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Weekly Current Affairs

(8th JULY - 14th JULY)



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NEW APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. Sunil Kadam Assumes Charge as SEBI Executive Director

- Sunil Jayawant Kadam has been appointed as SEBI's Executive Director (effective 1st July 2025), bringing his extensive regulatory experience since 1996 to oversee key departments including IT, Investor Education, Policy Analysis, and NISM.

About Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** is the statutory regulatory authority for the securities market in India. It was established on **12th April 1992** under the **SEBI Act, 1992**, to protect the interests of investors and to promote and regulate the securities market. It is **headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra**

Key Functions of SEBI:

1. **Investor Protection** – Ensures that investors are safeguarded against malpractices and frauds in the stock market.
2. **Regulation of Market Intermediaries** – Licenses and monitors brokers, mutual funds, merchant bankers, portfolio managers, etc.
3. **Corporate Governance** – Enforces transparency and compliance among listed companies.
4. **Market Development** – Promotes fair practices and efficient trading mechanisms.

2. Sanjog Gupta Appointed as CEO of ICC

- Sanjog Gupta, a seasoned leader in global sports, media, and entertainment with over two decades at Star India/JioStar and Disney-Star, has been appointed as the seventh CEO of the ICC effective 7 July 2025, succeeding Geoff Allardice, in a move aimed at accelerating cricket's global growth, including its push toward Olympic inclusion and embracing technology and commercialization

About International Cricket Council (ICC)

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** is the global governing body for the sport of cricket. It is responsible for the organization and governance of cricket's major international tournaments and for setting the rules and standards of the game.
- Founded in 1909 as the Imperial Cricket Conference and renamed the International Cricket Council in 1989, the ICC is **headquartered in Dubai, UAE**.
- **Its Motto is** - "*Cricket for Good*" - *promoting inclusivity, fairness, and global growth of the sport.*

3. Jennifer Geerlings-Simons Becomes Suriname's First Female President

- On **6 July 2025**, Suriname's National Assembly elected **Jennifer Geerlings-Simons**, a 71-year-old physician and former parliamentary speaker, as the nation's **first-ever female president**, following her **National Democratic Party's** success in the **25 May** legislative elections
- The NDP won **18 out of 51 seats**, narrowly ahead of the Progressive Reform Party's 17. With support from five other parties, the NDP formed a **coalition of 34 seats**, meeting the **two-thirds majority** needed for her unopposed election.

About Suriname

- Suriname is a **small country in South America**, bordered by **Brazil** (south), **Guyana** (west), **French Guiana** (east), and the **Atlantic Ocean** (north). Its capital city is **Paramaribo**.
- Suriname is a **democratic republic** with a **unicameral National Assembly**. The president is both **head of state and government**, elected by a two-thirds majority in the assembly.
- It has a **diverse population** including Hindustani (Indian descent), Creole, Javanese, Indigenous peoples, and Maroons. Dutch is the **official language**, and the country reflects a **multicultural heritage**.

4. Bulgaria Set to Join Eurozone as 21st Member from January 1, 2026

- The European Council and Parliament officially approved Bulgaria's entry into the Eurozone as its 21st member, effective **1 January 2026**, with the conversion rate fixed at **1.95583 lev = €1**
- Bulgaria cleared all Maastricht criteria—price stability (inflation now at ~2.7%), fiscal health, stable exchange rate, and interest rates—confirmed by convergence reports from the EU and ECB

About the Eurozone:

- **What is the Eurozone?**

The **Eurozone** refers to the group of **European Union (EU)** countries that have adopted the **euro (€)** as their **official currency** and share a common monetary policy under the **European Central Bank (ECB)**.

- **Member Countries**

As of now, **20 EU countries** are part of the Eurozone. With **Bulgaria set to join on 1 January 2026**, the number will increase to **21**. Not all EU countries use the euro—some, like Sweden, Hungary, and Poland, still use their national currencies.

- **Monetary Authority**

The **European Central Bank (ECB)**, based in **Frankfurt, Germany**, manages monetary policy, interest rates, inflation control, and financial stability across the Eurozone.

