**)-1, aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket in 3rd Quarter of 2025. The mission will host 2 Australia payloads such as **Nexus-01** and **OTR-2**.

- The Mission will carry 2 international payloads on its home-built P-30 platform via SpaceX Falcon 9. P-30 has a payload capacity of 10-15 kilogram (kg) which was space-qualified during the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)-C58 mission of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in January 2025.



Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Dhruva Space to Launch First Commercial Satellite Aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9.
- ✓ **Mission:** LEAP-1
- ✓ **Payloads:** Nexus-01 and OTR-2.
- ✓ **Companies:** Nexus-01 by Akula Tech and OTR-2 by Esper Satellites
- ✓ **Platform:** P-30 satellite platform
- ✓ **Operations:** Through Integrated Space Operations & Command Suite (ISOCS) of Dhruva Space

Payloads:

Nexus-01: Developed by Akula Tech, Nexus-01, is an advanced on-orbit Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning (ML) module, capable of processing and retraining models in real-time to support tasks such as fire detection, anomaly detection, and spectral analysis.

OTR-2: Developed by Esper Satellites, it is a hyperspectral imager, offering high-resolution Earth Observation imagery data. It is designed to redefine remote sensing, with its ability to deliver detailed data.

Operations: The operations and data management are handled through the Integrated Space Operations & Command Suite (ISOCS) of Dhruva Space. The Ground Station-as-a-Service (GSaaS) will support real-time payload control and downlink across mission operations.

Objective: The LEAP-1 mission patch includes elements representing India, Australia, and the United States. It also features symbols for artificial intelligence and Earth imaging.

Satellite platform, also known as a spacecraft bus or satellite bus, is the structural and functional core of a satellite, providing essential services and infrastructure to support the payload and mission objectives.

About Dhruva Space:

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Sanjay Srikanth Nekkanti

Headquarters – Hyderabad, Telangana

Established – 2012

ISRO Inaugurates HOPE Analog Mission in Tso Kar Valley, Ladakh

In August 2025, **Dr. V. Narayanan**, Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Secretary of Department of Space (DoS), formally inaugurated the Himalayan Outpost for Planetary Exploration (**HOPE**) analog mission set up in Tso Kar Valley, Union Territory (UT) Ladakh, situated at an altitude of 4,530 meters (m).

- The 10-day long mission, held from August 01 to 10, 2025, is designed to simulate **Mars-like conditions** and will serve as a testbed for future crewed missions to the Moon and beyond.



- It marks India's first comprehensive planetary simulation designed to aid future human missions to the Moon and Mars.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Inauguration of HOPE Analog Mission facility
- ✓ **Inaugurated by:** Dr. V. Narayanan, Chairman of ISRO and Secretary of DoS
- ✓ **Location:** Tso Kar Valley, Ladakh
- ✓ **Mission Conducted:** From August 01, 2025 to August 10, 2025
- ✓ **Purpose:** To stimulate Mars-like conditions
- ✓ **Mission led by:** Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) of ISRO and operated by Protoplanet

About HOPE Analog Mission:

Key Objectives: The mission aims to extend the human presence across the solar system, from human space flight missions to Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and to achieve Indian Crewed Lunar Landing by **2040**.

Operated by: The mission is operated by **Protoplanet**, a private space company based in Bengaluru (Karnataka) and supported by Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) of ISRO.

Partnering National Institutions: ISRO has selected partnering national institutions for conducting experiments such as: Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) & Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB), Trivandrum (Kerala); Indian Institute of Technology (IIT Hyderabad), Telangana; IIT Bombay, Maharashtra; and the Institute for Aerospace Medicine, Bengaluru (Karnataka).

Focus Areas of Experiments: These selected institutes will examine epigenetic, genomic, physiological and psychological responses of two analog mission crew members and validate health-monitoring protocols, planetary surface operations, and refine sample collection and microbial analysis techniques.

About HOPE Facility:

Specifications: The habitat comprises two interconnected modules to test integrated workflows under simulation conditions.

- 8 m diameter Habitat Module for crew living
- 5 m diameter Utility Module for support systems.

Reason for Tso Kar Valley: The main reason for selecting Tso Kar Valley for the mission is due to its striking resemblance with early Mars, due to high Ultra Violet (UV) flux, low air pressure, cold extremes and saline permafrost.

Research Stations Similar to HOPE: Mars Desert Station (the United States of America, USA); Flashline Mars Arctic Research Station (Canada); and BIOS-3 (Russia).

About Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO):

Chairman- Dr. V. Narayanan

Headquarters- Bengaluru, Karnataka

Established- 1969

IN-SPACe Selects Pixxel-Led Consortium for India's First Indigenous EO Satellite Constellation

In August 2025, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (**IN-SPACe**) which works under the Department of Space (DoS), announced that **PixxelSpace India (PSI)**-led consortium which comprises: Piersight Space Private Limited, Satsure Analytics India Pvt. Ltd. and Dhruva Space Pvt. Ltd., has been selected to design, build, and operate **India's 1st** fully indigenous commercial Earth Observation (**EO**) satellite constellation under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

- This announcement is historically significant, marking the first time in the Indian space sector that a private consortium will invest **more than Rs.1,200 crore** over five years to launch a constellation of 12 advanced EO satellites.
- As per IN-SPACe, the deployment of EO constellation will be done in a phased-manner to ensure continuous service upgrades and expanded coverage.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Selection of PixxelSpace India-led consortium
- ✓ **Objective:** To develop India's 1st fully indigenous commercial EO satellite constellation
- ✓ **Announced by:** IN-SPACe
- ✓ **Consortium comprises:** Piersight Space Pvt. Ltd., Satsure Analytics India Pvt. Ltd. and Dhruva Space Pvt. Ltd.
- ✓ **EO Constellation:** 12 Satellites
- ✓ **Investments:** Over Rs 1,200 (in next 5 years)
- ✓ **Framework:** Public-Private Partnership (PPP)

Key Details:

PPP Framework: As per the PPP model of IN-SPACe, the Government of India (GoI) will provide strategic, technical, and policy support.

- While, the consortium will own and operate the EO system, including satellite manufacturing, ground infrastructure, and commercialization of data services.

Key Components: The constellation will feature panchromatic, multi-spectral, hyperspectral, and microwave Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) sensors.

Applications: The components of the constellation will provide Analysis Ready Data (ARD) and Value-Added Services (VAS) which will be used in climate change monitoring, disaster management, agriculture, infrastructure, marine surveillance, national security, urban planning, among others.

Significance: The constellation will generate high-resolution, indigenous satellite data that will help in reducing India's dependence on foreign sources, ensures data sovereignty and position India among the global leaders in space-based data solutions.

Target: The GoI has set the target to boost India's space economy from USD 8.4 billion (in 2022) to USD 44 billion (in 2033).

About Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation (IN-SPACe):

Chairman- Pawan Kumar Goenka

Headquarters- Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Established- 2020

Arianespace's Ariane 6 successfully launches Metop-SGA1 weather satellite

In August 2025, the second commercial **Ariane 6 mission** has been successfully carried out from the Europe's Spaceport in **Kourou**, French Guiana.

- This was the 2nd commercial mission for the Ariane 6 rocket, after the 1st mission with France's CSO-3 satellite.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Ariane 6 rocket launched
- ✓ **On Board:** Metop-SGA1 Satellite
- ✓ **Purpose:** Weather Monitoring
- ✓ **Behalf of:** European Space Agency
- ✓ **Place of launch:** kourou, Guiana



Key Highlights:

Ariane 6: The **Ariane 6 rocket** is the successor to the recently retired Ariane 5 and is operated by the French company **Arianespace** on behalf of the European Space Agency (**ESA**).

Satellite launched: A weather and climate monitoring satellite called **Metop-SGA1**, owned by **EUMETSAT** (European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites) has been launched by the rocket.

- This satellite was deployed to Sun-Synchronous Orbit (SSO) at an altitude of around 800 kilometre (km).

About the satellite:

Metop-SGA1: The satellite will take global observation of weather and climate from a polar orbit to a new level, providing high resolution observations of temperature, precipitation, clouds, winds, sea ice, aerosols, pollution and a multitude of other parameters.

- **Airbus Defence and Space** built Metop-SGA1, which hosts a total of six atmospheric sounding and imaging instrument missions that will provide optical, infrared, and microwave observations essential data for weather forecasting and climate monitoring.
- The Metop-SGA1 will carry the new Sentinel-5 atmospheric monitoring mission, part of the European Commission's Copernicus programme.

Sentinel-5 mission: It is a European Space Agency (ESA) mission focussed on monitoring air quality and greenhouse gas concentrations in the Earth's atmosphere.

About Arianespace:

Arianespace designs and deploys space transportation services for all types of satellites, to all orbits, with the capacity to transport any mass, at any time.

Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) – David Cavaillolles

China Launched Geely-04 Satellite Constellation for IoT and Vehicle Communication Services

In August 2025, **China** launched the 4th orbital plane satellites of the 'Geely Future Mobility Constellation(GEESATCOM) or **Geely-04 constellation** of **11** low Earth orbit (**LEO**) satellites aboard a Smart Dragon-3 (**SD-3**) rocket from an offshore platform near Rizhao, Shandong Province (China), to enhance global Internet of Things (IoT) connectivity and inter-vehicle communication services.

- With this launch, Geespace expanded its Geely-04 Geesatcom IoT constellation from 30 to **41 satellites**.
- The mission, conducted by the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center, was carried out for China-based Geespace, the commercial aerospace subsidiary of Zhejiang Geely Holding Group.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of Geely-04 constellation of 11 LEO Satellites
- ✓ **By Whom?** Geespace(China)
- ✓ **Rocket:** Smart Dragon-3 (SD-3)
- ✓ **Operator:** Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center
- ✓ **Objective:** IoT and inter-vehicle communication, maritime operations, and remote sensing
- ✓ **Constellation Goal:** 72 satellites by end of 2025

About Geely's LEO Satellite Programme:

Operator: Geely's satellite programme is overseen by its aerospace subsidiary, Geespace, established in 2018.

Purpose: The initiative aims to develop a LEO constellation to support autonomous driving, high-precision positioning, and global connectivity.

Goal: Geespace plans to deploy around **72 satellites** by the end of 2025.

Rocket Details:

Launch Vehicle: The SD-3, also called the Jielong-3 rocket, is 31 metres long, weighs 140 tonnes, and is powered by solid propellant.

Design & Capabilities: Developed by the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology's subsidiary, China Rocket. It is designed to deliver payloads of up to 1,500 kilogram(kg) to a 500 kilometer(km) altitude Sun-Synchronous Orbit (SSO).

Mission Record: This launch marked the 6th flight of the SD-3 rocket series.

About People's Republic of China

President – Xi Jinping

Capital – Beijing

Currency – Chinese Renminbi or Yuan (CNY)

ISRO-Supported Space Laboratory Inaugurated in Shi-Yomi District of AR

In August 2025, **Pasang Dorjee Sona**, Education Minister of Arunachal Pradesh (AR), inaugurated a state-of-the-art **space laboratory** at Mechuka Government Higher Secondary School at Mechuka in Shi-Yomi district of AR.

- **Dedication:** The facility has been named the '**Pasang Wangchuk Sona ISRO Space Laboratory**', in memory of the minister's father, honouring his strong belief in the power of education .

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Inauguration of Pasang Wangchuk Sona ISRO Space Laboratory
- ✓ **Where?** Mechuka Govt. Higher Secondary School, Mechuka, AR
- ✓ **Inaugurated by:** Pasang Dorjee Sona, Education Minister of AR
- ✓ **Set up by:** ISRO, Muskaan Foundation (Bihar)

About Space Laboratory:

Collaboration: The lab has been set up jointly by the Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) and the Katihar (Bihar) based **Muskaan Foundation** to give students practical exposure to space science and technology, encouraging innovation, curiosity, and scientific learning among young minds.

NE-SPARKS: Under the North East Student Programme for Awareness, Reach and Knowledge on Space (**NE-SPARKS**), around 100 science students from each of the eight Northeastern states will get a chance to visit the ISRO headquarters in Bengaluru.

- The visit will be organised in batches and aims to spark curiosity, inspire young minds, and build awareness about space science and technology (S&T) among talented students from the region.

NASA and IBM Created 'Surya': Advanced-AI to Predict Solar Storms

In August 2025, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**) has introduced '**Surya**' Heliophysics Foundational Model (**Surya**), an advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) system designed to understand and forecast space weather.

- **Developer:** Surya, a groundbreaking open-source AI foundation model (helio-AI), was developed by Interagency Implementation and Advanced Concepts Team (**IMPACT**) under the Office of Data Science of NASA in collaboration with International Business Machines (**IBM**) Corporation and other partners.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Introduction of Surya, Advanced AI Model
- ✓ **Developed by:** NASA's IMPACT in partnership with IBM
- ✓ **Designed for:** To detect Solar Storms and Predict Space Weather
- ✓ **Surya derived from:** Surya means 'Sun' in Sanskrit
- ✓ **Supporting Partners:** NAIRR Pilot, a National Science Foundation (NSF)-led initiative and NVIDIA

About Surya: Advanced AI Model:

Significance of name: Surya, a **Sanskrit** word which means, '**Sun**' analyzes massive streams of solar activity which will help the scientists to detect early signs of solar flares and eruptions and predict space weather that threatens satellites, power grids, and communication systems.

Design : The design of Surya is built on the success of NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO), launched in 2010.

- SDO has provided an un-broken, high-resolution record of the Sun for around 15 years through capturing images every 12 seconds in multiple wavelengths along with detailed magnetic field measurements.

Forecasting Capability: It was trained on 9 years of continuous observations from SDO. This new system is capable of generating visual forecasts up to two hours in advance with greater accuracy than conventional methods.

- It enhances predictive accuracy by approximately 16% over existing models.

Protective Function: Designed to shield satellites, communication systems, aviation, power grids, and space missions from the disruptive effects of solar storms.

Supporting Partners: The development of Surya was supported by the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource (**NAIRR Pilot**), an National Science Foundation (NSF)-led initiative providing AI tools, datasets, and computing access. Industry partners like NVIDIA contributed additional computing power for advanced AI research.

About National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA):

Acting Administrator- Sean Duffy

Headquarters- Washington DC, the United States of America (USA)

Established- 1958

IN Commissioned Advanced Stealth Frigates 'INS Udaygiri' & 'INS Himgiri' at Visakhapatnam, AP

In August 2025, Indian Navy (**IN**) commissioned two state-of-the-art stealth frigates, 'Indian Naval Ship (**INS**) Udaygiri (Yard 12652)' and '**INS Himgiri (Yard 3022)**', at Eastern Naval Command (ENC) in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

- The commissioning of these stealth frigates was presided by the Union Minister **Rajnath Singh**, Ministry of Defence (MoD). It also marked the 1st ever simultaneous commissioning of two warships constructed at different shipyards.



Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Commissioning of two new Stealth Frigates
- ✓ **Presided by:** Union Minister Rajnath Singh, MoD
- ✓ **Where?** Eastern Naval Command (ENC) at Visakhapatnam(AP)
- ✓ **Ships Name:** INS Udaygiri (2nd ship from Project 17A) and INS Himgiri (3rd ship from Project 17A)
- ✓ **Built by:** INS Himgiri by GRSE and INS Udaygiri by MDL
- ✓ **Designed by:** IN's Warship Design Bureau (WDB)
- ✓ **Indigenous Content:** 75%

About INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri:

Variant: Both Udaygiri and Himgiri are variant vessels of the **Project 17 (Shivalik)** class frigates.

Legacy of the Name: Both newly commissioned vessels are named after previous versions of INS Udaygiri (F35) and INS Himgiri (F34) that served the nation from 1976 to 2007 and from 1974 to 2005, respectively.

Constructed by: INS Udaygiri, the 2nd ship from Project 17A stealth frigates, was constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (**MDL**).

- While, INS Himgiri, the 3rd ship of Project 17A ship and also the 1st ship of this series which was constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE).

Designed by: Both frigates were designed in-house by the IN's Warship Design Bureau (WDB). These are the 100th and 101st warships designed in-house by the WDB, which marks the significant milestone in 50 years of indigenous warship design.

Induction into Eastern Fleet: The two frigates, following 'INS Nilgiri', the lead ship of the successor class to Project 17 (Shivalik-class), were inducted into the **Eastern Fleet**, strengthening India's capability to safeguard its maritime interests across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Key Specifications: These vessels have the capacity to displace **about 6,700 tonnes** i.e. nearly 5% more than their predecessors; and maximum speed of 28 knots or, 52 kilometres per hour (kmph) with range exceeding 5,500 nautical miles.

Armaments: These vessels also feature a wide range of advanced weapons such as: supersonic surface-to-surface missiles; medium range surface-to-air missiles; 76 millimeter (mm) MR Gun and a combination of 30 mm and 12.7 mm close-in weapon systems.

- Propulsion System:** It is also equipped with a Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG) propulsion system that drives a Controllable Pitch Propeller (CPP) on each shaft; and a state-of-the-art Integrated Platform Management System.
- Sensors & Radars:** Features the MF-STAR (Multi-Function Surveillance, Tracking and Acquisition Radar) AESA radar, BEL (Bharat Electronics Limited)'s HUMSA-NG (Hull Mounted Sonar Array – Next Generation) sonar, the Ajanta Electronic Warfare (EW) system, and the CMS-17A (Combat Management System – Project 17A).
- Aircrafts:** Can operate MH-60R (Romeo) helicopters, ALH (Advanced Light Helicopter) Dhruv Mk-II, or Sea King helicopters.

Local Content: These frigates with **nearly 75%** of indigenous content, are in alignment with the Government of India (GoI)'s vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliance) in defence manufacturing.

About Project 17 Alpha frigates (P-17A):

Target: To construct 7 warships and frigates for the IN.

Construction: Of the 7 warships, 3 are being built by GRSE and the remaining 4 are being built by MDL

1st frigate : INS Nilgiri, constructed by MDL, was delivered to IN in December 2024.

About Indian Navy (IN):

Chief of Naval Staff (**CoNS**)- Admiral Dinesh Kumar (DK) Tripathi

Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

Founded- 1950

Israel Launches JUPITER Space Camera on NAOS Satellite

On **August 26, 2025**, Israeli defence company **Elbit Systems Limited** successfully launched its advanced **JUPITER space camera** aboard the National Advanced Optical System (**NAOS**) satellite. The launch took place from Vandenberg Space Force Base, California, USA, using a **SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket**.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of JUPITER space camera on NAOS Satellite
- ✓ **Rocket:** SpaceX Falcon 9
- ✓ **JUPITER space camera:** Developed by Elbit Systems, Israel
- ✓ **NAOS Satellite:** By OHB Italia for Luxembourg's LUXEOSys.
- ✓ **Applications:** Military, environmental, and scientific Earth observation.

Launch and Collaboration details:

NAOS Satellite: Manufactured by Italy-based OHB Italia S.p.A., it is part of Luxembourg's LUXEOSys

(Luxembourg Earth Observation System), designed for dual-use (governmental and military) Earth observation.

- Operates in a 450 km sun-synchronous orbit.
- Provides 50 cm ground resolution with a planned 7-year mission life.

Collaboration: Combines Elbit Systems' imaging technology with OHB Italia's satellite engineering expertise in space-based observation.

About JUPITER Camera:

Developed by: Elbit Systems' Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition & Reconnaissance (ISTAR) and Electronic Warfare (EW) division – Elop.

- It is recognized as one of the world's most advanced spaceborne optical cameras.

Design: Features a large aperture and lightweight structure, enabling continuous long-image strips for efficient large-area coverage.

Multispectral imaging capability: Includes,

- **Panchromatic channel:** High-resolution black-and-white imaging for fine spatial details.
- **RGB (Red, Green, Blue) channels:** True-color imaging.
- **Near-Infrared (NIR) channel:** Analyzes vegetation health, water content, and material properties.

Data integration: Fully compatible with ground station platforms and AI-based image processing engines, providing actionable insights for defence, civil, and research applications.

Algorithm Support: Elbit Systems also developed specialized algorithms for NAOS ground operations, enhancing real-time analysis and fusion of multispectral imagery.

Strategic Applications and Global Impact

Military Operations: Border surveillance, troop monitoring, arms treaty verification.

Civil & Environmental Uses: Disaster relief, climate change monitoring, and scientific research.

Global Security: Supports North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and international organisations with high-resolution Earth observation data.

Pixxel, Dhruva Space Launched Satellites on SpaceX Falcon-9

In August 2025, Karnataka's hyperspectral imaging company, **Pixxelspace India** Private Limited and Indian private aerospace manufacturing company, **Dhruva Space** Private Limited have successfully launched **satellites** onboard **SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket** as part of National Advanced Optical System (NAOS) mission, from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, the United States of America (USA).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of Satellites
- ✓ **Launched by:** Pixxel Space and Dhruva Space
- ✓ **Rocket:** Falcon-9 rocket(SpaceX)
- ✓ **Mission:** National Advanced Optical System (NAOS) mission
- ✓ **Launched from:** Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, the USA
- ✓ **Satellites:** Pixxel's 3 firefly satellites and Dhruva Space's LEAP-01 Satellites



Completion of Satellite Deployment:

Pixxel: Successfully deployed of **3 new firefly satellites** in orbit, along with the 3 launched previously in January 2025, marked the completion of 1st phase of its commercial constellation of 6 hyperspectral satellites.

Dhurva Space: Launched its 1st commercial Launching Expeditions with Aspiring Payloads(**LEAP)-01 satellite** carrying payloads from Australian firms, Akula Tech and Esper Satellites.

About Firefly Satellites:

Key Function: These satellites operate in a Sun-synchronous Low Earth Orbit (LEO), at an altitude of 550 kilometer (km), which enables daily revisit capability for any location on Earth.

- Also, the fireflies operating as a constellation collectively form the most advanced commercial hyperspectral imaging system.

Significance: Each satellite is capable of capturing more than 135 spectral bands at a 5-metre (m) resolution across a 40 km swath, which enables the scientists, governments and businesses to monitor Earth's ecosystems with extreme accuracy.

About LEAP-01 Mission:

Payloads: It carried **two payloads**: Akula Tech's **Nexus-01 mission** featuring an advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) module and hyperspectral imager Over The Rainbow-2(**OTR-2**), developed by Esper Satellite.

Satellite Bus: The mission launched payloads, is based on the P-30 satellite bus developed by Dhruva Space.

- A satellite bus is an integral part of a satellite that contains all important sub-systems which include power, propulsion, communication, on which the payloads are attached.

Key Function: Akula Tech's space-ready AI model enables the optimization and compression of any geospatial AI/ Machine Language (ML) models which will offer quicker responses from time-critical tasks.

- While, hyperspectral imager will improve remote sensing capabilities by capturing high resolution, spectrally rich Earth observation data which can be accessed by Esper's EarthTone API.

About Pixxelspace India Private Limited:

Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**)- Awais Ahmed

Headquarters- Bengaluru, Karnataka

Established- 2019

DEFENCE

EXERCISE

32nd edition of India-Singapore Naval Exercise SIMBEX Conducted in Singapore

On July 30, 2025, the Indian Navy (IN) participated in the **32nd edition** of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (**SIMBEX-25**) conducted in **Singapore** to strengthen maritime cooperation between India and Singapore.

- The exercise strengthens operational interoperability between the IN and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).

Exam Hints:

- What? Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX-25)
- Edition: 32nd
- Host country: Singapore
- Objective: To enhance interoperability, maritime security, and strategic coordination
- Participated INS: INS Satpura, INS Delhi, INS Kiltan, and INS Shakti

About SIMBEX 2025:

Participating Ships:

- IN Contingent:** Indian Naval Ship (INS) Satpura, INS Delhi, INS Kiltan, and INS Shakti

- **RSN Contingent:** RSN Vigilant, and RSN Supreme

Harbour Phase: The exercise commenced with the Harbour Phase, which includes Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (**SMEEs**), professional interactions, and operational-level discussions.

- The engagements are designed to share best practices, align doctrines, and conduct familiarization visits on RSN Vigilant and RSN Supreme.

Sea Phase: This phase includes Air defence exercises, Cross-deck helicopter operations, Precision targeting with surface and aerial platforms, Complex maneuvering drills, Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) operations.

About SIMBEX:

Origins: Launched in 1994 as “Exercise Lion King,” SIMBEX is the longest-running bilateral naval exercise for India

Primary Goals:

- Enhance interoperability and maritime domain awareness.
- Combat non-state threats (piracy, smuggling, terrorism).
- Promote a rules-based Indo-Pacific

Policy Alignment: Supports India’s Act East Policy and ‘MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions)

About Singapore:

President – Tharman Shanmugaratnam

Prime Minister (PM) – Lawrence Wong

Capital – Singapore City

Currency – Singapore Dollar (SGD)

India, Philippines Conducted Joint Naval Exercises in South China Sea

In August 2025, the navies of **India** and the **Philippines** conducted their 1st bilateral '**Maritime Cooperative Activity (MCA)**' exercises in the South China Sea or 'West Philippine Sea (WPS)', a term used by the Philippine government for the parts of the South China Sea within its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** Bilateral Maritime Cooperative Activity (MCA) exercise
- ✓ **Held Between:** India and the Philippines
- ✓ **Where?** South China Sea or West Philippine Sea (WPS)
- ✓ **INS Participated:** INS Mysore; INS Shakti and INS Kiltan.

About Maritime Cooperative Activity (MCA):

Aim: The exercise aimed at strengthening maritime interoperability and improving operational coordination between the Indian and Philippine navies.

Naval Ships from India: Indian Naval Ships (INS) that participated in these MCAs: guided missile destroyer **INS Mysore**; tanker **INS Shakti** and corvette **INS Kiltan**.

Naval Ships from Philippines: The Navy of Philippines deployed two frigates, BRP Miguel Malavar and BRP Jose Rizal.

Background: Since late 2023, the Philippines has been conducting MCAs with various countries' navies as part of its strategy to counter China's territorial claims in the South China Sea.

- These exercises have included joint operations with treaty ally the United States of America (USA), as well as with Japan, Australia, France, and Canada.

SLINEX-2025: Indian Navy-Sri Lanka Navy Maritime Exercise Held in Colombo

The **12th** edition of the annual Indian Navy (IN)-Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) bilateral maritime exercise ‘Sri Lanka–India Exercise’ (**SLINEX 2025**) was conducted in **Colombo**, Sri Lanka, from 14 to 18 August 2025.

- The exercise is being conducted in **two phases**:
the **Harbour Phase** (from August 14 to 16) at Colombo,
followed by the **Sea Phase** (from August 17 to 18) off the
coast of Colombo.



Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** SLINEX 2025 (Indian Navy – Sri Lanka Navy Annual Exercise)
- ✓ **Edition:** 12th
- ✓ **When:** 14–18 August 2025
- ✓ **Where:** Colombo, Sri Lanka
- ✓ **Phases:** Harbour Phase and Sea Phase
- ✓ **Participating Naval Assets:** INS Jyoti, INS Rana, SLNS Gajabahu & Vijayabahu , SLNS Sayura
- ✓ **Conceptualised:** 2005
- ✓ **Significance:** Supports India’s MAHASAGAR policy

Background:

SLINEX: It is a bilateral naval exercise between India and Sri Lanka, first conceptualised in 2005 to enhance maritime cooperation, interoperability, and mutual naval capabilities.

Previous Edition: The previous edition of SLINEX was conducted at **Visakhapatnam**, Andhra Pradesh(AP), from 17 to 20 December 2024.

About SLINEX 2025:

Aim: SLINEX 2025, hosted by the SLN, aims to deepen maritime cooperation, build mutual trust, and enhance tactical interoperability of the multi-faceted maritime operations between the two forces.

Focus: The exercise focuses on coordinated operational drills to address security challenges in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

- It includes conventional threats and non-traditional maritime challenges such as piracy, smuggling, and illegal fishing.

Significance: It represents the deep maritime engagement between India and Sri Lanka, supporting India’s MAHASAGAR policy (Mutual And Holistic Advancement for Security And Growth Across Regions).

Participating Naval Assets:

IN: Indian Naval Ship (INS) Jyoti (Fleet Tanker) and INS Rana (a Guided Missile Destroyer)

SLN: SLN Ship SLNS Gajabahu and Vijayabahu (both Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessels (AOPV)) and SLNS Sayura (Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV))

Additional Participants: Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) BEL 412 helicopters and Special Forces from both navies.

Phases of the Exercise:

i.The Harbour Phase includes professional interactions and Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE), sharing best practices, cultural programs, yoga sessions, and sports events.

ii.The Sea Phase includes exercises in multiple dimensions like surface firing, tactical manoeuvres, helicopter operations including cross-deck flying, Search and Rescue (SAR), and Special Forces (SF) operations at sea.

- The naval drills during the Sea Phase include gunnery firing serials, communication protocols, navigation, seamanship evolutions, Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS) operations, and fueling at sea.

About Sri Lanka:

Prime Minister (**PM**)- Dr. Harini Amarasuriya

Capital- Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte (governmental capital) ; Colombo (Commercial capital)

Currency- Sri Lankan Rupee(LKR)

India Joins Multinational Military Drill 'Exercise Bright Star 2025' in Egypt

On August 27, 2025, India has deployed more than 700 personnel from the Indian Armed Forces and Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff to participate in '**Exercise Bright Star 2025**', a multilateral exercise, which is scheduled to be held from August 28 to September 10, 2025, at the Mohamed Naguib Military Base in Matrouh Governorate, Egypt.

- The participation of Indian Armed Forces aligns with India's commitment to regional peace, stability, and security.

**Exam Hints:**

- ✓ **What?** India has joined a Multilateral Exercise
- ✓ **Exercise:** Exercise Bright Star 2025
- ✓ **Edition:** 19th
- ✓ **Where:** Egypt
- ✓ **Indian Contingents:** More than 700 personnel

Background:

Exercise: Exercise Bright Star is a biennial, multinational military exercise, held in Egypt. It is one of the largest and oldest military drills in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

- It is a tri-service exercise involving the Army, Navy, and Air Force of participating countries.

Accords: The exercise began in **1980** as a bilateral exercise between the United States of America (USA) and Egypt, following the Camp David Accords (1978).

- In 1996, countries such as France, United Kingdom (UK), Germany, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) joined the exercise, which was followed by other countries subsequently.

Previous Edition: The previous edition of the exercise was held in 2023 in Egypt.

About Exercise Bright Star 2025:

Global Participation: The 19th edition of the exercise will witness participation of 43 countries, with 13 countries deploying 7,900 troops, and 30 countries take part as observers.

Activities: They are engaging in a comprehensive array of activities, including live-fire demonstrations, command post exercises, short-duration joint training, and subject matter expert interaction.

India's Participation: The Indian tri-services, comprising Indian Army (IA), Indian Navy (IN), and Indian Air Force (IAF), will engage in live firing, showcasing its operational capabilities, Command Post Exercises for joint planning, decision-making and coordination.

- It also includes short-duration joint training Exercises by tri-services, focusing on varied aspects of modern warfare, and Interactions of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) in areas such as cyber warfare, logistics, etc.
- In 2023, India participated for the first time, with around 550 personnel from the tri-services.

About Egypt:

Prime Minister (**PM**) – Mostafa Madbouly

Capital – Cairo

Currency – Egyptian Pound (EGP)

TESTING

Skyroot Aerospace Conducts Static Test of Vikram-1 Rocket's KALAM-1200

In August 2025, Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited (**SAPL**) successfully conducted the first static test of **KALAM-1200** solid rocket motor, the first stage of the Vikram-1 Launch Vehicle (LV), at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

- The test marks a significant step in the development of Vikram-1, built by Skyroot Aerospace.



Exam Hints:

- What?** Skyroot Aerospace Conducted Static Test of KALAM-1200 motor
- Where?** Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, AP.
- Developed by:** Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited
- Named After:** Former President of India, Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen (A.P.J) Abdul Kalam
- Part of:** Vikram-1 Launch Vehicle(LV)

About KALAM-1200:

Motor: It is an 11 metre (m) long, 1.7 m diameter monolithic composite motor, carrying Propellant Mass of 30 tonnes (t). It can generate up to 1200 kilonewton (kN) of peak thrust in space.

Propellant: It uses Hydroxyl-Terminated Polybutadiene (HTPB) based solid propellant and is equipped with a high-temperature nozzle for thermal protection during combustion.

Objective: The objective of the test is to validate the thrust profile and combustion stability, check the thermal integrity of the nozzle, and measure structural performance under high pressure.

Name significance: The motor is named after Former President of India, Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen (**A.P.J**) Abdul Kalam, honouring his contributions to the space and missile programs of India. He is called as the 'Missile Man of India'.

Initiative Alignment: The test is in alignment with **Indian Space Policy 2023**, an initiative by the Government of India (GOI) for providing the required technical infrastructure and managerial guidance for the Private space companies to contribute to the space sector.

About Vikram 1:

Launch: It is the first orbital-class LV, built by Skyroot Aerospace, an Indian private aerospace manufacturer. It is a 3-stage solid propulsion LV designed to be a small satellite launcher, offering fast and on-demand access to Low Earth Orbit (LEO), scheduled to be launched in 2025.

Payload: The vehicle is designed with a payload capacity of approximately from 290 to 320-kilogram (kg) to 500-kilometre (km) Sun-Synchronous Orbit (SSO), and approximately 480 kg to 500 km Low-Inclination Orbit (LIO).

Role of KALAM-1200: It provides the initial high-thrust impulse to lift the rocket and accelerate it through the dense lower atmosphere.

About Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited:

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Pawan Kumar Chandana

Headquarters – Hyderabad, Telangana

Established – 2018

India's First Hydrogen-Powered Train Successfully Completes Load Tests in Chennai, TN

In August 2025, India's first Hydrogen (H₂) powered train has cleared the load tests under the design and oversight of Research Design & Standards Organization (**RDSO**), Ministry of Railways (MoR), at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in **Chennai**, Tamil Nadu (TN).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** India's first Hydrogen (H₂)-powered train Completes Load Tests
- ✓ **Where?** Chennai, Tamil Nadu(TN)
- ✓ **Conducted by ?** Research Designs & Standards Organization (RDSO)
- ✓ **Developer:** Integral Coach Factory (ICF)
- ✓ **Capacity:** 2,638 passengers; 110 km/h
- ✓ **Route:** Jind to Sonipat (89 Km) in Haryana

About India's first hydrogen-powered train:

Project Overview: The Indian Railways (IR) is set to launch India's first hydrogen-powered train, valued at Rs. 136 crores, developed by ICF under the "Hydrogen for Heritage" initiative to reduce emissions on heritage and hill routes.

