

AUGUST 2025



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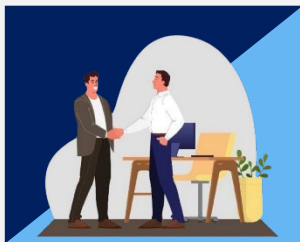
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New Appointments & Resignations

Shashi Prakash Goyal Takes Charge as Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary

Shashi Prakash Goyal, a **1989-batch IAS officer** and 1989 UPSC topper, assumed charge as the **Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh** on **July 31, 2025**, succeeding Manoj Kumar Singh who retired after a 14-month tenure.

How Chief Secretary of a state is appointed?

Eligibility & Service Cadre

- The post is held by a senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the state cadre.
- Usually, the senior-most serving IAS officer of the cadre is considered, but the government can also choose any IAS officer (including from another cadre on deputation) depending on trust and administrative needs.

Selection Process

- **Recommendation:** The choice is made by the **Chief Minister** in consultation with the state government.
- **Clearance:** The name is sent to the **Governor of the state** for formal approval.
- In practice, the CM's recommendation is decisive, as the Governor acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.
- Sometimes, the **Centre's concurrence** is sought, especially if the officer is from the All India Services and deputation rules apply.



Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan Appointed 47th Vice Chief of Naval Staff

Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, AVSM, NM, assumed charge as the 47th Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS) on 1 August 2025, succeeding Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan.

Rank of Indian Navy



Dr. Mayank Sharma Assumes Charge as Financial Advisor (Defence Services)

- Dr. Mayank Sharma, a 1989-batch officer of the **Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS)**, officially took charge as the **Financial Advisor (Defence Services)** on **1 August 2025**
- With over **three decades of experience**, Dr. Sharma has served in pivotal roles including **Controller General of Defence Accounts**, and in key positions within the **Cabinet Secretariat**—such as Under Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and Joint Secretary
- He has represented India internationally as the **Alternate Permanent Representative** at the **UN Office on Drugs and Crime**, the **UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**, and the **UN Commission on International Trade Law**.



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Shashi Bhushan Kumar Singh assumed charge as the Commissioner of Delhi Police

- Shashi Bhushan Kumar Singh (popularly known as SBK Singh), a 1988-batch IPS officer of the AGMUT cadre, assumed charge as the **Commissioner of Delhi Police** on **31 July 2025**, following the retirement of Sanjay Arora
- Known for his philosophical outlook, Singh shares leadership insights via his blog titled “**Spiritual Policeman**”, blending ethical reflections with practical law enforcement advice



How Commissioner of Delhi Police is appointed?

Authority Involved

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India** has administrative control over the Delhi Police (under the Union Home Minister).
- The **Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Delhi** is the formal appointing authority, acting on the directions of the MHA.

Selection Process

- **Shortlisting:** Senior IPS officers of the **AGMUT cadre** (Arunachal Pradesh–Goa–Mizoram–Union Territories) are considered. Occasionally, senior IPS officers from other cadres are appointed on deputation.
- **Recommendation:** The MHA, in consultation with the LG of Delhi, finalizes a name.
- **Approval:** The Union Home Minister approves the recommendation. In certain cases, the file is also sent to the Prime Minister for concurrence.

Formal Appointment

- The appointment is **notified by the Ministry of Home Affairs** through an official order.
- The LG of Delhi issues the formal posting order, and the officer takes charge at the Delhi Police Headquarters.

Tenure

- There is **no fixed statutory tenure** for the Delhi Police Commissioner; the officer serves **at the pleasure of the central government**. However, as per **Supreme Court directives (Prakash Singh case, 2006)**, senior police postings are ideally given at least **two years of tenure** for stability—though in practice, this can vary.

Dr. A. Rajarajan Appointed Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) on August 1, 2025

- Dr. A. Rajarajan, a distinguished scientist with around **four decades of experience** at ISRO, assumed charge as the **Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)** on **August 1, 2025**, succeeding Dr. S. Unnikrishnan Nair, who retired on July 31, 2025.
- Before this role, he served as Director of **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR)**. There, he led multidisciplinary teams in solid motor production and launch infrastructure, supporting high-profile missions like **Chandrayaan-3**, **Aditya-L1**, **SSLV**, **LVM3 M2/OneWebIndia-1**, **Vikram-S**, and **Gaganyaan** experimental flights.



About Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)

- **Overview & Location** – VSSC, located in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**, is the flagship centre of **ISRO** dedicated to the **design and development of launch vehicles**; named after **Dr. Vikram Sarabhai**.
- **History** – Established in **1963** as the **Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS)**, later renamed in honour of Dr. Sarabhai, and has been central to India's **SLV**, **ASLV**, **PSLV**, **GSLV**, and **LVM3** rocket programmes.
- **Functions** – Specialises in **launch vehicle design, integration, and testing**, propulsion systems (solid & liquid), aerodynamics, avionics, guidance & control systems, and advanced composite materials.
- **Key Role in Missions** – Has contributed to major missions like **Chandrayaan-3**, **Aditya-L1**, **Gaganyaan**, and commercial satellite launches, in collaboration with SDSC-SHAR for actual launch operations.
- **Leadership** – Current Director (as of August 2025) is **Dr. A. Rajarajan**, with VSSC playing a pivotal role in upcoming **human spaceflight** and **next-generation launch vehicle** development.

Lt Gen Pushpendra Pal Singh Appointed 48th Vice Chief of Army Staff

- Lieutenant General **Pushpendra Pal Singh, AVSM, SM *** officially assumed office as the **48th Vice Chief of the Army Staff (VCOAS)** on **1 August 2025**, succeeding Lt Gen N. S. Raja Subramaniam
- Commissioned into the **4th Para (Special Forces)** in **December 1987**, Lt Gen Singh brings more than **35 years of service**, having participated in key operations like **Pawan**, **Meghdoot**, **Orchid**, **Rakshak**, and UN peacekeeping missions.

Rank group	General / flag officers					Senior officers		Junior officers	
 Indian Army									
	Field marshal	General	Lieutenant general	Major general	Brigadier	Colonel	Lieutenant colonel	Major	Captain
	फील्ड मार्शल	जनरल	लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल	मेजर जनरल	ब्रिगेडियर	कर्नल	लेफ्टिनेंट कर्नल	मेजर	कैप्टन
									
									लेफ्टिनेंट

Rank group	Subordinate Officers (SO)			Non commissioned officers (NCO)			Constables
 Indian Army							No insignia
	Subedar-major	Subedar	Naib subedar	Havildar	Naik	Lance naik	Sepoy
	सूबेदार मेजर	सूबेदार	नायब सूबेदार	हवलदार	नायक	लांस नायक	सिपाही
Cavalry ranks	Risaldar Major	Risaldar	Naib Risaldar	Daffadar	Lance Daffadar	Acting Lance Daffadar	Sowar
	रिसालदार मेजर	रिसालदार	नायब रिसालदार	दफ़ादार	लांस दफ़ादार	एक्टिंग लांस दफ़ादार	सवार

Parliament Extends President's Rule in Manipur for Another Six Months Amid Ongoing Instability

- On **July 30, 2025**, the **Lok Sabha** passed a **statutory resolution** (via voice vote) approving a six-month extension of **President's Rule** in Manipur.
- The rule had been initially imposed on **February 13, 2025**, following the resignation of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh amid ethnic unrest.

President's Rule – Article 356

Meaning

- President's Rule** (also called **State Emergency**) is imposed in a state when the **President of India** is satisfied that the **government of the state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution**.
- In such a case, the **state legislature is either suspended or dissolved**, and the **state comes under direct control of the Centre**.



Grounds for Imposition

President's Rule can be proclaimed in a state if:

1. **Failure of Constitutional Machinery** – The state government is unable to function constitutionally.
2. **Breakdown of Law & Order** – Large-scale unrest or instability.
3. **Loss of Majority** – The ruling party loses majority and no alternative government can be formed.
4. **Non-compliance with Constitutional Directions** – Under Article 365, if the state fails to comply with directions given by the Union.

Procedure

1. **Governor's Report** – Usually triggered by a written report from the Governor to the President.
2. **President's Satisfaction** – The President can act on the Governor's report or on other information.
3. **Parliamentary Approval** –
 - The proclamation must be approved by **both Houses of Parliament** within **2 months**.
 - Approval is by a **simple majority** of members present and voting.

Duration

- Initially valid for **6 months**.
- Can be extended every **6 months**, but **maximum period is 3 years** (with conditions):
 1. **National Emergency** is in operation, or
 2. **Election Commission certifies** that elections cannot be held in the state.

S. Radha Chauhan Takes Charge as Full-Time Chairperson of Capacity Building Commission

- S. Radha Chauhan, 1988-batch retired IAS officer (Uttar Pradesh cadre) and former DoPT Secretary, has been appointed as the **full-time Chairperson of the Capacity Building Commission (CBC)**.
- She will serve a **three-year term** from the date of assuming office or until further orders, succeeding Adil Zainulbhai, who served as part-time Chairperson.



About Capacity Building Commission (CBC)

- The **Capacity Building Commission** is the **nodal body for capacity-building reforms in Indian civil services**.
- Established under the **National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB)**, popularly known as **Mission Karmayogi**.
- Launched on **1 April 2021** to implement the government's vision of **competency-driven training and governance reforms**.

Link with Mission Karmayogi

- Mission Karmayogi is the government's long-term **capacity-building programme** for civil servants.
- CBC ensures **implementation, quality control, and competency mapping** under this mission.
- Supports **iGOT Karmayogi** – the digital learning platform for continuous training.

Moldova officially became the 107th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)

The **Republic of Moldova** officially became the **107th member** of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** by submitting its *Instrument of Ratification* in a ceremony held in **New Delhi**.

About International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** is a **treaty-based intergovernmental organization** aimed at promoting the **use of solar energy** globally.
- Headquarters: **Gurugram, Haryana, India.**
- Launched jointly by **India and France** on **30 November 2015** during the **COP21 Climate Summit** in Paris.

Often called the “**Sunshine Club**”, as it primarily brings together countries lying between the **Tropic of Cancer** and **Tropic of Capricorn** (though membership is now open globally).

Srinivasan K. Swamy Re-elected as AAI President for 2025-26, Jaideep Gandhi Named Vice President

- **Srinivasan K. Swamy**, Executive Group Chairman of R K Swamy Ltd, has been **re-elected as President of AAI for 2025-26**, marking his fourth tenure.
- The election was held during **AAI's Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) on August 14, 2025.**
- **Jaideep Gandhi** was elected as Vice-President, with a strong Board including **Anupriya Acharya, Sam Balsara, Mohit Joshi, Anusha Shetty, Shashi Sinha, Vikram Sakhuja, K. Srinivas, and Paritosh Srivastava.**
- Outgoing President **Prasanth Kumar** congratulated Swamy and praised his ability to enhance industry collaboration and growth.
- Swamy highlighted key challenges—**CCI scrutiny, BARC credibility, IRS revival, and talent development**—urging industry dialogue and tech adoption.



Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI)

Overview

- The **Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI)** is the **apex trade body** of advertising agencies in India.
- Established in **1945**, it works to **protect, promote, and advance the interests of advertising agencies** and plays a key role in shaping India's advertising ecosystem.

Objectives

- To **promote professionalism and ethical standards** in advertising.
- To **safeguard the rights and interests** of advertising agencies.