5. Abhijit Kishore Reappointed as COAI Chairperson for 2025–26, Rahul Vatts Named Vice Chairperson

- Vodafone Idea COO **Abhijit Kishore** has been re-elected as **COAI Chairperson** for the 2025–26 fiscal year, following the association's Annual General Body meeting on 9 July 2025
- **Rahul Vatts**, Chief Regulatory Officer at Bharti Airtel, has been appointed as **Vice Chairperson**, bringing nearly three decades of expertise in regulatory affairs, spectrum management, and licensing

About COAI (Cellular Operators Association of India)

- The **Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)** is the **apex industry body** representing the **Indian telecommunications sector**, especially mobile service providers, telecom infrastructure firms, and technology enablers.

- Founded in **1995**, COAI works closely with the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**, **TRAI**, and other stakeholders to promote growth, policy advocacy, and innovation in telecom and digital infrastructure.

6. Corporate Appointments

- On **6 July 2025**, **Eternal (formerly Zomato)** appointed **Aditya Mangla**, previously **Head of Product**, as **CEO** of its food ordering and delivery business for a two-year term—signaling a strategic leadership shift under founder Deepinder Goyal
- **Hardeep Singh Brar**, with over 30 years in the Indian automotive sector and most recently SVP of Sales & Marketing at Kia India, has been appointed **President & CEO of BMW Group India** effective 1 September 2025, succeeding Vikram Pawah
- On July 8, 2025, **Sabih Khan**, an Indian-origin executive from **Moradabad** and a **30-year veteran at Apple**, was appointed as the **next Chief Operating Officer (COO)**, succeeding **Jeff Williams**.
- **Priya Nair**, a 30-year Unilever veteran and current global Beauty & Wellbeing President, has been appointed as the **first woman CEO & MD of Hindustan Unilever (HUL)**, effective **1 August 2025**, succeeding Rohit Jawa amid strategic shifts and market optimism.

SPORTS UPDATES

1. India Shines at World Boxing Cup 2025 in Kazakhstan with 11-Medal Haul

Event & Venue

- The **2nd leg of the 2025 World Boxing Cup** was held in **Astana, Kazakhstan**, from **30 June to 7 July 2025**
- This is part of a three-leg tournament held by **World Boxing**, with the finals scheduled in **New Delhi, India**, from **15–22 November 2025**

Overall Standings:

1. **Kazakhstan**
2. **Brazil**
3. **India**

2. Mexico Clinches 10th Gold Cup Title with 2-1 Victory Over USA in Houston Final

- The **2025 CONCACAF Gold Cup Final** took place on **July 6, 2025**, at **NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas**
- **Mexico** defeated the **United States 2-1**, capturing their **record-extending 10th Gold Cup title**, and second in a row
- **Raúl Jiménez** was awarded **Man of the Match** for his exceptional performance in the final against the USA.
- **Edson Álvarez** was honoured with the **Golden Ball**, awarded to the **Most Valuable Player (MVP)** of the entire 2025 CONCACAF Gold Cup.

3. India Registers Historic First Test Victory at Edgbaston

- On **6 July 2025**, India defeated England by a massive **336 runs** at Edgbaston in Birmingham—marking their **first Test victory at the iconic ground** after **eight prior attempts (7 losses, 1 draw)**
- **India's biggest overseas Test win by runs**, surpassing the 318-run victory against West Indies in 2019
- A commanding **1,014-run total across both innings**, the **most runs in a Test match involving India & England**

4. Lando Norris Wins Rain-Soaked 2025 British Grand Prix

Top 3 finishers from the rain-affected 2025 British Grand Prix at Silverstone:

- **Lando Norris (McLaren-Mercedes)** — clinched a dramatic first career victory at his home Grand Prix under wet-dry conditions. **Oscar**
- **Piastri (McLaren-Mercedes)** — finished second; however, a **10-second penalty** for erratic braking under a safety car likely cost him the win.
- **Nico Hülkenberg (Sauber-Ferrari)** — secured his **first-ever podium** in his **239th F1 start**, rising impressively from 19th on the grid.