- The "Hydrogen for Heritage" programme aims to deploy 35 hydrogen trains across the routes of heritage and hills.

Route: The hydrogen-powered train with 3,000 Kilogram (Kg) capacity is slated for trials between **Jind and Sonipat in Haryana**, spanning 89 Kilometre (Km).

Capacity: The train has a maximum speed of 110 kilometer/hour(km/h) and is designed to carry up to 2,638 passengers.

Technological Advancement: The hydrogen-powered train boasts a 1,200 horsepower engine, positioning India among the leaders in hydrogen train technology.

India Successfully Test-Fired 'Agni-5 Ballistic Missile' from Odisha

On August 20, 2025, India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) Agni-5 from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.

- The test was conducted under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) under the Nuclear Command Authority (NCA), validated all operational and technical parameters.


Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Test-firing of Agni-5 ballistic missile by India
- ✓ **Where?** Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha
- ✓ **By Whom?** Strategic Forces Command (SFC)
- ✓ **Developer:** DRDO
- ✓ **Type:** Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM)
- ✓ **Range:** Over 5,000 km
- ✓ **Payload:** Nuclear-capable, up to 1.5 tonnes, weight ~50 tonnes
- ✓ **Propulsion:** Three-stage solid-fuel system

About Agni Missile:

Overview: The Agni missile is a family of medium to intercontinental range ballistic missiles developed by India, named after Agni (Fire), one of the five elements of nature.

Capabilities: These are long-range, nuclear-capable, surface-to-surface ballistic missiles, designed to strengthen India's strategic deterrence capability.

Origin & Development: The first missile in the series, Agni-I, was developed under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) and tested in 1989.

Missiles in the Series: Agni-I (700 kilometer, km), Agni-II (2,000 km), and Agni-III & IV (2,500–3,500 km).

ICBM Capability: India became the **8th country** to possess intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) capability, following the United States, United Kingdom, Russia, China, France, Israel, and North Korea.

About Agni-5:

Category: Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)-class, with an operational range of over **5,000 km.**

Payload: Nuclear-capable, the missile can carry up to 1.5 tonnes and has a total weight of around 50 tonnes.

Propulsion: Three-stage, solid-fuel propulsion system.

Navigation: Equipped with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology, Ring Laser Gyroscope-based Inertial Navigation System (**RLG-INS**), Micro Inertial Navigation System (**MINGS**), and supported by Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) and Global Positioning System (GPS).

Technology: Designed for high accuracy with advanced avionics, composite materials, and improved re-entry shielding.

Deployment: Canister-launch platform for rapid deployment, mobility, and long-term storage.

Previous Trials:

March 11, 2024: DRDO successfully tested **Agni-5** with **MIRV technology**, under Mission Divyastra.

- A MIRV payload allows a single missile to deliver multiple warheads to different targets.

About Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO):

Chairman – Dr Samir V. Kamat

Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi

Established – 1958

DRDO Successfully Conducts Maiden Flight Tests of IADWS in Odisha

In August 2025, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) successfully conducted the maiden flight tests of the Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (**IADWS**) off the coast of **Odisha**.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Maiden flight tests of IADWS
- ✓ **Conducted by:** DRDO
- ✓ **Where?** Off the coast of Odisha
- ✓ **Components:** QRSAM, VSHORADS, DEW
- ✓ **Controlled by:** Centralised CCC by DRDL Hyderabad

System Overview:

System: Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS).

Components: It consists of

- **QRSAM** (Medium-Range): Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile(QRSAM) for medium-range interception. It was developed by the DRDO, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
- **VSHORADS** (Close-Range): Advanced Very Short Range Air Defence System(VSHORADS), developed by the DRDO's Research Centre Imarat(RCI), for close-range engagement.
- **DEW** (Futuristic): High-power laser-based Directed Energy Weapon(DEW), developed by DRDO's Centre for High Energy Systems and Sciences (CHESS), for futuristic interception.



Command & Control: The Centralised Command and Control Centre (**CCC**), developed by the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad (Telangana), was designed to oversee and manage the integrated operations of all weapon systems.

About maiden flight Test:

Targets Engaged: Included three different aerial targets – two high-speed fixed-wing Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and one multi-copter drone.

Outcome: All targets were simultaneously engaged and destroyed at varying ranges and altitudes.

Validation: Test data and results were validated by the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.

Significance:

Air Defence Capability: Establishes India's multi-layered defence system and strengthens protection of critical facilities against diverse aerial threats.

Strategic Alignment: Supports Mission **Sudarshan Chakra** announced by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on Independence Day 2025 (15 August 2025).

About Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO):

Chairman– Dr. Samir V. Kamat.

Headquarter – New Delhi, Delhi

Established – 1958

About Ministry of Defence (MoD):

Union Minister- Rajnath Singh (Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, UP).

Minister of State (MoS)- Sanjay Seth (Constituency – Ranchi, Jharkhand)

ISRO Conducts First Integrated Air Drop Test for Gaganyaan Mission

On August 24, 2025, Indian Space Research Organization (**ISRO**), Department of Space (DoS), successfully conducted its first Integrated Air Drop Test (**IADT-1**) of the Crew Module Recovery System as part of India's first human spaceflight programme 'Gaganyaan Mission', at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

- IADT-1 was carried out to evaluate the **parachute deployment** sequence and capability of safe landing by the Crew Module during the re-entry and recovery operations.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Conducted first Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-1)
- ✓ **Who?** ISRO
- ✓ **Collaborator:** IAF, DRDO, IN, and ICG.
- ✓ **Purpose:** To ensure the reliability of the Parachute System
- ✓ **Weight:** 5 tonnes
- ✓ **Air Drop:** Lifted & dropped from IAF CH-47F(I) Chinook helicopter
- ✓ **Parachute:** Apex Cover Separation (ACS), Drogue, Pilot, Main Parachutes



About Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT):

Collaboration: The demonstration was carried out in coordination with the ISRO, the Indian Air Force (IAF), the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the Indian Navy (IN), and the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

Test Duration & Location: The drop was conducted over the Bay of Bengal and lasted nearly an hour from take-off to recovery.

Parachute Configuration: It comprised four types of parachutes : Apex Cover Separation (ACS) (2 units), Drogue (2 units), Pilot (3 units), and Main Parachutes (3 units).

Air drop: During the trial, a dummy version of the capsule, weighing 5 tonnes, was lifted and air dropped by the IAF Chinook helicopter(**CH-47F(I) Chinook**) at an altitude of approximately 3 kilometre(km), simulating the conditions re-entry when it descends through the atmosphere.

Parachute Deployment Sequence: The parachute system is designed in a sequence, beginning with two drogue parachutes for initial stabilization and deceleration, followed by pilot chutes and three main parachutes to enable controlled descent and ensure a safe landing.

Main Parachutes: During the mission, the main parachutes cannot deploy at very high speeds. It will have to deploy immediately after the heat shield and drogue parachutes slow down the speed, ensuring the safe landing of the astronauts.

About Gaganyaan Mission:

Overview: Gaganyaan Mission, led by the ISRO, will send 3-member Indian crew into Low Earth Orbit (LEO). The crew will travel at an altitude of 400 (km) for a three-day expedition and ensure safe re-entry and recovery in the Indian Ocean.

Aim: The mission aims to develop the indigenous capabilities in human-related launch systems, life-support systems, crew escape mechanisms, and recovery operations.

Launch Vehicle: The Human-Rated Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (HLVM-3) is the launch vehicle of the Gaganyaan Mission.

About Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO):

Chairman – Dr. V. Narayanan

Headquarters – Bengaluru, Karnataka

Established – 1969

DEALS & MoU's**Indian Army signs MoU for new generation 50-ton tank transporter trailers**

In August 2025, the Indian Army (IA) signed a memorandum of understanding (**MoU**) worth **Rs. 223.95 Crore** with **Axiscades Aerospace and Technologies Private Limited** for the procurement of **212 advanced 50-ton Tank transporter trailers**.

- This contract is signed under the Buy (Indian- Indigenously Designed, Developed, and Manufactured (**IDDMM**)) category that supports the 'Aatmnirbhar Bharat' initiative.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** MoU Signed
- ✓ **Entities Involved:** Indian Army & Axiscades Aerospace and Technologies
- ✓ **Purpose:** For the procurement of 50-ton tank Transporter Trailers.
- ✓ **Total Units:** 212
- ✓ **Contract value:** Rs. 223.95 Crore
- ✓ **Under:** Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed & Manufactured, IDDM)

About 50-ton Tank Transporter Trailers:

Purpose: To transport 50-ton tanks and other armoured vehicles across varied terrains.

Specifications: They are equipped with **hydraulic and pneumatic loading ramps**, with steerable and liftable axles for rapid loading and unloading of tanks and other armoured vehicles.

Paras Defence Partners with German Firm to Develop Satellite Antenna Technology in India

On August 07 2025, **Paras Defence & Space Technologies Limited**, India's leading defence engineering company, has signed a Teaming Agreement with German firm, High Performance Space Structure Systems GmbH (**HPS GmbH**), a global leader in Large Deployable Antenna Systems, to co-develop and supply deployable antenna reflector subsystems for advanced satellite applications in India.

- The agreement signed between these two entities is for an initial term of **2 years**, with possibility for further extension.
- This strategic partnership marks a major step in India's journey towards self-reliance in space technologies, which aligns with Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's '**Aatmanirbhar Bharat**' vision.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Signing of Teaming Agreement
- ✓ **Entities Involved:** Paras Defence & Space Technologies Limited and HPS GmbH

- ✓ **Purpose:** To co-develop and supply deployable antenna reflector subsystems for advanced satellite applications in India.

Key Details of the Agreement:

Key Components: The agreement covers the components like: reflector and arm assemblies, Hold-Down Release Mechanisms (HDRMs), deployment electronics, and thermal hardware.

Astrophel Aerospace & IN-SPACe Signed MoU for Reusable Rocket Engine Development

On August 13, 2025, **Astrophel Aerospace** Private Limited signed a framework Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (**IN-SPACe**), the nodal body under the Department of Space (DoS), to collaborate on the development of **reusable rocket engine technology**.

- The agreement was signed in the presence of Dr. Pawan Goenka, Chairman of IN-SPACe, and Dr. Prafulla Kumar Jain, Director of Program Management & Authorization at IN-SPACe.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** MoU signed
- ✓ **Entities:** Astrophel Aerospace & IN-SPACe
- ✓ **Purpose:** For reusable rocket engine development
- ✓ **Funding:** Astrophel raised Rs.6.84 crore, with an additional USD 5 million planned

MoU Highlights:

Access: Astrophel Aerospace will receive access to Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) facilities for technical reviews, system-level testing, and qualification support for turbopumps, engine modules, and other components.

Collaboration: Enables collaboration with ISRO Experts under a Joint Project Implementation Plan (**JPIP**) for project-specific support, design validation, and testing campaigns.

Subsystem Development: Developing critical subsystems, including valves, turbo pumps, and avionics systems, with dual-use applications in defence, clean energy, and industrial gas systems.

Funding: The development comes after Astrophel's **Rs.6.84 crore** fundraise aimed at building a reusable launch hopper powered by its Astra series launch vehicle.

Milestone : Astrophel is among the few Indian startups to successfully test-fire a semi-cryogenic engine, completing the test on 15 August 2023 without any external capital.

Indian Army Signs MoU with Bharti Airtel to Strengthen Connectivity in Arunachal Pradesh

In August 2025, **Dao Division** of the Indian Army (IA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with **Bharti Airtel** to enhance digital and mobile connectivity in the forward areas of Dibang Valley and Anjaw districts of Arunachal Pradesh (AR).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** MoU to enhance telecom infrastructure and mobile connectivity
- ✓ **By Whom?** Indian Army (Dao Division) and Bharti Airtel
- ✓ **Where?** Dibang Valley and Anjaw districts, Arunachal Pradesh(AR)
- ✓ **Purpose:** Improve cellular network coverage in remote border areas

Aim: The partnership aims to expand mobile network coverage in strategically important border villages and difficult terrains, provide reliable communication facilities to residents and IA personnel deployed in the forward areas.

- It also aims to Support Digital India initiatives and enhance security by enabling seamless communication between security forces in forward areas.

Empowerment: The partnership will strengthen security and communication for troops safeguarding the borders and empower local communities through access to better network services.

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

Indian Navy Receives 3rd Ship of Project 17A Stealth frigate 'Himgiri' from GRSE

On 31 July, 2025, the Indian Navy(IN) received the 'Indian Naval Ship (INS) Himgiri (Yard 3022)', the third stealth frigate of the Nilgiri-class (**Project 17A**) series. The vessel was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) and officially handed over to the IN in **Kolkata**, West Bengal (WB).

- The Nilgiri class warship was accepted by **Rear Admiral Ravnish Seth**, Chief Staff Officer (Technical), Eastern Naval Command, on behalf of the IN.



Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What:** IN received its 3rd Nilgiri-class stealth frigate
- ✓ **Ship Name:** INS Himgiri (Project 17A – 3rd ship)
- ✓ **Built by:** GRSE
- ✓ **Designed by:** Warship Design Bureau (WDB), IN
- ✓ **Indigenous Content:** 75%
- ✓ **Armament:** BrahMos missiles, Barak 8 (LR-SAM), Torpodes, Main gun(127 mm), two AK-630M anti-aircraft artillery systems (30mm)
- ✓ **Technology used:** MF-STAR main radar, AESA radar, Ajanta EW system, HUMSA-NG sonar
- ✓ **Previous INS Himgiri:** Name derived from INS Himgiri (F34),decommissioned in 2005.

About INS Himgiri:

Background: The INS Himgiri built as a part of an **Rs. 21,833 Crore** contract to GRSE for the construction of 3 Stealth Frigates under Project 17a for the IN.

- The ship was first launched on 14 December 2020.

Legacy of the Name: The name "**Himgiri**" is taken from the INS Himgiri(F34), a Leander-class Frigate which was decommissioned in 2005.

Design: The ship was designed by the Warship Design Bureau (WDB) of the IN.

Specifications: It is equipped with a Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG) propulsion system that drives a Controllable Pitch Propeller(CPP) on each shaft.

- **Dimensions:** It is 149 metres(m) long, 17.8 m beam and has a weight displacement of 6670 tonnes.
- **Speed:** It has a maximum speed of 28 knots (52 kilometres per hour, kmph) with a range of 5500 nautical miles.
- **Armaments:** It is a state-of-the-art **Nilgiri** class frigate with diverse firepower and weapons systems, including,
- It has 8 BrahMos anti-ship and land attack cruise missiles and 32 Barak 8 (Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile, LR-SAM) missiles with Vertical Launch System(VLS).
- It is also equipped with 76 millimeter(mm) main gun and 2 AK-630M Close range weapons systems.
- It is also equipped with an Anti-Submarine Warfare(**ASW**) system, including Torpedoes and RBU-6000 ASW Rocket Launchers.
- **Sensors & Radars:** It includes MF-STAR Active Electronically Scanned Array (**AESA**) radar as the main radar system, along with BEL HUMSA sonars and Ajanta Electronic Warfare(**EW**) systems.
- It also has Hal Dhruv and Sea King Mk 42B helicopters on board the frigate.

Indigenous Contribution: It is a **75% indigenously** built Atmanirbhar Bharat system by over 2000 Indian firms with equipment.

About Project 17a:

Project 17A or Project 17 Alpha Frigates is a project approved by the Government of India(GoI) for constructing seven warships and frigates for the Indian Navy.

- Under Project 17A, 3 ships are constructed by GRSE, and 4 ships are constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (**MDL**) for the IN.
- The First ship of Project 17a, **INS Nilgiri**, which was built by **MDL**, was delivered to the IN in December 2024.
- As of July 2025, the IN has received three out of the seven Nilgiri-class frigates under Project 17A: INS Nilgiri, INS Udaygiri, and INS Himgiri.

About Indian Navy(IN):

Chief of Naval Staff (**CNS**) – Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi

Headquarters -New Delhi, Delhi.

Established- 1950

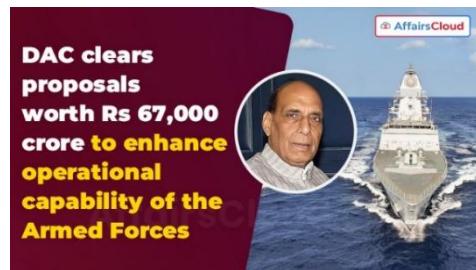
DAC Approves Proposals worth Rs 67,000 crores to Strengthen Operational Capabilities of Indian Armed Forces

On August 5, 2025, the Defence Acquisition Council (**DAC**), chaired by Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence (MoD), approved proposals worth **Rs.67,000 crores** to enhance the operational capability of the Indian Armed Forces.

- The proposals include several defence equipment requirements for the Indian Army (IA), Indian Navy (IN), and the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Exam Hints:

- What?** Proposals worth Rs.67,000 crores approved for defence procurement.
- Approved by?** Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)
- DAC Chair:** Union Minister, Rajnath Singh, MoD
- IA:** Thermal Imager-based Driver Night Sight
- IN:** Compact Autonomous Surface Craft (CASC), BrahMos Fire Control System, and Launchers and Upgradation of BARAK-1 Point Defence Missile System
- IAF:** Mountain Radars and Upgradation of SAKSHAM/ SPYDER Weapon System



Details of Defence Procurement:

Indian Army(IA): The Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) was granted for the IA to procure **Thermal Imager-based Driver Night Sight** for Boyevaya Mashina Pekhoty (BMP), an infantry fighting vehicle.

- This procurement would enhance the night driving capability of BMP and provide higher mobility and operational advantage to the Mechanised Infantry.

Indian Navy(IN): The AoN was granted for the procurement of Compact Autonomous Surface Craft (**CASC**), **8 BrahMos Fire Control System** worth Rs. 650 crores, and Launchers and Upgradation of **BARAK-1** Point Defence Missile System.

- It will enhance the capability of the IN for detection, classification and neutralization of threats in anti-submarine warfare missions.

Indian Air Force(IAF): For the IAF, the AoN was granted for the procurement of Mountain Radars and Upgradation of **SAKSHAM/ Surface-to-air PYthon and DERby(SPYDER)** Weapon System to enhance the capacity of air surveillance along and across the borders in the mountain region.

- The upgradation of SAKSHAM/ SPYDER Weapon System for integration with Integrated Air Command and Control System will enhance the capability of Air Defence.

Armed Forces: DAC granted AoN to procure **87** Medium Altitude Long Endurance (**MALE**) Remotely Piloted Aircraft (**RPA**s) for the three-armed forces. MALE RPAs can carry multiple payloads and weapons and operate at longer ranges for long endurance missions, enhancing the round-the-clock surveillance and combat capability of the Armed Forces.

- DAC has also approved AoN for sustenance of C-17 and C-130J fleets and comprehensive annual maintenance contract of **S-400** Long Range Air Defence Missile System.

About Ministry of Defence (MoD):

Union Minister – Rajnath Singh (Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, UP)

Minister of State (MoS) – Sanjay Seth (Constituency – Ranchi, Jharkhand)

Indian Army Inducts BEML's Semi-Automatic Minefield Marker 'MMME Mk-II'

On August 6, 2025, the Indian Army(**IA**) formally inducted the Mechanical Minefield Marking Equipment Mark-II (**MMME Mk-II**), a cutting-edge semi-automatic minefield marker, indigenously built by **BEML Limited**, a multi-technology Schedule 'A' Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) operating under the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

- Lt. General Arvind Walia, Engineer-in-Chief of IA, Sanjay Som, Director of BEML (Defence and Mining & Construction); and other senior Army officials were present at the event.
- This marked a significant milestone towards defence indigenisation and operational preparedness.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Induction of MME Mk-II into IA
- ✓ **Developed by:** Jointly by (R&DE (E)), a Lab of DRDO and manufactured by BEML
- ✓ **Vehicle Platform:** BEML TATRA 6×6
- ✓ **Operational speed:** Minimum 1.2 km/h
- ✓ **Purpose:** To semi-automatically mark and fence minefields

About MMME Mk-II:

Joint Development: This state-of-the-art system is jointly developed by BEML in collaboration with the Research & Development Establishment (Engineers) (R&DE (E)), a Lab of Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**).

Integration: This newly inducted equipment is built on a robust **BEML TATRA 6×6** high-mobility vehicle and integrates mechanical, electric, and electronic sub-systems.

Adaptability: MMME Mk-II exhibits high versatility and adaptability for deployment in rough terrains such as plains, semi-deserts, and desert regions, particularly bordering Punjab plains and Rajasthan deserts.

Specifications: It is capable of marking/fencing at a minimum speed of **1.2 kilometer/hour** (km/hr), with a standard inter-picket spacing of 15 metre(m).

- The equipment can place the pickets at 10-35 m spacing in the step of 5 m.
- Also, the picket can be driven up to a depth of 450 millimeter (mm) by this system.

Store Pickets: The new system has the capability to store a maximum 500 pickets and polypropylene rope of 15 kilometer (km) in length.

About BEML Limited:

Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)- Shantanu Roy

Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka

Established- 1964

Indian Navy received the 3rd SVL Ship 'Ikshak' from GRSE in Kolkata

On 14 August 2025, the Indian Navy (IN) received 'Indian Naval Ship (INS) Ikshak (Guide) (Yard 3027)', the 3rd in a series of 4 Survey Vessel (Large) (SVL) ships, built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE), a defence Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Defence (MoD), in Kolkata, West Bengal (WB).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** Indian Navy received INS Ikshak (Guide) (Yard 3027)
- ✓ **Series:** 3rd of 4 Survey Vessel (Large) (SVL) ships
- ✓ **Built by:** Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)
- ✓ **Designer:** Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau (WDB)
- ✓ **Displacement:** 3,400 tons; Length: 110 m; Speed: >18 knots
- ✓ **Significance:**
 - ✓ 102nd ship designed by WDB
 - ✓ 75th warship delivered to IN by GRSE
 - ✓ First SVL with accommodation for women officers & sailors
- ✓ **Indigenous Content:** 80%

About INS Ikshak:

Background: The contract for 4 SVLs was signed in 2018. The 1st ship of the class, INS Sandhayak, was commissioned in February 2024, followed by INS Nirdeshak in December 2024.

- The SVL ships are designed and built following the classification rules of the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) by M/s GRSE, Kolkata.

Significance: Built under the supervision of the Warship Overseeing Team (WOT) (Kolkata), Ikshak is the **102nd ship** designed by the IN's Warship Design Bureau (WDB).

- Ikshak is the **first SVL Ship** to be delivered with accommodation for women officers and sailors.
- The **Ikshak** is the **802nd ship** and the **113th warship** to be built by GRSE.
- It is the **75th warship** handed over to the IN by **GRSE**, the only Indian shipyard to achieve this milestone.
- Since 1961, GRSE has built 74 more warships, supporting the Navy's transformation from a 'buyer' to a 'builder', in line with the Government of India's (GoI) Atmanirbharta policy.

Features: With a displacement of about **3,400 tons** and an overall length of **110 meters (m)**, Ikshak is fitted with state-of-the-art hydrographic equipment, such as:

- Data Acquisition and Processing System (DAPS), Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV), Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) long-range positioning systems, Digital Side Scan Sonar (DSSS), etc.
- It is powered by 2 marine diesel engines capable of speeds exceeding 18 knots. The engines are combined with fixed-pitch propellers and fitted with bow and stern thrusters for precise manoeuvring.

Role and Capabilities: The SVLs of this class are intended for comprehensive coastal and deep-water hydrographic surveys, including port and harbour approaches, and the determination of navigational channels/routes.

- In addition, these Sandhayak-class of SVLs can undertake surveys of maritime limits and collect oceanographic and geophysical data for both defence and civil applications.
- These ships can each carry a helicopter, operate in low-intensity combat and function as hospital ships.
- They can also be used for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.

Indigenous Content: Ikshak has an indigenous content of over 80% by cost, aligned with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) initiative.

About Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE):

Chairman and Managing Director (**CMD**) – Cmde PR Hari

Headquarters – Kolkata (West Bengal, WB)

Established -1884

SPORTS

8th Commonwealth Youth Games to be Held in Malta

On July 31, 2025, London, England based Commonwealth Sport, formerly known as the Commonwealth Games Federation, announced that **Malta** will host the **8th Commonwealth Youth Games (CYG) in 2027**, showcasing its dedication to expanding the Games to new regions, particularly small and island nations.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** 8th Commonwealth Youth Games (CYG)
- ✓ **Host:** Malta
- ✓ **When?** In 2027
- ✓ **Announced by:** Commonwealth Sport
- ✓ **Significance:** This edition will feature the largest para-sport programme in CYG history
- ✓ **Sports:** Athletics and para-athletics, netball, squash, swimming and para-swimming, triathlon, and weightlifting.
- ✓ **Debut Sports:** Sailing and water polo

About 8th Commonwealth Youth Games (CYG):

Venues: The games will take place in four venue clusters across the islands of Malta and Gozo. Hotels will be used to create two Athlete villages, one on each island.

Athletes: The 8th CYG will feature over 1,000 athletes, aged from 14 to 18, representing 74 countries and territories.

Sports: The athletes will compete in eight sports such as Athletics and Para Athletics, Swimming and Para Swimming, Netball, Squash, Triathlon, Weightlifting, and including two debut sports, including Sailing and Water Polo.

Largest Para Sport: The 8th CYG will feature the largest Para sport program in the history of CYG, with the first appearance of para swimming, following the introduction of para-athletics at the 2023 CYG in Trinidad and Tobago.

Note: India hosted the 3rd CYG in Pune(Maharashtra) in 2008.

GM Magnus Carlsen claims the First Chess Esports World Cup title

In August 2025, the Current World No.1 Grandmaster(GM), **Magnus Carlsen**(Norway) of Team Liquid, claims the first-ever **Chess Esports World Cup**, organised by Esports World Cup Foundation (EWC) at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

- He won the World Cup after defeating **GM Alireza Firouzja** (France) of Team Falcon in the Grand Final with a score of 2-0.
- **GM Hikaru Nakamura** (United States of America, USA) of Team Falcons beats the Indian **GM Arjun Erigaisi** of Gen. G Esports to secure **third place** in the event.



Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** First Ever Chess Esports World Cup 2025
- ✓ **Venue:** Riyadh, Saudi Arabia(SA)

- ✓ **Winner:** GM Magnus Carlsen (Norway)
- ✓ **Organised by:** Esports World Cup Foundation (**EWC**)
- ✓ **Total Prize pool:** USD 1.5 million (approx 12.5 crore)
- ✓ **Indian GMs position:** GM Argun Erigaisi(4th), GM Nihal Sarin(8th) in the event.

About Chess Esports World Cup:

Overview: It is an abstract strategy chess game with **16** players from **13** teams taking part in this tournament.

- The Tournament has 12 players from the Champions Chess Tour(CCT) 2025 standings and 4 players from Last Chance Qualifiers.

Background: It was the first chess tournament at the Esports World Championships, with a **3-year** partnership with online gaming platform **Chess.com** until 2027.

Prize Money: GM Magnus Carlsen claimed first with a cash prize of **USD 250,000**(approx Rs. 2.1 crore), and GM Alireza Firouzja won **second place** with a cash prize of USD 190,000 (approx Rs. 1.7 crore) in the event

- GM Hikaru Nakamura won third place with a cash prize of USD 145,000(approx Rs. 1.3 Crore) and **GM Arjun Erigaisi** got **fourth place** with a prize of USD 115,000 (approx Rs. 1 crore).

Other Indian Players: Indian GM Nihal Sarin secured **8th place** with USD 90,000 in this event.

Culb Champions: Team Liquid is at the top of the EWC club championships with 2750 points.

Position	Player	Prize (USD)
1	Magnus Carlsen (Norway)	250,000
2	Alireza Firouzja (France)	190,000
3	Hikaru Nakamura (USA)	145,000
4	Arjun Erigaisi (India)	115,000
8	Nihal Sarin (India)	90,000

About Esports World Cup Foundation (EWC):

Chief Executive Officer(**CEO**)- Ralf Reichert

Established- 2023

Headquarters- Riyadh, Saudi Arabia(SA)

Indian Men's and Women's Table Tennis Teams Qualified for London 2026 WTTC

In August 2025, the Indian men's and women's Table Tennis (TT) teams have qualified for the World Table Tennis Championships (**WTTC 2026**), scheduled to be held in London, the United Kingdom (UK).

- This development came after both the Indian teams emerged undefeated at the **2025 South Asia Regional Championships** held in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Indian men's and women's TT teams qualified for WTTC 2026

- ✓ **WTTC 2026 scheduled in:** London, UK
- ✓ **Reason:** Emerged winners at 2025 South Asia Regional Championships
- ✓ **Championship held at:** Kathmandu, Nepal
- ✓ **Total Quota Spots for Asia:** 16

Qualification Process:

Quota for Asia Region: This year, only **16** quota spots were available per gender for Asia region.

Direct Qualification: 4 regional champions from Central Asia, South Asia, South-East Asia, and West Asia, directly qualified for the WTTC 2026.

- While, the remaining 12 will decided through the Asian Championships.

Countries in South Asia Region: India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Maldives

Indian TT Teams:

Men's Team: It comprised players namely, Akash Pal, Ronit Bhanja, Anirban Gosh, P B Abhinand and Divyansh Srivastava defeated teams of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Maldives with identical 3-0 wins.

Women's Team: It was led by Krittika Sinha, Selenadeepthi Selvakumar, Taneesha Koteka, Sayali Wani, and Syndrela Das.

Hungarian Grand Prix 2025, Lando Norris Wins, McLaren's 200th F1 Victory

On August 3, 2025, British Formula One (F1) driver **Lando Norris**, representing United Kingdom (UK)-based McLaren Racing Limited, delivered a strategic performance to win the 40th edition of the

Hungarian Grand Prix held at Hungaroring circuit, Mogyoród, Hungary.

- This marked Norris's third win in four races, cutting the F1 World Drivers' Championship lead to **9 points** behind his teammate **Oscar Piastri** of Australia who finished 2nd in Hungary GP.
- It was also the **200th Formula One victory** for McLaren and the seventh **one-two** finish (fourth consecutive) for the team in the 2025 season.

Note: The Hungarian Grand Prix was the fourteenth round of the 2025 Formula One World Championship.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** 2025 Hungarian Grand Prix
- ✓ **Winner:** Lando Norris (United Kingdom – Team McLaren)
- ✓ **Runner-up:** Oscar Piastri (Australia – Team McLaren)
- ✓ **Circuit:** Hungaroring circuit, Mogyoród, Hungary
- ✓ **Notable details:** The win marks McLaren's 200th F1 win

Other Performances:

- **George Russell** of the Germany-based Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team secured third place after overtaking Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who received a time penalty for aggressive defending.
- Fernando Alonso delivered Aston Martin Aramco Cognizant F1 Team's best result of the season by finishing fifth
- Max Verstappen of the Austria-based Oracle Red Bull Racing finished ninth, now trailing the championship leader by 97 points, further denting his title hopes.

Top 3 Positions of F1 Hungarian Grand Prix 2025:

Rank	Driver	Team	Representing Country
1	Lando Norris	McLaren	United Kingdom (UK)
2	Oscar Piastri	McLaren	Australia

3	George Russell	Mercedes	Uk
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Top 5 Drivers – Championship Standings After Hungarian GP 2025:

Rank	Driver	Team	Points
1	Oscar Piastri	McLaren	284
2	Lando Norris	McLaren	275
3	Max Verstappen	Red Bull	187
4	George Russell	Mercedes	172
5	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	151

India and England's Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy 2025 Ends in Draw

From 20 June to 4 August 2025, the Indian Cricket Team toured England to contest a five-match Test series, competing for the inaugural **Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy**, introduced in honour of James Anderson and Sachin Tendulkar. A **Pataudi Medal of Excellence** was also instituted for the winning captain.

- The series ended in a **2-2 draw**, with **India winning the final Test at The Oval by six runs** to level the series. This mirrored the previous Test tour outcome in 2021–22 on English.
- Shubman Gill (India) and Harry Brook (England)** were jointly adjudged **Player of the Series** – the first such instance in Test history

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Trophy:** Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy, introduced 2025; winner's captain awarded Pataudi Medal
- ✓ **Indian Captaincy:** Shubman Gill led as Test captain; topped run charts with 754 runs
- ✓ **Key bowler:** Mohammed Siraj, highest wicket-taker with 23 dismissals.
- ✓ **Player of the Series:** Shubman Gill and Harry Brook(England)
- ✓ **Notable feats:** Gill's double-century at Edgbaston; Jadeja's 2,000 runs & 100 wickets in WTC.
- ✓ **Historical Records:** India's highest team total in Series; most 500+ scorers; Root's home century record; Siraj's milestone as first Asian with seven 4-wicket hauls in England.

Match-Wise Summary and Key Performances

1st Test:

- The 1st Test was held between 20–24 June, 2025, at Headingley, Leeds in which England won by 5 wickets.
- Key Records:**
- Rishabh Pant (India) crossed 3,000 Test runs and became first Indian keeper to hit centuries in both innings of a Test.
- India chalked up **five centuries in a single Test**, but lost.
- Jasprit Bumrah (India), held record for **most Test wickets in SENA** (South Africa, England, New Zealand and Australia) by an Asian bowler; equalled Kapil Dev's away five-wicket haul tally.

2nd Test:

- India won the 2nd test by 336 runs, held at Edgbaston, Birmingham between 2–6 July, 2025.
- Key Records:**

- It was India's largest away Test win by runs
- Shubman Gill named Player of the match, scored a **maiden double century (269)** followed by 161, the series' second-highest aggregate, and set records as highest-scoring Indian captain in a series
- Ravindra Jadeja(India) became the first player with 2,000 runs and 100 wickets in **ICC World Test Championship (WTC)** history.