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- To foster **better relations** among advertisers, media, and agencies.
- To represent Indian advertising on **global forums** like the **World Federation of Advertisers (WFA)** and the **Asian Federation of Advertising Associations (AFAA)**.

Rajiv Gauba-Led Panels to Drive Reforms for Viksit Bharat

- The Centre has formed **two high-powered committees** chaired by **Rajiv Gauba**, NITI Aayog member and former Cabinet Secretary.
- One panel will focus on achieving the **Viksit Bharat 2047 vision**, while the other targets **non-financial sector regulatory reforms**.
- The move follows **PM Modi's Independence Day address**, announcing task forces for next-gen reforms.
- Members include senior secretaries (DPIIT, Expenditure, MSME, Power), industry bodies (**CII, FICCI, Assocham**) and experts like **Pawan Goenka, Manish Sabharwal, Janmejay Sinha**.



Sergio Gor as the next U.S. Ambassador to India

- On **August 22, 2025**, U.S. President **Donald Trump** nominated close aide **Sergio Gor** as the **U.S. Ambassador to India** and **Special Envoy for South & Central Asia**.
- This is the **first time** a U.S. envoy will hold a **dual role**, covering India and neighboring regions like Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan.
- Gor, a **trusted Trump loyalist**, has limited diplomatic experience, raising concerns about balancing politics with regional diplomacy.
- His appointment awaits **Senate confirmation**; if approved, he will succeed Eric Garcetti as U.S. Ambassador to India.



"Rajiv Ranjan Appointed Vice-President & Chief Risk Officer of NDB"

- **Dr. Rajiv Ranjan**, a distinguished career central banker with over three and a half decades of experience, notably with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- **What:** Appointed as **Vice-President** and **Chief Risk Officer (CRO)** at the **New Development Bank (NDB)** — the multilateral development bank founded by BRICS countries.
- **Term Duration:** A **five-year term** commencing from the appointment.

About New Development Bank (NDB)

- The **New Development Bank (NDB)** is a **multilateral development bank** established by the **BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa)**.



Establishment & Headquarters

1. **Agreement signed: July 15, 2014** at the **6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza, Brazil**.
2. **Operational since: July 21, 2015**.
3. **Headquarters: Shanghai, China**.
4. **Regional offices:** Johannesburg (South Africa), São Paulo (Brazil), Moscow (Russia), New Delhi (India).

Capital & Membership

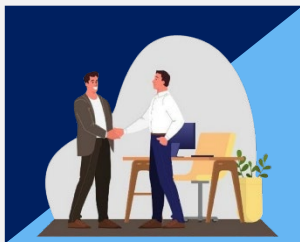
- **Authorized capital: USD 100 billion**.
- **Initial subscribed capital: USD 50 billion**, shared equally among the five founding members.
- Open to **all UN member states**, but BRICS must retain at least **55% of voting power**.

Inga Ruginienė Elected Prime Minister of Lithuania

- **Inga Ruginienė, a former labor union leader, was approved by Lithuania's parliament as the new Prime Minister**, following the resignation of her predecessor amid corruption inquiries (approved by a vote of 78–35).
- **She previously served as Minister of Social Affairs and Labour** and became the Social Democratic Party's prime ministerial nominee shortly after her predecessor's exit.
- **Ruginienė must now present her government's programme within 15 days**, focusing on restoring stability, governance, and public trust.
- **Her appointment paves the way for a center-left coalition government** with a solid parliamentary majority, aiming for policy continuity and reform.
- **The new government is expected to maintain foreign policy stability**, especially continued strong support for Ukraine, and uphold national security commitments, including NATO and EU alignment.



* * *



Khalid Jamil Appointed Head Coach of Indian Men's Football Team

- On **1 August 2025**, the **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** officially appointed **Khalid Jamil** as the head coach of the **Indian Senior Men's National Football Team**, marking the first time in 13 years that an Indian has filled the post.
- The AIFF's **Executive Committee**, after receiving recommendations from the **Technical Committee** led by IM Vijayan, selected Khalid Jamil over other contenders—including former coach Stephen Constantine and Stefan Tarkovic.
- His first assignment as national coach is the **CAFA Nations Cup** starting **29 August 2025**, to be hosted in **Tajikistan and Uzbekistan**—offering an early test of his leadership on the international stage.



World Athletics Imposes One-Time SRY Gene Test for Female Category Eligibility

- Starting **1 September 2025**, all athletes seeking to compete in the **female category** at world-ranking events—like the **World Championships in Tokyo**—must undergo a one-time **SRY gene test**.
- This genetic test, performed via **cheek swab or blood sample**, serves to confirm the presence or absence of the **Y chromosome**, ensuring biological eligibility.
- The policy, shaped based on a 2025 recommendation by the **Gender Diverse Athlete Working Group**, merges prior **Differences of Sex Development (DSD)** and transgender athlete regulations into a single, streamlined eligibility framework.

Eligibility Criteria for the Female Athlete Category

As per **Eligibility Rule 3.5**, the athletes permitted to compete in the **female category** include:

1. **Biological females.**

2. Biological females who have previously undergone **testosterone treatment** for male gender-affirming purposes, provided there is at least a **four-year gap** since the last usage (evaluated on a case-by-case basis).
3. **Biological males with Complete Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome (CAIS)** who have **not undergone male puberty**.
4. **Biological males with Differences of Sex Development (DSD)** who comply with the **transitional provisions**.

Note: The current rules do **not** impact transgender women, as none are presently competing at the **elite international level**.

India Launches World's First Franchise-Based Archery League for Elite Recurve & Compound Archers

- The **Archery Association of India (AAI)** announced the launch of the **first-ever franchise-based Archery League**, a groundbreaking global initiative set to transform the sport.
- Scheduled for **October 2025** at the **Yamuna Sports Complex, Delhi**, the league will span **11 days** and feature **six franchise teams**. Each team will include elite **recurve and compound archers** from India and abroad.
- The competition will bring together **top international archers**—including those ranked in the **world's top 10**—alongside the best Indian talent, raising the sport's competitive bar.

Hyderabad Hosts India's First FIFA Talent Academy for Girls, Boosting Women's Football

- FIFA, in collaboration with the **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** and the **Government of Telangana**, inaugurated India's **first-ever FIFA Talent Academy for girls** at the **Gachibowli Stadium Complex, Hyderabad**.
- This academy is part of FIFA's global **Talent Development Scheme**.
- The academy offers year-round, high-performance training to **60 elite players**—comprising **30 girls (U-16)** and **30 boys (U-14)**. Each category includes **10 players from Telangana**, ensuring local representation and opportunity.



World Championship of Legends (WCL) 2025

- The **World Championship of Legends (WCL) 2025** was a T20 cricket tournament featuring retired international cricket stars.
- The 2025 edition was the latest season of the event, conducted in a franchise/team-based format with short-format matches, similar to modern T20 leagues.
- In the 2025 season, the **South Africa Champions**, led by **AB de Villiers**, emerged as champions, while the **Pakistan Champions** finished as runners-up.
- In the final, the South Africa Champions defeated the Pakistan Champions by nine wickets.
- The matches were played across various **UK venues**, including **Leeds**, and featured short, action-packed schedules aimed at catering to a global audience.

Magnus Carlsen Crowned Champion of Inaugural Esports

- Grandmaster **Magnus Carlsen** secured the championship title at the **inaugural Chess Esports World Cup**, held in **Riyadh** as part of the **2025 Esports World Cup**, thereby becoming the first player to achieve this distinction.
- In the final match, Carlsen defeated **Alireza Firouzja** in a decisive manner, earning a prize of **USD 250,000** and contributing significantly to the point tally of his team, **Team Liquid**, in the overall competition. The total prize pool allocated for the chess segment was **USD 1.5 million**.
- The event featured **16 elite participants**, comprising **12 qualifiers from the Champions Chess Tour** and **4 players from preliminary qualification events**. The competition followed a **GSL-style group stage format**, transitioning into knockout rounds and culminating in a **best-of-five games final**.
- Games were conducted under **rapid time controls** (10 minutes per player without increments), which resulted in fast-paced and tactically intense encounters. The format encouraged high-pressure scenarios, including “time scramble” situations, making the matches highly engaging for spectators.



International Wiesław Maniak Memorial 2025

- **Annu Rani of India** won the gold medal in the women's javelin throw with a **season-best distance of 62.59 metres**, outperforming her competitors.

- The silver medal in the women's javelin throw was claimed by **Eda Tugsuz of Turkey** with a throw of **58.36 metres**, while **Lianna Davidson of Australia** won the bronze with a throw of **58.24 metres**.
- The 8th International Wiesław Maniak Memorial was held on **6 August 2025** at the Wiesław Maniak Municipal Athletic Stadium in Szczecin, Poland, as part of the **World Athletics Continental Tour – Bronze Level**.
- The memorial event is named in honour of **Wiesław Maniak**, a renowned Polish sprinter who won a **silver medal in the 4 × 100 m relay at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics**, and it continues to celebrate his legacy in athletics.



U-14 Norway Cup 2025

- **The Norway Cup**, hosted annually in Oslo since 1972 (except for 1976, 2020, and 2021), is the **world's largest youth football tournament**, featuring age-group competitions (U-10 to U-19), and regularly involving around **1,600–2,200 teams** from roughly **50–60 nations**.
- **Minerva Academy FC from Mohali, India**, made history by becoming the champions of the **U-14 Norway Cup 2025**, defeating Norwegian side SIF with an emphatic **14-1 win** in the final.
- **Better Future Pakistan** also made headlines by winning the **Norway Cup Boys U-15 category**, defeating FK Gjøvik-Lyn 2–0 in the final, marking a historic achievement for Pakistani youth football.



David Warner Becomes Fifth-Highest Run-Scorer in T20 Cricket

- **David Warner** has overtaken **Virat Kohli** to become the **fifth-highest run-scorer in T20 cricket history**, achieving this milestone during a match in **The Hundred 2025**.
- This achievement came in a fixture between **London Spirit** and **Manchester Originals**, where Warner scored an impressive **71 off 51 balls**, hitting 12 fours and a six, with a strike rate above 139.



The current all-time top five run-scorers in T20 cricket are:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Chris Gayle — 14,562 runs | 5. David Warner — 13,545 runs |
| 2. Kieron Pollard — 13,854 runs | |
| 3. Alex Hales — 13,814 runs | |
| 4. Shoaib Malik — 13,571 runs | |

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India at Asian U-19 & U-22 Boxing Championships 2025

- India concluded the Asian U-19 & U-22 Boxing Championships 2025 in Bangkok with an impressive tally of 27 medals across both age categories.
- The U-19 contingent earned 14 medals, including three golds, seven silvers, and four bronzes, and secured second place overall—trailing only Uzbekistan.
- The U-22 group won 13 medals, comprising one gold, four silvers, and eight bronzes, and finished fourth in the standings.
- Ritika clinched the lone gold for India in the U-22 category with a stellar performance in the women's 80 kg final, defeating Kazakhstan's Assel Toktassyn.

Silver medallists from the U-22 team included

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Yatri Patel (women's 57 kg), | • Neeraj (men's 75 kg), |
| • Priya (women's 60 kg), | • Ishan Kataria (men's 90 kg+) |

Cincinnati Open 2025

The tournament was held at the Lindner Family Tennis Center, Mason (Ohio, USA), featuring a \$260 million renovation, including new courts, fan zones, and modern facilities.