5. Gukesh Wins Rapid Chess Title at Grand Chess Tour 2025

- The **SuperUnited Rapid & Blitz 2025** tournament (a leg of the Grand Chess Tour) was held at **The Westin Zagreb Hotel, Zagreb, Croatia**, from **30 June to 7 July 2025**

Top 3 finishers

1. **D. Gukesh Dommaraju** (India)
2. **Jan-Krzysztof Duda** (Poland)
3. **Magnus Carlsen** (Norway)

6. IPL's most valuable franchise in 2025

- The **Indian Premier League (IPL)** saw its overall business value climb to **US \$18.5 billion** in 2025, marking a **12.9% increase**, while its standalone brand value rose **13.8%** to **US \$3.9 billion**

Top 5 Most Valuable IPL Teams (2025)

1. **RCB** – \$269 million
 2. **Mumbai Indians (MI)** – \$242 million
 3. **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)** – \$235 million
 4. **Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR)** – \$190 million
 5. **Rajasthan Royals (RR)** – \$170 million
- **Punjab Kings** recorded the **highest brand value growth in 2025**, rising by **39.6%** to reach \$141 million — the fastest among all IPL teams.

7. Neeraj Chopra Wins Gold at Inaugural Neeraj Chopra Classic 2025 in Bengaluru

- It was held on **5 July 2025** at **Sree Kanteerava Stadium, Bengaluru**, the Neeraj Chopra Classic marked **India's first World Athletics Gold-level javelin meet**

Top 3 finishers

1. Neeraj Chopra (India)
2. Julius Yego (Kenya)
3. Rumesh Pathirage (Sri Lanka)

8. 2025 Wimbledon Championships

- **Top finishers in the Gentlemen's Singles at Wimbledon 2025**
 1. Jannik Sinner (Italy)
 2. Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)
- **Top finishers in the ladies Singles at Wimbledon 2025**
 1. Iga Świątek (Poland)
 2. Amanda Anisimova (USA)
- **Top finishers in the Gentlemen's Doubles at Wimbledon 2025**
 1. Julian Cash & Lloyd Glasspool (Great Britain)
 2. Rinky Hijikata (Australia) & David Pel (Netherlands)
- **Top finishers in the Ladies' Doubles at Wimbledon 2025**
 1. Veronika Kudermetova (Russia) & Elise Mertens (Belgium)
 2. Hsieh Su-Wei (Chinese Taipei) & Jeļena Ostapenko (Latvia)
- **Top finishers in the Mixed Doubles at Wimbledon 2025**
 1. Sem Verbeek (Netherlands) & Kateřina Siniaková (Czech Republic)
 2. Joe Salisbury (Great Britain) & Luisa Stefani (Brazil)

9. Harikrishnan Becomes India's 87th Grandmaster

- **A Ra Harikrishnan**, a 23-year-old chess talent from **Chennai**, secured his **third and final GM norm** at the **La Plagne International Chess Festival in France** (July 11, 2025), earning the coveted **Grandmaster title**

Criteria to become a Grandmaster

To become a **Grandmaster (GM)**—the highest title in chess awarded by **FIDE** (the International Chess Federation)—a player must meet the following **three main criteria**:

1. Earn Three GM Norms

- A **norm** is a high-level tournament performance against strong opponents (including other titled players).
- To qualify, each norm must be:
 - Achieved in a **FIDE-rated tournament** (usually international)
 - Played across **at least 9 games**
 - Against opponents from **at least 3 different countries**
 - With an average opponent rating of **~2380+**
 - With a performance rating of **2600 or higher** in that tournament

2. Reach a FIDE Elo Rating of 2500

- The player must achieve a **live or published Elo rating of 2500 or above** at least once—this can be before, during, or after earning the norms.

3. FIDE Approval

- Once all norms and rating requirements are met, FIDE formally **confirms and awards the GM title** in its quarterly meeting.
- The title is **lifetime-valid** and does not expire, even if the player's rating drops.