3rd Test:

- England won the 3rd test at Lord's between 10–14 July, 2025 by 22 runs.
- **Key Records:**
- Joe Root (England) becomes first cricketer to score 3,000 Test runs vs India.

4th Test:

- The 4th test was held at Old Trafford, Manchester, between July 23-27, 2025, which turned out to be Drawn.
- **Key Records:**
- Joe Root became **second-highest Test run scorer** all-time surpassing Ricky Ponting(Australia)'s 13,378 runs

5th Test:

- India won the 5th test by 6 runs, held at The Oval, London, between July 31 – August 4, 2025
- **Notable details:**
- Mohammed Siraj (India) named the Player of the match for his match winning performance.
- **Key Records:**
- India's **lowest Test win by runs margin**
- Joe Root scored his 24th home Test century – a **new world record**.

Major Records in the Series:

Highest Run-Scorer: Shubman Gill – **754 runs** with an average of 75.40,

- This also marks the highest aggregate by any visiting captain and surpassing records by Graham Gooch (752 runs) and Sunil Gavaskar (732).

Highest Team-Score: India's series aggregate of **3,809 runs** set a team record for a five-match series.

Most 50+ Scores in India-England Series: Ravindra Jadeja (Ind) – 6 half-centuries

Most 4-Wicket Hauls in England (Asian Bowler): Mohammed Siraj (Ind) – 7 times

Nightwatchman Fifty: Akash Deep (India) became the **third Indian** nightwatchman (after Syed Kirmani, Amit Mishra) to score a Test fifty.

India Shines at World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze Meet

On August 10, 2025, The **Indian Open World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze Meet 2025**, organized at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, marked India's first-ever hosting of a World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze-level (Category C) event.

- The one-day meet featured over 150 athletes from 17 countries competing in 19 events, with a total prize purse of **USD 25,000**.
- More than 90 participants were from India, while the remaining athletes represented various international nations including Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Korea, Djibouti, Iraq, and Great Britain, competing across track and field disciplines.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** Indian Open World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze Meet 2025, Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ✓ **India:** First time hosting a WA Continental Tour Bronze-level (Category C) event.

- ✓ **National Record (NR):** Shahnavaz Khan (Long Jump) – 8.04m, Indian U18 NR, U18 World no.2, U20 World no.4
- ✓ **Javelin Throw:** Annu Rani won Gold

Top Indian Performances in the event:

Shahnavaz Khan Breaks U18 National Record:

17-year-old **Shahnavaz Khan (Uttar Pradesh)** produced a historic performance in the **Men's Long Jump**, leaping **8.04 metres** to clinch the **silver medal**.

- The jump broke his own Indian (Under)U18 national record and placed him number 2 in the 2025 U18 world list, number **4 in the U20 world list**, and number 1 in U18 Asian.

India's Individual performance – Men

Athlete	Performance	Medal	Event
Murali Sreeshankar – Uttar Pradesh (UP)	8.13 meters(m)	Gold	Men's Long Jump
Abdulla Aboobacker – Indian Air Force (IAF)	16.53 m	Gold	Men's Triple Jump
Shivam Lohakare – Maharashtra	80.73 m	Silver	Men's Javelin throw
Animesh Kujur – Odisha	20.77 seconds (s)	Gold	Men's 200m
Vishal TK – (National Centre of Excellence) NCOE Trivandrum	45.72 s	Gold	Men's 400m
Mohammad Afsal – IAF	1:46.60 minutes (min)	Gold	Men's 800m
Abhishek Pal – Railway	14:10.60 min	Silver	Men's 5000m

Individual Events – Women

Athlete	Performance	Medal	Event
Shaili Singh – UP	6.28 m	Gold	Women's Long Jump
Annu Rani – UP	62.01m	Gold	Women's Javelin Throw
Abinaya Rajarajan – NCOE Trivandrum	11.57 s	Gold	Women's 100m
Angel Silvia M – Bengaluru	23.95 s	Gold	Women's 200m
Vijaykumari GK – Karnataka	53.40 s	Gold	Women's 400m
Amandeep Kaur – Punjab	2:04.31 min	Gold	Women's 800m
Pooja – Haryana	4:15.13 min	Gold	Women's 1500m

Pragyan Prashanti Sahu – Odisha	13.74 s	Gold	Women's 100m Hurdles
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Team Events – Men

Team	Performance	Medal	Event
Sri Lanka	3:0.22 min	Gold	Men's 4x400m relay
India A – (Santhosh Kumar T, Vishal TK, Amoj Jacob D Choudhary)	3:08.37 min	Silver	
Iraq	3:08.74 min	Bronze	

Notable International Highlights

Men's Javelin Throw: Rumesh Tharanga (Sri Lanka) recorded **86.50m**, surpassing the World Athletics automatic qualification mark of 85.50m for major championships.

Women's 400m: Louise Evans (Great Britain) clocked **54.28 seconds** to secure a podium spot

Rishabh Yadav Wins Bronze in Compound Archery at World Games 2025

In August 2025, Rishabh Yadav, won the **bronze medal** in the **Men's Individual Compound Archery** at the **World Games 2025**, held in Chengdu, China (7th to 17th August 2025). This marked **India's first-ever individual archery medal** and the **sixth overall medal** at the World Games.

- The **World Games**, held every four years since 1981, feature non-Olympic sports. India, a participant since the first edition, has won 5 medals so far, including a 2013 Gold by Aditya Mehta in Billiards. This year, India is competing in Archery, Billiards, Roller Skating, Wushu, and Racquetball.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** World Games 2025 – Chengdu, China (7–17 August 2025)
- ✓ **Medal:** Bronze – Men's Individual Compound Archery
- ✓ **Winner:** Rishabh Yadav (22 yrs) – Seeded 10th

Rishabh Yadav – Performance Details:

Performance: The 22-year-old, seeded 10th, maintained lead from the start; scored **nine consecutive perfect 10s** in final stages

Opponent: Defeated senior teammate **Abhishek Verma** by **149–147** in the bronze medal match.

Path to Bronze: Defeated opponents from New Zealand, Guatemala, and Turkiye; lost semi-final to Curtis Broadnax (United States of America, USA).

Note: This is only the second archery medal ever for India at the World Games (after a team bronze in 2022) and the sixth overall World Games medal for the country.

India's U-20 Football Women's Team Qualifies for AFC Asian Cup 2026 After 20 Year

In August 2025, **India's U-20 women's football team** qualified for Asian Football Confederation (AFC) **U-20 Women's Asian Cup 2026** by defeating Myanmar 1-0 in their final Group-D qualifying match held at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon, Myanmar.

- With this, India qualified for the AFC U-20 football tournament for the 1st time in 20 years.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** India qualified for AFC U-20 Asian Cup 2026

- ✓ **Defeated:** Myanmar (1-0)
- ✓ **Final Match held at:** Thuwunna Stadium (Myanmar)
- ✓ **Host for AFC U-20 Asian Cup 2026:** Thailand

About qualifying match:

Competing Teams: A total of 32 teams are competing for 11 remaining spots at the tournament in the qualifiers. The teams have been divided into 8 groups of 4 each i.e. Group-A, Group-B, Group-C & Group-D.

Finalists: Host country Thailand; Group winners namely Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Vietnam, Australia, India, China, Japan, Uzbekistan, and the Republic Korea; plus 3 best-runner ups: Jordan, Bangladesh, and Taiwan.

About AFC U-20 Asian Cup 2026:

Host : Thailand will host The AFC U-20 Asian Cup 2026 from April 01 to April 18, 2026.

Format: It will feature an expanded 12-team format and act as a qualifier for the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) U-20 Women's World Cup.

Asian Surfing Championships 2025; India's Performance Secures Full Quotas for Asian Games 2026

The Asian Surfing Championships (ASC) 2025, held from August 3 to 12, 2025 in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu, marking India's debut as host. The event served as the final qualification event for the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

- The ASC 2025 featured over 150 surfers from 20 countries in 4 categories (Open Men/Women, U-18 Boys/Girls).
- India's breakthrough moment of first-ever individual medal at the ASC came when **Ramesh Budihal** clinched bronze in the Open Men's final.



Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** Asian Surfing Championships 2025
- ✓ **Venue:** Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu
- ✓ **India's First Medal:** Ramesh Budihal – Bronze in Open Men's Final
- ✓ **Other Indian Achievements:** Kishore Kumar (Semifinalist), D. Srikanth (Quarterfinalist)
- ✓ **Men's Team Overall Rank:** India ranks 3rd (1785 points) behind Indonesia (1980) & South Korea (1800)
- ✓ **Women's Team Overall Rank:** 8th (1200 points)
- ✓ **Asian Games 2026 Quotas:** India secured 2 additional quotas.

India's Historic Performance

Breakthrough: In Open Men's final, Ramesh Budihal scored **12.60** points to finish third by winning the bronze medal, behind Kanoa Heejae (South Korea, 15.17 points) and Pajar Ariyana (Indonesia, 14.57 points)

- **Kishore Kumar** also made history by reaching the semifinals. Kishore and Budihal became the **first Indians to reach semifinals**.
- **D. Srikanth** also advanced to the quarterfinals in the Open Men's division

Top 3 in Open-Men Category:

Surfers	Medal	Country
Kanoa Heejae – 15.17 Points	Gold	South Korea

Pajar Ariyana – 14.57 Points	Silver	Indonesia
Ramesh Budihal – 12.60 Points	Bronze	India

Top 3 – Men's team overall ranking:

Country	Points	Rank
Indonesia	1980	1
South Korea	1800	2
India	1785	3

The Indian women's team scored **1200 points**, finishing **eighth** in standings, topped by Japan (1860 points), Indonesia (1670), and Thailand (1608).

India's Qualification to Asian Games 2026:

Final Qualification Event: The Asian Surfing Championships 2025 served as the final qualifying event for the **20th Asian Games** in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, with 48 quotas (24 for men and 24 for women) available. Each nation could secure a maximum of two surfers per gender.

Achievement: The **2025 event** awarded the final **two quotas** to India, one for men's shortboard and one for women's shortboard, based on accumulated ranking points.

2024 event: India's **first two quotas**, one men's and one women's, were earned at the Asian Surfing Championships 2024 in the Maldives, where the Indian team also won silver in the Maruhaba Cup team event.

Significance and Impact

National Milestone: India rose from unranked (2020) to quota leader (2026 Asian Games).

Recognition: Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Udhayanidhi Stalin awarded medals, highlighting state support.

S.Rohith Krishna Becomes India's 89th Chess Grandmaster

In August 2025, 19-year-old **S. Rohith Krishna**, an engineering student from Chennai (Tamil Nadu, TN), earned his final Grandmaster (GM) norm and achieved an International Chess Federation (**FIDE**) rating of **2516** (as of July 2025), officially became **India's 89th chess GM** and the 85th male player to achieve this title.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Became India's 89th chess GM
- ✓ **Who?** S. Rohith Krishna(TN)
- ✓ **FIDE Rating:** 2516 (as of August 2025)
- ✓ **Event:** Almaty Masters Qonaev Cup in Kazakhstan
- ✓ **Previous Title:** International Master in 2022



Almaty Masters Qonaev Cup :

Final GM Norm: He achieved his final GM norm at the Almaty Masters Qonaev Cup in Kazakhstan, scoring 6 points out of 9 and crossing the 2500 Elo rating mark.

Final: In the last round, he defeated Armenian International Master Artur Davtyan to secure the GM title.

Journey to chess GM:

GM norms: S. Rohith Krishna earned his first GM norm at the Hotel Stockholm North GM Round-Robin in February 2025 with an unbeaten score of 6.5/9.

- He secured his second GM norm at the 25th Dubai Open in June 2025.
- He clinched his final GM norm at the Almaty Masters Qonaev Cup completing the requirements for the GM title.

Previous Achievement: He previously earned the International Master (**IM**) title in 2022

FIDE Criteria for Chess Grandmaster Qualification:

Three GM Norms: High-level performances in FIDE-approved tournaments against strong, titled players.

2500 Elo Rating: Achieve a FIDE rating of at least 2500 at any point.

International Play: Norms must come from tournaments with players from multiple countries.

Performance Rating: Each norm requires a performance rating of around 2600 or higher.

Mascot, Logo and Anthem of 1st Khelo India Water Sports Festival Unveiled

In August 2025, **Satish Sharma**, Minister of Youth Services & Sports of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, unveiled the official **mascot, logo, anthem, jingle, and jerseys** for the inaugural Khelo India Water Sports Festival (**KIWSF 2025**) at an event in Srinagar, J&K.

- The **KIWSF 2025** was scheduled to be held at **Dal Lake** in Srinagar, the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) from August 21 to 23, 2025, marking a significant expansion of the Khelo India calendar.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Mascot, Logo, Anthem, Jingle & Jerseys unveiled for KIWSF 2025
- ✓ **Unveiled by:** Satish Sharma, Minister of Youth Services & Sports, J&K (UT)
- ✓ **Mascot:** Himalayan Kingfisher
- ✓ **Logo:** Shikara on Dal Lake
- ✓ **Event:** Scheduled 21–23 Aug 2025, at Dal Lake, Srinagar (J&K)



About Mascot, Logo and Anthem:

Mascot: The colourful Himalayan Kingfisher mascot features bold orange and blue colours, symbolising adventure, energy, and Kashmir's natural beauty.

- It also serves as the festival's **ambassador** for promoting eco-friendly sports, tourism, and youth engagement nationwide.

Logo: The KIWSF 2025 Logo features a **Shikara** gliding on Dal Lake, with snow-capped mountains and pine trees.

About KIWSF 2025 :

Collaboration: The KIWSF 2025 events will be hosted by the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS) and the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

Events: The KIWSF 2025 will feature rowing, canoeing, and kayaking as medal events. The demonstration events will be water skiing, shikara race, and dragon boat race.

German GM Vincent Keymer wins Quantbox Chennai Grand Masters 2025

In August 2025, **Vincent Keymer**, Chess Grandmaster (GM) from Germany, won the Quantbox **Chennai Grand Masters 2025** held from August 6–15, 2025 at the Hyatt Regency in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN). He became the first sole champion in the tournament's history, securing the title with a round to spare.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Tournament:** Chennai Grand Masters 2025
- ✓ **Winner:** GM Vincent Keymer (Germany)
- ✓ **Runner:** Anish Giri (Netherlands)
- ✓ **Indian Performance:** Arjun Erigaisi, 3rd Place & Karthikeyan Murali, 4th Place

- ✓ **Challengers Winner:** GM M. Pranesh (India); Qualified for the 2026 Masters
- ✓ **Total Prize:** Rs. 1 crore, (Masters – 75 lakhs, Challengers – 25 lakhs)

About Chennai Grand Masters 2025:

Tournament Structure: The tournament featured two separate 10-player round-robin sections, a masters and a challengers section.

- The **Masters** showcased elite international Grandmasters, while the **Challengers** section served as a breeding ground for emerging Indian talents.

Prize Money: The total prize pool for the tournament is **Rs. 1 crore**, with Rs. 75 lakhs for the master section and Rs. 25 lakhs for the challengers section.



Key Performances:

Vincent Keymer: He scored 1.5 points ahead in Round 8 with a draw against **GM Jorden van Foreest** (Netherlands).

- Then, he ended the event with a two-point lead, defeating GM Ray Robson (United States) in the final round, finishing with **7/9 points**.
- His performance rating stood at an impressive 2917, earning **20.9 Elo points** and propelling him above 2750 live rating, now ranked **World No. 10**.

Anish Giri (Netherlands): He staged a dramatic final-round win over Jorden van Foreest, which elevated him to solo **second** place, edging out Indian GMs **Arjun Erigaisi** and **Karthikeyan Murali** on tiebreakers.

Other Indian GMs: Arjun Erigaisi finished **third** after a calm draw with Murali, who ended **fourth**, having lost only to Keymer.

- Indian GMs Nihal Sarin and V Pranav ended up fifth and ninth in the tournament.

Winners of Chennai Grand Masters 2025-Masters:

Rank	Player	Country	Prize
1	Vincent Keymer	Germany	25 lakhs
2	Anish Giri	The Netherlands	15 lakhs
3	Arjun Erigaisi	India	10 lakhs

About Chennai Grand Masters 2025 – Challengers Section:

Top Performances: GM M. Pranesh(India) triumphed with 6.5/9 points, earning a spot in the 2026 Masters after beating GM Harika Dronavalli(India). Despite losing his final game, he held his lead as rivals faltered.

- GM Adhiban Baskaran(India) and GM Abhimanyu Puranik(India) secured the second and third place respectively in the Challengers Section of Chennai Grand Masters 2025.

Prize Money: The prize pool for the top 3 positions in the challengers section is Rs. 7 lakhs, 4 lakhs and 3.25 lakhs, respectively.

Recent Related News:

In July 2025, Magnus Carlsen of Norway, the World No.1 chess player, won the SuperUnited Rapid & Blitz Croatia 2025 tournament held in Zagreb, Croatia, with a total score of 22.5 out of 36 points. This marked his 10th victory in 12 Grand Chess Tour (GCT) rapid and blitz events and his sixth consecutive tournament win in 2025.

Marc Marquez Won 2025 Austrian GP for the 1st time to Extend MotoGP Championship Lead

In August 2025, 6-time MotoGP champion **Marc Marquez** (Ducati Lenovo team), from Spain, won his career's 1st ever Austrian Grand Prix (GP) title '**MotoGP 2025 Austrian GP**' at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, Austria.

- Following this victory, he took a **142**-point lead over his brother **Álex Márquez** in the championship.

Exam Hints:

- Event:** 2025 MotoGP Austrian GP
- Venue:** Spielberg, Austria
- Winner:** Spanish racer Marc Marquez (Ducati Lenovo team)
- Significance:** 1000th premier class MotoGP race
- Championship Lead:** Extended lead to 142 points over Álex Márquez

About 2025 Austrian GP:

Significance: This GP marked the **1,000th** premier class race in history. This was also Marquez's 6th consecutive GP victory.

Other Notable Performances: Spanish moto-rider **Fermin Aldeguer**, representing the Gresini Racing team finished at the **2nd** place.

- While, Italian rider **Marco Bezzecchi**, representing the Aprilia, has secured the 3rd position at the podium.

Top 3 Positions of 2025 MotoGP Austrian GP:

Rank	Drivers	Team	Nationality
1	Marc Marquez	Ducati Lenovo	Spain
2	Fermin Aldeguer	Gresini Racing	Spain
3	Marco Bezzecchi	Aprilia Racing	Italy

Top 5 Drivers- Championship Standing After Austrian GP 2025:

Rank	Driver	Team	Points
1	Marc Marquez	Ducati Lenovo	418
2	Alex Marquez	Gresini Racing	276
3	Francesco Bagnaia	Ducati Lenovo	221
4	Marco Bezzecchi	Aprilia Racing Team	178
5	Pedro Acosta	Red Bull KTM Factory Racing	144

Recent Related News:

On July 27, 2025, Australian Oscar Piastri, Formula One (F1) driver representing the United Kingdom (UK)-based team, McLaren, delivered a commanding performance to win the 70th edition of the Belgian Grand Prix at Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps, Stavelot, Belgium.

- This was his sixth win in 13 races this season, extending his title lead in F1 world championship with 16 points over teammate Lando Norris.

Bhavina Patel Clinched Top Medals at ITTF World Para Events, Secures World No.1

In August 2025, Ms. **Bhavina Patel**, Assistant Director at the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (**ESIC**), Regional Office, Ahmedabad, wins top medals at two prestigious international para table tennis events held in Spokane, Washington, United States of America (USA).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Ms. Bhavina Patel won top medals at two prestigious international para table tennis events.
- ✓ **Events:** ITTF World Para Future (Silver), ITTF World Para Elite (Gold), Spokane, USA
- ✓ **Category:** Women's Singles Class 4–5
- ✓ **Current World Ranking:** No. 1 in Women's Singles Class 1–5
- ✓ **Designation:** Assistant Director with the ESIC

About the Achievements:

Silver Medal: Patel won the **Silver Medal** in the Women's Singles Class 4–5 category, at the International Table Tennis Federation (**ITTF**) **World Para Future event**, held from 6th to 8th August 2025.

Gold Medal: She clinched the **Gold Medal**, at the **ITTF World Para Elite event** (9th to 13th August 2025) in the same category, defeating some of the world's best para table tennis players.

Global Recognition: With these successive performances, Patel rose to the **No. 1 World Ranking** in the **Women's Singles Class 1–5 category**, marking a historic achievement for Indian para sports.

18th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics Held in Mumbai, Maharashtra

The **18th** edition of the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (**IOAA 2025**), an annual competition in Astronomy and Astrophysics for secondary school students was held from August 11 to 21, 2025, in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** 18th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA)
- ✓ **Where?** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ✓ **When?** From August 11 to 21, 2025
- ✓ **Organizer:** Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE)
- ✓ **India's Medal:** 4 Gold and 1 silver medal

About IOAA 2025:

Organizer: The event was organized by the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), a national centre of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai.

Support: The IOAA 2025 is supported by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India (GoI), through the Vigyan Pratibha Project of HBCSE.

Participation: The 18th IOAA, the first edition hosted by India, was the largest in the event's history, featuring over 300 students from 64 countries.

India's Victory: **Aarush Mishra** from Bengaluru (Karnataka), **Banibrata Majee** from Delhi, **Panini** from Patna (Bihar), and **Akshat Srivastava** from Kolkata (West Bengal, WB) have won gold medals.

- **Sumant Gupta** from Gurugram (Haryana) won a silver medal.

Suspension: During the IOAA Board Meeting, representatives of 64 countries voted to suspend **Israel** as a recognized national team in future editions. Israeli students may participate only as individuals, without official national

India Host 1st-ever Asian Short Track Speed Skating Trophy 2025 in Uttarakhand

For the 1st time, **India** hosted the **Asian Short Track Speed Skating Trophy 2025**, the biggest international winter sports event, which was held at Himadri Ice Rink at the Maharana Pratap Sports College in Dehradun, Uttarakhand from August 20 to 23, 2025.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** Asian Short Track Speed Skating Trophy 2025
- ✓ **Hosted by:** India (for the 1st time ever)
- ✓ **Where?** Himadri Ice Rink in Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- ✓ **Total Participants:** 11 Asian Countries (China, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines, India and Malaysia)
- ✓ **Total Events:** 9
- ✓ **Organiser:** Ice Skating Association of India (ISAI)
- ✓ **Medal Tally:** Thailand(1st), India(2nd) and Japan(3rd)

About Asian Short Track Speed Skating Trophy 2025:

Participants: Skaters from 11 Asian nations participated: India, China, Japan, Thailand, Chinese Taipei, Vietnam, Singapore, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Malaysia

- A total of around 240 athletes and officials participated, while India fielded its largest-ever contingent of 95 members.

Sports Event: The tournament organises 9 different events, ranging from 222 metres (m) to 5000 m relay in both junior and senior categories.

Organised by: The event was organized by the Ice Skating Association of India (ISAI). It serves as the official governing body for ice skating in India and is affiliated with both the International Skating Union (ISU) and the Asian Skating Union (ASU).

Medals : Thailand led the tally with 30 medals (15 Gold, 12 Silver, 3 Bronze), followed by India with 39 medals (9 Gold, 12 Silver, 18 Bronze). Japan secured third place with 23 medals (8 Gold, 8 Silver, 7 Bronze).

Indian Cricketer Cheteshwar Pujara Announces Retirement from All Forms

On 24th August 2025, veteran Indian cricketer **Cheteshwar Arvind Pujara**, widely regarded as one of India's greatest Test specialists, announced his retirement from all formats of Indian cricket through social media.

- He represented India in **103 Test matches**, scoring 7,195 runs at an average of 43.60, with 19 centuries and 35 fifties.
- He also played **5 One-Day Internationals (ODIs)** for India.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Cheteshwar Pujara retires all forms of Indian cricket
- ✓ **Stats:** Played 103 Test matches, scored 7,195 runs
- ✓ **Key Series:** 2018-19 Border-Gavaskar Trophy (Australia) – 521 runs
- ✓ **Awards:** ICC Emerging Cricketer of the Year 2013
- ✓ **Achievements:** Most balls faced by an Indian in an International Test innings – **525 balls**, Fourth-highest run-getter and first Indian to score three triple centuries in First-Class Cricket
- ✓ **Domestic Team:** Saurashtra (Gujarat); County: Sussex (England).



About Cheteshwar Pujara:

Early Life and Domestic Career: Born on 25th January 1988 in Rajkot, Gujarat, Pujara made his First-

Class debut for Saurashtra in December 2005. He became the first Indian to score three triple centuries in First-Class cricket.

- His last domestic appearance came in the Ranji Trophy 2025 quarterfinal against Gujarat.

Under-19: Represented India in the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2006 (Sri Lanka) and was named Man of the Tournament.

Franchise Cricket: In the Indian Premier League (IPL), Pujara featured for Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), and later was part of Chennai Super Kings' (CSK) 2021 title-winning squad.

International Career: Made his Test debut in October 2010 and cemented India's No. 3 position post-Rahul Dravid.

- He played a defining role in the 2018-19 Border-Gavaskar Trophy, India's first-ever Test series victory in Australia, scoring 521 runs and earning the Player of the Series award.
- He was the second-fastest Indian to reach 1,000 Test runs (in 11 matches and 18 innings).

Last Appearance: He last represented India in the 2023 ICC World Test Championship (WTC) Final against Australia at The Oval, London, United Kingdom (UK).

County Cricket: He represented Sussex County Cricket Club, England, from 2022 to 2024 and was appointed captain in 2023.

Awards & Records:

Notable Achievements & Awards include,

- Emerging Cricketer of the Year 2013** by the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- Holds the record for **most balls faced** by an Indian in a Test innings – **525 balls**.
- Fourth-highest run-getter for India in First-Class cricket history (21301 runs)
- Pujara has 57.01 List A average highest among Indians and 2nd Overall

Durand Cup 2025: NEUFC Retained Title by Defeating DHFC in Final Match Held in Kolkata, WB

In August 2025, North East United Football Club (**NEUFC**) has retained the Durand Cup trophy by defeating Diamond Harbour FC (**DHFC**) by **6-1** in the final match of **134th edition of the Durand Cup**

2025 tournament held at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) in Kolkata, West Bengal (WB).

- The winning team, **NEUFC** won the trophy as well as monetary prize of **Rs.1.21 crore**, the highest champion's purse in the history of Asia's oldest football tournament, while, runner-up team received the cash prize of **Rs.60 lakh**.
- Also, losing semi-finalists and losing quarter-finalist won the cash prize of **Rs 25 lakh** and **Rs 15 lakh each**, respectively.

Exam Hints:

- Event: Durand Cup 2025 tournament
- Edition: 134th
- Held at: Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) in Kolkata, WB
- Winner: North East United Football Club (NEUFC)
- Runner-Up: Diamond Harbour FC (DHFC)
- Champion Purse Prize: Rs 1.21 crore
- Golden Player: Alaaeddine Ajaraie (NEUFC)

About Durand Cup 2025:

Background: Durand Cup 2025, the **134th** edition of the Durand Cup tournament, the world's **3rd** oldest football cup tournament and the oldest in Asia was 1st held in 1888.

Participants: The tournament featured a total of 43 matches, with 24 teams were categorised into 6 different groups (Group A, B, C, D, E and F) of 4 sides each.

Other winners: Alaaeddine Ajaraie (NEUFC) won the Golden player (player of the tournament) award; Alaaeddine Ajaraie who scored 8 goals in the tournament, won the Golden Boot (highest scorer) award;

- While, Gurmeet Singh (NEUFC) won the Golden Glove (best goalkeeper) award.
- Each winner received a cash prize of Rs 3 lakh and brand new Mahindra XUV 3XO SUV.

Overview of Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025

The **inaugural Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) 2025** was organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (**MoYAS**), Government of India (**GoI**), at the Dal Lake in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) under the Khelo India mission, **from 21st to 23rd August 2025**.

- The 3-day event witnessed the participation of over 500 athletes from 28 States and Union Territories (UTs) competing in rowing, canoeing, & kayaking with **24 medal event** (14 in canoe/kayak, 10 in rowing) and Shikara Race, Dragon Boat Race, and Water Skiing (demonstration events).



Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** 1st Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) 2025
- ✓ **Date & Location:** August 21-23, 2025 at Dal Lake, Srinagar (J&K).
- ✓ **Organiser:** Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS), Government of India, under the Khelo India mission.
- ✓ **Mascot and Logo:** Himalayan Kingfisher (Mascot), Shikara (Logo)
- ✓ **Total Gold Medals:** 24 (14 in canoe/kayak, 10 in rowing)
- ✓ **Team Champion:** Madhya Pradesh (1st) with 10 Gold, 3 Silver, 5 Bronze (18 Total). Odisha (2nd), Kerala (3rd).
- ✓ **Event Upgrade:** SAI announced inaugural KIWSF will be upgraded into a full-fledged Khelo India Water Games from 2026

Mascot and Logo:

The official **mascot** of the inaugural edition was the **Himalayan Kingfisher**, symbolising agility and speed, while the event **logo** highlighted a **Shikara** (traditional Kashmiri boat) sailing on Dal Lake, showcasing the cultural heritage of Kashmir.

Major Winners & Results:

Top Medal Tally: Madhya Pradesh (**MP**) claimed the team championship with 10 golds, 3 silvers, and 5 bronzes (**total 18 medals**), followed by Odisha and Kerala.

Key Performance: Mohsin Ali, a 17-year-old Shikarawalla from Dal Lake, won the first gold medal of KIWSF 2025 in the **1000m Men's Kayaking race**, clocking 4:12.41 minutes.

- Shikha Chauhan (Madhya Pradesh), fresh from her Asian Canoe Slalom Championship silver, bagged gold in Kayaking Singles Slalom.
- Tokyo Olympian Arjun Lal Jat (Delhi), settled for silver in Men's Single Scull behind Aviraj (Odisha).

State-wise Medal Tally

Rank	State/UT	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Madhya Pradesh	10	3	5	18

2	Odisha	4	5	1	10
3	Kerala	3	1	3	7
4	Uttar Pradesh	2	0	1	3
5	Delhi	1	2	0	3

ABOUT KHELO INDIA WATER SPORTS FESTIVAL (KIWSF) 2025:

Introduction: The KIWSF is the newest addition to the Khelo India programme (launched in 2017-18 by Government of India), which aims to promote grassroots sports culture, talent identification, and infrastructure development.

- It became the second Khelo India event in J&K, after the Khelo India Winter Games in Gulmarg.

Future Outlook: The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has announced that the inaugural KIWSF will be upgraded into a full-fledged Khelo India Water Games from 2026.

- This expansion is expected to bring higher investments, more disciplines, and greater international participation.

Related Event:

India hosted the Asian Surfing Championships (ASC) 2025 for the first time at Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu, from 3rd to 12th August 2025.

- It served as a qualifier for the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
- India secured two quotas, with Ramesh Budihal winning a bronze in the Open Men's Final.

World Youth Archery Championships 2025: India Shines with 8 Medals

The 19th edition of the World Youth Archery Championships (WYAC) 2025, a biennial global archery event, was held from 17th to 24th August 2025 in Winnipeg, Canada.

Exam Hints:

- Event:** 19th World Youth Archery Championships (WYAC) 2025
- Date & Venue:** 17–24 August 2025, Winnipeg, Canada
- Organiser:** World Archery (WA), Lausanne, Switzerland
- Participants:** 570 archers from 63 nations
- India's Performance:** 8 medals – 4 Gold, 2 Silver, 2 Bronze
- Global Medal Tally:** Rank 1: South Korea (17 total, 7 gold); Rank 2: India (8 total, 4 gold); Rank 3: USA (6 total, 4 gold)
- Next Edition:** 2027 in Antalya, Türkiye



Event Overview:

Organiser: The tournament was organised by **World Archery (WA)**, headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Participation Details: A total of 570 archers from 63 countries participated in the disciplines of Recurve and Compound, across Under-18 (Cadet) and Under-21 (Junior) categories.

- Competitions were held in individual, team, and mixed team formats for both men and women, with 20 titles awarded in total.

Medal Haul: India's 24-member contingent secured **8 medals**, highlighting dominance in compound events and historic achievements in recurve, placing India at **second overall** in the medal standings but won the most gold medals (4 Medals, tied with USA).

- The **South Korea (ROK)** topped the tally by total medals of 10, and **United States of America (USA)** placed in the third position.

Top three countries – Medal Tally

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	South Korea	7	6	4	17
2	India	4	2	2	8
3	USA	4	2	0	6

Highlights of Indian Success:

Sharvari Shende: Aged 16, became the third Indian woman to win U18 Recurve gold after defeating Korea's Kim Yewon in a shoot-off, sealing victory with a perfect 10.

Compound U21 Men's Team: Claimed their first-ever Junior World title, beating Germany in a shoot-off.

Compound U18 Men's Team: Secured gold by defeating the USA in the finals.

Chikitha Taniparthi: Scripted history as the first Indian to win gold in the U21 Women's Compound event, overcoming Korea's top seed Park Yerin with a 142–136 scoreline.

Indian Winners – Medal Table:

Event	Athlete(s)	Medal
Recurve U18 Women's Individual	Sharvari Shende	Gold
Compound U21 Men's Team	Kushal Dalal, Apar Mihir Nitin, Ganesh Mani Ratnam Thirumuru	Gold
Compound U18 Men's Team	Mohit Dagar, Yogesh Joshi, Devansh Singh	Gold
Compound U21 Women's Individual	Chikitha Taniparthi	Gold

Note: India had also topped the medal tally at the 2023 edition in Limerick, Ireland with 6 gold medals, highlighting its rising dominance in world youth archery.

Next Edition: The World Youth Archery Championships – **2027** will be held in Antalya, Turkiye.

Goa Announced as Official Host for FIDE World Cup 2025

In August 2025, the International Chess Federation (**FIDE**) officially announced **Goa** as the host city for the **FIDE World Cup 2025**, which is scheduled to be held from **October 30 to November 27, 2025**.