Category	Winner(s)	Runner-Up(s)	Score / Result
Men's Singles	Carlos Alcaraz	Jannik Sinner	Alcaraz led 5-0 (Sinner retired)
Women's Singles	Iga Świątek	Jasmine Paolini	7-5, 6-4
Men's Doubles	Rajeev Ram us & Nikola Mektić	Lorenzo Musetti & Lorenzo Sonego	Match Tiebreak (final set)
Women's Doubles	Gabriela Dabrowski & Erin Routliffe	Guo Hanyu CN & Alexandra Panova	6-4, 6-3

Quant box Chennai Grand Masters 2025

- Vincent Keymer (Germany, 20 yrs) won the Quantbox Chennai Grand Masters 2025 title with 7/9 points, securing it with one round to spare.
- His stellar performance rating (~2917) earned him \$30,000 prize money.
- He entered the world's top 10 live ratings (2750+), the first German since Robert Hübner (1980)



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India to Host Asian Open Short Track Speed Skating Trophy 2025 in Dehradun

- India will host the **Asian Open Short Track Speed Skating Trophy 2025** for the first time.
- The event will be held from **20–23 August 2025** at the **Himadri Ice Skating Rink, Dehradun**.
- Around **240 skaters and officials** from **10–11 Asian countries** will participate.
- India fields the **largest contingent with 95 athletes**, competing in junior and senior categories.
- Hosting the event boosts India's winter sports profile and supports bids for **future global tournaments**.



Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025

About Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025

- **Dates:** 21st to 23rd August, 2025
- **Venue:** Dal Lake, Srinagar
- **Sports:** Rowing, Canoeing, Kayaking (medal events) + Water Skiing, Dragon Boat, Shikara Sprint (demo events)
- **Participants:** 400+ athletes from 36 States/UTs
- **Organisers:** Sports Authority of India & J&K Sports Council
- Launched in 2017-18, the Khelo India programme aims to identify sporting talent at the grassroots level, promote active lifestyles, and strengthen India's sports infrastructure.
- The **Himalayan Kingfisher** has been unveiled as the **official mascot** for the inaugural **Khelo India Water Sports Festival**, symbolizing adventure, vitality, and nature's spirit.
- The unveiling took place in **Srinagar** on **August 14, 2025**, along with the launch of the festival's logo and official kits.
- The festival is scheduled to be held from **August 21–23, 2025**, on the iconic **Dal Lake**, with medal events in **rowing, canoeing, and kayaking**, plus demonstration sports like water skiing, shikara race, and dragon boat racing.
- Over **400 athletes** representing **36 states and Union Territories** are expected to participate, marking a significant expansion in India's sports calendar.

The mascot and logo aim to promote eco-friendly sports, tourism, and youth engagement, positioning **Dal Lake as India's emerging water-sports hub**.

Salah Makes Premier-History as First Three-Time PFA Player of the Year"

About the PFA Award

- The **PFA Players' Player of the Year** is an annual award in English football, voted on by members of the professional players' union. First presented in **1973–74**, no one had won it three times until now.



Salah's Historic Achievement

- **Mohamed Salah** (Liverpool) became the **first-ever three-time winner** of the PFA Player of the Year award in **2025**, following his previous wins in **2018** and **2022**.
- His outstanding 2024–25 season included **29 Premier League goals** and **18 assists**, propelling Liverpool to the league title with a ten-point advantage over Arsenal

Other Award Winners

- **Men's Young Player of the Year:** Morgan Rogers (Aston Villa)
- **Women's Player of the Year:** Mariona Caldentey (Arsenal), honored for her role in their Champions League victory.
- **Women's Young Player of the Year:** Olivia Smith (formerly Liverpool, recently transferred to Arsenal for over £1 million—making her the first female player to break that seven-figure transfer milestone)

Ahmedabad's Sporting Showcase, 2025

- **Ahmedabad will host three major international sports events in 2025** to strengthen its bid for the **2036 Olympics**.
- The **Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship** will be held at **Naranpura Sports Complex** from **August 24–30, 2025**, with 350 lifters from 29 countries.
- The **Asian Aquatics Championship** is scheduled for **September–October 2025**, featuring top swimmers from **China, Japan, and South Korea**.
- From **November 22–30, 2025**, **The Arena by TransStadia** will host **Group D matches of the AFC U-17 Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers**.
- These events highlight **Ahmedabad's rising global sports profile** and India's strong push for hosting the **2036 Olympics**

NorthEast United FC Retain Durand Cup 2025 with Historic 6-1

- NorthEast United FC (NEUFC) thrashed debutants **Diamond Harbour FC** by **6-1** in the **134th Durand Cup Final** on **23 August 2025** at Kolkata's **Salt Lake Stadium (Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan)**.
- With this win, NEUFC became the **first club in nearly three decades** to successfully **defend the Durand Cup title**, cementing their place in Indian football history.
- Star Performer – Alaaeddine Ajaraie** – Moroccan forward **Ajaraie** stole the show with **3 assists and a penalty goal**, winning the **Man of the Match**, **Golden Boot**, and **Golden Ball** awards for his outstanding performance throughout the tournament.



Mirabai Chanu Lifts Gold and Glory at 2025 Commonwealth Showdown

- Mirabai Chanu clinched gold in the 48 kg category at the 2025 Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in Ahmedabad.
- She lifted a total of 193 kg (84 kg snatch + 109 kg clean & jerk), breaking three championship records.
- This victory also secured her direct qualification for the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Hockey Asia Cup 2025

- Union Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** unveiled the **Hockey Asia Cup 2025 trophy** in **New Delhi** on **August 25, 2025**.
- The **12th edition** of the tournament will be held in **Rajgir, Bihar**, from **August 29 to September 7, 2025**.
- This will be the **first major international hockey tournament hosted in Bihar**.
- The **winner** of the Asia Cup will directly **qualify for the 2026 Men's FIH Hockey World Cup**.
- India**, ranked **No. 1 in Asia**, is the **favourite** to win the tournament and secure **World Cup qualification**.

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Award & Honours

71st National Film Awards

Key Highlights

- **Best Feature Film:** *12th Fail* (Hindi)
- **Best Non-Feature Film:** *Flowering Man* (Hindi)
- **Best Actor (Leading):** Shah Rukh Khan (*Jawan*) and Vikrant Massey (*12th Fail*) share the award. It marks Shah Rukh Khan's first-ever National Film Award.
- **Best Actress (Leading):** Rani Mukerji for *Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway* – her first National Film Award.
- **Best Director:** Sudipto Sen for *The Kerala Story*.



Notable Awardees (Feature Film – Silver Lotus / Rajat Kamal)

- **Supporting Actor:** Vijayaraghavan (*Pookkaalam*), and Muthupettai Somu Bhaskar (*Parking*)
- **Supporting Actress:** Urvashi (*Ullozhukku*), and Janki Bodiwala (*Vash*)
- **Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social and Environmental Values:** *Sam Bahadur* (Hindi)
- **Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment:** *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani* (Hindi)
- **Best Direction, Screenplay, Music, and more:** Numerous winners across categories. For instance, *Animal*, *Parking*, *Hanu-Man* and *Sam Bahadur* picked up multiple awards.

Regional Film Winners & Streaming Availability

As spotlighted in regional award coverage:

- **Best Telugu Film:** *Bhagavanth Kesari* (available on Amazon Prime Video & YouTube)

- **Best Tamil Film:** *Parking* (addresses tenant-landlord conflict; streaming on JioCinema/Hotstar)
- **Best Malayalam Film:** *Ullozhukku* – Urvashi recognized for Supporting Actress ljlj

Awards for Film Writing & Criticism

- **Best Film Critic:** Utpal Datta (Assamese) received the **Swarna Kamal** and ₹1,00,000.

Global M. S. Swaminathan Award for Food and Peace

- The **Global M. S. Swaminathan Award for Food and Peace** was launched by PM Narendra Modi on **August 7, 2025**, during the M. S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference in New Delhi.
- It was jointly instituted by the **M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)** and **The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS)**.



- The award aims to honor individuals from developing countries for exceptional contributions to **food security, climate justice, equity, and peace**.
- The first recipient of the award was **Professor Ademola A. Adenle** from Nigeria.
- The award carries a prize of **USD 25,000** and a medal.
- Professor Adenle was recognized for his work in combating hunger and promoting sustainable agriculture in vulnerable communities.
- The award commemorates Prof. Swaminathan's Green Revolution legacy, with PM Modi emphasizing that food security is essential for peace and global stability.

National Anubhav Awards 2025

21 | Awards and Honours

- It was launched in 2015 under the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to honour memoirs written by retiring or recently retired employees, with the aim of preserving governance experiences and best practices.
- The awards are open to Central Government employees, Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), and Public Sector Banks (PSBs) employees who are retiring within eight months or have retired within the last three years.



- Organizations such as the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), and the Ministry of Railways have been among the leading contributors to memoir submissions and award recognitions.

UNDP Equator Prize 2025

- **Bibi Fatima Women's Self-Help Group (SHG)** from Teertha village, Dharwad district, Karnataka, won the **UNDP Equator Prize 2025** for biodiversity conservation and sustainable farming.



- Founded in **2018** by 15 women, the SHG now supports **5,000+ farmers** across ~30 villages.
- The Equator Prize is often dubbed the “**Nobel Prize for biodiversity conservation.**” It recognizes **Indigenous peoples and local communities** implementing **nature-based solutions** for sustainable development and climate resilience

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- In 2025, the prize theme focused on “**Women and Youth Leadership for Nature-Based Climate Action**”. Winners were selected from around **700 nominations** across **103 countries**.

Manika Vishwakarma Crowned Miss Universe India 2025

- **Manika Vishwakarma** from Rajasthan was crowned **Miss Universe India 2025** in Jaipur.
- She is a **Political Science and Economics graduate** and a trained classical dancer.
- Founder of **Neuronova**, she works to raise awareness about neurodivergent conditions.
- She will represent **India at the 74th Miss Universe 2025** in Thailand on **21 November 2025**.
- **Palestine and Israel** will participate together for the first time in Miss Universe history.



Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2025

- **Neeraj Ghaywan's "Homebound"** swept the evening, winning both **Best Film** and **Best Director** at IFFM 2025.
- **Aamir Khan** was honored with the prestigious **Excellence in Cinema Award**, celebrating his decades-long contributions to Indian cinema.
- Acting awards went to **Abhishek Bachchan** (Best Actor – Film, for *I Want to Talk*) and **Geetha Kailasam** (Best Actress – Film, for *Angammal*); *Angammal* also bagged Best Indie Film
- On the streaming side, **Black Warrant** claimed Best Series; **Jaideep Ahlawat** won Best Actor (Series) for *Paatal Lok Season 2*, while **Nimisha Sajayan** was recognized as Best Actress (Series) for *Dabba Cartel*.



“India Honors 1,090 Brave Hearts with Gallantry & Service Medals on Independence Day 2025”

- On **Independence Day 2025**, the Government honored **1,090 personnel** with Gallantry and Service Medals.

23 | Awards and Honours

- The list includes **233 Gallantry Medals (GM)**, **99 President's Medals for Distinguished Service (PSM)**, and **758 Medals for Meritorious Service (MSM)**.
- **Jammu & Kashmir police received 152 Gallantry Medals**, the highest among all regions.
- **54 medals** were given for anti-Naxal operations, and **3** for the North-East region.