- The biennial knockout tournament will feature 206 players competing for a prize fund of **USD 2 million** and three qualifying spots in the 2026 Candidates Tournament.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** FIDE World Cup 2025 host city announced
- ✓ **Where?** Goa
- ✓ **When?** 30 October to 27 November 2025
- ✓ **Players:** 51-206 from over 90 countries
- ✓ **Format:** Eight-round knockout, two classical games per match; rapid and blitz tie-breaks if required

- ✓ **Top 50 Seeds:** Enter from Round 2
- ✓ **Prize Fund:** USD 2 million

About FIDE World Cup 2025:

Event & Purpose: The FIDE World Cup is a biennial knockout chess tournament that serves as a qualifying event for the Candidates Tournament, which determines the challenger for the World Chess Championship.

Format & Matches: The tournament follows a head-to-head, two-game classical knockout format over eight rounds, with tiebreaks in rapid, blitz, and Armageddon games if needed.

Seeding & Participation: Players seeded 51–206 compete in the first round, while the top 50 seeds receive byes into the second round, ensuring wider global participation.

Significance: The top three finishers earn direct qualification for the 2026 Candidates Tournament, promoting competitive chess and enhancing its popularity, especially in India.

Indian Players Qualified: At least 21 Indians including Viswanathan Anand, reigning World Champion Gukesh Dommaraju, Praggnanandhaa R, Arjun Erigaisi, Aravindh Chithambaram, Nihal Sarin, Raja Rithvik R, Vidit Gujrathi, and others via continental and Olympiad spots.

Dharambir, Preeti Pal Named India's Flag Bearers for World Para Athletics Championships 2025

In August 2025, the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) announced that Paralympians **Dharambir and Preeti Pal** were chosen as the **flag bearers** of the Indian contingent for the **12th World Para Athletics Championships (2025)**, scheduled to be held from 27 September to 5 October 2025 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.

- This will be the first time India is hosting the championship, with a **73-member contingent** representing India in the tournament.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Announcement of India's flag bearers
- ✓ **Flag Bearers:** Dharambir Nain (Gold, Club Throw F51) & Preethi Pal (100m & 200m T35)
- ✓ **Event:** World Para Athletics Championships 2025
- ✓ **Date:** 27 September – 5 October, 2025
- ✓ **Venue:** Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi
- ✓ **Organizer:** Paralympic Committee of India (PCI)
- ✓ **Participation:** 107 countries, largest edition ever
- ✓ **Indian Contingent:** 73 athletes

Flag Bearers:

Dharambir Nain: Gold medalist in Men's Club Throw F51 at the Paris 2024 Paralympics in Paris, France.

Preethi Pal: Bronze medalist in Women's 100 metre(m) & 200m T35 events at Paris 2024 Paralympics.

- She also created history as the first Indian woman to win two track and field medals at a single Paralympics.

About World Para Athletics Championships 2025:

Participation: Over 107 countries are expected to participate, making it the largest championship edition.

Brand Ambassador: Actress Kangana Ranaut served as the brand ambassador for the tournament.

Neeraj Chopra Finishes Second in 2025 Diamond League Final

On 28 August 2025, Two-time Indian Olympic medallist **Neeraj Chopra** finished **runner-up** with his best throw measuring **85.01 meters (m)** in the **Diamond League Final 2025** held in Zurich, Switzerland.

- Neeraj Chopra clinches 26th consecutive top-two finish in Overall

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** Diamond League Final 2025 (Zurich, Switzerland)
- ✓ **Winner:** Julian Weber (Germany); 91.57m (season world lead, personal best)
- ✓ **Runner-up:** Neeraj Chopra (India); 85.01 m
- ✓ **Weber vs Chopra in 2025:** Weber leads 3–1; overall record Chopra leads 15–5

Julian Weber's Maiden Trophy

Winner: Julian Weber (Germany) clinched his first Diamond League trophy with a personal best throw of **91.57m**.

Consistent: Registered his third 90m-plus throw of 2025.

Final Standings – Diamond League Final 2025

Rank	Athlete	Best Throw
1	Julian Weber (Germany)	91.51 m
2	Neeraj Chopra (India)	85.01 m
3	Keshorn Walcott (Trinidad & Tobago)	84.95 m
4	Anderson Peters (Grenada)	82.06 m
5	Julius Yego (Kenya)	82.01 m

Head-to-Head: Weber vs. Chopra

2025 Record: Weber leads 3–1 against Chopra

- Weber outperformed in Doha Diamond League, Chorzów Memorial, and Zurich Final. Meanwhile, Chopra excelled in Paris Diamond League

Overall Record: Chopra ahead 15–5 since 2016.

Upcoming Event: World Athletics Championships in Tokyo (13–21 September 2025), where Chopra is the defending champion.

OBITUARY

Biathlon Olympic champion of Germany Laura Dahlmeier died in a climbing accident age of 31

On July 28, 2025, two-time biathlon Olympic champion of Germany, Laura Dahlmeier, died at the age of **31** in a mountaineering accident at the Laila Peak (5700 meters) in the **Karakoram mountains** (Pakistan).

- She is the first woman biathlete to win five gold medals at a single world championship.
- She is also the first female biathlete to win gold in both sprint and pursuit events during the 2018 Winter Olympics (South Korea).


Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Topic:** Olympic champion Laura Dahlmeier passes away
- ✓ **Country:** Germany
- ✓ **Cause of Death:** Mountaineering accident at the Laila Peak (5700 meters) in Pakistan.
- ✓ **Type of sport:** Biathlon (winter sports)

- ✓ **Notable Awards:** A total of 2 gold and 1 bronze medal at the Olympics, 5 gold medals at the World Championships (2017)

Background:

The accident occurred due to a **sudden rockfall** in the Hushe Valley, at an altitude of approximately 18,700 feet (5700 meters, m) at Laila Peak, Karakoram Mountain (Pakistan).

- Earlier on July 8, 2025, she successfully scaled the **Great Trango Tower** (6,287 m), north of Baltoro Glacier in the Karakoram Mountains (Pakistan).

About Laura Dahlmeier:

Career: She was born on **22 August 1993** in Germany and debuted her career during the 2013 Junior World Championship (Austria)

- She is the first woman biathlete to win five gold medals at a single world championship in 2017.
- She also has 7 gold medals, 3 silver medals and 5 bronze medals at World Championships.
- She also won 2 gold and 1 bronze medals at the 2018 Winter Olympics (South Korea).

Awards and Achievements:

2018 Winter Olympics (South Korea)	
Name of Biathlon Event	Medals
Women's 75 km Sprint	Gold medal
Women's 10 km Sprint	Gold Medal
Women's 15 km Individual	Bronze Medal

About Germany:

Capital – Berlin

Currency- Euro (EUR)

Former Jharkhand CM Shibu Soren Passed Away

On 4th August 2025, **Shibu Soren**, former Chief Minister (CM) of Jharkhand and founding patron of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), **passed away** at the age of 81 in New Delhi, Delhi.

- He was born on 11 January 1944 in Nemra village, Bihar(now Jharkhand) and was a member of the Santal (Santhal) tribe.
- Shibu Soren was widely referred to as ‘**Dishoom Guru**(Great Leader) or Guruji’ by the tribal communities of Jharkhand, reflecting their deep respect and admiration for him.



Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Former Jharkhand CM Shibu Soren passed away
- ✓ **Chief Minister(CM):** Jharkhand (2005, 2008–10)
- ✓ **Political Party:** Founding Patron of JMM
- ✓ **Legacy Title:** Dishoom Guru or Guruji
- ✓ **Parliamentary Tenure:** Lok Sabha MP (8 Time), Rajya Sabha MP (2 times)

About Shibu Soren:

Founder of Jharkhand Movement: Shibu Soren, a prominent tribal leader and veteran politician, was a

key figure in the movement that led to the creation of the state of Jharkhand in 2000.

Political Career: He entered politics in the early 1970s and co-founded the JMM in 1972, aiming to secure tribal rights and advocate for the creation of a separate Jharkhand state carved out of Bihar.

- He led the party for several decades before being designated as its “Founding Patron” in April 2025.

CM of Jharkhand: He served as the 3rd CM of Jharkhand, holding office three times—in 2005, 2008, and 2009.

Parliamentary Tenure: He served as a Member of Parliament (MP) in the Lok Sabha in 1980-1984, 1989-1998 and 2002-19, and in the Rajya Sabha in 2020-25.

Union Minister of Coal: He served as the Union Minister of the Ministry of Coal, Government of India (GoI), in 2004, 2005, and 2006.

Former J&K Governor Satyapal Malik Passed Away

On 5th August 2025, **Satyapal Malik**, former Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), passed away at the age of 79 in New Delhi, Delhi.

- He was born on 24th July 1946 in Hisawada village, Baghpat district, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Former Governor Satyapal Malik Passed Away
- ✓ **Governor:** Former Governor of Bihar, Odisha, J&K, Goa and Meghalaya
- ✓ **Parliamentary Tenure:** Lok Sabha MP (1989-1991) & Rajya Sabha MP (1980-1989)

About Satya Pal Malik:

Early Parliamentary Career: He served as a Member of Parliament (MP) in the Rajya Sabha from UP between **1980 and 1989**.

- He was elected as a Lok Sabha MP from Aligarh (UP) for the term 1989 to 1991.

Governorship: He was an Indian politician who served as the Governor of five Indian states:

- Served as the 27th Governor of Bihar from 2017-18.
- Held additional charge as the Governor of Odisha in 2018
- Served as the 10th Governor of J&K from 2018-19
- Served as the 18th Governor of Goa from 2019-20
- Served as the 19th Governor of Meghalaya from 2020-22



**Former J-K Governor
Satyapal Malik
passed away**

Union Minister: In 1990, he served as the Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism in the government led by Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

BJP Leadership: He was appointed as the National Vice President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2012 and was reappointed to the post in 2014.

Note: Satya Pal Malik served as the last Governor of J&K before the abrogation of Article 370 and the reorganisation of the state on 5th August 2019; after his tenure, the Governor's post was abolished and G.C. Murmu became the first Lieutenant Governor.

Myanmar's Former Acting President Myint Swe dies at age of 74

On 7 August 2025, **Myint Swe**, who served as the former Acting President of Myanmar, has passed away at the **age of 74** at a military hospital in Naypyitaw, Myanmar, due to prolonged neurological illness.

- He served as the **Acting President** from 2021 to 2024, following the military coup in Myanmar.

Exam Hints:

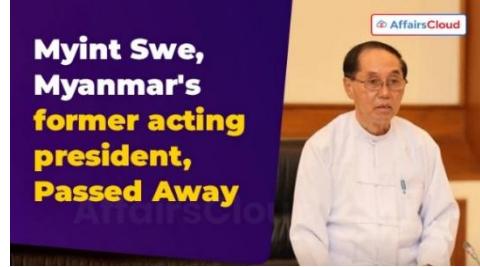
- ✓ **What?** Former Myanmar acting President Myint Swe passed away
- ✓ **Cause of Demise:** Neurological illness

- ✓ **Place of Demise:** Military hospital, Naypyitaw, Myanmar
- ✓ **Service:** First Vice-President of Myanmar (2016), Acting President (2021- 2024).

About Myint Swe:

Introduction: **Myint Swe**, born on 24 May 1951 in Myanmar, was a high-ranking military officer who transitioned into politics and held top administrative roles in the Myanmar government.

Political Career: He served as the **First Vice-President** of Myanmar from March 2016 and also served as the ceremonial **Acting President** of Myanmar from February 2021 to July 2024, during the Myanmar military coup d'état of 2021.



About the Myanmar Military Coup:

Overview: In **February 2021**, the Myanmar Armed Forces(**Tatmadaw**) conducted a **coup d'état** to overthrow the elected civil government due to the allegation of electoral fraud in the November 2020 general elections.

- It was followed by the arrest of democratically elected leader **Aung San Suu Kyi** and other party members.

Current Scenario: The new interim-union government under **U Nyo Saw** as the 13th Prime Minister (**PM**) of Myanmar has been formed to end the state of emergency and to manage elections in the country.

- Still, **Senior General Min Aung Hlaing** will continue to serve as the Acting President and Chief of Myanmar Armed Forces.

About Myanmar:

Acting President- Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

Interim Prime Minister (PM)- U Nyo Saw

Capital- Naypyidaw

Currency- Myanmar Kyat (MMK)

Indian Olympic Hockey Medalist Dr Vece Paes Passed Away

On August 14, 2025, Former Indian Hockey Player and Olympic Medalist, **Dr. Vece Paes**, passed away at the age of 80 in Kolkata, West Bengal (WB). He is the father of Leander Paes, former Indian Tennis Player.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Former Indian Hockey player Dr. Vece Paes passed away
- ✓ **Where?** Kolkata, West Bengal (WB).
- ✓ **Medalist:** Bronze in 1971 Hockey World Cup, and 1972 Summer Olympics
- ✓ **President:** Indian Rugby Football Union from 1996 to 2002

Debut: Vece Paes was born on April 30, 1945, in Goa. He made his debut for the Indian hockey team at the Hamburg International Cup in 1966.

Medals: He received bronze medals at the 1971 Hockey World Cup held in Barcelona (Spain) and at the 1972 Summer Olympics held in Munich, West Germany.

Roles: He served as Doctor of Sports Medicine across Asian Cricket Council, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), and the Indian Davis Cup team.

- He also served as the President of the Indian Rugby Football Union from 1996 to 2002 and held leadership roles at the Calcutta Cricket and Football club.

Njattyela Sreedharan, Self-Taught Linguist and Dictionary Creator, Passed Away

On August 13, 2025, renowned self-taught linguist **Njattyela Sreedharan**, passed away at the age of 87 in Kannur, Kerala. He was born in 1938 in Thalassery, Kerala.

- He was widely known for compiling the 860-page **Chathur Dravida Bhasha Padhparichayam**, a landmark dictionary connecting four major Dravidian languages – Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil, and Telugu.



Exam Hints:

- What?** Njattyela Sreedharan passed away
- Profession:** Self-taught linguist and lexicographer
- Major Work:** Compiled '*Chathur Dravida Bhasha Padhparichayam*' – dictionary connects Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu
- Publish:** 1st edition – November 2020, 2nd edition – May 2023
- Documentary:** *Dreaming of Words*

About Njattyela Sreedharan:

Journey into Lexicography: His career included working as a blueprinter in the Kerala Public Works Department (PWD) and later in the Irrigation Department until his retirement in **1994**.

Publication of the Dictionary: After 25 years of dedicated work and compiling over 1 lakh words in an 860-page volume, the full four-language dictionary was published in **November 2020**, producing 500 copies at a cost of Rs. 4 lakhs, which sold out within two weeks.

- The **second edition** was published in **May 2023** by the Kerala Language Institute.

Leadership Roles: He served as Kannur Taluk President of the Purogamana Kala Sahitya Sangham (Progressive Arts and Literary Association) and was a member of the State Council of the NGO Union.

Awards: He received several honours, including the Dr. T.P. Sukumaran Master Award, the Dr. Hermann Gundert Award, and the India Reading Olympiad Special Jury Award.

Recognition: His life and dedication to language were celebrated in the 2021 National Film Award-winning documentary '*Dreaming of Words*', directed by Nandan.

Nagaland Governor La. Ganesan Passed Away at 80

On 15 August 2025, **La. Ganesan**, the **Governor of Nagaland** passed away at the age of 80 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN). He was born in 1945 in Thanjavur, TN.

- He served as the 21st Governor of Nagaland from February 2023 until his demise.



Exam Hints:

- What?** La. Ganesan passed away
- Profession:** Politician (BJP leader, Rajya Sabha MP, Governor)
- Governor Posts:**
 - 21st Governor of Nagaland (Feb 2023 – Aug 2025)
 - Former Governor of Manipur and West Bengal.
 - Rajya Sabha MP:** From Madhya Pradesh (2016)
 - Literary Contribution:** Led Potramarai (Golden Lotus)

About La. Ganesan:

Early Life: He began his professional journey as a Revenue Settlement Inspector in the TN Revenue Department

- However, in 1970, he resigned from his government position to become a full-time pracharak (campaigner) for the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), dedicating himself entirely to the organization's activities.

Political Journey: In 1991, he joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as organising secretary of the TN unit and later served as the party's national secretary and vice president.

- Between 2006 and 2009, he held the position of President of the BJP in TN.
- In 2016, he became a Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament(MP) from Madhya Pradesh (MP).

Tenure as Governor: From August 2021 to February 2023, he served as the Governor of Manipur, and during this period, he also held additional charge as the Governor of West Bengal (WB) from July 2022 to November 2022.

- Following his tenure in Manipur, he was appointed as the Governor of Nagaland on February 20, 2023.

Role in Tamil Literature: Apart from politics, he had a deep interest in Tamil literature and culture. For nearly 20 years, he led **Pottramarai** (Golden Lotus), an organisation that brought together well-known personalities to speak on literary subjects.

- He was also the **editor** of the party's Tamil magazine Ore Naadu (One Nation).

About Nagaland :

Chief Minister (**CM**)- Neiphiu Rio

Capital- Kohima

National Park (NP)- Ntangki NP

Former Australia Cricket Captain and Coach Bob Simpson Passed Away

On August 16, 2025, Bob Simpson, former Australian captain and coach, passed away at the age of 89 in Sydney, Australia. He was born on 3 February 1936 in Marrickville, Australia.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Bob Simpson passed away
- ✓ **Profession:** Former Australian cricket captain and Coach
- ✓ **Career:** Played 62 Test matches; Scored 4,869 runs; Took 71 wickets
- ✓ **Awards:** Australian Cricket Hall of Fame (2005) and ICC Hall of Fame (2013)
- ✓ **Coaching Achievements:** 1987 World Cup victory and 1989 Ashes win

About Bob Simpson:

Career: He played 62 Test matches from 1957 to 1978, scoring 4,869 runs with 10 centuries and 27 fifties, and taking 71 wickets.

- He made his debut against South Africa in 1957 and captained Australia in 39 tests.
- He led Australia in 39 out of his 62 Test matches.
- He initially retired in 1968, made a comeback as Australia's Test captain in 1977, and was subsequently appointed full-time head coach in 1986.

Achievement: He is one of the few Test players to score a triple century as his first-ever Test century.

- Under his guidance, Australia won the **1987 World Cup** and regained the Ashes in 1989.

Awards: He was made as a Member of the Order of Australia in 1978 and an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2007.

- He was inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame in **2005** and International Cricket Council (ICC) Hall of Fame in **2013**.

NRI Industrialist & Padma Bhushan Awardee Lord Swraj Paul Passed Away

On 21st August 2025, **Lord Swraj Paul**, a prominent Non-Resident Indian (NRI) industrialist, philanthropist, and member of the House of Lords in the United Kingdom (UK), passed away in London at the age of 94. He was born on 18th February 1931, Jalandhar (Punjab).

- In 1983, he was honoured with the **Padma Bhushan**, India's third-highest civilian award, in recognition of his significant contributions to social work.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Lord Swraj Paul Passed away
- ✓ **Where?** London, UK
- ✓ **Known For:** NRI Industrialist, Philanthropist, House of Lords member
- ✓ **Key Contribution:** Strengthened India-UK relations; Established Ambika Paul Foundation for child welfare and education
- ✓ **Founder:** Caparo Group of Industries
- ✓ **Award:** Padma Bhushan in 1983



About Lord Swraj Paul:

Profile: He was an Indian-born British industrialist, philanthropist, and prominent public figure.

Parliamentary Role (UK): He was appointed as a Life Peer in 1996 and served actively in the House of Lords, contributing to committees on trade, education, and entrepreneurship.

- He served as a member of Panel 2000, an initiative to re-brand Britain.

Academic Leadership : He served as a member of the President's Cabinet at Chapman University, Orange, California (United States of America – USA). In 1998, he was appointed as the Chancellor of the University of Wolverhampton (UK), a role he held for over two decades.

- He also served as the Chancellor of the University of Westminster(UK) from 2006 to 2014.

Philanthropy: Founded the **Ambika Paul Foundation**, supporting global initiatives in child welfare, health, and education.

- He was also the founder of the UK based **Caparo Group of Industries**, a multinational steel and engineering company

Awards and Honours:

Honorary Degrees: Received 15 honorary degrees from universities in the , India, Russia, the UK and the USA and Switzerland.

Bharat Gaurav Award (1983): Presented by the Indian Merchants' Chamber.

International Indian of the Decade (2013): Awarded by India Link International magazine.

International Icon of the Decade Award (2014): Awarded by World Consulting Research Corporation, Global Indian Excellence Summit, London.

Lifetime Achievement Awards (2014): Awarded by Black Country Asian Business Association for achievements in industry, education, and philanthropy.

Mahatma Gandhi Honour (2018): Conferred by the NRI Institute at its 30th anniversary.

Veteran CPI Leader and former MP Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy Passed Away

On August 22, 2025, Veteran Communist Party of India (CPI) leader **Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy** passed away at the age of 83 in Hyderabad, Telangana. He was born on 25 March 1942 in Kondravpally village of Mahbubnagar district of Hyderabad State (Present Telangana).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?**Veteran political leader passed away
- ✓ **Who?** Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy
- ✓ **Party:** Communist Party of India (CPI)
- ✓ **Where?** Hyderabad, Telangana
- ✓ **MP:** In 1998 and 2004 from Nalgonda (Telangana)

About Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy:

Early Leadership: He actively engaged in student activism and was elected as the All India President of the All India Students' Federation (AISF) in 1970.

Political Career: He was elected the Member of Parliament (MP), representing the CPI from Nalgonda (Telangana), in 1998 and 2004.

- During his tenure, he served as the chair of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour, championing social security benefits and improved working conditions for employees.

Leadership in CPI: In 2012, he was elected the General Secretary of the CPI. He was re-elected in 2015 at Puducherry and 2018 at Kollam (Kerala).

- He stepped down in 2019, despite his leadership schedule to continue till 2021.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Ashok Chopra's Book "The Man Who Became Cinema: Dilip Kumar" was Released

In May 2025, the book named "**The Man Who Became Cinema: Dilip Kumar**", written by **Ashok Chopra**, was published by **Ebury Press / Penguin Random House India**. The book offers a film-by-film analysis of Dilip Kumar's extraordinary acting method and highlights his contributions to Method Acting in Indian cinema.

Exam Hints:

- Book Name:** "The Man Who Became Cinema: Dilip Kumar"
- Author:** Ashok Chopra
- Published by:** Ebury Press / Penguin Random House India
- Context:** Highlights Dilip Kumar's contributions to Method Acting in Indian cinema.

About the book: The text outlines techniques like dialect training, emotional memory, and behavioural observation for his roles in movies.

About Dilip Kumar:

Introduction: Dilip Kumar is also known as the "**Tragedy King**" for his naturalistic and psychological realism in Hindi films.

Awards: He was honoured with **Padma Bhushan** (1991), **Dadasaheb Phalke Award** (1994), **Padma Vibhushan** (2015), and **Nishan-e-Imtiaz** (Pakistan's highest civilian award) in 1998.

M.S Swaminathan's Biography 'The Man Who Fed India' Released to Commemorate his 100th Birth Anniversary

A Biography titled "**The Man Who Fed India**" has been released to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan (**M.S. Swaminathan**), which is celebrated on August 7. The launch took place at the India International Centre, New Delhi, Delhi, on the occasion of his 100th birth anniversary, commemorating one of India's greatest champions of food security and the father of the Green Revolution.

Exam Hints:

- What?** Release of the biography 'The Man Who Fed India'
- Purpose:** To commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of M.S. Swaminathan
- Written By:** Priyambada Jayakumar
- Published By:** HarperCollins
- He is called as:** Father of Green Revolution in India

Focus: The book humanizes M.S. Swaminathan by sharing rarely heard anecdotes, quotes, and moments from his early life, scientific career, policy roles, and personal philosophy.

Green Revolution: He is called the father of the Green Revolution. The book shares insights about his efforts towards introducing high-yield wheat and rice varieties that brought India to food self-sufficiency in the 1960s and 1970s.

Evergreen Revolution: He coined the “Evergreen Revolution”, with the focus on sustainable, inclusive, and eco-friendly agriculture.

Former CJI D.Y. Chandrachud's Debut Book "Why the Constitution Matters"

Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud has authored his debut book titled '**Why the Constitution Matters**', to be published by Gurugram (Haryana) based Penguin Random House India (**PRHI**) by August 2025.

- The book offers a comprehensive view of the **relevance and transformative power of the Indian Constitution**, portraying it as the foundation of **democracy, justice, equality, and liberty**.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Release of debut book "**Why the Constitution Matters**"
- ✓ **Author:** Justice DY Chandrachud (50th Chief Justice of India)
- ✓ **Publisher:** Penguin Random House India, Gurugram, Haryana
- ✓ **Objective:** Promote public engagement with India's constitutional values

About Justice Chandrachud: He served as the **50th Chief Justice of India** from 9 November 2022 to 10 November 2024, drawing nearly 25 years of judicial experience to reflect on constitutional values.

Core Themes: Addresses the right to dissent, freedom of speech, privacy, gender equality, disability rights, and environmental justice, citing landmark judgments to show real-life constitutional impact.

Empowering Citizens: Aims to **simplify complex legal concepts** to encourage civic participation and a deeper understanding of the Indian constitutional framework.

Reflective and Purposeful: Acts as a judicial memoir and a call to action for safeguarding democratic principles.

Sanjay Baru's Book "Secession of the Successful: The Flight Out of New India" Released

The book, "**Secession of the Successful: The Flight Out of New India**", authored by political commentator and policy analyst **Sanjay Baru**, has been officially released. It was published by **Penguin Viking India**.

- It explores the change in mindset of Indians choosing to settle permanently abroad, terming them as "**Non-Returning Indians**".

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Sanjay Baru's new book Released
- ✓ **Name:** "Secession of the Successful: The Flight Out of New India"
- ✓ **Publisher:** Penguin Viking India
- ✓ **Wave Driver:** Wealth, Power, and Privilege

About the book:

Migration: In this book, Sanjay Baru identifies a fourth wave of migration, driven by wealth, power, and privilege.

Citizenship: Over 2.25 lakh Indians renounced citizenship in 2022 and 2.16 lakh Indians in 2023. From 2011 to 2023, nearly 1.9 million Indians renounced their citizenships.

Categories: The author describes the **four categories of migrants**, including Fugitives from the law, First-Generation wealthy people who feel politically vulnerable, Individuals who seek de-risking or diversification from uncertain governance, and those who desire better quality of life.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Ranger Day 2025 – July 31

World Ranger Day (WRD) is annually observed across the globe on **31 July** to commemorate Rangers killed or injured in the line of duty and to celebrate the critical work of Rangers in protecting the world's natural and cultural treasures.

- 2025 marks the **18th WRD**

Theme:

2025 Theme: "Rangers, Powering Transformative Conservation".

- It aligns with the global goal of the upcoming International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress (WCC), which will take place in later 2025 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Focus: This year's theme highlights the vital role rangers play in driving transformative conservation efforts, aiming to protect 30% of the planet by 2030 through a combination of traditional wisdom and modern technology.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** World Ranger Day 2025
- ✓ **Date:** 31 July (annually)
- ✓ **Edition:** 18th
- ✓ **Theme:** Rangers, Powering Transformative Conservation
- ✓ **First Observation:** 31 July 2007
- ✓ **11th IRF World Ranger Congress:** Puerto Iguazú, Argentina, 2025

About World Ranger Day:

Origin: WRD is an initiative of the International Ranger Federation (IRF), promoted together with Thin Green Foundation (TGLF), the United Kingdom (UK), the 1st charity solely dedicated to supporting rangers and their families.

First Observation: The 1st WRD was observed on 31 July **2007** on the 15th anniversary of the founding of IRF.

Tribute to Fallen Rangers: It was celebrated to honour 8 rangers who lost their lives while on duty in the Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Why July 31?

Significance: The date 31 July was chosen because of the establishment date of the IRF in **1992**.

Formation of IRF: IRF was established as a result of an agreement signed between the Countryside Management Association (CMA), the Scottish Countryside Rangers Association (SCRA), and the United States of America (USA) Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR).

Role and Identity of Rangers:

Diverse Workforce: Rangers include a wide range of protected area workers such as state-employed personnel, Indigenous peoples, community and voluntary guardians, and staff managing privately protected areas.

Various Titles: They are commonly referred to as park rangers, field rangers, forest rangers, or park wardens, depending on their roles and regions.

Key Responsibilities: Their duties span across protection, conservation, monitoring, visitor services, fire management, law enforcement, education, community support, and regulating sustainable resource use.

Essential to Global Conservation Goals: Rangers are key to delivering global targets for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the GBF - Target 3 for protecting **30%** of the planet by **2030**.

- They help to create lasting, positive change for nature.

WRD 2025 Roll of Honour:

Annual Tribute: The TGLF [2025 World Ranger Day](#) Roll of Honour recognises Ranger Deaths in the line of duty from June 2024 to May 2025.

Global Loss: The 2025 Roll of Honour commemorates **175** rangers from **41** countries, with death in service (**28%**) and occupational accidents (**21%**) being the leading causes.

Regional Impact: 49% of these deaths occurred in Asia (**87** deaths) followed by 38% in Africa (**67** deaths).

Rising Fatalities: The number of ranger deaths in 2025 is higher than 140 in 2024

India's Toll: Out of the 87 deaths in Asia, **36** deaths occurred in **India**, caused by incidents involving tigers, elephants, buffalo, bears, accidental pesticide poisoning, drowning, etc.

About IRF World Ranger Congress :

Global Gathering: The IRF World Ranger Congress is a triennial global gathering organized by the International Ranger Federation (IRF), bringing together ranger professionals from around the world to learn new skills, form partnerships, and address shared conservation challenges.

Event: The 11th IRF World Ranger Congress is scheduled to be held in Puerto Iguazú, Argentina.

- The 10th WRC took place in Hyères, France from 7–11 October 2024.

About International Ranger Awards:

Establishment: The International Ranger Awards, established by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and its World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), in collaboration with the International Ranger Federation (IRF).

Objective: The award aims to recognize and celebrate the exceptional contributions of rangers worldwide in protecting our planet's natural heritage.

2025 Awards: 2025 Awardees will be announced during the 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress. Winners will receive awards ranging from **USD 25,000** to **USD 10,000** to support the protected and conserved areas where they work.

About International Ranger Federation (IRF):

President- Chris Galliers

Established – 1992

World Lung Cancer Day 2025 – August 1

World Lung Cancer (WLC) Day is observed annually across the globe on **1st August** to raise awareness about lung cancer, the most common and deadliest cancer globally, its risk factors, and the importance of early detection and treatment.

- It aims to support those affected by lung cancer, advocate for increased research funding, and encourage healthier lifestyle choices to reduce cancer.

Theme:

2025 Theme: “Stronger Together: United for Lung Cancer Awareness”.

Focus: The theme highlights the unity of individuals, caregivers, healthcare professionals, and communities in raising awareness, encouraging early detection, and ensuring fair access to care worldwide.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** World Lung Cancer Day 2025
- ✓ **Date of Observance:** August 1 (annually)
- ✓ **Symbol:** Pearl or White-coloured ribbons
- ✓ **Theme:** “Stronger Together: United for Lung Cancer Awareness”.
- ✓ **Established year:** 2012

- ✓ **Drafted by:** Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) with International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC)

Background:

Origin: WLC Day was first organised in **2012** by the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (**FIRS**) with the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (**IASLC**) and American College of Chest Physicians

Aim: To raise awareness and to promote lung cancer prevention, early detection, and improved access to care for victims.

Symbol:

Ribbon: The pearl or white awareness ribbon serves as a symbol for lung cancer awareness, representing support for individuals affected by the disease.

Causes: This ribbon is particularly associated with lung cancer acquired through non-smoking-related causes, such as passive smoking and environmental factors.

About Lung Cancer :

Mortality: Lung cancer is the world's deadliest cancer, causing more deaths than any other type (**about 1.8 million annually**).

Occurrence: It occurs due to the abnormal, uncontrollable cell growth in the lungs, posing a severe health threat.

Symptoms: It includes persistent cough, chest pain and shortness of breath.

Types: The types of Lung cancer include:

- **Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC):** The most common type grows and spreads more slowly.
- **Small cell lung cancer (SCLC):** Less common but spreads more quickly (usually linked to smoking).

Causes:

- **Primary Cause:** Smoking tobacco (including cigarettes, cigars, and pipes) is the primary risk factor for lung cancer, but it can also affect non-smokers."
- **Secondary cause:** Exposure to secondhand smoke, occupational hazards (asbestos, radon, and certain chemicals), air pollution, Hereditary Cancer Syndromes (HCSs), and previous Chronic Lung Diseases (CLDs)."

Statistics:

According to the GLOBOCAN 2022 report by the Global Cancer Observatory (GCO):

Global Data: An estimated **2.48 million** new lung cancer cases were diagnosed worldwide.

- Lung cancer accounted for approximately 12.4% of all new cancer cases and 18.7% of all cancer deaths globally.
- It remains the deadliest cancer, responsible for nearly 1 in 5 cancer-related deaths, with over 2 million new cases annually.
- Up to 25% of lung cancer cases occur in non-smokers, often due to air pollution, secondhand smoke, radon exposure, and occupational toxins.
- Women are affected at nearly twice the rate of men. Breast and lung cancers are the most common causes among both genders.
- The number of lung cancer cases is expected to increase to **3 million** by 2035.

Regional Spotlight: India is witnessing a rising threat of lung cancer linked to air pollution, especially in urban hotspots like Delhi, where even non-smokers face elevated risks due to smog, particulate matter, and industrial emissions .

IASLC's World Conference on Lung Cancer (WCLC) 2025:

The **WCLC 2025** is scheduled to take place in **Barcelona, Spain**, in September 2025. This conference

brings over 7000 delegates from around 171 countries, including clinicians, researchers, and patient advocates.

- It offers plenary keynotes, educational workshops, abstract presentations, and networking sessions across many thoracic oncology topics.

About International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC):

President- Dr. Paul Van Schil (Belgium)

Headquarters- Colorado, the United States of America(USA)

Established – 1974

Muslim Women Rights Day 2025 – August 1

The Muslim Women's Rights Day also known as '**Muslim Mahila Adhikar Divas**' is annually observed across India on **August 1** to commemorate the enactment of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, which criminalizes the practice of instant **Triple Talaq** in India.

- August 1, 2025, marks the **6th** anniversary of Muslim Women's Rights Day.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Muslim Women's Rights Day
- ✓ **When?** August 1(Annually)
- ✓ **Why:** It commemorates the enactment of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019
- ✓ **First Observance:** August 1, 2020
- ✓ **Objective:** To promote gender equality, gender justice and empowerment
- ✓ **Imprisonment:** up to 3 years

Triple Talaq:

Instant Divorce: Triple Talaq refers to the instant and unilateral divorce, through which a Muslim man could legally divorce his wife by pronouncing the word "Talaq" three times.

Muslim Law: Under the Muslim law, Triple Talaq means liberty from the relationship of marriage. The law did not require the consent of the wife and did not have the need for involvement of the judiciary.

- Triple Talaq is also known as Talaq-e-Biddat.

Background:

Law Enactment: The Parliament of India enacted The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019 on August 1, 2019, that has made the practice of instant triple talaq a criminal offence.

Announcement: : In 2020, the Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) announced that Muslim Women's Rights Day will be observed across India on August 1.

Observance: The first observance of Muslim Women's Rights Day took place on **August 1, 2020**, marking the first anniversary of enactment of law.

Significance:

Empowerment: The law empowers Muslim women by securing their right to a dignified life, preventing unilateral divorce, and giving them the legal right to maintenance and custody of children.

Gender Equality: The unilateral divorce by a Muslim man left Muslim women without financial security, and shelter. The law ensures that divorce must follow a legal process, including the women's consent for the dissolution of marriage.

Criminalizing Triple Talaq:

Petition: In 2016, Shayara Bano, a Muslim woman from Uttarakhand, filed a petition in the Supreme Court (SC), challenging the constitutionality of Triple Talaq.

Judgement: In 2017, the SC gave the judgement that triple talaq was unconstitutional and void. The judgement was a major victory for Muslim women in India, protecting their rights and promoting gender equality in India.

Imprisonment: Post enactment of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the bill on August 1, 2019, and criminalized instant triple talaq with **jail term of up to 3 years** and fine.

Triple Talaq in other countries:

Muslim countries: Egypt was the first Muslim country to abolish Triple Talaq in 1929. Then Sudan (1929), Syria (1953), Pakistan (1956), Iraq (1959), Malaysia (1969), Bangladesh (1972) abolished the practice.

Other countries: Countries such as Cyprus, Jordan, Algeria, Iran, Brunei, Morocco, Qatar and the United States of America (UAE) have also abolished Triple Talaq.

About Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA):

Union Minister – Kiren Rijiju (Constituency – Arunachal West, Arunachal Pradesh, AR)

Minister of State (MoS) – George Kurian (Rajya Sabha – Madhya Pradesh, MP)

World FinTech Day 2025 – August 1

World FinTech Day is observed across the globe on **1st August** (annually) to raise awareness about the growing importance of **FinTech** (Financial Technology) in modernising financial services and improving access to financial products.

- The day emphasises the transformative impacts of FinTech on the global financial industry.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** World FinTech Day 2025
- ✓ **Date of Observance:** 1 August (Annually)
- ✓ **Origin:** To honour Cosimo de' Medici, Father of Modern Banking
- ✓ **Purpose:** To celebrate and provide awareness on innovation in financial technology (FinTech)
- ✓ **Notable Events:** Global FinTech Fest 2025

Background:

Commemoration: This day commemorates the death anniversary of **Cosimo de' Medici**, an Italian Banker and politician, in 1464.

About Cosimo de' Medici: He was known as the **father of the modern banking system**.

- He is noted for his representation and expansion of his family bank, Medici Bank and handling of Papal Finances and finances of the Roman Catholic Church(RC), the world's largest Christian Church.

About FinTech:

Introduction: FinTech is the term used to describe the integration of technological innovation in the design and delivery of financial services and products.

- This integration aims to modify, enhance, or automate financial services for businesses and consumers.

Uses: It has helped to democratize finance by providing equal access to financial services, regardless of geographical location or socioeconomic background.

- It is used to revolutionise the banking sector by making financial services faster, more convenient, and more secure.
- FinTech uses technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain, and Data Analytics to streamline processes and reduce costs.

Application: The various aspects of FinTech include digital banking, mobile payments, blockchain and cryptocurrencies, Regulatory Technology (RegTech), and InsurTech (insurance technology).

About Global FinTech Fest (GFF) 2025:

Introduction: The GFF is an annual FinTech conference organised by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) & Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) along with the Payments Council of India (PCI), the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), and the Fintech Convergence Council (FCC).

Event: The 6th edition of the GFF is set to take place in October 2025 at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Theme: The 2025 theme of GFF is “**Empowering Finance for a Better World, Powered by AI**”.

Background: It was started in 2020, as a platform to bring together industry leaders, policymakers, innovators, and stakeholders to discuss and promote advancements in financial technology.

Note: FinTech solutions can contribute to India’s goal of a **USD 7 trillion** economy by **2030**.

World Breastfeeding Week 2025 – August 1-7

World Breastfeeding Week (**WBW**) is a global campaign observed annually across the globe in the **first week of August** (i.e from **1st to 7th** August), to raise awareness and promote action to support breastfeeding.

- WBW is coordinated annually by the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (**WABA**), in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** World Breast Feeding Week 2025
- ✓ **When?** First week of August (1-7)
- ✓ **Organisers:** WABA in collaboration with WHO & UNICEF
- ✓ **Purpose:** To support breastfeeding
- ✓ **2025 Theme:** “Prioritize Breastfeeding: Create Sustainable Support Systems”.
- ✓ **Inception:** Initiated in 1992 to commemorate the 1990 Innocenti Declaration
- ✓ **First Observance:** 1992

2025 Theme:

Theme: “Prioritize Breastfeeding: Create Sustainable Support Systems”

Focus: This theme highlights the critical need to build and maintain robust, enduring support networks across all spheres: family, community, workplaces, and healthcare systems, to ensure breastfeeding success and continuity.

Background:

Inception: WBW was launched in **1992** to commemorate the **Innocenti Declaration** on the protection, promotion, and support of breastfeeding.

- This declaration was adopted during a high-level meeting held from 30th July to 1st August 1990 at the Spedale degli Innocenti in Florence, Italy.
- The 1990 meeting that led to the declaration was co-sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), based in Washington, D.C., United States of America (USA), and the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA).

First Observance: The inaugural WBW was observed in **1992**, marking the beginning of a global awareness campaign to advocate for breastfeeding as a public health priority.

Alignment with SDGs: In 2016, during the WABA 7th Global Breastfeeding Partners’ Meeting in Malaysia, the WBW campaign was aligned with the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), strengthening its global relevance through the WBW-SDGs strategy.

Global Recognition by WHO: In 2018, the WHO officially endorsed World Breastfeeding Week as a significant global health promotion strategy during the World Health Assembly (WHA).

Ongoing Global Support: WBW continues to receive support from WHO, UNICEF, various Ministries of Health, and civil society organisations worldwide, making it one of the most recognised international campaigns for maternal and child health.

About Breastfeeding:

Significance: Breastfeeding is a key method to ensure infant health and survival, yet less than 50% of babies under six months are exclusively breastfed worldwide.

Immunity Boost: Breastmilk is a safe, clean, and ideal source of nutrition for infants, providing essential antibodies that protect against common childhood illnesses.

Benefits Breastfeeding supports maternal health by lowering the risk of postpartum complications and reducing the chances of developing breast and ovarian cancers.

Breastfeeding Statistics in India:

WHO Report 2025: National survey data (2017–2023) reveal that **46%** of newborns were breastfed within the **first hour of birth**, against the Global Breastfeeding Collective target of 70%.

Breastfeeding Rates: 72% of mothers continue breastfeeding for at least 1 year. However, by the age of 2 years, the breastfeeding rate drops to 46%.

2025 Event:

GBC webinar: As part of WBW 2025, the Global Breastfeeding Collective (GBC) will organize a virtual webinar on August 5 & 6, 2025. The event will focus on strengthening breastfeeding support within healthcare systems

WHO Campaign: Under its initiative, “**Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures**”, the World Health Organization (WHO) aims to ensure continuous, system-wide support for mothers and infants throughout the breastfeeding journey.

- The campaign promotes the message “Invest in breastfeeding, invest in the future”, emphasizing the need for long-term investments in breastfeeding support to enhance health outcomes, reduce inequalities, and build more resilient societies.

About World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA):

WABA is a global network of individuals and organizations dedicated to the protection, promotion, and support of breastfeeding across the world.

Executive Director(ED)- Amal Omer Salim

Headquarters- Penang, Malaysia

Established – 1991

World Wide Web Day 2025 – August 1

World Wide Web (**WWW**) Day is annually observed across the globe on **August 1** to celebrate the creation and impact of the WWW and recognise its role in connecting the world.

- The day highlights the web's transformative role in revolutionising communication, collaboration, and access to knowledge.

Exam Hints:

- Event:** World Wide Web Day 2025
- Date of Observance:** 1st August (Annually)
- Theme:** “Empowering the Future: Building an Inclusive, Safe, and Open Web”
- Background:** To highlight the invention of the WWW by Tim Berners-Lee in 1989.
- Web Governance:** World Wide Web Consortium (**W3C**) monitors the web standards and protocols of the World Wide Web.
- Important Bodies:** ICANN, IETF, ITU, IGF monitor the Internet Governance of www.

Theme:

2025 Theme: Empowering the Future: Building an Inclusive, Safe, and Open Web

Focus: It emphasises digital equity, internet transparency, privacy protection, and safe access for the development of Artificial Intelligence(AI), blockchain, Web3, and Internet of Things (IoT).

Background:

Origin: This day is drafted to highlight and honour the anniversary of the development of www by **Tim Berners-Lee**.

Honour: This day also celebrates the individuals who have contributed to the web's evolution into the current advanced and organised structure.

History:

Invention: Sir Tim Berners-Lee invented the WWW in 1989 while he was employed at Geneva (**Switzerland**)'s **CERN** (the European Organisation for Nuclear Research).

Foundational Tools: He coined the term 'World Wide Web' and wrote the first World Wide Web server '**httpd**' and the first client program '**WorldWideWeb**' in October **1990**.

First Website: The world's first website, '**info.cern.ch**', went live on August 6, 1991, marking the beginning of the public World Wide Web.

HTTP Release: Later, in collaboration with Robert Cailliau, a Belgian informatics engineer, they developed the Hypertext Transfer Protocol (**HTTP**) and released it in **1992**.

About World Wide Web(WWW):

Introduction: The WWW is also known as the **Web** or **W3**, is a collection of websites or web pages stored in web servers and connected to local computers through the Internet.

Purpose: It was created to help people share and find information easily, using links that connect different pages.

- These websites contain text pages, digital images, audio, videos, etc
- The users can access the content of these websites over the internet using their devices, such as computers, laptops, cell phones, etc.

Components of Web: There are three basic components in the Web, namely Uniform Resource Locator(**URL**), Hypertext Transfer Protocol(**HTTP**) and Hypertext Markup Language(**HTML**).

- Lately, the web components also include Web servers, Cloud storage systems, User Interface (UI)/User Experience (UX) systems, Web Frameworks, Database and Web Hosting systems.

About World Wide Web Consortium (W3C):

World Wide Web Consortium (**W3C**) is an international standards organisation, developed for the long-term growth of the Web.

- It includes the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (**ICANN**), the Internet Engineering Task Force (**IETF**), the International Telecommunication Union (**ITU**), Internet Governance Forum (**IGF**).

President- Seth Dobbs

Headquarters- Massachusetts, the United States of America(USA)

Established- 1994

Indian Organ Donation Day 2025 – August 3

The Indian Organ Donation Day (**IODD**) is annually celebrated on **3rd August** to commemorate the 1st successful deceased organ transplant in India. It is observed by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (**NOTTO**), under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare(MoHFW).

- August 3, 2025, marks **the 15th IODD** observance in India.

Note: World Organ Donation Day is observed on 13 August in many parts of the world to raise awareness of Organ Donation.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Day:** Indian Organ Donation Day 2025
- ✓ **Observed on:** 3 August (annually)
- ✓ **Edition:** 15
- ✓ **Why?** To commemorate the 1st successful deceased organ transplant in India in 1994.
- ✓ **Supporting bodies:** NOTTO, under MoHFW
- ✓ **Purpose:** To raise public awareness on organ donation
- ✓ **Events:** Angdaan – Jeevan Sanjeevani Abhiyaan 2025
- ✓ **Awards** – Best ROTTO-ROTTO(North); Best SOTTO(State)-Tamil Nadu(TN), Best SOTTO (UT) – Puducherry.
- ✓ **Additional Info:** India ranks 3rd in organ donation after the USA and China.

Background:

Origin: The NOTTO started celebrating IODD in **2010**, and until 2022, it was celebrated on 27 November.

Shift: Later in **2023**, IODD was moved to **3rd August**, to mark the anniversary of India's 1st successful heart transplant.

India's First Successful Heart Transplant :

Milestone: On **3rd August 1994**, India achieved a historic medical breakthrough with its first successful heart transplant, conducted at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (**AIIMS**), New Delhi, Delhi

Leadership: The pioneering surgery was headed by **Dr. Panangipalli Venugopal**, then Chief of the Cardiothoracic Centre at AIIMS, and executed with the support of a dedicated team of 20 surgeons.

About Organ Donation:

Eligibility: Any person 18 years or older can voluntarily authorise the removal of their organ and/or tissue for donation.

Legal Framework: The promulgation of "**The Transplantation of Human Organs Act**"(THOA) in 1994 legalized the concept of brain death and deceased and living donor organ transplants in India.

- In 2011, the THOA Act was amended as the Transplantation of Human Organ and Tissues Act (**THOTA**).

2025 Event:

Overview: The 15th IODD ceremony was celebrated at Bhim Hall, Dr. Ambedkar International Centre(DAIC), New Delhi, Delhi.

Key Dignitaries: , Union Minister **Jagat Prakash Nadda**, MoHFW, addressed the 15th IODD ceremony and presented awards to various institutions.

Highlights: Awareness booklet for the general public and students, the booklet on Promotion of Organ Health through Ayurveda and Yoga and the booklet on Best Practices of States in Organ Donation and Transplantation were released during the event.

Awards: The Regional/State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (ROTTO/SOTTO) Award is presented to recognize and honor excellence in organ donation and transplantation services at the regional level across India.

Award Category	Winner
Best ROTTO award	ROTTO North
Best SOTTO State	Tamil Nadu(TN)
Best SOTTO Union Territory (UT)	Puducherry

Best Northeast State	Manipur
Emerging States in Organ Donation	Odisha, Punjab, and Rajasthan
State with the best Awareness/ Information	Rajasthan, Karnataka, Gujarat
Highest Deceased Organ Donation Rate	Telangana
Best NOTTO-Regional Centre (RC)	Civil Hospital, Surat (Gujarat)
Best Government Hospital in Transplantation	Kidney Disease Research Centre and Institute of Transplantation Sciences (KDRC-ITS), Gujarat
Emerging Government Institution	AIIMS, Nagpur(Maharashtra)
Best Brain Stem Death Certifying Team	Madras Medical College & Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, TN
Pioneering Eye Bank Work	National Eye Bank, AIIMS Delhi(New Delhi)
Special recognition	Dr. Raghavendran and Dr. Gomathi Karmegam (ROTTO South)

About Angdaan – Jeevan Sanjeevani Abhiyaan 2025:

Campaign: It is a year-long public awareness campaign in India aimed at promoting organ and tissue donation.

- The campaign carries the tagline “One Pledge, Infinite Lives” and culminates on the 15th IODD.

Month: As part of the national campaign, Organ Donation Month was observed from 1st to 31st July 2025.

Activities: During this period, various awareness activities were conducted nationwide, including webinars, the setting up of pledging kiosks, and information booths to promote organ donation.

About NOTTO Annual Report 2025:

The MoHFW released [NOTTO Annual Report 2024-25](#) during the 15th IODD ceremony held at New Delhi, Delhi

Key Initiative: The launch of an Aadhaar-linked pledge portal in 2023 further simplified the registration process, with over **3.3 lakh** people registered to donate.

Network: It includes **5** Regional Organ Transplant Organisation (**ROTTO**) and **25** State Organ Transplant Organisation (**SOTTO**), connected to over **1010** hospitals for organ procurement and transplantation coordination.

Financial Initiative: A financial support of **Rs. 15 lakhs** for transplantation of kidneys, liver, heart and lungs under the **Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi** and Rs. 10,000 per month after the transplant for medical expenses is provided to poor patients.

Highlights: According to the NOTTO annual report 2025,

- India conducted **18,911** organ transplants during 2024, which is higher than 2023.
- It marked a significant rise in organ transplants, with only 4,990 recorded transplants in 2013.
- Currently, India **ranks 3rd** in organ donation globally, behind only the United States of America(USA) and China.

Challenges: India has a relative organ donation rate of 1% which is less compared to the population with over 63,000 individuals in need of kidney transplants, and around 22,000 for liver transplants.

About Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW):

Union Minister- Jagat Prakash Nadda (Rajya Sabha- Gujarat)

Minister of State (**MoS**)- Jadhav Prataprao Ganpatrao (Constituency- Buldhana, Maharashtra); Anupriya Patel (Constituency- Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh, UP).

National Bone and Joint Day 2025- August 4

National Bone and Joint Day is annually observed across India on **August 04**, to raise awareness about the importance of strong bones and joints in people of all ages and to educate them about preventive measures and early detection of various musculoskeletal disorders and conditions.

- The day emphasizes adopting healthier lifestyles which includes regular exercise, a balanced diet, and avoiding habits harmful for bone health like smoking and excessive alcohol consumption.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Day:** National Bone and Joint Day 2025
- ✓ **Date:** August 04 (annually)
- ✓ **First Observance-** 2012
- ✓ **Bone & Joint Week:** August 04-10, 2025
- ✓ **Initiated by:** Indian Orthopaedic Association (IOA)
- ✓ **Significance:** Coincides with IOA's charter-signing day (1971)

Background:

Origin: The Indian Orthopaedic Association (**IOA**) has been celebrating the National Bone and Joint Day nationwide **since 2012**.

Significance: The observance coincides with the IOA's charter-signing day, which took place in 1971.

Bone & Joint Week: Additionally, the week beginning from August 4 to August 10 is observed as 'Bone and Joint Week'.

Significance of Bone:

Protects Vital Organs of Body: Bones provide structure and support to the body and protects vital organs of the body from injury.

Critical Nutrients: **Vitamin D** and **Calcium (Ca)** are two vital nutrients for bone health and supports high metabolic activity in children during their growth period.

Peak Bone Mass (PBM): It is a crucial aspect of skeletal health achieved by the age of 25-30 years, playing an important role in preventing osteoporosis later in life.

Conditions Affecting Bone & Joint Health:

Musculoskeletal Conditions: They are characterized by persistent pain and reduced mobility and dexterity, affecting work and social participation.

Osteoporosis: It is a progressive bone disease characterized by low bone density and bone mass. Such conditions can lead to a decrease in bone strength that can increase the risk of fractures (broken bones).

Osteoarthritis: It is a degenerative joint disease characterized by the breakdown of cartilage, which further leads to joint pain and stiffness.

- It is the most common form of arthritis and most frequently affects the hands, hips, and knees.

About Indian Orthopaedic Association (IOA):

It is one of the largest professional organizations which has over 10,000 active life members.

President- Dr. Ajit Shinde

Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

Founded- 1955

Hiroshima Day 2025 – August 6

Hiroshima Day is annually observed across the globe on **6th August** to commemorate the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in Japan by the United States of America(USA) in 1945, an event of great significance and catastrophe during World War II.

- 6th August 2025 marks the **80th** anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** Hiroshima Day 2025
- ✓ **Date of Observance:** 6th August (annually)
- ✓ **Edition:** 80th
- ✓ **Significance:** Remembrance of the 1945 atomic bombing victims during World War – II
- ✓ **2025 Events:** Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony(Japan) and 63rd Pugwash Conference 2025

About Hiroshima Day 2025:

Background: The **1st Hiroshima Day** Peace Festival was held on **6 August 1947**, organised by the Hiroshima Peace Festival Association to promote lasting peace and memorial of the victims of the 1945 atomic bombing.

Memorial Park: Every year on 6 August, the Memorial Service is held at the Genbaku Dome, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, Japan.

- The **Genbaku Dome** is the only structure left standing after the first atomic bomb explosion on 6th August 1945. It was declared a World Heritage Site(WHS) by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (**UNESCO**) in **1996**.

About WW2:

Overview: During World War II (1939-1945), the United States Army Air Forces (**USAAF**) Boeing-29 (B-29) Superfortress ‘Enola Gay’ dropped the first atomic bomb, nicknamed **‘Little Boy’**, over the Japanese city of Hiroshima on 6th August 1945.

- The bomb was detonated at an altitude of 1,800 feet over Hiroshima. This resulted in the loss of 39% of the city's civilian population.

About Little Boy: It was a gun-type Uranium-235 (**U-235**) bomb with a force of 15,000 tons of TNT (Trinitrotoluene). It weighed 9,700 pounds and measured 10 feet in length and 28 inches in diameter.

- Colonel Paul Tibbets, USAAF, was the pilot of the B-29 that dropped the “Little Boy” atomic bomb over Hiroshima. The co-pilot was Captain Robert Alvin Lewis, USAAF.

Devastation: The bomb destroyed 13 square kilometres(sq km) (5 square miles) of the city and caused about 140,000 deaths by the end of 1945.

Sequel attack: Three days after the Hiroshima bombing, on 9th August 1945, a B-29 named Bock’s Car dropped the 2nd atomic bomb, nicknamed **‘Fat Man’**, over the city of Nagasaki(Japan), killing an estimated 40,000 people.

Aftermath: After the bombing of Hiroshima & Nagasaki, the Allied powers, which included Great Britain, the USA and the Soviet Union, won WW2, defeating the Axis powers (Germany, Italy, and Japan).

- On **15th August 1945**, Japan publicly announced its surrender.
- On 2nd September 1945, Japanese representatives signed the official Instrument of Surrender(IoS), on the deck of the United States Ship (USS) Missouri in Tokyo Bay, Japan.

2025 events:

World Conference against A & H Bombs 2025: It is scheduled to take place from 2 to 9 August 2025 in Hiroshima and Nagasaki for nuclear disarmament advocacy and to advance the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (**TPNW**).

- **Theme:** “With the Hibakusha, Let Us Achieve a Nuclear Weapon-free, Peaceful and Just World – for the Future of the Humankind and Our Planet”

- **Hydrogen Bomb(H-Bomb):** It is a thermonuclear weapon that uses nuclear fusion and atomic fission to create an explosion.
- H-bombs are more powerful, compact, and lighter than A-bombs.
- **Atom Bomb(A-Bomb):** It is a fission device that splits heavy atoms to release energy.

63rd Pugwash Conference: The Conference is scheduled to take place in November 2025 at the International Conference Centre in Hiroshima, Japan. It aims to reinvigorate global dialogue on nuclear disarmament and the abolition of war with the Russell-Einstein Manifesto.

- **Theme:** “80 Years After the Atomic Bombing – Time for Peace, Dialogue and Nuclear Disarmament”

About Japan:

Prime Minister(PM)- Shigeru Ishiba

Capital - Tokyo

Currency- Japanese Yen (JPY)

National Handloom Day 2025 – 7 August

National Handloom Day is annually observed across India on **7 August** to honour the handloom weaving community engaged in the handloom sector and highlight the handloom industry's contribution to India's socioeconomic development.

- 7th August 2025 marks the **11th National Handloom Day** in India.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** National Handloom Day 2025
- ✓ **Observed on:** 7 August 2025
- ✓ **Edition:** 11
- ✓ **Theme:** “Weaving Innovation into Tradition.”
- ✓ **Why?** To commemorate the Swadeshi Movement, launched on 7 August 1905.
- ✓ **Supporting Bodies:** MoT with NHDC
- ✓ **Purpose:** To generate awareness about handloom products and their importance in Indian culture.
- ✓ **Events:** Exclusive Handloom Expo, “Haaat on Wheels” initiative etc.
- ✓ **Awards:** 5 Sant Kabir Awards & 19 National Handloom Awards

Background:

Origin: In 2015, the Government of India (GoI) declared **August 7** as National Handloom Day, to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement and recognise the invaluable contribution of handloom weavers to the nation's cultural and economic heritage.

First Observance: In **2015**, the **1st National Handloom Day** was inaugurated by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi at the Centenary Hall of Madras University in Chennai, Tamil Nadu(TN).

- During the event, he also launched the India Handloom Brand (**IHB**) to brand high-quality handloom products with zero defects and zero effects on the environment.

Date Significance: The date of 7 August marks the launch of the **Swadeshi Movement** in **1905** to protest the British partition of Bengal and support the anti-partition movement.

- The key people involved in the Swadeshi movement include Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, Bipin Chandra Pal, etc.

Significance of the Handloom Sector:

Role: The handloom sector is a vital source of livelihood in rural and semi-rural areas across India, supporting traditional skills and local economies.

Employment: The sector employs around **3.5 million people**, including over 25 lakh women as weavers and allied workers that is 70% of the total workers.

- It plays a key role in women's empowerment and financial independence in rural India.

Significance: Handloom weaving is the second-largest employment generator in India after agriculture.

Sustainability: Handloom production is eco-friendly, requiring minimal capital and power.

Global Market: In Financial Year 2024-25 (FY-25), the United States of America (**USA**) is the largest destination with **Rs. 331.56 crore** worth of exports followed by the United Arab Emirates(**UAE**) with Rs. 179.91 crore and the **Netherlands** with Rs. 73.88 crore of exports.

Government Initiatives for the Handloom Sector:

Key Initiatives: The GoI has introduced various initiatives to improve the handloom sector, including,

- **Government e-Marketplace (GeM):** To allow weavers to sell directly to the government departments' marketplace.
- **Raw Material Supply Scheme (RMSS):** It is also known as Yarn Supply Scheme (**YSS**) which aims to support handloom weavers by ensuring the availability of quality yarn at affordable prices with 15% subsidies on freight charges.
- **Handloom Producer Companies:** The government has formed 124 companies across states, aiding in the capacity building of 100 Producer companies.
- This initiative is formed in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- **Design Resource Centres (DRCs):** These have been established in major cities to enhance design excellence in handlooms.
- **Weaver MUDRA Scheme (WMS):** This scheme offers financial assistance for working capital and new technology investments with recorded over 9,211 sanctioned loans in FY-25.
- **Small Cluster Development Programme (SCDP):** It focuses on providing need-based financial assistance upto Rs. 2 Crore per cluster.
- In FY-25, Over 79 clusters are sanctioned with total of **Rs. 85.99 Crore** under this scheme.
- **Hathkargha Samvar:** It aims to improve fabric quality and productivity through the adoption of upgraded looms, jacquards, dobbies, etc.
- Under the scheme, 90% of the Total manufacturing cost is borne by the Government of India(GoI).

Award initiatives: The Ministry of Textiles (**MoT**) has been annually conferring awards like the **Sant Kabir Awards** and the **National Handloom Award** for outstanding handloom weavers.

2025 Events:

Overview: The **11th National Handloom Day** ceremony is celebrated on 7th August 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, Delhi. **Droupadi Murmu**, President of India, is the Chief Guest of the event.

Key Dignitaries: Union Minister Giriraj Singh (**MoT**) and Pabitra Margherita, Minister of State (**MoS**) for External Affairs & Textiles, were also present at this event.

Theme: The 2025 theme for 11th National Handloom Day is "**Weaving Innovation into Tradition**" and "**My Handloom, My Pride; My Product, My Pride**".

Other Events: Other signature events include the "**Haat on Wheels**" initiative, Loom Hackathon by IIT Delhi, International Hand-woven Expo with Foreign buyers, exporters & handloom weavers, etc. as part of the event.

Books Launched: The President released the **Award Catalogue and Coffee table** book for this event, and Union Minister Giriraj Singh (**MoT**) officially launched the book "**Carbon Footprint Assessment in the Indian Handloom Sector: Methods and Case Studies**".

Awards: The President conferred **5 Sant Kabir Awards** with a cash prize of **Rs. 3.5 lakhs** and **19 National Handloom Awards** with a cash prize of **Rs. 2 lakhs** to outstanding weavers in this event.

[Click Here for Award List](#)

About "Haat on Wheels" initiative:

Overview: It is a mobile retail initiative launched by the MoT with the National Handloom Development Corporation (**NHDC**) to celebrate National Handloom Day 2025.

- It is launched alongside the **Exclusive Handloom Sari Expo** at Handloom Haat, Janpath, New Delhi, which showcases 116 distinct weaves from India.

Significance: The vehicle starts from Janpath, New Delhi and will journey across key public areas including markets, residential societies, and art zones.

About the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC):

Chairperson – Dr. M. Beena

Established- 1983

Headquarters- Uttar Pradesh, India

National javelin day 2025 – August 7

National Javelin Day is annually observed across India on **August 7** to commemorate the remarkable achievement of **Neeraj Chopra** during the **Tokyo Olympics 2020**, where he secured the **gold medal** for India in the javelin throw event.

- 7th August 2025 marks the observance of **4th National Javelin Day**.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** National Javelin Day 2025
- ✓ **Date of Observance:** 7th August(annually)
- ✓ **Edition:** 4th
- ✓ **Supporting bodies:** Athletics Federation of India (AFI)
- ✓ **Why?** To commemorate Neeraj Chopra's remarkable achievement during the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ **Purpose:** to promote the sport of javelin throw and to acknowledge its significance in athletics.

About National Javelin Day 2025:

Origin: In **2021**, the Athletics Federation of India (**AFI**) declared **7th August** of every year as the **National Javelin Day**, to promote the sport of javelin throw and to acknowledge its significance in athletics.

First Observance: The **1st National Javelin Day** was observed on 7th August 2022.

Date Significance: On 7 August 2021, **Neeraj Chopra** won the Men's javelin throw **gold medal** with a throw of 87.58 metres(m) at the **Tokyo Olympics 2020**.

- He became the **first Asian athlete** to win an Olympic gold medal in the **Javelin throw** and the second Indian Olympic gold medalist

Note: **Abhinav Bindra** (Shooter) was the first Indian to win an Olympic gold medal at the Beijing 2008 Summer Olympics.

About Neeraj Chopra:

Introduction: He is an Indian track athlete and field athlete, and won his first-ever International medal (Silver) in the Youth Olympics Qualification, Bangkok, Thailand, in 2014.

Indian Army profile: He was enrolled as a Junior Commissioned Officer(**JCO**) in the rank of **Naib Subedar** in the 4 Rajputana Rifles of the Indian Army in 2016.

- In 2018, He was promoted to **Subedar** after winning gold in the Asian Games 2018 and Commonwealth Games 2018.

Honourary Rank: Later in 2025, He was conferred the honorary rank of **Lieutenant Colonel** in the Territorial Army.

National Record: In 2025, he registered his best throw and a national record (India) at the Lausanne Diamond League in Switzerland with **90.23 m**.

Awards: Neeraj Chopra received the **Arjuna Award** (Athletics) in 2018, the **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award** (2021), and the **Padma Shri** (Sports) in 2022.

- He also received the Vishisht Seva Medal (**VSM**) in 2020 and the Param Vishisht Seva Medal (**PVSM**) in 2022.

Paris Olympics 2024:

Overview: Neeraj Chopra won a **silver medal** for the javelin throw at the Paris Olympics final with an 89.34m throw at the Stade de France, France.

- Along with Neeraj Chopra, **Arshad Nadeem** of Pakistan won a gold medal for the men's javelin final with an **Olympic record** throw of **92.27m** at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

About the Athletics Federation of India (AFI):

President- Bahadur Singh Sagoo

Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

Established- 1946

Nagasaki Day 2025- August 9

Nagasaki Day is annually observed across the globe on **9 August** to commemorate the atomic bombing of the Japanese city of Nagasaki by the United States of America (**USA**) in 1945, during World War II (WWII – 1939-1945).

- 9 August 2025 marks the **80th anniversary** of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** Nagasaki Day 2025
- ✓ **Date of Observance:** 9th August (annually)
- ✓ **Edition:** 80th
- ✓ **Significance:** Remembrance of the 1945 atomic bombing victims during World War – II

2025 Events: Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony(Japan), UN -Exhibition for Peace.

Background:

Inaugural Ceremony: The **1st Nagasaki Day ceremony** was held on 9th August 1947, organised by the Government of Japan to promote lasting peace and memorial of the Nagasaki victims of the 1945 atomic bombing.

Memorial Park: Every year on 9th August, the Memorial Service is held at the Peace Statue Plaza, **Nagasaki Peace Park**, Nagasaki, Japan, to mark the anniversary of the atomic bombing.

- The Memorial Park holds a **10-meter(m)**-tall bronze Peace Statue to commemorate the victims of the atomic bombing and to promote global peace.

About Nagasaki Atomic Bombings:

Overview: On 9 August 1945, the United States Army Air Forces (**USAAF**) Boeing-29 (B-29) airplane named "**Bockscar**" dropped the 2nd atomic bomb, **Fat Man**, over Nagasaki.

- The bomb was dropped from 29,000 feet and exploded at 1,650 feet above the slopes of the city.

Prequel Attack: On 6th August 1945, the 1st atomic bomb, "Little Boy", was dropped over Hiroshima (Japan), three days before the Nagasaki attack.

About Fat Man: It was a Plutonium, implosion-type bomb with a force of 21,000 tons of Trinitrotoluene (TNT). It weighed over 10,800 pounds (approximately 4,670 kilograms, kg) and measured 10.8 feet in length and 60 inches in diameter.

- The B-29 bomber was piloted by the USAAF Major Charles Sweeney. The co-pilot was Captain Charles Donald Albury.

Primary Target: The USAAF's initial primary target was Kokura Arsenal, a massive collection of war industries adjacent to the city of Kokura.

- Due to visibility issues caused by the clouds and smoke over the primary target, and anti-aircraft gunfire at Kokura, the bomber was diverted to its secondary target, Nagasaki, a port city.