The awards recognized bravery, professional excellence, and dedication of personnel from **police, fire services, Home Guards, and civil defence.**

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Important Days & Observances

S.No.	Important Days	Date	Extra Information
1.	World Breastfeeding Week	August 1 to 7	Theme: “Prioritize Breastfeeding: Create Sustainable Support Systems.”
2.	National Mountain Climbing Day	August 1, 2025	Theme: ““Inspiring Adventure and Health”
3.	World Lung Cancer	August 1, 2025	Theme: ““Stronger Together: United for Lung Cancer Awareness,”
4.	World Wide Web Day	August 1, 2025	Theme” ““Empowering the Future: Building an Inclusive, Safe, and Open Web,”
5.	Cloves Syndrome Awareness Day	August 3, 2025	Theme ““Shining a Light on the Rare: Understanding and Supporting CLOVES Syndrome”
6.	Hiroshima Day	August 6, 2025	Theme ““Remembrance, Responsibility, and Resilience.”
7.	National Handloom Day	August 7, 2025	Theme” “Handlooms – Empowering Women, Empowering the Nation.”
8.	World Lion Day	August 10, 2025	It was first launched in 2013 by conservationists Derek and Beverly Joubert, aiming to raise awareness about the threats facing lions globally
9.	World Sanskrit Day	Shravana Purnima	-----
10	Nagasaki Day	August 9, 2025	Theme “Remembering the past, advocating for peace, and committing to a nuclear-free future.”
11	International Youth Day	August 12, 2025	Theme Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond.”
12	World Elephant Day	August 12, 2025	Theme Matriarchs & Memories
14	Independence Day	August 15, 2025	Theme “Naya Bharat”
15	World Photography Day	August 19, 2025	Theme “My Favorite Photo”

16	World Humanitarian Day	August 19, 2025	Theme “Strengthening Global Solidarity and Empowering Local Communities”
17	Sadbhavana Diwas	August 20, 2025	It commemorates the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi
18	Akshay Urja Day	August 20, 2025	Initiated in 2004 by India's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) to promote awareness and adoption of renewable energy
19	World Mosquito Day	August 20, 2025	Theme “Accelerating the Fight Against Malaria for a More Equitable World

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Reports & Indexes

First-ever Grassland Bird Census in Kaziranga National Park

- India's first-ever **Grassland Bird Census** was conducted in **Kaziranga National Park, Assam**, from **March 18 to May 25, 2025**.
- The survey recorded **43 grassland bird species**, including **1 critically endangered**, **2 endangered**, and **6 vulnerable** species as per IUCN
- Several regionally endemic birds, such as **Bengal Florican**, **Swamp Francolin**, **Jerdon's Babbler**, and **Black-breasted Parrotbill**, were documented.
- A key discovery was a **breeding colony of the endangered Finn's Weaver** with over **85 active nests**
- The census used **passive acoustic monitoring** and **AI-based identification tools** like BirdNET and spectrogram analysis.
- The Brahmaputra floodplain grasslands were reaffirmed as vital habitats for threatened and endemic bird species.
- PM **Narendra Modi**, in *Mann Ki Baat*, praised the project for combining **technology and conservation sensitivity**
- The findings will aid evidence-based habitat management and long-term avian conservation efforts in Kaziranga

India Emerges as the World's Second-Largest Fish Producer, Doubling Output in a Decade

- India is the **second-largest fish-producing country** in the world, contributing about **8% of global output**.
- It also ranks **second globally in aquaculture production**, showcasing dominance in farmed fish.
- Fish production grew from **95.8 lakh tonnes in 2013–14** to **184 lakh tonnes in 2023–24**, a **103% increase**.
- Over **75% of production** comes from inland sources like ponds, reservoirs, rivers, and tanks.
- In the last decade, fish output doubled and seafood exports rose from **₹30,000 crore** to **₹60,000 crore**

RBI's Latest Consumer Confidence Survey

- **Consumer confidence improved across rural, semi-urban, and urban regions** in July 2025, with households showing positive sentiment about the economy, employment, income, and price conditions.
- In **urban areas**, the **Current Situation Index (CSI)** rose to **96.5** (from 95.4 in May), while the **Future Expectations Index (FEI)** climbed to **124.7**, indicating sustained optimism.
- **Rural and semi-urban areas** saw the CSI inch up to **100.6**, and the FEI reach **127.7**, marking six consecutive rounds of improved future expectations.
- **Inflation expectations eased notably**: rural households' current inflation perception dropped to **5.8%**, and expected inflation for the year ahead fell to **7.9%**.
- In the rural survey, **41.6% of respondents** said their economic situation improved in the last two months, and a majority expected better conditions ahead.



Business Confidence Index (BCI)

- The **Business Confidence Index (BCI)** advanced significantly to **149.4** in the April–June quarter, up from **139.3** in the previous period, reflecting mounting optimism among businesses.
- This uptick comes from improved expectations across four key areas: overall economic conditions, firms' financial health, investment climate, and capacity utilization.
- Around **78.7% of firms** anticipate a rise in production, **79.1% expect growth in domestic sales**, and **66.5% foresee higher exports** in the upcoming months.
- Additionally, **61% of respondents** projected an increase in pre-tax profits, while **54.3%** planned to import more raw materials—up from 46.1% in the previous quarter.
- Despite these positive trends, labour market indicators lagged behind: expectations for hiring and wage growth remained largely unchanged.

SHRESTH – State Health Regulatory Excellence Index

- The **Union Health Ministry** launched **SHRESTH** (State Health Regulatory Excellence Index), India's first framework to benchmark and improve state drug regulatory systems.
- Developed by **CDSCO**, it classifies states into **Manufacturing States** (27 indicators) and **Distribution States/UTs** (23 indicators) across five themes.
- States must submit **monthly data** to CDSCO for scoring and continuous performance feedback.

- The index aligns with **WHO's Global Benchmarking Tool** to raise India's regulatory maturity to global standards
- It aims to ensure **drug safety, quality**, and strengthen India's position as the world's trusted "pharmacy".

Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses 2025

- The **Ambani Family** secured the top rank with a valuation of **₹28.2 lakh crore**, which is approximately **one-twelfth of India's GDP**.
- The **Bajaj Family** was placed in the second rank with a valuation of around **₹8 lakh crore**.
- The **Kumar Mangalam Birla Family** occupied the third rank with a valuation of **₹6.5 lakh crore**.
- The **Jindal Family** stood at the fourth rank with a valuation of **₹5.7 lakh crore**.
- Among first-generation business dynasties, the **Adani Family** led the list with a valuation of **₹14 lakh crore**, making it the top name in new-age dynasties

The **Poonawalla Family** was the runner-up among first-generation family businesses, with a valuation of around **₹2.3 lakh crore**.

Smart City Index 2025 Rankings

The **International Institute for Management Development (IMD)** released its **Smart City Index 2025**, evaluating cities on five parameters: **health and safety, mobility, activities, opportunities, and governance**.

Top 5 Smart Cities (Global Rankings 2025)

1. **Zurich (Switzerland)** – Rank 1
2. **Oslo (Norway)** – Rank 2
3. **Geneva (Switzerland)** – Rank 3
4. **Dubai (UAE)** – Rank 4 (*up from 12th in 2024*)
5. **Abu Dhabi (UAE)** – Rank 5 (*up from 10th in 2024*)

↓ Bottom 5 Smart Cities (Global Rankings 2025)

- **110. Bengaluru (India)** – Rating: CC
- **111. Lagos (Nigeria)** – Rating: C
- **112. Cairo (Egypt)** – Rating: C
- **113. Nairobi (Kenya)** – Rating: C
- **114. Karachi (Pakistan)** – Rating: C

Indian cities continue to trail well behind the global leaders, all ranking **outside the top 20**:

- **Delhi:** 104 (Rating: CC)
- **Mumbai:** 106 (CC)
- **Hyderabad:** 109 (CCC)
- **Bengaluru:** 110 (CC)

The rankings reflect ongoing challenges in governance, sustainable mobility, and urban infrastructure.

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Defence & Security

"INS Himgiri Joins Indian Navy : Indigenous Stealth Frigate with BrahMos"



- On **31 July 2025**, the Indian Navy received **INS Himgiri**, the third Nilgiri-class frigate (Project 17A), built by **GRSE, Kolkata**, marking its first Project 17A delivery.
- Named after the original frigate decommissioned in 2005, it embodies **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** with **~75% indigenous content** and contributions from 2,000+ firms.
- Armed with **BrahMos, Barak-8 missiles**, anti-submarine torpedoes, RBU-6000 launchers, a 76 mm gun, AK-630 CIWS, MF-STAR radar, HUMSA-NG sonar, and EW suites.
- Built with **Integrated Modular Construction**, featuring CODOG propulsion, IPMS, CMS, IBS, and ACCS for enhanced stealth, automation, and combat readiness.
- Represents a leap in **indigenous naval engineering** and multi-domain warfare capabilities.
- Supports the Navy's goal of expanding to **170–175 warships by 2035**, strengthening maritime security and deterrence.

SIMBEX (Singapore–India Maritime Bilateral Exercise)

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- The **32nd edition of SIMBEX** (Singapore–India Maritime Bilateral Exercise) was held from **28 July to 1 August 2025**, marking over three decades of uninterrupted naval cooperation.
- The **shore phase** took place at **RSS Singapura–Changi Naval Base**, featuring joint planning sessions, simulator training, professional exchanges on Maritime Air Operations and Compliant Boarding Procedures, and even sports events.
- The **sea phase** unfolded in the **southern reaches of the South China Sea**, involving complex drills: gunnery firing, air-defence exercises, and maritime security operations.



Operation Alert

- The **Border Security Force (BSF)** launched **Operation Alert** from **11–17 August 2025** along the India–Pakistan border in Rajasthan to enhance security before Independence Day.
- The operation includes **intensified foot and vehicle patrols**, camel patrols, extra checkpoints, and **round-the-clock monitoring** to counter infiltration, drones, and smuggling threats.
- Advanced surveillance tools such as **thermal cameras, UAVs, and ground sensors** are deployed, along with **real-time intelligence sharing**.



Indian Navy to Commission INS Udaygiri & INS Himgiri

- On **26 August 2025**, the Indian Navy will **simultaneously commission two indigenous stealth frigates**, **INS Udaygiri (F35)** and **INS Himgiri (F34)**, at Visakhapatnam – a first for dual commissioning from different shipyards.
- **Udaygiri**, the second ship of the **Project 17A Nilgiri-class**, built by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)**, **Mumbai**, also marks the **100th warship** designed by the Navy's in-house **Warship Design Bureau**.
- **Himgiri**, constructed by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**, **Kolkata**, is the first P17A frigate built by GRSE and was delivered to the Navy on **31 July 2025**, showcasing significant strides in indigenous naval manufacturing.
- These **P17A frigates**, displacing approximately **6,700 tonnes**, feature advanced stealth characteristics, **Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG)** propulsion, **Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS)**, and a comprehensive weapons suite including **supersonic missiles**, **air defense systems**, and **anti-submarine warfare capabilities**.
- The commissioning underscores India's commitment to **"Make in India"** and **"Atmanirbhar Bharat"**, reinforced by an industrial ecosystem of over **200 MSMEs**, generating around **4,000 direct and over 10,000 indirect jobs**, and contributing to the Navy's evolving maritime strength.

Centre Clears Rs 62,000-Crore Deal to Buy 97 Tejas Mark 1A Fighter Jets

- The **Indian government has approved a ₹62,000 crore procurement of 97 indigenous LCA Tejas Mark 1A fighter jets** for the Indian Air Force (IAF), signifying a major boost to the 'Make in India' defence initiative.
- This approval was granted during a **high-level meeting by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)** and marks the **second major order** for Tejas Mk 1A, following an earlier ₹48,000 crore procurement for 83 jets.