Note: **Little Boy** and **Fat Man** were 2 different types of atomic bombs developed by the Manhattan Project, the USA government research project during WWII to build the 1st atomic bomb.

Aftermath: The bomb destroyed 3 square miles of the city and caused about 140,000 deaths by the end of 1945.

- The “hibakusha” are the surviving victims of the atomic bombs which fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

2025 Events:

UN – Exhibition for Peace: From July 11 to August 17 2025, the United Nations University (**UNU**) hosted an exhibition titled **“Exhibition for Peace: 80 Years Since the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bombings”** at the UNU Headquarters in Tokyo(Japan).

- It features a collection of photographs and historical information at the Virtual Reality(**VR**) corner, to experience the devastation of the nuclear attacks and the environmental transformation after the bombing.

Purpose: To raise awareness and provide insight into current nuclear disarmament efforts and global peace movements.

About First Nuclear Explosion:

Detonation : It occurred on 16 July 1945 when a plutonium implosion device was tested at a site located 210 miles south of Los Alamos, New Mexico, the USA.

- It was on the plains of the Alamogordo Bombing Range, known as the Jornada del Muerto. The code name for the test was “Trinity.”

About the Gadget : It is an implosion-type plutonium bomb named **“The Gadget”**.

Significance: It was the world’s first-ever atomic device detonation that occurred in the New Mexico desert during the Trinity test.

About United Nations University(UNU):

Chief Academic and Administrative Officer(**Rector**)- Tshilidzi Marwala

Headquarters- Tokyo, Japan

Established- 1973

Quit India Movement Day 2025- August 08

The **Quit India Movement Day**, also known as **August Kranti Diwas**, is annually observed across India on **August 08** to commemorate the anniversary of **Quit India Movement** launched on August 08, 1942, a historic movement in India’s struggle for independence from British colonial rule, demanding immediate withdrawal of British forces from the country under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.

- August 08 2025 marks the **83rd** anniversary of the launch of Quit India Movement Day.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** Quit India Movement Day/August Kranti Diwas 2025
- ✓ **Date of Observance:** August 08 (annually)
- ✓ **Anniversary:** 83rd
- ✓ **Movement Launched in-** 1942
- ✓ **Movement led by:** Mahatma Gandhi
- ✓ **Proposed by :** Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru
- ✓ **Passed at:** AICC session at Gowalia Tank, Bombay
- ✓ **Who coined phrase ‘Quit India’:** Yusuf Meherally

About Quit India Movement:

Failure of Cripps Mission: One of the key factors contributing to the launch of Quit India Movement was the result of the failure of the Cripps Mission in April 1942, which aimed to secure Indian cooperation during World War II (WW2).

Quit India Resolution: The resolution generally referred to as the 'Quit India' resolution was proposed by Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and was seconded by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Passing of Resolution: The resolution was officially ratified at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) meeting held at Gowalia Tank, Bombay, British India (now Mumbai, Maharashtra) on August 08, 1942.

- During the AICC session, Mahatma Gandhi was named the leader of the struggle.

Bharat Chodo Andolan: The Quit India Movement, also known as August Kranti / August Movement, or Bharat Chodo Andolan, was a massive civil disobedience movement led by Gandhi ji, to end the British rule in India immediately.

- The movement started on August 09, 1942 following the British responded by arresting all the major leaders including Mahatma Gandhi.

Do or Die Slogan: Gandhiji gave the slogan 'Do or Die' (Karo ya Maro) in his speech at Gowalia Tank Maidan, now popularly known as August Kranti Maidan in Mumbai.

Heroine of 1942 : Aruna Asaf Ali: also referred to as the 'Heroine of 1942 Quit India Movement', 'Queen of the August Revolution', 'Grand Old Lady of the Independence Movement', hoisted the Indian flag at the Gowalia Tank Maidan.

- She was awarded the **Padma Vibhushan** in the field of public affairs in 1992 and the **Bharat Ratna** posthumously in 1997.

Phrase Quit India: The phrase 'Quit India' was coined by **Yusuf Meherally**, a socialist and trade unionist who served as Mayor of Mumbai. He also coined the slogan 'Simon Go Back'.

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2025 – August 9

The United Nations (UN's) International Day of the World's Indigenous People (**IDWIP**), also known as **World Tribal Day**, is annually observed across the globe on **9th August** to raise awareness and promote the rights, cultures, and identities of Indigenous communities while highlighting the unique challenges they face.

Exam Hints:

- Event: International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (IDWIP) 2025
- Observed on: 9th August 2025
- 1st Observance: on 9th August 1995
- Theme: Indigenous Peoples and Artificial Intelligence (AI): Defending Rights, Shaping Futures
- Why? To commemorate 1st meeting of the UN-WGIP.
- Awards: 16th Equator Prize 2025 – 10 winners
- Indian Awardee – Bibifathima Self Help Group – India

Theme: The theme of IDWIP 2025 is "**Indigenous Peoples and Artificial Intelligence (AI): Defending Rights, Shaping Futures**", focused on how AI impacts Indigenous communities and emphasized the importance of including them in AI development to safeguard their rights, knowledge, and culture.

Background Overview:

UN Declaration - 1st Decade: In December 1994, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution A/RES/49/214, declaring 9th August of each year during the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995–2004) as the IDWIP.

UN Declaration - 2nd Decade: On 22nd December 2004, the UNGA adopted Resolution A/RES/59/174, proclaiming a second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People from 1st January 2005 to December 2014.

First Observance: The first-ever International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples was observed on 9th August **1995**.

Significance of 9th August: The date 9th August commemorates the first meeting of the United Nations (UN) Working Group on Indigenous Populations (**WGIP**), which was held in 1982 in Geneva, Switzerland, under the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

UN Initiatives:

Languages Year (2019): In 1999, the UN declared 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages (IY2019) to promote awareness of Indigenous languages and their role in preserving cultural diversity.

Languages Decade (2022-2032): In 2019, the UNGA adopted Resolution A/RES/74/135, declaring the period from 2022 to 2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL 2022–2032).

2025 Event:

On 9th August 2025, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) hosted a virtual event to commemorate the IDWIP under the theme "**Indigenous Peoples and AI: Defending Rights, Shaping Futures.**"

16th Equator Prize:

Global Recognition: On the occasion of the IDWIP **2025**, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), through its Equator Initiative, announced 10 winners of the 16th Equator Prize 2025.

- Equator Prize often called the "Biodiversity Nobel" awarded by the United Nations Development Programme UNDP

Award Purpose: The Equator Prize is awarded annually to honour community-led, nature-based solutions that support sustainable development and promote ecological resilience.

2025 Theme: The theme of Equator Prize 2025 is "**Nature for Climate Action**", with a special emphasis on youth- and women-led climate initiatives addressing climate change through ecosystem restoration and inclusive green economies.

Award Highlights: Selected from 700+ nominations across 103 countries, the 2025 Equator Prize winners reflect the global leadership of Indigenous and local communities in climate action;

- Each of the **10 winners** will receive **USD 10,000** and be honoured virtually, expanding the Equator Prize network to 300+ initiatives from 84 countries since 2002.

Equator Prize 2025 Winners:

1. Cooperativa de MujeresArtesanas del Gran Chaco (COMAR) – Argentina
2. AssociaçãoUasei dos PovosIndígenas de Oiapoque – Brazil
3. Hakhu Amazon Foundation – Ecuador
4. **BibifathimaSwaSahaya Sangha** (Bibifathima Self Help Group) – India
5. Mitra BUMMA (YayasanMenoken Indonesia Sejahtera BumiSemesta) – Indonesia
6. RanuWelum Foundation – Indonesia
7. Nature and People As One (NaPO) – Kenya
8. Sea Women of Melanesia Inc. (SWoM) – Papua New Guinea
9. The First Agrobiodiversity Zone in Peru: Cuyocuyo Terraces, Puno – Peru
10. Sustainable Ocean Alliance Tanzania (SOA TANZANIA) – Tanzania

About Bibifathima Swa Sahaya Sangha:

Bibifathima is a women-led Self Help Group, founded in 2014 in niralagi haveri, Karnataka, that supports over 5,000 farmers in 30 villages through millet-based farming, seed banks, solar-powered processing, combining traditional knowledge with green practices to enhance biodiversity, food security, and climate resilience while empowering women and youth.

Global Indigenous Population:

Population Size: There are approximately 476 million Indigenous Peoples living across more than 90 countries worldwide.

Poverty Disparity: Although they make up less than 6% of the global population, they represent 15% of the world's extreme poor.

Linguistic Diversity: Indigenous communities speak nearly 40% of the world's 7,000 languages, showcasing vast linguistic richness.

Cultural Representation: They embody over 5,000 distinct cultures, contributing significantly to the world's cultural heritage.

About the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):

Administrator- Achim Steiner

Headquarters- New York, the United States of America (USA)

Established – 1965

World Sanskrit Day 2025 – August 9

World Sanskrit Day, also known as International Sanskrit Day/Sanskrit Diwas/Vishva Samskrita Dinam, is annually observed across the globe on Shravana Purnima, the full moon day of the Hindu month of Shravana (Sawan) to promote Sanskrit, one of India's oldest languages.

- **World Sanskrit Day 2025** was observed on **August 9 2025**.
- World Sanskrit Day 2024 was observed on 19th August 2024 and World Sanskrit Day 2026 will be observed on 28 August 2026.
- **Sanskrit Week 2025** is being observed from **6 to 12 August 2025**.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** World Sanskrit Day 2025 (Vishva Samskrita Dinam)
- ✓ **When?** 9th August 2025 (Shravana Purnima)
- ✓ **Purpose:** To promote Sanskrit, one of the world's oldest languages
- ✓ **Sanskrit Week 2025:** 6th to 12th August 2025.
- ✓ **1st observance:** Initiated in 1969 by GoI.
- ✓ **Status in India:** Declared as a classical language in 2005

Significance:

Commemoration: The day marks the birth anniversary of **Panini**, the renowned Sanskrit scholar and grammarian.

- He authored the **Ashtadhyayi** in the 5th century BCE, which laid the foundation of Classical Sanskrit grammar.

Cultural Association: The day coincides with Raksha Bandhan, a festival symbolising the bond between brothers and sisters.

Background:

Government Initiative: In 1969, the Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India (GoI), directed that Sanskrit Diwas be celebrated at both central and state levels across India.

1st Observance: World Sanskrit Day was first celebrated in **1969** by GoI.

2025 Event:

State Initiatives: The Gujarat State Sanskrit Board organised a three-day programme (6th–8th August 2025) under the 'Yojana Panchakam' framework, including Sanskrit Gaurav Yatra, Sanskrit Sambhashan Divas, and Sanskrit Sahitya Divas.

International Participation: Events were also held in Nepal at Valmiki Vidyapeeth, Nepal Sanskrit University, and by global organisations promoting Sanskrit.

About Sanskrit Language:

Ancient Origin: Sanskrit is among the world's oldest languages and is regarded as the "**Mother of All Languages**" as well as the "**Language of the Gods.**"

Etymology: The word 'Sanskrit' comes from 'Sam' (samyak – entirely) and 'krit' (done), meaning "perfectly done."

Literary Periods – Divided into two major phases:

- **Vedic Sanskrit** – The earliest form, part of the Indo-Aryan branch of the Indo-European language family.
- **Classical Sanskrit** – A later development from Old Indo-Aryan dialects.

Sanskrit in India:

Classical Status: In 2005, the GoI declared Sanskrit as a **Classical Language of India** and included it in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, which lists 22 officially recognized languages.

Cultural Role: Sanskrit is the medium of ancient Indian scriptures like the Vedas, Upanishads, Ramayana, and Mahabharata, influencing philosophy, literature, science, and arts.

Official Language Status in States:

Uttarakhand: In 2010, Uttarakhand became the first Indian state to make Sanskrit an official language alongside Hindi.

- The Uttarakhand Government initiated the development of 'Sanskrit Grams' to encourage daily use of Sanskrit among residents.

Himachal Pradesh: In 2019, Himachal Pradesh (HP) became the second Indian state to grant Sanskrit the status of an official language.

World Lion Day 2025 – August 10

World Lion Day is annually observed across the globe on **10th August** to raise awareness about Lions (Panthera Leo), highlight their conservation challenges, and promote efforts to protect their important role in ecosystems and cultural heritage worldwide.

- This year, August 10, 2025, marks the 13th edition of this important conservation event.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** World Lion Day 2025
- ✓ **Observed on:** 10th August 2025
- ✓ **1st Observance:** 2013
- ✓ **Why?** To Protect and Conserve the Lion population
- ✓ **Initiative:** Project Lion launched by PM Modi in 2020
- ✓ **Global Initiative:** International Big Cats Alliance (2023)

Background:

Initiation: World Lion Day was started by Big Cat Rescue (BCR), a wildlife sanctuary in Florida, United State of America(USA), dedicated to lion conservation and co-founded by Dereck and Beverly Joubert.

1st observance: The first observance of World Lion Day took place in 2013.

Partnership with National Geographic: In 2009, Dereck and Beverly Joubert partnered with National Geographic to launch the Big Cat Initiative (BCI) for big cat conservation.

About Lions:

Nickname – Lions are known as the "**King of the Jungle**" and are the world's **second-largest big cat** after the Asian tiger.

Symbolism – Lions represent strength and courage and play an important role in keeping nature balanced.

Social Behaviour – Lions are social animals that live together in groups called prides.

Population Concentration – Three of the five largest lion populations are found in Tanzania.

Types of Lion Species

1. African Lion – *Panthera leo leo* inhabits the Sub-Saharan region of Africa.

2. Asiatic Lion – *Panthera leo persica*, also called the Indian lion, is found only in Gujarat's Gir Forest National Park.

Conservation Status – According to the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the African lion is classified as '**Vulnerable**', while the Asiatic lion is listed as '**Endangered**'.

Lion Population:

IUCN Estimate – 23,000 to 39,000 lions remain in the wild.

Highest Population: Tanzania (East Africa) has approximately **14,500** wild lions, the highest in the world, primarily found in National Parks and Preserves.

Asiatic (Indian) Lion Status – 2025:

- **Population Growth:** Increased from 674 (2020) to 891 (2025), a 32.2% rise in 5 years; over 70% growth in the last decade.
- **Distribution:** Found only in Gir National Park (NP) & Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS), Gujarat, and satellite populations across 9 locations (including Barda WLS, Jetpur, Babra-Jasdan).

African Lion Population: A **LionAid report from July 2025** provides more detailed regional estimates, suggesting about **13,014 lions** in eastern and southern Africa, plus around **342 lions** in western and central Africa—totaling roughly **13,356 African lions**.

2025 Celebration in India:

On 10th August 2025, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEF&CC**), in collaboration with the Forest and Environment Department, Government of Gujarat, celebrated *World Lion Day 2025* at Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Devbhumi Dwarka district, Gujarat.

- The event was graced by Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC); Gujarat Chief Minister (CM) Bhupendra Patel; and Gujarat Forest Minister, Mulubhai Bera.

Lion Conservation Initiatives:

Global Initiatives: International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA): Launched in April 2023, the IBCA aims to strengthen global cooperation among 97 countries for the conservation of big cats, including lions.

Initiatives in India: Project Lion is a 10-year initiative launched by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on 15th August 2020 during the 74th Independence Day celebrations with an approved budget of Rs 2,927.71 crore, is guided by the document "*Lion @ 47: Vision for Amrit Kaal*" to ensure the long-term conservation of Asiatic Lions.

World Biofuel Day 2025 – August 10

World Biofuel Day is observed every year on **10th August** worldwide to spread awareness about the benefits of using **non-fossil fuels** (green fuels) instead of traditional fossil fuels. Biofuels are seen as a cleaner and more sustainable energy option.

- The day focuses on how biofuels are renewable, eco-friendly, and help reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- It also honours Rudolf Christian Karl Diesel, the French-German engineer who invented the **diesel engine** (also called the Compression Ignition engine) in the 19th century.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** World Biofuel Day 2025
- ✓ **Date & Significance:** 10 August; marks Rudolf Diesel's peanut-oil-powered engine test in 1893.
- ✓ **Purpose:** To spread awareness about the benefits of using non-fossil fuels (green fuels)
- ✓ **India's Observer:** The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG) since 2015

- ✓ **India:** 3rd largest oil consumer.
- ✓ **Ethanol Production:** 1,528 crore litres (2024); target 1,700 crore litres for E20 blending by 2025.

Background: Since 2015, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (**MoP&NG**), Government of India(GoI), has been observing **World Biofuel Day**.

- The aim is to promote the use of **blended biofuel** in India.
- India is the **third-largest oil consumer** in the world, after the **United States** and **China**.

Significance for August 10: On 10 August 1893, Rudolf Diesel demonstrated his first Diesel engine in Augsburg, Germany. It was powered by **peanut oil** (a biofuel).

- The engine was a 3-meter (10 feet) iron cylinder with a flywheel at its base.

Biofuel:

Definition: Biofuel is a fuel made from biomass, which includes plant material (like sugarcane, corn, soybeans, and algae), agricultural residues, or animal waste

Benefits: It serves as a cost-effective, renewable, and environmentally friendly alternative to fossil fuels, helping reduce greenhouse gas (**GHG**) emissions and reliance on oil.

Feedstocks: Common crops used in biofuel production include sugarcane, maize (corn), soybean, and sunflower. These are rich in sugar, starch, or oil content.

Factors: Fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas are the leading contributors to global climate change. They produce over 75% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and account for nearly 90% of all carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions.

Types: Ethanol and biodiesel are the two most common and belong to the first generation of biofuels, made from crops like seeds, grains, and sugar-rich plants.

Ethanol (CH₃CH₂OH)

- A renewable alcohol fuel made from plant biomass such as sugarcane, grains, or other organic materials. Blended with petrol to improve octane and reduce emissions.

Biodiesel

- A cleaner-burning diesel alternative produced from vegetable oils or animal fats. It is non-toxic, biodegradable, and reduces air pollutants compared to petroleum diesel.

India's Ethanol Production Milestone

Ethanol Production Capacity: Increased to 1,528 crore litres (2024) from 1,380 crore litres (November 2023); target 1,700 crore litres for 20% blending (E20) by 2025.

Biodiesel Blending: Target 5% by 2030; current 0.5% with 23 crore litres used in 2023–24.

Ethanol Blending Rate: Reached 16.9% toward the 20% goal by 2025–26.

Foreign Exchange Savings: Rs. 1.06 lakh crore saved (2014–Aug 2024) via ethanol blending; CO₂ emissions reduced by 544 lakh tonnes.

Government Initiatives:

Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan-Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) **Yojana:** The scheme allocates Rs. 1,969.50 crore (2018–24) for 12 integrated bio-ethanol projects; extended till **2028–29** for advanced biofuels from biomass, waste, and algae.

Second-Generation (2G) Ethanol: Sustainable Innovation

India's **2G ethanol** made from non-food sources like rice straw, to tackle the food-versus-fuel issue. The country's first commercial **2G ethanol plant**, located in Panipat, Haryana, converts agricultural residue into fuel linking waste management with energy production.

Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA): India's Climate Leadership

Launched during India's G20 Presidency (September 9, 2023); now **22 member countries & 12 international organisations**; Secretariat to be based in India.

- Recently, the GBA has signed a **Host Country Agreement** with India to establish its **Secretariat** on Indian soil, bolstering domestic biofuel policy influence and aiding global coordination.

Events in India – 2025:

Public Awareness Through Interactive Events: On August 10, 2025, India marked World Biofuel Day with seminars, exhibitions, and school competitions promoting bioethanol, biodiesel, biogas, and biohydrogen, raising awareness among communities and students about sustainable energy solutions.

Industry Dialogue Advances Sustainable Mobility: On August 11, 2025, the **SIAM** (Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers) **4th International Conference** on World Biofuel Day was held in New Delhi (Delhi), uniting experts to discuss biofuel technologies, future trends, and policy actions for sustainable transportation.

World Steelpan Day 2025 – August 11

The United Nations (UN's) **World Steelpan Day** is observed every year on **11 August** to highlight the cultural and historical importance of the **Steelpan**, the National Musical Instrument of Trinidad and Tobago (T&T), and its role in promoting sustainable development.

- 11 August, 2025 marks the **3rd** edition of World Steelpan Day.

Exam Hints:

- Event:** World Steelpan Day 2025
- When?** August 11(annually)
- Edition:** 3rd
- 1st observance:** 11 August 2023
- Supported by:** UNESCO & UNGA
- Pan Month:** Celebrated every August by Pan Trinbago Inc. T.C. since 1992
- Pan month Theme:** From Roots to Resonance: Echoing Across Generations and Nations.

About World Steelpan Day:

Proposal : In **2022**, the Government of T&T formally approached the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**) with a proposal to designate 11 August as World Steelpan Day, to be observed annually from 2023 onward.

Adoption : On **24 July 2023**, the United Nations General Assembly (**UNGA**) adopted Resolution A/RES/77/316, officially proclaiming 11 August of every year as World Steelpan Day. The draft resolution was co-sponsored by 84 UN member states.

Inaugural Celebration: The **first-ever** World Steelpan Day was observed on **11 August 2023**.

PAN Month:

Celebration: Since 1992, Pan Trinbago Inc. T.C., headquartered in Port of Spain(PoS) (T&T), has celebrated Pan Month each August to honor the occasion when the steelpan was officially declared the National Musical Instrument of T&T.

Theme: The 2025 edition is being observed under the theme: "**From Roots to Resonance: Echoing Across Generations and Nations.**"

About Steelpan:

Origin: The steelpan, created in the early 1930s in T&T, is the only acoustic musical instrument invented in the 20th century and remains a symbol of national pride for T&T.

Instrument: Traditionally crafted from a steel drum or container, the steelpan is a percussion instrument belonging to the idiophone family. It is also called a pan or steel drum.

Declaration: In **1992**, the government of T&T declared the steelpan as the country's national musical instrument.

Legislation: In 2024, T&T Parliament unanimously passed the National Musical Instrument Bill, officially granting legal recognition to the steelpan as the national instrument.

Cultural Role: The steelpan became the main percussion instrument in annual **Trinidadian carnival festivities**, reflecting its deep cultural roots.

Milestones and Recognition:

UNESCO Recognition (2019): Port of Spain (PoS), capital of T&T, was designated as a **UNESCO Creative City of Music** for promoting creativity and sustainable urban development through the steelpan.

- PoS became the **6th Creative City** in the Caribbean, joining Nassau (Bahamas), Jacmel (Haiti), Havana (Cuba), San Domingo (Dominican Republic), and Kingston (Jamaica).

First International Appearance (1951): The Trinidad All Steel Percussion Orchestra (**TASPO**), the first steel band, was formed to participate in the **Festival of Britain** in June 1951.

- TASPO became the first group to take the steelpan **worldwide**.

National Competition Launch (1963): **Panorama**, the first national steelpan competition in T&T, was inaugurated in 1963 and remains a major cultural event.

2025 World Steelpan Day Events

Main Celebrations in PoS: Included an Ancestral Walk (Piccadilly Street), Formal Celebration at Woodford Square with performances by major steel orchestras, and sale of steelpan merchandise.

World Steelpan Festival 2025: The 2nd World Steelpan Festival was held in T&T..

All Stars' 90th Anniversary Celebration in Times Square: Highlighted the international reach of the steelpan, with TTT News covering the event as part of World Steelpan Day festivities.

About Trinidad and Tobago (T&T):

Prime Minister (PM) – Kamla Persad-Bissessar

Capital – Port of Spain (PoS)

Currency – T&T Dollar (TTD)

World Elephant Day 2025- August 12

World Elephant Day is an annual international campaign observed across the world on **August 12** to raise awareness about the preservation and protection of Elephants (Elephantidae) known as the 'Gentle Giants' worldwide.

Theme:

2025 Theme: 'Bringing the world together to help elephants'.

Focus: The theme emphasizes the importance of global unity and collective action to protect elephants worldwide.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** World Elephant Day 2025
- ✓ **Observed on:** August 12 (annually)
- ✓ **Theme 2025:** 'Bringing the world together to help elephants'
- ✓ **2025 Celebration:** Coimbatore, TN
- ✓ **Organised by:** MoEF&CC and TN Forest Department
- ✓ **Inaugurated by:** Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav, MoEF&CC
- ✓ **12-foot Elephant Sculpture:** Puri Beach, Odisha
- ✓ **Sculpted by:** Famous Sand Artist Sudarshan Patnaik

Background:

Conceptualized by: The idea of celebrating World Elephant Day was conceptualized by Canadian filmmakers Patricia Sims and Michael Clarke of Canazwest Pictures and Sivaporn Dardarananda, Secretary General of the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation in Thailand in **2011**.

First Observance: The 1st World Elephant Day was observed by Patricia Sims and the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation on **August 12, 2012**.

Species of Elephants:

There are three species of elephants found worldwide:

African Savanna Elephant (Loxodonta africana): Also called the African bush elephant, it is the largest land animal on Earth and is classified as Endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature(IUCN) Red List.

African Forest Elephant (Loxodonta cyclotis): This species is smaller and lives in dense forests. It is listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN.

Asian Elephant (Elephas maximus): Found across parts of Asia, this species is also categorized as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

Elephants Population:

Reproduction : Elephants experience a lengthy gestation period of 22 months and usually birth one calf every 4–5 years, with the entire herd participating in nurturing and protecting the young.

Loxodonta africana: Approximately 415,000 individuals remain, primarily in East and Southern Africa.

Loxodonta cyclotis: Estimated at fewer than 50,000.

Elephants in India:

Total Population: According to the 2023 Report on Elephant Corridors, India is home to **nearly 60% (29,964)** of the world's wild Asian elephant population, with 33 Elephant Reserves and 150 identified Elephant corridors.

Habitat: Elephants in India are found across 4 regions of the country: the Himalayan foothills in the north; the northeastern states; the forests of east-central India; and the forested parts of Western and Eastern Ghats in southern India.

National Heritage Animal: The Government of India (GoI) has accorded the status of National Heritage Animal of India to Elephants in 2010.

Key Measures Initiated by GoI for Protection of Elephants:

Project Elephant: The GoI launched Project Elephant (PE) as Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) in February 1992, aimed to provide financial and technical support to major elephant bearing states in the country for protection of elephants and their habitats.

- The project is currently being implemented in 22 States/Union Territories (UTs) of the country.

Legal Protection: Also, the GoI has classified Elephants under Schedule-I and Part-I of the Wildlife Protection Act (**WLPA, 1972**), which provides the highest level of protection.

- At global level, Indian elephants have been placed in the Appendix-I of the Convention of the Migratory Species in the Conference of Parties (CoPs) of CMS 13 in February 2020.

Elephant Reserves: As of August 2025, **33 Elephant Reserves (ERs)** spanning over an area of about 80,777 square kilometres(sq. km) have been formally notified by various state governments.

Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) Programme: This programme has been mandated by the COP resolution of CITES, was initiated in the South Asia region in 2003.

- States covered in the programme: Chirang Ripu (Assam); Dhang Patki (Assam); Eastern Dooars (West Bengal, WB) Deomali (Arunachal Pradesh, AP); Garo Hills (Meghalaya); Mayurbhanj (Odisha); Mysore (Karnataka); Nilgiri (Tamil Nadu, TN); Shivalik (Uttarakhand); and Wayanad (Kerala).

2025 Events:

Event: On August 12, 2025, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEF&CC**), in partnership with the Tamil Nadu (TN) Forest Department organised the 2025 World Elephant Celebration in **Coimbatore, TN**.

Inaugurated by: The event was inaugurated by the Union Minister **Bhupendra Yadav**, MoEF&CC.

Key Dignitaries: Union Minister of State (MoS) Kirti Vardhan Singh, MoEF&CC; Thiru R.S. Rajakannappan, Minister for Forests and Khadi, Government of TN; and senior officials from MoEF&CC, the TN Forest Department, Ministry of Railways (MoR), and other states were present at the event.

Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) Workshop: The event featured a focused workshop on HEC, aimed to provide a platform for elephant range states to share their challenges, experiences and mitigation measures.

- The discussions were mainly centered on habitat management, corridor maintenance, awareness campaigns, and capacity-building in high-conflict areas.

Nationwide Awareness Campaign: A nationwide awareness programme was launched, covering nearly 12 lakh school children from about 5,000 schools to spread awareness about elephant conservation.

12-Foot Long Elephant Sculpture: Renowned sand artist and Padma Shri Awardee, Sudarshan Patnaik commemorated World Elephant Day 2025 by crafting a 12-foot-long sand sculpture of an elephant on Puri beach in Odisha.

- The sculpture features a slogan 'Save My Habitat', which highlights the urgent need to protect elephants and their natural habitats.

International Youth Day 2025 – August 12

The United Nations (**UN's**) International Youth Day (**IYD**) is annually observed across the globe on **12th August**, celebrates the role of young people and recognises their contributions to society. The day raises awareness about youth-related issues and promotes their active and equal participation in all areas of life.

- The 2025 IYD holds special significance as it marks **10 years** since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and coincides with the **30th** anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth (**WPAY**).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** International Youth Day 2025
- ✓ **When?** August 12(annually)
- ✓ **Purpose:** To recognise contributions of youth to society
- ✓ **2025 Theme:** Local Youth Actions for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Beyond.
- ✓ **Significance:** 10th anniversary of the 2030 Agenda; 30th anniversary of WPAY
- ✓ **2025 Host:** UN-Habitat & UN DESA in Nairobi, Kenya

Theme:

2025 Theme: The theme of IYD 2025 is "**Local Youth Actions for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Beyond.**"

Focus: It highlights the role of youth as change-makers in achieving the SDGs by encouraging their active participation in local governance, innovation, and building resilient communities.

Background:

Origin: In **1991**, the idea for IYD was proposed during the 1st session of the UN System's World Youth Forum in Vienna, Austria.

- The Forum recommended declaring IYD to raise funds and promote activities supporting the United Nations Youth Fund (UNYF) in partnership with youth organizations.

Proclamation: In 1998, the 1st session of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (WCMRY) adopted a resolution proclaiming 12 August as IYD.

- The conference was hosted by the **Government of Portugal** in cooperation with the UN in Lisbon, Portugal in August 1998.

UNGA Endorsement: In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at its 54th session endorsed the recommendation in its resolution A/RES/54/120 titled “**Policies and Programmes Involving Youth.**”

First Observance: The first-ever IYD was observed on 12 August 2000.

Youth Statistics:

Population: 50% of people are 30 or younger; projected to reach 57% by 2030.

Workforce: By 2050, today's under-25age will form over 90% of the prime-age workforce.

Employment: Youth unemployment rate at 13% in 2023, the lowest in 15 years.

Education & Health: 1 in 7 adolescents (10–19 years) experience mental disorders; nearly 60% of 10-year-olds in low- and middle-income countries cannot read and understand a simple paragraph.

Youth2030 Global Progress Report 2025:

Overview: The fifth edition of the [Youth2030 Progress Report 2025](#) presents an updated assessment of how the UN Youth Strategy is being implemented across the UN system.

Transition Between Phases: This edition marks the end of Phase 1 (2018–2024) and the beginning of Phase 2 (2025–2030), covering progress from baseline years 2020 for UN Country Teams and 2021 for UN entities through 2024.

Highlights: The report outlines achievements at global, regional, and national levels in advancing the UN's commitments for and with youth.

2025 Event:

Global Event: The 2025 International Youth Day global event took place on August 12, 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya, in collaboration with UN-Habitat (the United Nations Human Settlements Programme) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), uniting youth leaders, municipal officials, policymakers, UN representatives, and development experts.

Dialogue: The inaugural Youth Leadership Consultative Dialogue was held from August 4–8, 2025 in Namibia. It was organized by the Commonwealth Youth Council and hosted by the Government of Namibia.

MYAS Celebrates International Youth Day 2025

Celebration: On August 12, 2025, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (**MYAS**) in collaboration with **Miranda House, University of Delhi**, celebrated International Youth Day 2025 at the campus of Miranda House in New Delhi, Delhi.

Theme: The 2025 celebration centred on the theme “**Volunteerism and Youth Leadership (Impact of Volunteering)**”, emphasizing the pivotal role of youth involvement in advancing nation-building and fostering community growth.

Panel Discussions: The event hosted two thought-provoking sessions “Young Voices, Shared Futures: Reimagining Global Youth Action”, and “Volunteering as a Catalyst for Global Cooperation”.

About United Nations Department of Economic & Social Affairs (UN-DESA):

Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs – Li Junhua

Headquarters– New York, the United States of America (USA)

Established 1948

World Organ Donation Day 2025 – August 13

World Organ Donation Day is annually observed across the globe on **August 13** to commemorate the first successful organ transplant in 1954.

- The day is also observed to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation, encourage people to become organ donors, and promote organ donation to save lives.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** World Organ Donation Day 2025
- ✓ **When?** August 13(annually)
- ✓ **2025 Theme:** "Answering the Call"
- ✓ **Commemoration:** First Transplant in 1954 by American Surgeon Dr. Joseph E. Murray
- ✓ **Nobel Prize:** Awarded in 1990 in Physiology or Medicine to Joseph E. Murray and E. Donnall Thomas.

Theme:

2025 Theme: "Answering the Call"

Recognition: This theme, designated by the Organ Donation and Transplant Alliance, a non-profit organization (NPO), celebrates exceptional professionals committed to advancing organ donation and transplantation.

Background:

First Transplant: The world's first successful living donor kidney transplant was performed in **1954** by American Surgeon **Dr. Joseph E. Murray** and his associates at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital (currently Brigham and Women's Hospital) at Boston in Massachusetts, the United States of America (USA).

- The transplant took place between identical twins, Ronald and Richard Lee Herrick, with Ronald donating a kidney to Richard, who suffered chronic kidney failure.

Noble Prize: Joseph E. Murray and American physician E. Donnall Thomas were jointly awarded the **Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine** in **1990** for their discoveries concerning organ and cell transplantation in the treatment of human disease.

Types of Organ Donation:

Living Donation: A living person donates an organ or part of an organ that can function without harming his or her own health. It includes the donation of kidney, part of liver, lobe of lung, and part of pancreas.

Deceased donation: The organs are taken from a person who has been declared brain-dead or after circulatory death. From the brain-dead donors, organs such as heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas, and intestines can be retrieved.

- Certain organs and tissues such as cornea, skin, heart valves, can be donated from the person who suffered cardiac death.

Tissue donation: Tissues can be donated by both living and deceased donors. Tissues, including blood, bone marrow, and umbilical cord blood can be donated by living donors. Corneas, skin, heart valves, tendons, and bones can be donated from the deceased.

Impact: One registered donor can save up to 8 lives through solid organ donation and improve the lives of over 75 more by donating tissue and corneas. A single donor can donate multiple organs, such as the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas, and small intestine.

Statistics: According to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), approximately 103,993 people need a life-saving organ transplant, but the limited number of donors creates a severe supply-demand gap.

Indian Organ Donation Day:

Observance: The Indian Organ Donation Day (IODD) is annually observed across India on August 3 of every year to commemorate the first successful deceased donor organ transplant, the first heart transplant in India.

- On August 3, 2025, **15th IODD** was observed across India.

Organizer: It is observed by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (**NOTTO**), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

International Left Handers Day 2025 – August 13

International Left Handers Day is annually observed across the globe on **August 13** to celebrate the uniqueness, advantages and disadvantages of being left-handers, who account for approximately 10% of the world's population.

- The day also aims to raise awareness about the challenges faced by the left-handed people in the world dominated by the right-handed individuals and encourage more inclusive product design, education tools, and workspaces.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event?** International Left Handers Day 2025
- ✓ **When?** August 13(annually)
- ✓ **Purpose:** To celebrate the uniqueness, advantages and disadvantages of being left-handers
- ✓ **First Observance:** August 13, 1976
- ✓ **Initiated by?** Dean R. Campbell
- ✓ **Rare Gene:** TUBB4B

Background:

First Observance: The International Left Handers Day was first observed on **August 13, 1976**, initiated by Dean R. Campbell, founder of Left Handers International.

Global Recognition: The day was globally recognized when Left Handers International launched International Left Handers Day on **August 13, 1992**.

Biological Insights:

Heritability: Several studies show that left-handedness is moderately heritable, with genetics accounting for approximately 25% of the variation. The other factors are such as prenatal conditions, birth complications, etc.

Genes: Large Genome-Wide Association Studies (GWAS) have identified multiple genes which influence left handedness.

- A rare gene variant, **TUBB4B**, is linked to cell structure which influences hand dominance.
- It is 2.7 times more common in left-handed people, although it accounts for only 0.1% cases.

Hemispheres: Brain Hemispheres have different dominant functions; right hemisphere controls the dominant hand for the left handers. In right handers, left hemisphere controls the dominant function.

Traits: Left-Handed people are more likely to have certain psychiatric traits, such as schizophrenia or autism.

Note: **Sinistrophobia** is the fear of left-handedness or anything positioned on the left side of the body.

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day 2025 – August 14

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day (Hindi: Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas) is a national memorial day in India, observed every year on **August 14** to honor the victims and reflect on the pain and suffering caused by the 1947 Partition of British India. It also highlights the courage and resilience of the people affected.

- August 14, 2025, marks the **5th** annual commemoration of Partition Horrors Remembrance Day in India.

Note: August 14 also coincides with Pakistan's Independence Day.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Partition Horrors Remembrance Day (Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas)
- ✓ **When?** August 14, 2025
- ✓ **Edition:** 5th
- ✓ **Declared by?** PM Narendra Modi in 2021
- ✓ **First Observance:** August 14, 2021

- ✓ **Purpose:** To honor victims of the 1947 Partition of British India

Background:

Official Designation: In **2021**, Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi officially designated August 14 of every year as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, intended to honor the victims and acknowledge the profound impact of Partition on millions.

First Observance: The first observance took place on August 14, 2021.

Legacy of Partition:

Causes :The division arose from factors such as the Muslim League's demands, British divide-and-rule policies, and **Muhammad Ali Jinnah's** communal stance.

Creation of Two Nations:British India was split into **India** (Hindu majority) and **Pakistan** (Muslim majority), triggering large-scale migration—Hindus and Sikhs to India, Muslims to Pakistan.

Impact : The event ignited severe communal violence, mass displacement, and became one of the most violent migrations in recorded history.

Announcement and Boundary Demarcation: On June 3, 1947, Lord Mountbatten, the last Viceroy of India (in office since March 24, 1947), formally announced Partition; boundaries were drawn by **Cyril Radcliffe**.

Migration Statistics: This Partition triggered one of the largest migrations in human history, impacting nearly 20 million people.

- Data shows that about 6 million non-Muslims left West Pakistan, while around 6.5 million Muslims migrated from Punjab, Delhi, and other regions of India into West Pakistan.

2025 Events:

Exhibitions: The Ministry of Culture, in partnership with the Ministry of Railway(MoR), held nationwide **exhibitions**, particularly at railway stations, depicting the immense hardships endured during the Partition.

World Humanitarian Day 2025 – August 19

World Humanitarian Day (**WHD**) is observed globally on **19 August** each year to honour **humanitarian workers**, including those killed or injured while helping the most vulnerable.

- The day aims to recognize aid workers and mobilize global support for humanitarian causes.
- August 19, 2025 marks the **22nd** anniversary of the tragic attack on the United Nations (UN) headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **August 19:** World Humanitarian Day (WHD) 2025
- ✓ **WHD 2025 Theme:** “Strengthening global solidarity and empowering local communities.”
- ✓ **Initiated Organization:** UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (**OCHA**)
- ✓ **1st Observance:** 19 August 2009
- ✓ **Reason for Date:** Canal Hotel bombing, Baghdad, 2003 – killed 22, incl. Sérgio Vieira de Mello.

Theme:

Theme 2025: “Strengthening global solidarity and empowering local communities”

Focus: The theme highlights that despite mounting crises, local aid workers remain critical first responders, their safety and empowerment are essential.

2025 Campaign Focus: The 2025 campaign highlights the urgent need to protect humanitarian personnel amid record levels of violence against aid workers in recent years.

- It reminds the United Nations (UN) Member States of their responsibility to uphold International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and ensure unrestricted humanitarian access.

Background :

Launch of Campaign: In **2010**, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (**OCHA**) launched the World Humanitarian Day (WHD) campaign.

UN Proclamation: On 11 December **2008**, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution A/RES/63/139, declaring 19 August of every year as WHD.

First Observation: The first WHD was observed on 19 August 2009.

Why August 19? On 19 August 2003, a suicide truck bombing targeted the United Nations (UN) headquarters at the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, killing 22 people, including UN Special Representative Sérgio Vieira de Mello.

Violence Against Humanitarian Workers

Rising Attacks on Aid Workers: The OCHA reported a sharp rise in violence against humanitarian workers.

- In 2024, over 380 humanitarian workers were killed, some while on duty and others in their homes, while hundreds more were injured, kidnapped, or detained.

Gaza Crisis: Since October 2023, more than 280 humanitarian workers have been killed in Gaza alone, the majority of them being staff members of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

- Most casualties were national staff, with several humanitarian workers also detained in Yemen.

Humanitarian Reach Despite Risks: Despite the violence, in 2023, global humanitarian operations successfully delivered life-saving aid to over 140 million people worldwide.

AWSD: The Aid Worker Security Database (**AWSD**), launched in 2005 by Humanitarian Outcomes, records all major incidents of violence against aid workers from 1997 to the present.

About International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

Definition: It regulates armed conflicts, ensuring protection of civilians and humanitarian workers, while restricting warfare methods to preserve humanity during conflicts and maintain international humanitarian standards.

Principles: Distinction between civilians and combatants, proportionality in military actions, necessity limiting force to objectives, and humane treatment of civilians and captured combatants under international law.

Upholding International Law: Attacks on aid workers often violate IHL, yet perpetrators largely remain unpunished.

- The **#ActForHumanity campaign** demands stronger protection, accountability, and enforcement of laws safeguarding humanitarian workers and civilians.

Key Facts:

Global Humanitarian Needs : In 2025, around 305.1 million people across 72 countries require humanitarian assistance, with an estimated funding need of USD 47.4 billion.

Impact on Children : Around 400 million children, 1 in 5 worldwide, live in or are fleeing conflict zones, while four out of five civilian deaths in conflicts occur in countries with active humanitarian appeals.

About UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA):

Under-Secretary-General (USG)- Tom Fletcher

Headquarters- Geneva(Switzerland); New York(the United States of America, USA)

Established - 1991

World Photography Day 2025 – August 19

World Photography Day, also known as **World Photo Day**, is annually observed across the globe on **August 19** to celebrate the art, craft, science, and history of photography.

- The day is also observed as a tribute to the invention of the daguerreotype, the first practical photographic process, developed by **Louis Daguerre** in **1837**.

Theme:

2025 Theme: The 2025 theme of World Photography Day is “My Favourite Photo”

Focus: It highlights a shift from technical perfection to emotional resonance and personal significance.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** World Photography Day 2025
- ✓ **Date:** August 19
- ✓ **2025 Theme:** “My Favourite Photo”
- ✓ **World Photography Week 2025:** August 12th to 26th, 2025.
- ✓ **First Digital Photo:** By Russell Kirsch in 1957

About World Photography Day:

Photography: It is an art of capturing light with a camera to create images with cameras, phones, and drones.

- The word ‘photography’ means ‘drawing with light’ and it was coined by the British scientist Sir John Herschel in 1839.

Background: The invention of Daguerreotype was officially announced by the French Academy of Sciences in 1839. The French government purchased the patent for the invention and declared it a “gift free to the world” on August 19, 2010.

- In **2009**, World Photography Day proposed it as an annual celebration to honour this pivotal moment in the history of photography.

Inception: World Photography Day was initially observed on **19th August 2010**.

- On this day, nearly 270 photographers shared their photographs in a global online gallery.

Week observance: World Photography Week 2025 is a two-week global celebration of photography from **12th to 26th August 2025**.

Evolution:

Permanent: The first permanent photographic image known as “View from the Window at Le Gras” was taken by Joseph Nicephore Niépce using the Heliography process in 1826.

Invention of Daguerreotype: In 1837, Louis Daguerre developed the Daguerreotype process, recognized as the first commercial photographic technique.

Durable: The first durable colour photo was taken in 1861 using a three-colour method invented by Scottish physicist James Clerk Maxwell.

Digital: The first digital photograph was taken in 1957 by Russell Kirsch.

Still: The first digital still camera was developed by Eastman Kodak engineer Steven Sasson in 1975.

Sadbhavana Divas 2025 – August 20

Sadbhavana Diwas or Harmony Day is observed on **August 20** every year in India with the intention of promoting peace, unity, and harmony among the various religions and communities.

- The day also marks the **birth anniversary** of former Prime Minister(PM) **Rajiv Gandhi**.
- August 20, 2025 marks the 81st birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Event:** Sadbhavana Diwas 2025
- ✓ **When?** August 20(annually)
- ✓ **Significance:** Marks the birth anniversary of former PM Rajiv Gandhi
- ✓ **2025 Highlight:** 81st birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi
- ✓ **PM:** Became youngest PM in 1984, at 40
- ✓ **First Observed:** August 20, 1992

Background:

Observation: Sadbhavana Diwas was first observed on **August 20, 1992**, in memory of Rajiv Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1991.

Meaning: The word ‘Sadbhavana’ translates to ‘Goodwill and Bonafide’ in English.

About Rajiv Gandhi :

Birth: Rajiv Gandhi was born on August 20, 1944, in Bombay (now Mumbai, Maharashtra).

Career : Worked as a professional pilot with Indian Airlines before entering politics. Entered politics after the death of his younger brother Sanjay Gandhi in 1980.

PM: He became the youngest PM of India on October 31, 1984 at the age of 40, after Indira Gandhi’s assassination.

Major Contributions:

- Launched the New Education Policy (1986).
- Established IGNOU (Indira Gandhi National Open University) in New Delhi(Delhi) and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas.
- Signed the Punjab Accord (1985) and Assam Accord (1985).
- Focused on science, technology, and telecommunication reforms.
- After 1990, he introduced measures to significantly reduce the Licence Raj system in India.

Constitutional Reform: During his tenure, the 61st Constitutional Amendment Act of 1988 was passed by Parliament, lowering the voting age in India from 21 to 18 years by amending Article 326 of the Constitution.

Honours: He was known as the “Father of Information Technology and Telecom Revolution of India.”

- In 1991, Rajiv Gandhi was posthumously awarded the **Bharat Ratna**, India’s highest civilian award, by the Government of India.

Death: Assassinated on May 21, 1991, at Sripurumbudur, Tamil Nadu(TN).

- The death anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi (May 21) is observed as Anti-Terrorism Day in India.

Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award :

Purpose: The Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award (also called Rajiv Gandhi National Communal Harmony Award) is conferred for outstanding contribution towards communal harmony, national integration, and peace.

Institution: The award was instituted in 1992 by the All India Congress Committee (AICC) to commemorate the lasting contribution of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Award Details: Recipients receive a citation and a cash prize of **Rs.10 Lakhs**.

2024 Awardee: Veteran Congress leader and former Minister **J. Geetha Reddy** was honoured with the Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award 2024.

World Mosquito Day 2025 – August 20

World Mosquito Day (**WMD**) is observed globally every year on **20th August** to commemorate the discovery by British doctor **Sir Ronald Ross** in **1897** that female *Anopheles* mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans.

- **Aim:** The day raises awareness about mosquito-borne diseases, educates on mosquito control and preventive measures, and highlights ongoing research and interventions.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** World Mosquito Day 2025
- ✓ **When?** August 20, 2025
- ✓ **Aim:** Raise awareness on mosquito-borne diseases
- ✓ **Discovery Commemoration:** Sir Ronald Ross, 1897
- ✓ **Nobel Prize:** Received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1902.

Significance:

Tribute : Since 1930, the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), United Kingdom(UK), organises an annual event on 20th August.

Commemoration:: On 20th August 1997, the Government of India (**GoI**) issued a commemorative **postage stamp** to mark the 100th anniversary of Ross' discovery of *Plasmodium oocytes*.

Discovery of Malaria:

Malaria Parasite Identification: On 20th August 1897, Sir Ronald Ross discovered the malaria parasite in the stomach of female *Anopheles* mosquitoes in Secunderabad (Telangana, India).

Research Publication: Findings published in "*On some peculiar pigmented cells found in two mosquitoes fed on malarial blood*" in the British Medical Journal (BMJ), 18th December 1897.

Nobel Prize Recognition: He received the 1902 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, becoming the first Briton to be awarded for malaria research.

About Ronald Ross:

Early Life: Ronald Ross was born on 13th May 1857 in Almora, India (now in Almora, Uttarakhand, India).

Contributions : Developed mathematical models for malaria transmission; key work in epidemiology.

Honours: Elected Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (1901) and Royal Society of London; served as Vice President (1911–1913); received knighthood in 1911.

Ross Institute and Hospital for Tropical Diseases: Established in 1926, inaugurated at Putney Heath, London (UK) by the Prince of Wales, as a memorial and recognition of Ross' work.

- He served as Director-in-Chief of the Institute from 1926 until his death in 1932.

About Malaria:

Overview: Malaria is a preventable and curable acute febrile disease caused by *Plasmodium* parasites, transmitted through bites of infected female *Anopheles* mosquitoes.

Causative Parasite Species: Five *Plasmodium* species cause malaria in humans, with *Plasmodium falciparum* and *Plasmodium vivax* posing the greatest threat.

Challenges Faced:

Outdoor Malaria Transmission: In Papua New Guinea, 80% of *Anopheles* bites occur outdoors, reducing Insecticide-Treated Nets (ITNs) and Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) effectiveness.

Funding Shortfalls: Asia-Pacific faces a USD 478 million malaria funding gap; global shortfalls total USD 4.3 billion, threatening elimination efforts.

About APMEN (Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network)

Evolution: Launched in February 2009, integrates with APLMA (Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance) in 2017, to unite Asia-Pacific countries, technical experts, and institutions, combining political advocacy with technical excellence.

Call to Action : On 20th August 2025, APMEN emphasizes investment, innovation, and cooperation, urging agile, science-based efforts to address climate, funding, and vector challenges, advancing the goal of a malaria-free Asia-Pacific.

Impacts:

Global Health: Mosquito-borne diseases kill over one million people and infect up to 700 million annually, affecting nearly one in ten people worldwide.

Impacts in India:

- Reduction observed in dengue, chikungunya, lymphatic filariasis, and kala-azar, as per NCVBDC., according to the National Centre for Vector-Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC).
- **National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme (NVBDPC):** Administered by NCVBDC, it is the umbrella programme for vector-borne disease prevention and control.

- **Epidemiological Progress:** India reduced malaria cases and deaths by 97%, with 122 districts reporting zero cases and Ladakh, Lakshadweep, and Puducherry achieving zero indigenous cases by 2023.
- **Strategic Approach:** Guided by National Framework (2016) and National Strategic Plan (2023–2027) for malaria elimination by 2030.

World Malaria Day (WMD) :

The World Health Organization (WHO) observes WMD annually on April 25 to recognize global malaria control efforts and raise awareness.

- In 2025, the World Malaria Day theme is “**Malaria Ends With Us: Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite**”.

International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to Victims of Terrorism 2025 – August 21

The United Nations (UN) observes the **International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism** annually on **21st August** to honour victims, support survivors, and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms.

- 21st August 2025 marks the **8th commemoration** of the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism 2025
- ✓ **When?** August 21(annually)
- ✓ **Aim:** Honour victims, support survivors of terrorism, and promote human rights
- ✓ **Commemoration:** 8th
- ✓ **2025 Theme 2:** United by Hope: Collective Action for Victims of Terrorism
- ✓ **VoTAN 2025:** Launched by the UN, to empower victims via peer-led initiatives and advocacy
- ✓ **First Observance:** 21 August 2018

Theme:

2025 Theme: “United by Hope: Collective Action for Victims of Terrorism”.

Focus: Highlights hope emerging when victims unite to transform pain into purpose.

- Emphasizes cross-regional, cultural, and experiential support and collective advocacy.

Background:

Resolution: The 17th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC), through resolution A/HRC/RES/17/8 on 16 June **2011**, proposed 19 August as the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to Victims of Terrorism.

Proclamation: On 19 December **2017**, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted resolution A/RES/72/165, officially proclaiming 21 August of every year as the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism.

First Observance: The first International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism was observed on **21 August 2018**.

About UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy:

Overview: The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is a global framework strengthening national, regional, and international efforts against terrorism.

Adoption A: The UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted resolution A/RES/60/288, on 8 September 2006, reflecting global consensus on counter-terrorism strategy

Primary Responsibility: The UN member states bear the main responsibility to counter terrorism and violent extremism.

UN Support: Provides technical assistance, capacity building, and support to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), especially victims' associations.

Member State Support:

Recognition by Member States: Biennial reviews of the strategy highlight victims' role in countering terrorism and promoting solidarity.

GFVT Formation: Since the 6th review in 2018, support for victims has strengthened, marked by the formation of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism (GFVT) in 2019.

8th Review (2023): Emphasized support for victims, especially women and children; welcomed the 1st UN Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism (GCVT) in 2022, New York, United States of America (USA).

Support Mechanisms: The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) promotes victims' rights through the Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme and UN Victims of Terrorism Support Portal.

VoTAN 2025: Launched by the United Nations and international partners, the Victims of Terrorism Associations Network (**VoTAN**) 2025 aims to empower victims worldwide by promoting peer-led initiatives, advocacy, and shared leadership across countries and communities.

2025 Events:

High-Level Virtual Event: Held on 21 August 2025 titled "United by Hope: Collective Action for Victims of Terrorism".

- The event featured keynote remarks by UN Secretary-General António Guterres, opening remarks by Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov, screening of VoTAN film, and a Global Minute of Silence.

Exhibition: The Visitors' Lobby of the United Nations Headquarters in New York(the USA) hosts an exhibition, providing attendees with a powerful and meaningful showcase that reflects the theme and purpose of the International Day.

About United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT):

Under-Secretary-General- Vladimir Voronkov

Headquarters- New York, the United States of America (USA)

Established – 2017

World Senior Citizen's Day 2025 – August 21

World Senior Citizen's Day is observed every year on **21st August** worldwide to honour and acknowledge the valuable contributions of senior citizens to society.

- The day provides an opportunity to show our appreciation for their dedication, accomplishments, and services they give throughout their lives.

Exam Hints:

- Event: World Senior Citizen's Day 2025
- When? August 21(annually)
- Proclamation: Announced by Former USA President Ronald Reagan in 1988 via Proclamation 5847
- UNGA: Designated October 1 as International Day of Older Persons
- Purpose: To highlight health concerns, elder abuse, isolation, financial insecurity, and cyber risks.
- WHO Projections: 2030 -1 in 6 aged 60+; 2050 – 2.1 billion.
- India 2050: 300 million.

Theme:

2025 Theme: 'Empowering Elderly Voices for an Inclusive Future' (This theme is not official but has been mentioned by several sources).

Focus: Emphasizes recognizing and amplifying the insights, experiences, and wisdom of older adults in society.

Background:

Proclamation: Ronald Reagan, the then former President of the United States of America(USA), officially announced World Senior Citizens Day, after he signed the **Proclamation 5847**, on August 19, **1988**.

UNGA's Designation: Subsequently, on 14 December **1990**, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) designated **October 1** as the International Day of Older Persons, to be observed annually.

Significance: Honors the achievements and wisdom of senior citizens while raising awareness of challenges like health issues, elder abuse, isolation, financial insecurity, and cyber risks, promoting their dignity and inclusion.

Keyfacts:

Historic Demographic Shift (2020): For the first time in history, the number of people aged 60 and older surpassed the number of children younger than five.

Country-Specific Trends: This shift is most visible in nations like Japan and Italy, where people over 65 account for nearly one-third and one-quarter of the population, respectively.

WHO Projection: According to the World Health Organization (WHO), by 2030, 1 in 6 people worldwide will be aged 60 or above.

- By 2050, the elderly population is expected to reach 2.1 billion—double the 1 billion recorded in 2020.

India's Elderly Population Outlook:

Population Projections (2011–2031): According to the 2020 Population Projections Report, India had 103.8 million elderly in 2011, a number expected to rise to 193.4 million by 2031.

Future Outlook (2050): By 2050, India's senior citizen population is projected to exceed 300 million, mainly due to declining fertility rates and rising life expectancy.

Key Initiatives for Older Persons in India:

Legislative & Policy Framework:

- Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 (MWPSC Act): Mandates children/relatives to provide maintenance to parents; provides for old-age homes in every district.
- National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP), 1999: Framework to ensure social, financial, and healthcare security for the elderly.

Social Security & Pension Schemes:

Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS): Launched in 1995 as part of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), IGNOAPS provides financial support in the form of pensions to Below Poverty Line (BPL) senior citizens aged 60 and above, helping ensure a basic standard of living and social security in old age.

Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana (VPBY): Launched in 2003 by the Ministry of Finance(MoF), VPBY is a social security scheme designed to provide senior citizens with a guaranteed minimum pension after retirement. .The scheme is being administered through Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVY): Launched in 2017 by the Government of India under the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), PMVY is a pension scheme aimed at providing senior citizens with a guaranteed minimum return on their investment.

Other Programs:

Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY): Launched in 2017 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment(MoSJE), RVY provides free assistive devices to BPL senior citizens with age-related disabilities, enhancing their mobility and quality of life.

Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund (SCWF): Established in 2016 under the Department of Financial Services(DFS), MoF, SCWF utilises unclaimed amounts from Small Savings Schemes(SSS) to finance welfare initiatives for elderly citizens, promoting their well-being and social security.

National Programme for Health Care of Elderly (NPHCE): The NPHCE was launched in 2010-11 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare(MoHFW) to strengthen healthcare services at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels for elderly.

Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY): Launched in 2018, this flagship health insurance scheme of the Government of India(GoI) provides free health coverage to economically vulnerable families, including senior citizens, ensuring access to quality medical treatment without financial burden.

National Award for Senior Citizens (Vayoshreshtha Samman): The National Award for Senior Citizens, also called the Vayoshreshtha Samman, was instituted in 2005 to honour senior citizens.

- Every year, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment presents the award on 1st October, coinciding with the International Day of Older Persons.
- **Award of Iconic Mother:** This special category recognizes women senior citizens who have excelled in raising high-achieving children despite significant challenges.

Elderline (14567): National helpline for senior citizens (support for healthcare, abuse reporting, counselling).

International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief 2025 – August 22

The United Nations (UN) annually observes the **International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief** on **22nd August** to condemn violence and terrorism against individuals and communities targeted due to their religion or belief.

- 22nd August 2025 marks the observance of the **7th International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief**.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief 2025
- ✓ **When?** August 22(annually)
- ✓ **Aim:** Condemn violence and terrorism against individuals and communities targeted due to their religion or belief.
- ✓ **Commemoration:** 7th
- ✓ **First Observance:** 22 August 2019
- ✓ **UNGA Resolution:** A/RES/73/296, adopted on 28 May 2019
- ✓ **Legal Basis:** Articles 18, 19 & 20 of UDHR

Significance:

Freedom Rights: Highlights the role of freedom of religion or belief, expression, peaceful assembly, and association in countering intolerance and discrimination.

Victim Support: Stresses providing legal and humanitarian assistance to victims of religion-based violence and their families.

Human Rights Duty: Reminds UN member states of their responsibility to promote and protect fundamental freedoms, including freedom of religion or belief.

Background:

Resolution: On 28th May 2019, the United Nations General Assembly (**UNGA**) adopted Resolution **A/RES/73/296**, designating 22 August as the International Day Commemorating Victims of Religion-Based Violence.

First Observance: The inaugural observance of International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief was held on **22 August 2019**.

Key UNGA Provisions on Religion-Based Violence:

The UNGA resolution emphasized:

- **Victim Assistance:** Providing adequate support to victims and their families.
- **Dialogue Promotion:** Strengthening interreligious, interfaith, and intercultural dialogue at all levels.
- **Human Rights Education:** Expanding education as a vital tool to combat intolerance, hate crimes, and discrimination.
- **State Responsibility:** Reaffirming that states hold the primary duty to safeguard and promote human rights of religious minorities.

Human Rights Related to Freedom of Religion or Belief:

Interrelated Rights: Freedom of religion or belief, opinion and expression, peaceful assembly, and association are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

Legal Basis: These rights are guaranteed under **Articles 18, 19, and 20** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (**UDHR**).

Importance: Protecting these rights is crucial to combating intolerance, violence and discrimination based on religion or belief.

About United Nations (UN):

Secretary – General (**SG**) – António Guterres

Headquarters – New York, the United States of America (USA)

Established – 1945

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition 2025 – August 23

The United Nations (**UN**) **International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition** is observed every year across the world on **23rd August** to honour the memory of all people who suffered under the transatlantic slave trade during the colonial era.

- The annual observance is led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (**UNESCO**).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition 2025
- ✓ **When?** August 22
- ✓ **Aim:** Honouring people who suffered under the transatlantic slave trade during the colonial era.
- ✓ **Proclamation:** UNESCO adopted Resolution 29 C/40 at its 29th General Conference session
- ✓ **First Observance:** 23 August 1998 – in Haiti

Background:

Proclamation: The 29th session of the UNESCO General Conference in 1997 adopted Resolution 29 C/40, declaring **23 August** as the *International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition*.

Promotion: On 29 July 1998, UNESCO's Director-General issued Circular CL/3494, inviting Ministers of Culture of all member states to promote the observance of the Day.

Observance: The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition was **first observed** in Haiti on **23 August 1998**.

- The following year, on 23 August 1999, the Day was observed at Gorée Island in Senegal.

Why 23 August?

On the night of 23 August 1791, self-liberated enslaved people in Saint Domingue (present-day Haiti and Dominican Republic) launched a revolt against French colonial rule.

- This uprising was a turning point that played a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

Significance:

Awareness on Abolition: The Day spreads awareness about the abolition of slave trade and related practices, while affirming the equal and unconditional dignity of every individual.

Collective Reflection: It provides an opportunity to collectively recognise and reflect on the historical causes, methods, and consequences of slavery.

Slave Trading:

Definition: The transatlantic slave trade, or Atlantic slave trade, began in the mid-17th century, becoming the largest long-distance forced migration in recorded history.

Scope: From the 16th to 19th centuries (until the 1860s), millions of Africans were forcibly transported to the Americas by European traders.

Initiators: The Portuguese and Spanish initiated the slave trade, particularly after establishing sugar plantations in the Americas.

Middle Passage: Refers to the brutal Atlantic voyage endured by enslaved Africans as part of the trade.

Abolition: On 25 March 1807, the British Parliament passed the *Abolition of the Slave Trade Act*, banning the trading of enslaved people in the British Empire.

Haitian Revolution:

Overview (1791–1804): A series of conflicts involving enslaved Haitians, colonists, and colonial armies of Britain and France.

Beginning: The revolution started on the night of 22–23 August 1791, when enslaved people in northern Saint Domingue rose against French colonial rule.

Independence: After years of struggle, Haiti was declared an independent nation on 1 January 1804.

Significance: Haiti became the 2nd independent country in the Americas, following the United States of America's independence in 1783.

Unique Achievement: The Haitian Revolution remains the only successful slave revolt in world history, leading to the establishment of Haiti as the first independent black state.

UNESCO Slave Route Project:

Launch: In 1994, UNESCO initiated the "*Routes of Enslaved Peoples: Resistance, Liberty and Heritage*" program (formerly *Slave Route Project*) at Ouidah, Benin, to advance knowledge on slavery and the slave trade.

International Scientific Committee (ISC): Consists of 20 members appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO, advising on programme implementation.

30th Anniversary: The year 2025 marked the 31th anniversary of the *Routes of Enslaved Peoples* program.

Global Commemoration: On 23 August, the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, United Kingdom (UK) hosts International Slavery Remembrance Day events annually.

Related Observance

The UN International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed annually on **25 March** to honour victims of slavery.

- 2025 Theme: "Honoring Memories, Fostering Resilience"

About the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO):

Director-General (DG)- Audrey Azoulay

Headquarters- Paris, France

Established – 1945

National Space Day 2025 – August 23

The National Space Day (**NSpD**) is observed across India on **23 August** to honor the historic success of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO's) Chandrayaan-3 Mission and the successful deployment of the 'Pragyan Rover'.

- On 23rd August **2023**, Chandrayaan-3 made a safe landing on the Moon's South Pole, deployed the Pragyan Rover, and made India the **4th country** to land on the Moon and the 1st to land near its South Pole.
- 23rd August 2025 marks the celebration of the 2nd NSpD.

Note: The landing site of the Vikram Lander on the lunar surface was named 'Shiv Shakti Point' (Station Shiv Shakti).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** National Space Day (NSpD) 2025
- ✓ **When?** 23rd August (annually)
- ✓ **Why?** To commemorate Chandrayaan-3's historic Moon landing (23rd Aug 2023) and deployment of Pragyan Rover
- ✓ **Theme 2025:** "Aryabhata to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities"
- ✓ **Declared by:** In Aug 2023 by PM Narendra Modi at ISTRAC, Bengaluru
- ✓ **First Observed:** August 23, 2024
- ✓ **2025 Celebrations:**

Venue: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

National Space Meet 2.0: Theme: "Leveraging Space Technology and Applications for Viksit Bharat 2047"

Indian Space Station Model: ISRO unveiled 1st module of the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS-01).

Theme:

2025 Theme: "Aryabhata to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities".

Focus: It reflects India's journey from the ancient wisdom of its astronomers to modern achievements in human spaceflight, celebrating exploration, innovation, and imagination.

NSpD 2025 aims to: Encourage students and youth to see science not just as a career but as a calling rooted in culture.

- Recognize the contributions of Indian thinkers, ancient and modern, who have advanced our understanding of the universe.
- Inspire national pride in India's leadership in space exploration and technology.

Background:

Declaration : In August 2023, the Government of India(GoI) announced that 23rd August would be observed every year as National Space Day (**NSpD**) to commemorate the success of the Chandrayaan-3 Mission.

- The declaration was made by Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi during his meeting with the ISRO at the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking, and Command Network (ISTRAC) Mission Control Facility (MCF) in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

First Observance: NSpD was celebrated for the first time in 2024.

2025 Events:

2025 celebrations: The NSpD 2025 celebration was held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi(Delhi) and featured exhibitions, seminars, competitions, and educational outreach initiatives such as 'Space on Wheels' and 'ISRO Space Tutor'.

National Space Meet 2.0: As part of the celebrations,, ISRO organized the two-day National Space Meet 2.0 on the theme "Leveraging Space Technology and Applications for Viksit Bharat 2047" at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi from August 22-23, 2025.

- The event was graced by P.K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India, as the Chief Guest. The event brought together Ministries, private stakeholders, academia, startups, and experts to shape the roadmap for India's space applications for the next decade.
- The meet featured 10 breakout sessions involving hundreds of experts who, over the past four months, collaborated with Ministries, Departments, State Governments, and ISRO to identify numerous use cases for immediate and future implementation.
- The roadmap outlines ambitious yet achievable goals, including tripling the number of operational satellites within three years, expanding space applications across all sectors, and positioning India among the world's leading space powers by 2040.

Indian Space Station Model Unveiled: On this occasion, ISRO showcased the model of the **first module** Bharatiya Antariksh Station(**BAS-01**) of the upcoming Indian Space Station The model has been installed in an exhibition area measuring 3.8 meters(m) by 8 m at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

- The module weighs around 10 tonnes and will orbit the Earth at an altitude of 450 kilometres(km). It is equipped with several indigenous technologies, including the Environmental Control & Life Support System (ECLSS), Bharat Docking System, Automated Hatch System, and Berthing Mechanism.
- India aims to launch the BAS-01 module by **2028** and expand the Indian Space Station with five modules by 2035.

Nationwide Celebrations: To celebrate NSpD 2025, the Department of Space (DoS) is organizing month-long events across India in August to inspire and engage youth in space science and its applications.