Overview of Tejas

- **Type:** Indigenous **4.5-generation**, **single-engine**, **supersonic**, **multi-role Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)**.
- **Developer:** Designed and developed by **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** under **DRDO**, manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.
- **Service Induction:** Formally inducted into the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** in **2016** (No. 45 Squadron "Flying Daggers").

"India Validates Agni-5 IRBM: 5,000 km Range & Strategic Deterrence Strengthened"

On **August 20, 2025**, India successfully test-fired the **Agni-5**, an intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM), from the **Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha**. The launch was overseen by the **Strategic Forces Command**, validating all operational and technical parameters.

Agni-5: India's Long-Range Ballistic Missile

- **Agni-5** is a **nuclear-capable intermediate/long-range ballistic missile (IRBM/ICBM-class)** developed by India's **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- It is part of the **Agni missile series** (Agni-I to Agni-VI) that strengthens India's strategic deterrence under its nuclear doctrine.
- First tested in **2012**, it has undergone multiple successful trials, including user trials by the **Strategic Forces Command (SFC)**.



Comparison with Other Agni Missiles

Missile	Range	Key Notes
Agni-I	700–1,200 km	Short-range, Pakistan-focused
Agni-II	2,000–3,500 km	Covers deeper into Asia
Agni-III	3,500–5,000 km	Heavy payload missile
Agni-IV	~4,000 km	Enhanced precision over Agni-III
Agni-5	~5,000–5,500 km	Canister-launched, high precision, MIRV-capable
Agni-VI (in development)	8,000–12,000 km (expected)	Future ICBM-class with advanced MIRV/MARV tech

Iran Conducts “Sustainable Power 1404” Naval Missile Drills in Gulf of Oman and Indian Ocean

- Iran conducted **“Sustainable Power 1404” naval drills** in the **Gulf of Oman and northern Indian Ocean**, its first since the June 2025 conflict with Israel.
- Warships **IRIS Sabalan** and **IRIS Ganaveh** fired **Nasir and Qadir cruise missiles** at sea targets, supported by coastal batteries.
- The exercise showcased **integrated warfare** with ships, submarines, aircraft, and electronic countermeasures
- It aimed to boost **combat readiness and deterrence** amid heightened regional and nuclear tensions
- The drill highlighted the **blue-water capability** of Iran’s Navy (IRIN), distinct from the IRGC Navy’s Gulf-focused operations.



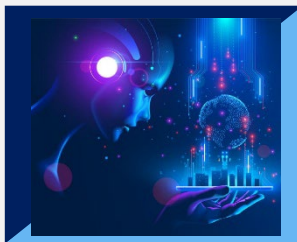
F-47: U.S. Sixth-Generation Stealth Fighter

- The U.S. Air Force has selected **Boeing** to develop the **F-47**, a **sixth-generation stealth fighter** under the **NGAD program**, with a **\$20B+ contract**
- The jet will have **Mach 2+ speed**, a **1,000+ nautical mile range**, and will act as a **“quarterback”** controlling swarms of **AI-enabled drones (CCAs)**.
- Development is **highly secretive**; only distorted renderings have been released though flight tests began around **2020**.
- The **FY2026 budget** allocates **\$3.5B** for the F-47 and **\$807M** for CCAs.
- **Supply chain delays**, especially in adaptive engines, could push full capability **beyond 2030**.

X-37B: America’s Secretive Spaceplane

- The **X-37B** is an **uncrewed, reusable spaceplane** developed by Boeing and operated by the U.S. Space Force.
- Its **7th mission (2023–25)** on a Falcon Heavy lasted **434 days**, using **aerobraking** in orbit before landing.
- In **Aug 2025**, **Mission 8** launched on a Falcon 9 to test **laser communications** and a **quantum inertial sensor**.
- The spacecraft has proven **long-duration reusability**, with thousands of days spent in orbit
- Most of its missions remain **classified**, highlighting its strategic military importance.

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Science & Technological

Kavach 4.0

Kavach 4.0 has been officially **commissioned on the Mathura–Kota** section of the high-density Delhi–Mumbai railway corridor

What Is Kavach 4.0?

- It's the advanced version of India's homegrown Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system, designed to **prevent train collisions** by automatically controlling speed and applying brakes when needed, even in low-visibility conditions like fog.
- Developed by RDSO, version 4.0 operates at the **Safety Integrity Level 4 (SIL-4)**, the highest globally recognized safety standard.
- Approved for operation at speeds up to **160 km/h**.
- Kavach 4.0 acts like a **telecom-grade network** along rail tracks, integrating RFID tags every kilometer, telecom towers, optical fibre, real-time communication systems across locomotives and stations, all aimed at enhancing safety.

NASA's SpaceX Crew-11 mission

- **NASA's SpaceX Crew-11** mission lifted off on **August 1, 2025**, at **11:43 a.m. EDT** aboard a **Falcon 9 rocket** from **Kennedy Space Center's Launch Complex 39A**.
- The crew comprises **Zena Cardman** (*Commander, NASA*), **Mike Fincke** (*Pilot, NASA*), **Kimiya Yui** (*Mission Specialist, JAXA*), and **Oleg Platonov** (*Mission Specialist, Roscosmos*).
- The spacecraft **docked** with the **International Space Station's Harmony module** approximately **15 hours after launch**, on **August 2, 2025**.
- The mission's **objectives** include conducting **scientific experiments**, supporting **station operations**, and delivering **specialized cargo** for research initiatives.



- The astronauts will also carry out **simulations** to replicate **lunar landing conditions** near the **Moon's south pole**, in preparation for **future Artemis missions**.
- The mission is **planned for six months**, although **NASA** is considering **extending it to eight months** to better coordinate **U.S. and Russian** schedules.
- This launch coincides with the **25th anniversary** of **continuous human presence** on the **International Space Station**, which will be marked on **November 2, 2025**.
- The mission underscores the strength of **international collaboration** between **NASA, SpaceX, JAXA, and Roscosmos** in advancing **human spaceflight**.

"India's First Make-in-India Green Hydrogen Plant Commissioned at Kandla, Gujarat"

- **India's first indigenously developed 'Make-in-India' 1 MW green hydrogen plant** was commissioned at **Deendayal Port, Kandla, Gujarat**, marking a historic milestone in the nation's clean energy journey.
- The plant was inaugurated by **Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal**, who lauded it as a **"new benchmark in project execution"** by the Deendayal Port Authority (DPA).
- Constructed **within just four months**, the project exemplifies the combination of **speed, scale, and skill** in advancing India's green hydrogen ecosystem.
- The electrolyzer and related technology are **100% indigenously manufactured**, reinforcing the **'Make-in-India' vision** and India's move toward technological self-reliance.
- This first phase will soon expand to a **10 MW facility**, with an additional **5 MW expected by the end of this fiscal year** and full capacity anticipated by mid-next fiscal year.

ISRO Launches 'HOPE' (Himalayan Outpost for Planetary Exploration) Mission in Ladakh to Simulate Astronaut Life"

- **Mission Launch:** On **August 1, 2025**, ISRO, in collaboration with Bengaluru-based Protoplanet, initiated a **10-day analogue mission** at a high-altitude site (14,000 ft) in Ladakh to simulate conditions akin to the Moon and Mars.
- **HOPE Facility:** Named **Himalayan Outpost for Planetary Exploration (HOPE)**, the facility features an **8-meter diameter habitat module** and a **5-meter utility module**, designed for seamless workflows and self-sustained living.
- **Rationale for Location:** Situated near **Tso Kar Valley**, the site exhibits **Martian-like terrain, cold desert climate, low oxygen (40% of sea level), high UV radiation, and saline permafrost**, making it an ideal analogue environment.

Crew Selection: From 135 applicants, two participants were chosen:

- **Rahul Mogalapalli** (Purdue University, PhD candidate)

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- **Yaman Akot** (University of Aberdeen, Planetary Science graduate)
- Selection criteria included medical fitness, psychological resilience, and experience in confined-environment simulations. A 15-day acclimatization program preceded their assignment.

ICRISAT Launches AI-Powered Climate Advisory for Smallholder Farmers

- ICRISAT, under **Monsoon Mission III**, launched an **AI-powered Context-Specific Agromet Advisory** to help smallholder farmers make climate-resilient decisions.
- The platform's core, **iSAT (Intelligent Systems Advisory Tool)**, uses **AI and ML** to convert climate and crop data into actionable advisories.
- It offers personalized guidance on **sowing, irrigation, and pest management** via tools like an **AI-driven WhatsApp bot**.
- The pilot is being run in **Maharashtra** through ICAR's **Agro-Meteorological Field Units (AMFUs)** before a national rollout.
- The system will feed data into **MausamGPT** to strengthen hyper-local climate services.
- This initiative merges **digital innovation and climate science** to boost farmer resilience and productivity.



ISRO to Launch 6,500 kg U.S. BlueBird Satellite Aboard LVM3

- **ISRO is preparing to launch the 6,500 kg Block-2 BlueBird communications satellite**, developed by U.S.-based AST SpaceMobile, in a significant Indo-U.S. space collaboration.
- **The satellite is expected to arrive in India by September 2025**, with the launch slated to occur **3–4 months after its arrival**, aboard ISRO's LVM3 (formerly GSLV Mk III).
- **BlueBird features large communication arrays (~2,400 sq ft / 64 sq m)** and aims to deliver **direct-to-smartphone broadband**, supporting voice, video, and data at speeds up to **120 Mbps**.
- This mission follows the successful NISAR launch and further deepens **Indo-U.S. space cooperation** in both communication and Earth observation domains.
- Simultaneously, ISRO continues its preparations for the **Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme**, with its first uncrewed mission due in December 2025.
- The launch underscores ISRO's growing capability to deploy **heavy international payloads**, reinforcing its global standing in space technology.

India's First Drone-AI Powered Artificial Rain Experiment

- Rajasthan launched India's first-ever drone-based cloud seeding experiment near Ramgarh Dam in Jaipur, marking a pioneering effort to induce artificial rain using unmanned aerial vehicles instead of traditional aircraft.
- The experiment leverages GenX AI's proprietary platform, "Hydro Trace," which uses real-time data, satellite imagery, and sensor networks to identify optimal cloud formations for seeding.
- The overarching objectives of the initiative include **recharging Ramgarh Lake**, **addressing local water scarcity**, **restoring groundwater levels**, supporting agricultural productivity, and enhancing the broader ecosystem in the region.

WHO Classifies Hepatitis D as Cancer-Causing

On July 28, 2025, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)** officially classified the **Hepatitis D virus (HDV)** as **carcinogenic to humans (IARC Group 1)**, joining Hepatitis B and C as confirmed liver cancer-causing agents

What is Hepatitis?

- Hepatitis is an **inflammation of the liver**, most commonly caused by **viral infections**, but it can also result from toxins (alcohol, drugs), autoimmune diseases, or metabolic disorders.
- The main viral types are **Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E**, each caused by different viruses, with varying modes of transmission, severity, and prevention methods.

Types of Viral Hepatitis

Type	Causative Virus	Mode of Transmission	Nature & Severity	Prevention
Hepatitis A (HAV)	Hepatitis A virus	Fecal-oral route (contaminated food/water)	Acute, self-limiting; rarely causes chronic disease	Hepatitis A vaccine, safe food & water
Hepatitis B (HBV)	Hepatitis B virus	Blood, sexual contact, mother-to-child at birth	Can be acute or chronic; chronic cases may lead to cirrhosis or liver cancer	Hepatitis B vaccine, safe sex, screened blood

Type	Causative Virus	Mode of Transmission	Nature & Severity	Prevention
Hepatitis C (HCV)	Hepatitis C virus	Blood-to-blood contact (unscreened transfusions, needles)	Often chronic; major cause of liver cancer and transplants	No vaccine; safe injections, screened blood
Hepatitis D (HDV)	Hepatitis D virus	Blood; requires HBV co-infection to replicate	More severe than HBV alone; accelerates liver damage	Hepatitis B vaccine (prevents HDV indirectly)
Hepatitis E (HEV)	Hepatitis E virus	Fecal–oral route (contaminated water)	Usually acute; dangerous in pregnant women	Improved sanitation, safe drinking water

India's First Animal Stem Cell Biobank & Laboratory

- On 9 August 2025, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated India's **first Animal Stem Cell Biobank and Laboratory** at NIAB, Hyderabad.
- The **9,300 sq ft facility**, built at a cost of **₹1.85 crore**, includes a stem cell culture unit, 3D bioprinter, cryostorage, and advanced labs.
- It is supported by the **National Biopharma Mission (DBT–BIRAC)**, with plans to expand large-scale animal stem cell biobanking.
- Five veterinary diagnostic tools were launched for diseases like **brucellosis, mastitis, toxoplasmosis, and Japanese encephalitis**.
- The initiative aims to **boost livestock health, support regenerative biotech**, and advance India's **bioeconomy** under **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.

SabhaSaar—the AI tool for Gram Sabhas

- SabhaSaar**, an AI tool launched on **14 August 2025** by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, helps automate Gram Sabha minutes.
- It records, transcribes, translates, and summarizes proceedings in multiple Indian languages via **Bhashini**.
- Using **NLP technology**, it extracts key decisions, resolutions, and action points.
- The tool ensures **standardization, efficiency, and transparency** in Panchayat functioning.
- It marks a major step towards **AI-enabled rural governance** and stronger democratic decentralization.

ISRO Gaganyaan Air-Drop Test

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- On **24 Aug 2025**, ISRO successfully conducted its **first Integrated Air-Drop Test (IADT-01)** at Sriharikota.
- A **~5-ton dummy crew module** was dropped from a Chinook helicopter and safely splashed down in the Bay of Bengal.
- The **multi-stage parachute system** (drogue, pilot, main) worked flawlessly, even after being packed for **20+ months**.
- The test involved **ISRO, DRDO-ADRDE, IAF, Navy, and Coast Guard**, with recovery by the Navy.
- This milestone clears the way for further trials (**TV-D2, G1**) ahead of India's first human spaceflight in **2027**.

* * *



Government Schemes & Initiatives

PM-MITRA Scheme

As of **August 1, 2025**, the Government of India officially **finalized 7 PM-Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM-MITRA) Parks** in the following states:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tamil Nadu (Virudhunagar)• Telangana (Warangal)• Gujarat (Navsari)• Karnataka (Kalaburagi)• (Amravati) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Madhya Pradesh (Dhar)• Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow)• Maharashtra |
|--|--|

About PM-MITRA Scheme

- **Full Form & Objective** – **PM-MITRA** stands for **Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel**; aimed at developing world-class integrated textile parks to boost the textile value chain from fibre to fabric to fashion.
- **Scale & Coverage** – **7 mega textile parks** are being set up across India in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra.
- **Investment & Funding** – Total **outlay of ₹4,445 crore** over 7 years; target to attract **₹70,000 crore** in private investment.
- **Employment Generation** – Expected to create **20 lakh direct and indirect jobs** in the textile and apparel sector.
- **Key Features** – Parks to have **state-of-the-art infrastructure**, plug-and-play manufacturing units, R&D facilities, skill development centres, and eco-friendly systems like **zero-liquid-discharge plant**

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

Launch & Objective

- Launched in **2017** by the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)**.
- **Aim:** To create modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet, reduce post-harvest losses, and boost farmers' income.

Major Components

- **Mega Food Parks** – Integrated facilities for food processing units.
- **Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure (ICCVAI)** – Storage, transportation, and processing facilities for perishables.
- **Creation/Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities.**
- **Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure (FSQAI)** – Setting up food testing laboratories.
- **Human Resources and Institutions** – Skill development and R&D support.

Funding Pattern

- **Central Sector Scheme** – 100% funded by the Government of India for specific components; grants-in-aid for others (generally 35%–75% of eligible project cost depending on area and sector).

Budget & Scale

- Total outlay (as of Aug 2025) is **₹6,520 crore** till 2025–26.
- Targets to benefit farmers, entrepreneurs, and create large-scale employment in the food processing sector.

Expected Outcomes

- Reduction in post-harvest losses.
- Increase in processing levels and value addition.
- Boost in exports of processed food products.
- Generation of **direct and indirect jobs**.



Powered By **S CHAND**

eSAKSHI portal

- The **eSAKSHI portal**, launched on **April 1, 2023** by MoSPI with SBI, digitizes the entire MPLADS workflow from MP recommendations to project execution.

- It offers **real-time tracking** of fund utilization and project progress via customized dashboards and reports.
- The platform enables **end-to-end paperless processing**, eliminating manual delays and enhancing transparency.
- A **mobile app** allows MPs to recommend, monitor, and follow up on projects anytime.
- All States and UTs are **onboarded and trained**, with workshops, webinars, and helpdesk support provided.
- Features like **geo-tagging** and photographic evidence ensure accountability and authenticity.
- The system improves **efficiency, transparency, and stakeholder empowerment** in MPLADS fund management.

Kartavya Bhavan

- On **August 6, 2025**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **Kartavya Bhavan-3** on Kartavya Path, New Delhi—the first building under the **Common Central Secretariat (CCS)** initiative of the Central Vista redevelopment.



- The complex spans approximately **1.5 lakh sq m**, with **two basements and seven floors**, integrating key ministries—including Home Affairs, External Affairs, Rural Development, MSME, DoPT, Petroleum & Natural Gas, and the Principal Scientific Adviser’s office—under one roof.
- Designed for **sustainability and digital readiness**, it features rooftop solar panels, EV charging points, GRIHA-4 targets, double-glazed façades, rainwater harvesting, and other eco-friendly systems that reduce energy use by around 30%.
- Strategically built to **streamline administrative operations**, the CCS project aims to replace scattered, aging structures like Shastri Bhawan, Nirman Bhawan, and Udyog Bhawan, boosting inter-ministerial coordination.
- The name “**Kartavya Bhavan**” (House of Duty) reflects governance rooted in responsibility and public service, aligning with democratic values.
- **Ten CCS buildings** are planned in total, with completion targeted by **2027**, and the development will eventually include an Executive Enclave for PMO and Cabinet Secretariat.
- The inauguration marks the **first major milestone** in India’s effort to modernize its administrative infrastructure as part of the broader **Central Vista Transformation**.

'Apna Ghar' resting facilities for truck drivers



- The Government of India launched the '**Apna Ghar**' initiative in 2025 to improve the safety, comfort, and well-being of truck drivers during long highway journeys.
- As of **July 1, 2025**, **368 facilities** have been established—collectively offering around **4,611 beds**—at fuel retail outlets managed by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).
- Each "Apna Ghar" offers dormitory-style accommodation (10–30 beds), clean toilets, bathing areas, self-cooking zones, restaurants or dhabas, purified drinking water, and parking space.
- Drivers can book 8-hour stays via the **Apna Ghar mobile app**, or walk in directly; the service costs just **₹112**.
- In **June 2025**, bookings surged over fivefold—from roughly 3,348 (April–May) to **16,559 bookings** in a month—highlighting strong demand.
- A promotional offer in June provided **free stays** for drivers who purchased at least **50 litres of diesel** at Apna Ghar sites.
- The scheme is part of a broader effort to reduce fatigue-related accidents, promote road safety, and dignify the resting infrastructure for India's vital trucking workforce.

AIM-Bhashini Partnership to Drive Vernacular Innovation and Language Inclusivity in India

- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, under NITI Aayog, has joined forces with **Bhashini**, the Digital India National Language Translation initiative by MeitY, to champion **vernacular innovation** across India.
- They have signed a **Statement of Intent (SoI)** to integrate AI-powered language tools into AIM's grassroots ecosystem.
- The partnership will **translate WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) learning resources** into multiple Indian languages.
- Bhashini's APIs and multilingual capabilities will be extended to **Atal Incubation Centres (AICs)** and **Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACICs)**, fostering inclusive entrepreneurship.
- A new initiative, the **Language Inclusive Program for Innovation (LIPI) Centres**, will be established to support language diversity in innovation training and support.
- The collaboration also ensures **vernacular content, tools, and skilling** are accessible across AIM's startup and grassroots network.
- Overall, the goal is to **break language barriers**, empower rural and non-English speaking innovators, and democratize access to innovation opportunities nationwide.



Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS)

Overview

- **Launched by:** Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Government of India
- **Purpose:** To provide **college students, graduates, and young professionals** with hands-on industry exposure and skill development by interning with private companies, PSUs, and other organizations.
- **Target Group:** Youth in the **18–30 years** age bracket, especially from Tier-2, Tier-3 cities, and rural areas.

Objectives

1. **Skill Development** – Equip young talent with practical skills aligned with industry requirements.

- 2.
3. **Employment Readiness** – Increase job-readiness through real-world experience.
4. **Bridging Gaps** – Connect companies seeking fresh talent with youth seeking opportunities.
5. **Inclusivity** – Promote participation from **women, rural youth, and underrepresented groups**.

Key Features

- **National Coverage:** Internships offered across all **735 districts** of India.
- **Multiple Sectors:** Opportunities in IT, manufacturing, services, banking, MSME, etc.
- **Geo-Tagging:** Internship locations mapped for transparency and accessibility.
- **Company Profiles:** Verified employer details and benefits visible on the portal.
- **Safety & Support:** Especially for female interns, with improved safety measures and mentorship.
- **Stipend:** Paid/unpaid internships depending on the company; many offer additional benefits.

Implementation

- **Portal:** A dedicated **online platform** lists openings, allows applications, and tracks status.
- **Rounds:** Conducted in cycles (e.g., **First round – 2024, Second round – Jan 2025**).
- **Selection:** Based on candidate skills, location preference, and employer requirements.

Recent Updates (2025)

- **Female participation** rose from **31% in the first round** to **41% in the second round**.
- Over **118,000 internships** offered by **327 companies** in the latest round.
- Received **4.55 lakh applications** from **2.14 lakh candidates**.
- Focus on **transparency** and **safety** boosted inclusivity.

India's Longest-Route Vande Bharat Express

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** virtually flagged off the **Ajni (Nagpur)–Pune Vande Bharat Express** on **August 10, 2025**, marking the inauguration of the **longest-running Vande Bharat train in India**, spanning a distance of **881 kilometres**.
- This **semi-high-speed service** covers the route in **approximately 12 hours**, featuring **approximate 10 intermediate stoppages** including Wardha, Badnera, Akola, Bhusawal, Jalgaon, Manmad, Kopargaon, Ahilyanagar, and Daund, before reaching Pune via the Daund Chord Line.