ISRO's Key Past Achievements:

- **Aryabhata (1975):** India's first satellite, marking the nation's entry into space exploration.
- **Satellite Launch Vehicle-3(SLV-3) (1980):** First successful launch of a satellite using an Indian-made rocket.
- **Chandrayaan-1 (2008):** India's first Moon mission, which discovered water molecules on the lunar surface.
- **Mangalyaan (2014):** Also known as the Mars Orbiter Mission(MoM), it made India the first Asian nation to reach Mars orbit on its maiden attempt.
- **Chandrayaan-3 (2023):** Achieved the first successful landing near the Moon's south pole.

About Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO):

Chairman- V. Narayanan

Headquarters- Bengaluru, Karnataka

Established – 1969.

World Water Week 2025 – August 24 to 28

World Water Week (WWW), the leading global conference on the water crisis, is observed annually during the last week of August. The event focuses on addressing critical water-related challenges such as access to clean water, sanitation, waste management, and sustainability.

- The **35th** edition of WWW is observed from **August 24 to 28**.
- The day is observed with an aim to integrate the entire water cycle, from freshwater to oceans, emphasizing ecosystem protection, equity, and climate justice, to ensure the vulnerable communities are not left behind.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** World Water Week (WWW) is observed
- ✓ **When?** Last week of August from 24 to 28, 2025
- ✓ **Theme:** "Water for Climate Action"
- ✓ **Organizer:** Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)

- ✓ **Chair:** Henk Ovink
- ✓ **First Observance:** 1991

Theme: The 2025 theme of the WWW is “**Water for Climate Action**”, focusing on the interlinked crises of climate change, environmental degradation, and biodiversity loss, and emphasizing the role of water for mitigation and adaptation strategies.

WWW Conference:

Organizer: The annual event is organized by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), a Not-For-Profit (NFP), at Waterfront Congress Centre in Stockholm, Sweden.

Sessions: The conference encompasses various sessions organized by Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF), Northern Water Network (NoWNET), Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) and others.

Chair: The WWW 2025 conference is chaired by **Henk Ovink**, Executive Director (ED) and Founding Commissioner for the Global Commission on the Economics of Water (GCEW).

Topics: The sessions will be conducted on topics such as Hygiene and sanitation in diverse climates, sanitation systems and climate adaptation, Gender equality and WATER (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), Financing Climate-Resilient water systems, and Climate resilience in schools and sanitation workers.

Significance: WWW serves as a crucial arena for connecting international processes and linking to the annual Conference of the Parties (COP). It also offers an opportunity to implement the commitments made at the United Nations (UN) 2023 Water Conference from **2023 to 2027**.

Background:

First observance: WWW has been organized every year since 1991 by SIWI. Stockholm celebrated its clean waters with a public festival, which included the 1st Stockholm Water Symposium, gathering the world's leading water scientists.

Renaming: In 2001, the Stockholm Water Symposium was renamed to World Water Week in Stockholm, the premium annual meeting place for discussing freshwater issues.

Stockholm Water Prize:

Established: The Stockholm Water Prize, inspired by the Stockholm Water Symposium, was established in **1991**, and is considered the “**Nobel Prize of Water**”.

Presentation: It is a global award presented annually by the SIWI to an individual, organization, or institution for outstanding water-related achievements.

- It is presented by His Majesty (**HM**) **King Carl XVI Gustaf** of Sweden, the patron of the prize.
- Professor David W. Schindler from Canada was the first winner in 1991, recognized for his pioneering research on pollution and the impacts of climate change on lakes.

Cooperation: The prize, initially founded by the Stockholm Water Foundation, is awarded in cooperation with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (RSAS).

- It is also supported by the International Water Association (IWA), The Water Environment Federation (WEF), and the City of Stockholm.

Winner: The 2025 Stockholm Water Prize for 2025 was awarded to Professor Gunter Bloschl, a distinguished hydrologist from the Vienna University of Technology

- Recognized for revolutionizing flood risk assessment and developing observation-based climate-flood connections.

About Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP):

- The Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) was established in 1997 as part of World Water Week (WWW).It is an international competition for students aged 15 to 20 years.
- The competition encourages students to develop innovative projects addressing major global water challenges.Finalists are chosen from the winners of national-level competitions held in participating countries.

- The prize is presented by its Patron, Her Royal Highness (HRH) Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden.
- Since 2020, the event also includes the People's Choice Award, selected through public voting.

Note: **World Water Day** is an annual United Nations observance, held on March 22, to raise awareness about the importance of freshwater and support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) – water and sanitation for all by 2030.

- It is coordinated by UN-Water and involves focusing attention on the global water crisis and advocating for sustainable water management.

About the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI):

Executive Director – Helena Thybell

Headquarters – Stockholm, Sweden

Established – 1988

International Day Against Nuclear Tests 2025 – August 29

The United Nations (UN's) International Day Against Nuclear Tests (**IDANT**) is annually observed across the globe on **29 August** to raise awareness about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions and advocating for a nuclear-weapon-free world.

- 29 August 2025 marks the **16th** observance of IDANT

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** International Day Against Nuclear Tests 2025
- ✓ **When?** 29 August (Annually)
- ✓ **Organiser:** UN
- ✓ **First Observance:** 2010
- ✓ **2025 Significance:** 80th anniversary of the first nuclear test (Trinity Test, 16 July 1945, USA)

Background:

Resolution: On 2 December 2009, the 64th United Nations General Assembly (**UNGA**) adopted Resolution A/RES/64/35, declaring 29 August as the International Day against Nuclear Tests.

Initiative: The resolution was introduced by the Republic of **Kazakhstan** with the support of multiple sponsors and co-sponsors.

First Observation: The International Day against Nuclear Tests was first observed on 29 August 2010.

Significance of 29 August: The date marks the closure of the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site (**SNTS**) in Kazakhstan on **29 August 1991**, where 456 nuclear tests were conducted between 1949 and 1989.

Related Observance: The **UN International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons** is observed every year on **26th September** worldwide to raise awareness and encourage global efforts towards achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

About Nuclear Tests:

Definition: Nuclear weapon testing involves experiments to determine the effectiveness, yield, and explosive capability of nuclear weapons.

Impact: Such tests trigger uncontrolled energy release, causing large-scale destruction.

Introduction to Nuclear Testing:

First Nuclear Test : The world's first nuclear test under the Manhattan Project was conducted on **16 July 1945** at Alamogordo, New Mexico, United States of America (USA).

- The year 2025 marks the **80th anniversary** of the world's first nuclear test.

Device Tested: An implosion-design plutonium device, nicknamed "**the Gadget**", was successfully detonated.

Test Details: Conducted at the Alamogordo Bombing Range (ABR), known as Jornada del Muerto, with the code name **“Trinity”**.

India's First Nuclear Test:

Pokhran-I : India conducted its first nuclear test, code-named “Smiling Buddha” (**Pokhran-I**), on **18 May 1974** at Pokhran Test Range (PTR), Rajasthan.

Global Recognition: With this, India became the **6th** nuclear power, breaking the monopoly of the 5 permanent UNSC members – the USA, Russia, United Kingdom (UK), China, and France.

Government Standpoint: The test was described by the Indian government as a Peaceful Nuclear Explosion (PNE).

Earlier Initiatives: In 1954, Prime Minister(PM) Jawaharlal Nehru was the first statesman to call for a nuclear testing moratorium.

- Later, the Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT) was adopted in 1963, banning tests in the atmosphere, outer space, and underwater.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT):

Adoption: The UNGA adopted the **CTBT on 10 September 1996**, aiming to eliminate nuclear testing.

Scope: The treaty bans all nuclear explosions (military or peaceful) and consists of a preamble, 17 articles, 2 annexes, and a Protocol with 2 annexes.

Implementation Body: The resolution CTBT/MSS/RES/1, adopted on **19 November 1996**, established the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (**CTBTO**).

Verification: The CTBTO Preparatory Commission operates an International Monitoring System (IMS) with over 300 facilities to detect any nuclear explosion.

Signatories: As of 2025, 187 States (Countries) have signed and 178 have ratified the treaty. India has not signed the CTBT.

About United Nations (UN):

Secretary-General – António Guterres

Headquarters – New York, the United States of America (USA)

Established – 1945

National Sports Day 2025 – August 29

National Sports Day (**NSD**), also known as **Rashtriya Khel Divas**, is annually observed across India on **29th August** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Major Dyan Chand Singh**, a legendary field hockey player in Indian sports, widely regarded as the '**Wizard of Hockey**'.

- 29th August 2025 marks the celebration of the 14th NSD.

Exam Hints:

- What? National Sports Day (**Rashtriya Khel Divas**)
- When? 29th August 2025
- Why? To honor Major Dhyan Chand's birth anniversary
- Ministry: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports(MYAS)
- 1st observance: 29 August 2012
- Jan Andolan 2025: 3-day nationwide sports and fitness movement from August 29 to 31, 2025
- Event theme: Ek Ghanta, Khel ke Maidan Main
- Inauguration: India's 1st Mondo Track at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium

Background:

Declaration: In 2012, the Government of India (GoI) announced that **29 August** would be observed annually as National Sports Day (**NSD**) to honor the birthday of Major Dhyan Chand.

First Observation: The **1st** National Sports Day was celebrated on 29 August **2012**.

About Major Dhyan Chand:

Birth: He was born on 29 August 1905 in Allahabad, British India (now Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, UP)

Olympic Achievements: Represented **India** and contributed to three consecutive Olympic gold medals:

- 1928 Summer Olympics, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 1932 Summer Olympics, Los Angeles, United States of America (USA)
- 1936 Summer Olympics, Berlin, Germany

Autobiography: His autobiography, “**Goal!**”, was published in **1952** by Sport & Pastime, Chennai (Tamil Nadu, TN).

Award: In **1956**, the Government of India (**GoI**) honoured Major Dhyan Chand with the **Padma Bhushan** in the field of **Sports**.

Dhyan Chand Award: Instituted in **2002** to recognise lifetime achievement in sports and games, honoring sportspersons who have made significant contributions to sports.

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award: In **2021**, Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** announced the renaming of the **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna**, India’s highest sporting honour, after Major Dhyan Chand.

Key Sports Initiatives:

Sports Authority of India (SAI) (1984): Operating under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS), it promotes national and international sports excellence through talent scouting, training, infrastructure development, and coaching support.

- It also implements key MYAS initiatives, including Khelo India, Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs), Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), and Fit India.

KIRTI (Khelo India Rising Talent Identification) (2024): Identifies and nurtures athletes aged 9–18 via 174 Talent Assessment Centres (TAC) using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data analytics, building a pipeline for top-10 global sporting status by 2036.

National Sports Governance Act 2025: Enacted on 18 August 2025 to ensure transparency, accountability, and athlete welfare, including Safe Sports Policy, Code of Ethics, and age/tenure limits for office bearers.

Khelo Bharat Niti 2025: Launched in July 2025 to transform sports into a nationwide movement, integrate with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and institutionalize early talent identification via KIRTI.

National Sports Award:

The National Sports Award is presented annually by the President of India on National Sports Day (August 29) to recognize athletes, coaches, and institutions for their outstanding contributions to Indian sports.

Key awards include:

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award: Recognises athletes for exceptional performance at the international level over the past four years.

Arjuna Award: Honours athletes for consistent national achievements, sportsmanship, and discipline.

Dronacharya Award: Awarded to coaches who have trained athletes to achieve top-level success.

Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award: Acknowledges lifetime contributions to sports, both during and after an active career.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy: Given to universities excelling in inter-university sports competitions.

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar: Recognises institutions and organisations supporting sports development through corporate social responsibility (CSR), talent promotion, athlete employment, and inclusive outreach.

Note: Notable Indian athletes include Neeraj Chopra, India’s first Olympic gold medalist in javelin (Tokyo 2020), and Mirabai Chanu, a consistent international medalist in weightlifting.

2025 Event (Jan Andolan 2025):

The National Sports Day (**NSD**) **2025** celebrations, led by Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, MYAS, under the **Fit India Mission**, are being conducted as a **three-day**, nationwide sports and fitness movement from **August 29 to 31, 2025** under the theme '**Ek Ghanta, Khel ke Maidan Main**'.

- The initiative aims to raise awareness about dedicating at least **60 minutes daily to physical activity** to prevent lifestyle diseases.
- The celebrations also honour the spirit of Olympic values—**Excellence, Friendship, and Respect**—as well as Paralympic values—**Courage, Determination, Inspiration, and Equality**.

Participants: Schools, colleges, universities, Youth Clubs, Volunteers from MY Bharat and National Service Scheme (NSS), Panchayats, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), Indian Olympic Association (IOA), Paralympic Committee of India (PCI), National Sports Federations (NSFs), Sports Authority of India (SAI), etc.

The three-day event includes:

Day One (29 Aug): Tributes to **Major Dhyan Chand**, Fit India pledge, and one hour of sports participation.

Day Two (30 Aug): Sports debates, fitness talks, and competitions in modern and traditional games.

Day Three (31 Aug): **Fit India Sundays on Cycle**, promoting nationwide cycling as part of fitness.

India Inaugurated First Mondo Track at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium

On 29 August 2025, Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, MYAS inaugurated India's **first Mondo Track** at the **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, Delhi**, ahead of the World Para-Athletics Championships scheduled from September 26 to October 5, 2025.

About Mondo Track

Mondotrack is a proprietary synthetic surface created by Mondo, a global leader in track and field surfacing. Engineered specifically for athletics, it is designed to maximize performance and minimize injury risk through advanced research and technology. Mondotrack is widely used in top-tier track and field events around the world.

Global Recognition: India became the **25th** country worldwide to install the premium Mondo track surface.

International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances 2025 – August 30

The United Nations' (UN) **International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances** is observed every year worldwide on **August 30** to honor individuals who have been forcibly disappeared and to advocate for justice, truth, and accountability.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances
- ✓ **When?** August 30, 2025
- ✓ **Purpose:** To honor forcibly disappeared individuals and advocate for justice, truth, and accountability
- ✓ **Proclamation:** UNGA Resolution A/RES/65/209 adopted On 21st December 2010
- ✓ **First Observance:** August 30, 2011
- ✓ **ICPPED Adoption:** 20th December 2006, UNGA adopted A/RES/61/177
- ✓ **Global Statistics:** 61,500 cases recorded across 115 nations.

Background:

UN Resolution Adoption: On 21st December **2010**, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted resolution A/RES/65/209, designating 30th August of each year as the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances.

International Convention Recognition: Through the same resolution, the UNGA welcomed the adoption of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (**ICPPED**).

First Observance: The first-ever International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances was observed on **30th August 2011**.

About International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED):

Adoption of the Convention: On 20th December **2006**, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted resolution A/RES/61/177, titled “International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED).”

Entry into Force: The Convention entered into force in **2010**, after 20 States had ratified or acceded to it. It also established the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED), a body of independent experts that monitors the implementation of the ICPPED by State parties.

Obligations: The Convention obligates States Parties to prevent and punish the crime of enforced disappearances.

What Are Enforced Disappearances?

Definition: An enforced disappearance occurs when individuals are abducted or detained by state agents or affiliated groups, and the state refuses to acknowledge their fate or whereabouts.

Legal Definition: Article 2 of the ICPPED and the Preamble of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (1992) define enforced disappearances as the arrest, detention, abduction, or any deprivation of liberty by State agents or authorized groups, with the support or acquiescence of the State.

Characteristics: Enforced disappearances are characterised by three cumulative elements, as defined in A/HRC/16/48/Add.3:

- Deprivation of Liberty
- State Involvement
- Concealment and Denial

Refusal to Acknowledge: Enforced disappearances also include refusing to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or concealing the person's fate or whereabouts, effectively placing them outside the protection of the law.

Universal Principles: The 1992 Declaration provides a universal set of principles applicable to all states regarding enforced disappearances.

Global Context: Sri Lanka has one of the world's highest rates of enforced disappearance, which includes numerous cases across the country.

World Congress on Enforced Disappearances (WCED):

First-Ever Congress: The first-ever World Congress on Enforced Disappearances (WCED) held on January 15–16, 2025, at the International Conference Center Geneva (CICG) in Switzerland.

Organisers: The WCED is co-organized by the Convention Against Enforced Disappearances Initiative (CEDI), the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED), the United Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID), and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Current Relevance of Enforced Disappearances:

Global Statistics: Since 1980, the UN has recorded nearly 61,500 cases of enforced disappearances across 115 nations.

Recent Cases: Between May 2024 and May 2025, 1,278 new cases were reported in 38 countries.

National Small Industry Day 2025 – August 30

India observes National Small Industry Day (**NSID**) on **30th August 2025**, to recognize the pivotal role of Small-Scale Industries (**SSIs**) and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (**MSMEs**) in economic growth, employment generation, and inclusive development.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** National Small Industry Day 2025
- ✓ **When?** August 30(annually)
- ✓ **First Observance:** August 30, 2001
- ✓ **Aim:** To recognize the role of SSIs and MSMEs in India's economic growth and development
- ✓ **MSME Share:** GDP – 30.1%, Export Share – 45.73% (FY24).
- ✓ **Budget Allocation 2025-26:** Rs. 23,168 crores

Background:

Policy Launch: On 30 August 2000, then Prime Minister **(PM) Atal Bihari Vajpayee** announced a **comprehensive policy package** for Small Scale Industries (SSIs) during the 1st National Conference on SSI.

Annual Observance: To commemorate this, the Government of India (GoI) designated 30 August as NSID, celebrated every year.

First Observance: The first NSID was observed on 30 August 2001.

Related Observance: The United Nations (UN) Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) Day is observed every year on 27 June worldwide .

MSMEs in India

Classification: The MSME Development Act, 2006, categorises enterprises based on investment and turnover,

- Micro-enterprise: Investment ≤ (from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 2.5 crores); Turnover ≤ (from Rs. 5 crores to Rs. 10 crores)
- Small-enterprise: Investment ≤ (from Rs. 10 crores to Rs. 25 crores); Turnover ≤ (from Rs. 50 crores to Rs. 100 crores)
- Medium-enterprise: Investment ≤ (from Rs. 50 crores to Rs. 125 crores); Turnover < (from Rs. 250 crores to Rs. 500 crores).

Economic Role: Over the past 5 decades, MSMEs have emerged as the **2nd-largest employer** after agriculture, catering to domestic and global markets with diverse products and services.

Contribution:

- MSMEs contributed **30.1%** to India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- Exports recovered to **45.73%** (FY24) and stood at **45.79%** till May 2024.

Budgetary Support:

- The Union Budget 2025-26 allocated **Rs. 23,168 crores** to MSMEs.

State-Wise Distribution: **Maharashtra** holds the highest share of MSMEs (17.55%), followed by Tamil Nadu, TN (over 10.28%) and Uttar Pradesh, UP (9%).These states remain key hubs for small industry clusters.

Global Relevance (UN data): MSMEs form 90% of businesses, generate 60–70% employment, and contribute 50% of global GDP.

GoI Initiatives for MSMEs

Udyam Registration Portal (URP): Launched in 2020, the URP allows for paperless, self-declaration-based registrations for MSMEs.

- As of July 2025: over 6.56 crore MSMEs are registered on the Udyam portal (including Udyam Assist).

Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Scheme (PMVS): Launched on 17 September 2023 by the Ministry of MSME with an initial outlay of Rs. 13,000 crores for 2023-24 to 2027-28.

- Aims to support traditional artisans across 18 trades through skill training, tools, and credit.
- Beneficiaries: Over 2.71 crore applications submitted.
- 1.68 crore artisans cleared Stage 1 verification (Gram Panchayat/ULB).

- Nearly 30 lakh artisans registered after multilayer verification

Enhanced Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGTMSE): Launched on 30 August 2000, the CGTMSE was created by the Government of India (Ministry of MSME) in partnership with Small Industries Development Bank of India(SIDBI) to enhance financial inclusion by enabling collateral-free credit for micro and small enterprises.

- **Guarantee Coverage Percentage:** Micro-enterprises (loans up to Rs.5 lakh): 85% guarantee coverage

Other MSEs (loans above Rs.5 lakh up to Rs.1 crore): 75% coverage

Loans between Rs.1–5 crore: 50% coverage

PM Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP): Launched in 2008 as a credit-linked subsidy scheme.

- Implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) at the national level, and through State KVIC Directorates, State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs), and District Industries Centres (DICs) at the state/district level.
- Under the 2025 PMEGP guidelines, the maximum permissible project cost for manufacturing has been increased to Rs. 50 lakhs, and for the service sector to Rs. 20 lakhs

About Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (M/o MSME):

Union Minister- Jitan Ram Manjhi (Constituency – Gaya, Bihar)

Minister of State (MoS)- Sushri Shobha Karandlaje (Constituency – Bangalore North, Karnataka)

APPS & WEB PORTAL

PFRDA Launches New Website Under PFRDA CONNECT to Enhance Digital Engagement

In August 2025, the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (**PFRDA**), under the Ministry of Finance(MoF), launched its new [upgraded website](#) under the **PFRDA CONNECT** initiative to enhance digital engagement .

- It was launched by **S. Ramann**, Chairperson of PFRDA in New Delhi, Delhi.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** PFRDA launches new website
- ✓ **Launched by:** S. Ramann, Chairperson, PFRDA
- ✓ **Initiative Name:** PFRDA CONNECT initiative under TARCH project
- ✓ **Guidelines :** GIGW and WCAG.
- ✓ **Key Features:** user-friendly Content Management System (CMS), access to regulatory circulars, schemes.

About PFDRA's new website:

Overview: It is designed to enhance digital engagement for users as part of the broader digital transformation initiative aligned with the **Digital India** mission.

Purpose: This initiative promotes transparency, efficiency, and accessibility in pension sector governance.

Users: Pensioners registered under various schemes, including the National Pension System (**NPS**) and Atal Pension Yojana (**APY**).

Revamp: It is part of the digital transformation project named “Technology Architecture (**TARCH**)” to revamp the older websites with modern guidelines and technologies.

Hosting & Compliance: It is hosted on a Virtual Private Cloud (VPC) empanelled by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**).

- It complies with Guidelines for Indian Government Websites(**GIGW**) and Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (**WCAG**).

Key Feature: Dynamic, responsive layout for seamless use across devices.

- Streamlined content architecture for simplified navigation.
- Enhanced search engine and intuitive Content Management System (CMS).
- Centralized access to regulatory updates, circulars, and pension schemes.
- Integration with other regulatory platforms to improve interoperability and service linkage.

About Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA):

Chairperson – Sivasubramanian Ramann

Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

Established- 2003

GoI Launched Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana Portal

On August 18 2025, the Government of India (**GoI**) launched a dedicated online **portal** for the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (**PM-VBRY**), an Employment-Linked Incentive (ELI) scheme.

- This newly launched web portal has now gone live, facilitating registrations to both employees and employers under the scheme.
- Now, eligible employers can complete the one-time registration process for the PM-VBRY scheme through the portal (<https://pmvbry.epfindia.gov.in/> or <https://pmvbry.labour.gov.in/>).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of online portal for PM-VBRY
- ✓ **Launched on:** August 01, 2025
- ✓ **Total Budget Outlay:** Rs 99,446 crore
- ✓ **Time Period:** 2 Years (August 01, 2025 to July 31, 2027)
- ✓ **Implemented by:** MoL&E through EPFO
- ✓ **Estimated Job Generation:** More than 3.5 crore
- ✓ **Monthly Financial Assistance:** Rs 15000 (to 1st time employees)
- ✓ **Maximum Monthly Salary:** Rs 1 lakh
- ✓ **Minimum Sustained Period of Employee:** 6 months

About PM-VBRY:

Background: In July 2025, the Union Cabinet chaired by **PM Narendra Modi** had approved PM-VBRY with a total budget outlay of **Rs 99,446 crore**. The scheme was formally rolled out on August 01, 2025.

- PM Narendra Modi announced the launch of the scheme during his address to the nation on the occasion of 79th Independence Day (On August 15, 2025) celebrations at Red Fort, New Delhi, Delhi.

Aim: PM-VBRY is a Central Sector Scheme (CSS) aims to boost employment generation, improve employability and social security, across all sectors, with primary focus on the manufacturing sector.

Key Target: The scheme is expected to generate **over 3.5 crore new jobs**, including 1.92 crore 1st -time employees, over a period of 2 years (starting from August 01, 2025 to July 31, 2027).

Implementing Body: The Ministry of Labour & Employment (**MoL&E**) will implement the scheme through Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).

Components: The scheme comprises of two main components i.e. Part-A, provides monthly financial support to 1st -time employees and Part-B, designed to support employers.

Part A:

Financial Support: Under Part-A component of the scheme, 1st-time employees will receive a one-time incentive equivalent to an average one-month wage (Basic plus Dearness Allowance, DA) of **up to Rs 15,000** in two installments.

- The initial installment of 50% will be paid after 6 months of continuous employment.

- And, the 2nd installment will be provided after 12 months (1 year), upon successful completion of an online financial literacy course by EPFO.

Eligibility Criteria: The 1st-time employee is required to join EPFO between August 01, 2025 and July 31, 2027.

- 1st time employees with a gross monthly salary of **up to Rs 1 lakh** will be eligible to avail benefits under Part-A of the scheme.
- All 1st time employees are required to generate a Universal Account Number (UAN) through Face Authentication Technology (FAT) available on the Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance(UMANG) application(app).

Part-B:

Incentives : Under this component of the scheme, employers will receive an incentive for the generation of additional employment opportunities in all sectors, especially in the manufacturing sector.

- The establishment or employer will get **monthly incentive of up to Rs 3,000** for each additional employee (including both 1st-time employee and rejoinee), for a sustained time period of **minimum 6 months**.
- These incentives will be provided for 2 years, however, for the manufacturing sector, incentives will be extended to the 3rd and 4th years as well.

Incentive Structure : Under Part-B of the scheme, employers hiring new employee will get slab-based incentives:

- Employer will get Rs 1,000 for employee whose monthly salary is up to Rs 10,000;
- Employer will get Rs 2,000 for employee whose monthly salary is between Rs 10,000 and Rs 20,000;
- Employer will get Rs 3,000 for employee whose monthly salary is up to Rs 30,000;

Eligibility Criteria : As per the scheme, the employers will get incentives in respect of employees with maximum salaries of Rs 1 lakh.

- It is mandatory for establishments to hire **minimum two additional employees** (for employers with less than 50 existing employees) or;
- **5 additional employees** (for employers with 50 or more existing employees) on a sustained basis for a minimum period of 6 months.
- Additionally, exempted establishments under the Employees' Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, are also included in the scheme.
- These entities are required to file the Electronic Challan-cum-Return (ECR) and also they are required to open UANs for their existing and new employees through UMANG app.

Mode of Payment:

DBT: As per the scheme, all payments to the 1st-time employees under Part-A of the scheme will be disbursed through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode using the Aadhaar Bridge Payment System (ABPS).

Incentive Payments: While, all payments to the employers under Part-B will be disbursed directly into their PAN-linked Accounts.

About Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoL&E):

Union Minister- Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya (Constituency- Porbandar, Gujarat)

Minister of State (MoS) - Shobha Karandlaje(Constituency- Bangalore North, Karnataka)

PRGI Announced the Launch of 'Press Sewa Portal' to Simplify Publisher Registration

In August 2025, Press Registrar General of India (**PRGI**) Yogesh Baweja announced the launch of **Press Sewa Portal**, a single-window solution to simplify registration process for newspapers and periodicals.

- This initiative aims to improve transparency, accelerate approval process, and enhance the ease of doing business for publishers and resolve the issues faced by publishers.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Announcement of new Press Sewa Portal
- ✓ **Announced by:** PRGI Yogesh Baweja
- ✓ **Where?** At a workshop 'Vartalap', organised by PIB, Hyderabad under MIB in Telangana
- ✓ **Purpose:** To simplify registration process for newspapers and periodicals

Key Highlights:

Venue: The announcement was made at a workshop titled 'Vartalap', organised by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Hyderabad under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) in Telangana.

Announcement of Helpline: During the event, Shruti Patil, Additional Director General (ADG) of PIB Hyderabad, announced that with the support of PIB Hyderabad and PRGI, a dedicated helpline will be launched for publishers.

Delhi Govt to Launch of 'Delhi Mitra' Application

In August 2025, the Delhi Cabinet chaired by **Rekha Gupta**, Chief Minister (CM) of Delhi, has approved the launch of '**Delhi Mitra**' application (app), a unified integrated Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS).

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Launch of Delhi Mitra App
- ✓ **Approved by:** Delhi Government
- ✓ **Nature of App:** A unified integrated PGRS
- ✓ **Coverage:** Complaints related to Delhi Govt, Police, MCs, etc.

About Delhi Mitra App:

Single Approach: This new app will provide a common platform for complaints related to the Delhi government, Delhi Police, Municipal Corporations (MCs), Delhi Cantonment Board, and other bodies.

Mode for Registering Complaints: This new PGRS will enable the residents of Delhi to register their complaints with the government through 4 channels: a web portal, a mobile app, WhatsApp, and a call centre.

- Also, handwritten complaints submitted at offices will be digitized and uploaded to the system.

Nodal Officers: The state will appoint nodal officers in every department to accelerate the grievance redressed process.

- Public grievance officers from various state government departments will also conduct weekly public meetings with citizens **every Wednesday**.

ENVIRONMENT

Researchers Discovered Three Antlion Species in Kerala for the First Time

In July 2025, the scientists from the Shadpada Entomology Research Lab (**SERL**) at Christ College in Thrissur (Kerala) discovered **three antlion species**, *Indopalpares pardus*, *Palpares contrarius*, and *Stenares harpyia*, belonging to the family **Myrmeleontidae**, in the **Kerala** region of the Western Ghats.

- The discovery, conducted with financial assistance from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-India, was published in the Journal of Insect Biodiversity and Systematics.



Three antlion species recorded for the first time in Kerala

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Three Antlion Species were discovered
- ✓ **Where?** Kerala
- ✓ **Name:** Indopalpares pardus, Palpares contrarius, and Stenares harpyia
- ✓ **Family:** Myrmeleontidae
- ✓ **Published Journal:** Journal of Insect Biodiversity and Systematics
- ✓ **Research team from:** Shadpada Entomology Research Lab (SERL), Kerala

Indopalpares pardus:

Region: First recorded in Kerala at Vazhayur, Mallapuram district.

- It was previously reported from several states, including Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh (MP), Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Odisha.

Features: Indopalpares pardus is known for its large size and broad wings with leopard-like spots.

Palpares contrarius:

Regions: In Kerala, it was discovered in several places, including Kattilapara and Rosemala (Kollam), Kolahalamedu (Idukki), Kuthuparamba (Kannur), Payamthondu (Kozhikode), Pudunagaram (Palakkad), and Thirunelly (Wayanad).

- It was previously recorded in states such as Karnataka, MP, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu (TN), and Mizoram.

Features: It is a large, eye-catching species of antlion, known for its broad, patterned wings with mottled brown and cream-white markings, and a robust body.

Stenares harpyia:

Regions: It has been discovered in several regions of Kerala, such as Gavi (Pathanamthitta), Thirunelly, and Vallakkadavu (Idukki).

- It was previously found only in TN and Telangana.

Features: It is among the largest known antlion species with broad and elongated wings, marked with bold, dark patches and reticulated patterns. It often exhibits a leopard or harpy eagle-like appearance.

About Kerala:

Chief Minister (CM) – Pinarayi Vijayan

Governor – Rajendra Arlekar

Capital – Thiruvananthapuram

National Park (NP) – Anamudi Shola NP, Mathikettan Shola NP

Discovery of Narrow Banded Rain Snake in Mizoram, *Smithophis leptofasciatus*

In August 2025, a new narrow-banded rain snake species, named **Smithophis leptofasciatus**, was identified by researchers from Mizoram University and a Guwahati (Assam)-based biodiversity conservation group, Help Earth.

- The discovery was published in **Taprobanica: The Journal of Asian Biodiversity**, enhancing the genus Smithophis to five known species.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **What?** Discovery of a new species of rain snake
- ✓ **Species Name:** Smithophis leptofasciatus
- ✓ **Common Name:** Narrow-banded rain snake
- ✓ **Published In:** Taprobanica: The Journal of Asian Biodiversity
- ✓ **Discovered By:** Mizoram University and Help Earth, Guwahati, Assam

About the *Smithophis leptofasciatus*:

Physical Characteristics: The snake features a glossy black body with narrow, incomplete creamish-

white to yellowish-lime transverse bands, distinguishing it from its relatives.

Habitat and Behaviour: It thrives in elevated **montane forests** near streams and leaf litter at elevations of **900–1,200 meters**. It displays a **semi-aquatic and nocturnal** lifestyle, and feeds on earthworms. A gravid female laid six leathery eggs in captivity.

- Previously mistaken for Smithophis bicolor, genetic analysis confirmed its uniqueness.

Significance: This is the **third species** of the Smithophis genus found in Mizoram after Smithophis atemporalis and Smithophis mizoramensis.

ZSI discovers a new marine nematode species in Chilika Lake, Odisha

In August 2025, Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (**ZSI**), discovered a new marine nematode species, '**Admirandus odishaensis**', in the India's largest brackish lagoon **Chilika** Lake, Odisha

- This discovery marks a significant addition to the global diversity of marine nematodes.

Exam Hints:

- ✓ **Species Name:** Admirandus odishaensis
- ✓ **Discovered by:** ZSI, Berhampur University, Odisha
- ✓ **Type of Species:** Marine nematodes
- ✓ **Taxonomy:** Genus Admirandus under Kingdom Animalia
- ✓ **Place of origin:** Chilika Lake, Odisha
- ✓ **Significance:** This is the first species under the genus Admirandus

About **Admirandus odishaensis**:

Taxonomy: The newly discovered species comes under the newly established Genus Admirandus of kingdom **Animalia**.

Nomenclature: The name of the species denotes the type of genus and place of discovery, where '**Admirandus**' denotes the **genus** of the species and '**odishaensis**' denotes **Odisha**, region of discovery of the species.

- The word '**Admirandus**' means **admirable** in Latin, which reflects the distinctive and noteworthy features of the species.

Key Features: This discovery highlights India's marine biodiversity potential in brackish ecosystems. It is a **free-living, non-parasitic**, and **marine sediment habitat** species found along the **Odisha** coast in India.

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Static Banking	1	1	—	—
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