- The train boasts a powerful **average speed of 73 km/h**, making it the **fastest Vande Bharat service** on the Nagpur–Pune corridor.

Indian Railways: Round Trip Package for Festival Season

- The Ministry of Railways has rolled out a pilot scheme named the “Round Trip Package for Festival Rush”, which offers a **20 per cent rebate on the base fare of the return journey** when passengers book both onward and return confirmed tickets together.
- Bookings for this scheme open on **14 August 2025**, with the onward journey scheduled between **13 October and 26 October 2025**, and the return journey to be completed between **17 November and 1 December 2025**.
- **Advance reservation rules do not apply to return journey bookings** under this scheme—providing passengers with greater flexibility in trip planning.
- The rebate applies only to confirmed tickets booked for the same set of passengers, in the same class, and on the same origin–destination route, and is valid across all trains—excluding Flexi-fare services.
- No refunds, modifications, or additional concessions (including vouchers, passes, or coupons) are allowed for tickets booked under this rebate scheme.
- Bookings under the scheme can be made via either online platforms (IRCTC) or reservation counters, but the mode used must be the same for both onward and return journeys.
- This experimental scheme aims to reduce crowding during the peak festive travel period, streamline bookings, and ensure better utilization of train services—including special trains—in both directions.



Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

What is GeM?

The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is an **online procurement platform** launched by the **Government of India** to facilitate the procurement of goods and services required by **central and state government departments, public sector undertakings (PSUs), and autonomous bodies**.

Launch & Nodal Ministry

- Launched: **August 9, 2016**
- Nodal Ministry: **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
- Developed by: **Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D)** in collaboration with the **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)**, Ministry of Electronics & IT.

Purpose & Objectives

- Ensure **transparent, efficient, and paperless** procurement.
- Enable **direct purchase** from registered vendors without intermediaries.
- Provide a **level playing field** for sellers, including **MSMEs, start-ups, and artisans**.

Key Features

- Online **end-to-end procurement** process for goods & services.
- **Reverse auction** and **e-bidding** for competitive pricing.
- Integration with **Aadhaar, PAN, GST, and PFMS** for vendor verification and payment.
- **Cashless, contactless, and paperless** transaction workflow.

Eligibility

- **Buyers:** All government departments, PSUs, and autonomous bodies.
- **Sellers:** Businesses, manufacturers, service providers (including MSMEs and start-ups) meeting eligibility criteria.

Achievements

- As of 2025, GeM has recorded **lakhs of sellers** and **crores of transactions**, with procurement worth **over ₹4 lakh crore** since inception.
- Special provisions for **Make in India** products and **MSME reservation**.

Recent Updates (2024–25)

- New **GeM Sahay** credit facility for MSMEs.
- Enhanced **buyer-seller rating system** for better quality assurance.
- Integration with **digital logistics services** for seamless delivery tracking.

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Rudrastra – Asia’s Longest Freight Train

- Indian Railways has achieved a major logistical milestone by conducting the trial run of “Rudrastra,” Asia’s longest freight train, which spans approximately 4.5 kilometres.
- The trial run was conducted on 9 August 2025, with the train traveling from Ganjkhwaja railway station in Uttar Pradesh to Garhwa in Jharkhand, covering a distance of 209 kilometres in around 5 hours and 10 minutes, at an average speed of 40.5 km/h.
- Formed by coupling six standard BOXN freight rakes, the train comprises a total of 354 wagons, each either empty or loaded with approximately 72 tonnes of freight.
- Seven powerful locomotives were deployed to haul Rudrastra, featuring two engines at the front and one locomotive placed after every 59 wagons to ensure even traction and braking across the train’s length.
- The train was developed and operated by the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Division of East Central Railway, with coordination extending to the Dhanbad Division for swift loading and unloading of freight.



Bharat Taxi

- Bharat Taxi is a newly announced app-based taxi service being launched under a cooperative model, aimed at competing with ride-hailing giants like Ola and Uber. The service is spearheaded by a consortium named Multi-State Sahakari Taxi Cooperative Ltd, officially registered on 6 June 2025.
- It is backed by eight major cooperative institutions—including NCDC, IFFCO, GCMF (Amul), KRIBHCO, NABARD, NDDDB, NCEL, and others—with no government equity, fully funded by the cooperative bodies to the tune of ₹300 crore in authorized capital.
- The initiative has already onboarded over 200 drivers, with 50 each from Delhi, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra. It is expanding through membership drives and cooperative partnerships across additional states.



- The ride-booking platform is expected to be rolled out via a mobile app by **December 2025**. A technology partner is being selected through a tender, while **IIM-Bangalore** has been engaged to strategize marketing and expansion.
- Unlike private aggregators, **Bharat Taxi follows a cooperative governance model**, where **drivers are not just service providers but also co-owners** with governance rights, claiming a share of profits and having a voice in decision-making.

PM E-DRIVE Scheme



- The **PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)** scheme was launched on **1 October 2024** with a budget of **₹10,900 crore** to boost electric mobility in India.
- It offers **Aadhaar-authenticated e-vouchers** as incentives for electric **two-wheelers, three-wheelers, buses, trucks, and ambulances**, along with support for charging infrastructure and testing.
- The scheme runs from **October 2024 to March 2026** for two- and three-wheelers, but is **extended till March 2028** for e-buses, e-trucks, and e-ambulances.
- Around **50% of two- and three-wheeler targets** are already achieved; electric trucks get incentives up to **₹9.6 lakh** per vehicle.
- It aims to **boost EV adoption, cut emissions, strengthen domestic manufacturing**, and build a robust **EV charging network** in line with **Atmanirbhar Bharat** goals.

Mission Poshan 2.0

- Launched in **February 2021**, Mission Poshan 2.0 integrates multiple nutrition schemes to fight malnutrition among children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.
- Focuses on **food fortification** (including **millets** and fortified rice), dietary diversity, and community awareness through **Jan Andolan**, Poshan Maah, and Poshan Pakhwada.
- Uses the **Poshan Tracker** for real-time monitoring across **13.97 lakh Anganwadi Centres**, with Aadhaar-based e-KYC and mobile reporting.
- Provides **smartphones, growth monitoring devices**, and promotes **Poshan Vatikas** (nutrition gardens) for fresh produce.

- Upgrades up to **2 lakh Anganwadi Centres** under **Saksham Anganwadi**, with modern amenities to ensure nutrition security and effective governance.

Tato-II Hydro Electric Project, Arunachal Pradesh

- On **August 12, 2025**, the CCEA approved **₹8,146.21 crore** for the **700 MW Tato-II Hydro Electric Project** in **Shi Yomi district, Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The project will generate **2,738.06 MU** of electricity annually and be completed in **72 months** through a **NEEPCO–Arunachal JV**.
- The Centre will provide **₹458.79 crore** for infrastructure and **₹436.13 crore** as financial assistance for state equity.
- Arunachal will get **12% free electricity** and **1% for Local Area Development Fund**, plus **32.88 km** of new roads and bridges.
- The project will boost **local jobs, MSMEs, and socio-economic growth** under **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**.

MERITE Scheme

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the **Multi disciplinary Education and Research improvement in Technical Education (MERITE Scheme)** with an outlay of **₹4,200 crore** to uplift technical education across India. It is a **Central Sector Scheme** running from **2025–26 to 2029–30**, with **₹2,100 crore** provided as a **World Bank loan**.
- The scheme will benefit **275 government and government-aided technical institutions**—including **175 engineering colleges** and **100 polytechnics**—and also support **State and UT technical education departments**.
- Around **7.5 lakh students** are expected to benefit, with interventions focused on **digitalisation, multidisciplinary curricula, employability enhancement, research and innovation**, governance reforms, and faculty development (especially women).
- The scheme will be implemented via a **Central Nodal Agency**, with support from top institutions and bodies like **IITs, IIMs, AICTE, and NBA** to ensure effective execution.

Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II) project— Delhi's newest connectivity lifeline



- **UER-II**, a 76 km six-lane expressway (NH-344M), forms Delhi's **third Ring Road**, linking **NH-44 (Alipur) to NH-48 (Mahipalpur)**.
- Inaugurated on **17 August 2025** by PM Modi, along with the Delhi stretch of the Dwarka Expressway.
- It connects major highways (NH-44, NH-9, Dwarka Expressway) and eases congestion at **Dhaura Kuan, Mukarba Chowk**, and other key points.
- Features include **interchanges, flyovers, rail-over-bridges**, and eco-initiatives like reusing 10 lakh MT material and relocating 10,000+ trees.
- The project boosts **regional connectivity, real estate demand, and faster travel** (e.g., Chandigarh to IGI Airport).

NHAI launched the FASTag Annual Pass

- The NHAI launched the **FASTag Annual Pass** on **15 August 2025**, offering private non-commercial vehicles seamless tolling on national highways and expressways.
- Priced at **₹3,000**, it allows up to **200 toll plaza crossings** or remains valid for **one year**, whichever comes first.

- The pass received an **overwhelming response**—around **1.4 lakh activations on Day 1**, and **over 5 lakh users registered** within four days.
- Purchases soared especially in **Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Haryana**, and **Andhra Pradesh**, signaling widespread early adoption.
- Activation is simple—via the **Rajmargyatra app** or NHAI website, with the pass applied to an existing FASTag and typically active within two hours.



India's Deep Ocean Mission



- **India's Deep Ocean Mission** was launched in **2021** by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** with a total budget of **₹4,077 crore (2021–26)**.
- The mission aims to explore **deep-sea resources** such as **polymetallic nodules** and to develop advanced **deep-sea technology**.
- A major component of the mission is the **Samudrayaan Project**, which involves the indigenous submersible **Matsya 6000** that will dive up to **6,000 meters** by **2027**.
- In **August 2025**, India achieved a record **manned dive of 5,002 meters** in the **North Atlantic Ocean**, marking a major step towards Samudrayaan.
- The mission strengthens India's **Blue Economy**, ensures **strategic resource security**, and places the country among the **few nations with deep-sea exploration capability**.

Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana

- The **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY)** was announced by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on **15th August 2025** during his Independence Day speech.
- The scheme has an **outlay of about ₹1 lakh crore** for two years, from **1 August 2025 to 31 July 2027**.
- It aims to create **over 3.5 crore new jobs** in both organized and manufacturing sectors.
- Under **Part A**, first-time EPFO-registered employees earning up to ₹1 lakh per month will receive a **direct benefit of ₹15,000**, paid in two instalments after 6 and 12 months, along with a financial literacy course.
- Under **Part B**, employers will be given an incentive of up to **₹3,000 per month per new employee** for two years, which may extend to four years in manufacturing.
- The scheme is implemented by the **Ministry of Labour & Employment** through the **EPFO**, with benefits disbursed via **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** linked to Aadhaar and PAN.
- The main objective of the scheme is to **formalize youth employment, support first-time job seekers, promote economic growth, and strengthen social security** in India.

Centre Rolls Out 'Anna-Chakra' Tool in 30 States to Revolutionize PDS Supply Chain

- The Centre has implemented the **'Anna-Chakra' Supply Chain Optimisation Tool** in **30 out of 31 States/UTs**, with **Manipur** yet to adopt it.
- Developed by **IIT-Delhi, World Food Programme (WFP)**, and **FITT**, the tool uses **digital route optimisation** to improve foodgrain distribution under the PDS.
- It is expected to save around **₹250 crore annually** in transportation costs and reduce **CO₂ emissions**, supporting India's sustainability goals.
- The system will benefit about **4.37 lakh Fair Price Shops** and **6,700 warehouses**, ensuring faster and more reliable delivery to **81 crore NFSA beneficiaries**.

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- Integrated with **Railways' FOIS, ULIP, and PM Gati Shakti**, it strengthens **e-governance, transparency, and efficiency** in the food security network.

Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan

- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** launched the **Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan** on **19 August 2025**, hailed as the **world's largest tribal grassroots leadership programme**.
- The mission targets the creation of **20 lakh change leaders** across **1 lakh tribal villages** in **550 districts** of **30 States/UTs**.
- It is guided by the principles of **Sewa, Sankalp, and Samarpan**, under the motto "*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas, Sabka Vishwas*".
- **Adi Sewa Kendras** will be set up in villages to promote local problem-solving, mentoring, and responsive governance.
- **Governance Lab Workshops** at multiple levels will co-create the "**1 Lakh Tribal Villages – Vision 2030**" plan.
- **Volunteer groups** – **Adi Sahyogi** (professionals) and **Adi Saathi** (community members) – will mobilize communities and ensure effective scheme implementation.

Online Gaming Bill 2025

1. Legislative Progress

- The **Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025** was approved by the **Union Cabinet on August 19, 2025**, followed by Lok Sabha approval on **August 20** and Rajya Sabha clearance on **August 21**, primarily via voice vote. The President's assent is now awaited, seen as a formality.

2. Ban on Real-Money Online Gaming

- The core provision outright **bans all online games involving monetary transactions**, including betting, fantasy sports, poker, and any form of pay-to-win gaming. Associated advertising and financial dealings are also prohibited.

3. Boost for Esports and Social/Educational Gaming

- In contrast, the bill **recognizes esports as a legitimate sport**, encouraging its development alongside social and educational online games. These segments stand to receive policy support, including promotion, investment, and infrastructure backing.

4. Regulatory Framework & Authority

- The legislation mandates setting up a **central regulatory authority**—often termed the National Online Gaming Commission (or Authority)—to license, classify, and monitor gaming platforms. It will designate which games are permissible and oversee their compliance.

5. Severe Penalties for Violations

- The bill institutes stringent punishments:
 - Operating or facilitating real-money games: **up to 3 years imprisonment** and/or **₹1 crore fine**
 - Advertising such games: **up to 2 years** and/or **₹50 lakh fine**
 - Repeat violations: up to **5 years** and/or **₹2 crore fine**
 - Offenses are **cognizable and non-bailable**, enabling arrests without warrant.

Project Aarohan

Launch & Collaboration

- The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has launched **Project Aarohan** in collaboration with **Vertis Infrastructure Trust**, with implementation by **SMEC Trust's Bharat Cares**.

Objective & Focus

- The initiative aims to remove **financial barriers** to education and provide **equal access to quality education** for children of toll plaza employees from marginalized backgrounds, including **girls, first-generation learners**, and students from **EWS, SC, ST, OBC**, and **minority** communities.

Coverage & Scholarship Details

- **500 students** from **Class XI to final-year graduation** will receive annual scholarships of **₹12,000** for FY 2025–26.
- Additionally, **50 exceptional students** aiming for postgraduate or higher studies will be awarded scholarships of **₹50,000** each.

Funding & Duration :

- The first phase of the project is funded with **₹1 crore**, covering the period from **July 2025 to March 2026**.



Miscellaneous

(One Liner Current Affairs)

- **Sacred Piprahwa Relics Return After 127 Years** : Ancient gems believed to be linked to Lord Buddha—excavated in 1898 and headed for a Sotheby's auction in Hong Kong—have been repatriated to India following legal action by the Culture Ministry and facilitation by Godrej Industries, marking a momentous restoration of cultural heritage.
- **Commemorative Coin Honours Rajendra Chola I** : Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a ₹1,000 commemorative coin at Gangaikonda Cholapuram (Tamil Nadu) during the Aadi Thiruvathirai festival, paying tribute to Emperor Rajendra Chola I and launching the construction of statues at the site. **US Imposes Widespread Tariffs—including on India** In a sweeping move, the U.S. instituted "reciprocal" tariffs ranging from 10% to 41% on goods from dozens of countries, including India. More targeted action saw tariffs on Indian imports raised to 50%, significantly heightening trade tensions.
- **Arunachal Mountaineer Kabak Yano Summits Kilimanjaro** : On August 4, 2025, Nyishi mountaineer Kabak Yano from Arunachal Pradesh successfully summited Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 m), advancing her quest to conquer the Seven Summits and inspiring many from the Northeast.
- **Tariffs Double to 50% Amid U.S.–India Oil Row** : President Trump escalated tariffs on Indian goods to 50% in response to India's persistent Russian oil purchases. Analysts warn this move could cost India up to 1% of its GDP and further strain bilateral ties.
- **Pariksha Pe Charcha Enters Guinness World Record** : The eighth edition of PM Narendra Modi's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' programme recorded 3.53 crore valid registrations in one month on MyGov, earning it a Guinness World Record for the highest participation on a citizen engagement platform within a month.
- **Western Railway Revives 155-Year-Old Heritage Train** : Western Railway reinstated service on the historic 9.5 km metre-gauge Patalpani–Kalakund route in Madhya Pradesh, reviving a vintage travel experience cherished by rail enthusiasts after a suspension due to low tourism.
- **Delhi Assembly Becomes Fully Solar-Powered & Paperless** : India's first solar-powered legislature—the Delhi Assembly—switched entirely to solar energy with a newly commissioned 500 kW rooftop plant and adopted the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) for paperless functioning.
- **Gill & Dunkley Named ICC Players of the Month (July 2025)** : Shubman Gill (India) and Sophia Dunkley (England) won the ICC Player of the Month awards for July 2025, with Gill becoming the first male cricketer to claim the title four times.
- **Shah Rukh Khan Joins Zomato as Brand Ambassador** : Zomato has partnered with Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan for its 'Fuel Your Hustle' campaign to strengthen brand engagement.
- **Airbus Appoints Jürgen Westermeier as India & South Asia Head** : Airbus named Jürgen Westermeier, its EVP and Chief Procurement Officer, as the new President and Managing Director for India & South Asia, effective 1 September 2025.

- **WHO Declares Kenya Free of Sleeping Sickness :** The World Health Organization certified Kenya as having eliminated human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness) as a public health problem.
- **Illinois Becomes First U.S. State to Ban AI Therapy :** Illinois has prohibited AI tools like ChatGPT from providing direct therapy, allowing them only supportive roles in mental health care.
- **Rare Blue Pinkgill Mushroom Found in Telangana :** A rare Blue Pinkgill mushroom species was discovered in the Kagaznagar forest division of Telangana, expanding its known natural habitat.
- **Axis Bank Launches 'Lock FD' Feature to Prevent Fraud :** Axis Bank introduced an industry-first 'Lock FD' feature enabling customers to block premature closure of fixed deposits via digital channels to curb online banking fraud.
- **AU Small Finance Bank Gets RBI Nod for Universal Bank Status :** AU Small Finance Bank received in-principle RBI approval to transition into a universal bank, the first such license granted in nearly a decade.
- **Real Madrid Named World's Most Valuable Football Club 2025 :** Real Madrid topped the global rankings as the most valuable football club in 2025.
- **India Bids to Host 2030 Commonwealth Games :** India officially submitted its bid to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games after IOA approval.
- **Indian Tricolour Hoisted at Seattle's Space Needle :** The Indian national flag was hoisted for the first time at Seattle's iconic Space Needle on the 79th Independence Day.
- **President Droupadi Murmu Inaugurates New Gardens at Rashtrapati Bhavan :** President Murmu inaugurated the Plumeria Garden, Banyan Grove, and Babbling Brook at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- **Kargil's Apricots Debut in Saudi Arabia :** Kargil's apricots were exported to Saudi Arabia for the first time under India's ODOP initiative.
- **Dubai Launches AI-Powered Passenger Corridor :** Dubai introduced an AI-driven passenger corridor to replace traditional immigration counters.
- **Foxconn's Bengaluru Plant Begins iPhone 17 Production :** Foxconn's Bengaluru unit started producing iPhone 17, becoming its second-largest facility outside China.
- **SBI to Levy Charges on High-Value IMPS Transfers :** SBI announced nominal charges on IMPS transfers above ₹25,000, effective from August 15, 2025.
- **Indian Railways Commissions First Removable Solar Panel System :** Indian Railways installed the country's first removable solar panel system between tracks at BLW Varanasi, generating 15 kWp clean energy.
- **Dubai Launches One Freezone Passport :** Dubai introduced the "One Freezone Passport" allowing companies to operate across all free zones under a single license, with Louis Vuitton as the first entrant.
- **Press Registrar General Launches Press Sewa Portal :** The Press Registrar General of India launched the "Press Sewa" portal to streamline registration of newspapers and periodicals through a single-window system.

- **NABL Introduces New Medical Application Portal** : The National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) launched a new Medical Application Portal for ISO 15189:2022 to simplify lab accreditation.
- **NCERT Introduces Operation Sindoor Modules** : NCERT launched “Operation Sindoor” modules for Classes 3–12 to highlight bravery, technology, and national resolve through India’s May 2025 precision strikes.
- **Jalalabad Renamed Parashurampuri** : The Centre approved renaming Jalalabad town in UP’s Shahjahanpur district to “Parashurampuri,” honoring Lord Parashuram.
- **West Bengal Launches Shramshree Scheme** : The West Bengal government rolled out the “Shramshree” scheme to support returning migrant workers with financial aid, skill training, and welfare benefits.
- **Cheteshwar Pujara Retires from Cricket** : Veteran batsman Cheteshwar Pujara announced retirement from all forms of Indian cricket after scoring 7,195 runs in 103 Tests.
- **Kerala Becomes First Fully Digitally Literate State** : Kerala achieved 100% digital literacy by training over 21.87 lakh people under the “Digi Keralam” initiative.
- **Fiji PM Sitiveni Rabuka to Visit India** : Fiji’s Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka will visit India from 24–26 August 2025 to deepen bilateral cooperation.
- **Anish Dayal Singh appointed Deputy National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister** : Retired IPS officer and former CRPF chief Anish Dayal Singh (1988 batch, Manipur cadre) has been appointed as Deputy NSA, reporting directly to NSA Ajit Doval and bringing vast experience in counter-insurgency.
- **Global postal services temporarily suspend parcel deliveries to the US** : Multiple countries—including India—have temporarily halted most postal shipments to the United States amidst confusion over the termination of the US “de minimis” duty-free exemption for low-value goods.
- **Teymur Abasgulyev named new CEO of Nayara Energy** : Nayara Energy, backed by Russia's Rosneft, has appointed Teymur Abasgulyev—formerly CFO at SOCAR Turkiye—as its new CEO, effective September 2025.
- **Ravichandran Ashwin announces retirement from IPL** : Veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin officially retired from the Indian Premier League after a stellar 16-season career, while hinting at opportunities in international franchise leagues.
- **FIDE World Cup 2025 to be held in Goa, India** : The prestigious FIDE Chess World Cup 2025 is scheduled to take place in Goa from October 30/31 to November 27, 2025, with a substantial ₹17.5 crore prize pool and top 206 players competing.
- **PM Modi launches e-Vitara and battery plant in Gujarat** : Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Maruti Suzuki e-Vitara electric SUV for global exports and inaugurated Gujarat’s new hybrid battery electrode manufacturing plant, boosting India’s EV ecosystem and export capacity

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