10. India Confirmed to Host ISSF World Cup in 2027 & Junior World Championship in 2028 in New Delhi

- The **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)** has selected **New Delhi** to host the combined **Rifle, Pistol & Shotgun World Cup** in **2027**, marking a major recognition of India's shooting infrastructure and organizational ability
- New Delhi will also host the **ISSF Junior World Championship** for **Rifle, Pistol & Shotgun** in **2028**, offering critical competition exposure to young Indian shooters ahead of the Olympics

MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING (MOUS) & AGREEMENTS

1. India Signs MoU with Sri Aurobindo Society to Expand Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities

- On **July 7, 2025**, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the Sri Aurobindo Society (SAS) in **New Delhi**
- SAS will implement '**Project Inclusion**' through its **Rupantar Programme**, utilizing a mobile app and web platform to train educators, rehabilitation professionals, counselors, general teachers, and other stakeholders in inclusive teaching methods
- The initiative supports the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**—especially Sections 16, 17, and 47—upholding the right to inclusive education. It also seeks to promote **innovative pedagogy**, conduct **R&D**, and issue **e-certificates** to participants
- A special emphasis is placed on extending inclusive education to underserved regions, including the **Leh Inclusion Initiative**, to reduce geographical disparities and fulfill the spirit of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**

2. Colombia and Uzbekistan Join BRICS Bank as New Members Ahead of Summit

- Colombia and Uzbekistan officially joined the **BRICS-backed New Development Bank (NDB)**, increasing its full membership to **eleven** nations: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Bangladesh, UAE, Egypt, Algeria, Colombia, and Uzbekistan

About New Development Bank (NDB):

Overview:

- The **New Development Bank** (formerly known as the **BRICS Development Bank**) was established by the **BRICS nations**—**Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**—to **finance infrastructure and sustainable development projects** in emerging economies.

Established:

- **July 15, 2014**, during the **6th BRICS Summit** in **Fortaleza, Brazil**

Headquarters:

- **Shanghai, China**

Current President (2025):

- **Dilma Rousseff**, former President of Brazil

3. NESTS and UNICEF Launch TALASH Initiative to Empower Tribal Youth in Eklavya Model Residential Schools

- The **National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)**, in collaboration with **UNICEF India**, has launched the **TALASH (Tribal Aptitude, Life Skills, and Self-Esteem Hub)** initiative. This digital platform is designed to support the holistic development of tribal students enrolled in **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs)** across India .
- The initiative aims to benefit over **1.38 lakh tribal students** studying in EMRSs located in **28 states and 8 union territories**, focusing on enhancing their academic, emotional, and vocational skills .
- The key components of TALASH include psychometric assessments for personalized career cards, career counseling, life skills development (self-awareness, emotional intelligence, communication, problem-solving), and teacher training through an e-learning portal.
- The nationwide rollout of TALASH is scheduled for completion by the end of **2025**

4. Prasar Bharati Signs MoU with Handball Association of India to Promote Handball Nationwide

- Prasar Bharati has entered into a **three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the Handball Association of India (HAI) to enhance the visibility and reach of handball across the country. This collaboration aims to foster the growth of the sport at both grassroots and elite levels.
- Under the MoU, Prasar Bharati will **produce and broadcast all national and international handball events** organized by HAI. These events will be made available on **DD Sports, Waves OTT**, and other Prasar Bharati platforms, ensuring extensive national coverage.
- The initiative emphasizes the importance of media partnerships in supporting emerging sports and identifying grassroots talent. By providing consistent coverage, the collaboration seeks to inspire youth and boost the development of handball across the nation.

SUMMITS, CONFERENCES & EVENTS

S.No.	Summits, Conferences & Events	Venue	Extra Information
1.	BRICS	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil,	Theme “ Building Resilience and Innovation for Cooperation and Sustainability. ”
2.	AgriTech Innovation Hub	Meerut, Uttar Pradesh	This initiative aims to revolutionize traditional farming practices by integrating artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), and smart agriculture technologies.

3.	11th India Maize Summit	New Delhi, India	Theme "" Maize Revolution: Enhancing Productivity, Sustainability, and Farmer Welfare. ""
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AWARDS & HONOURS

1. Prime Minister Modi receives top civilian award

S.No.	Award	Country
1.	Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago
2.	Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis	Namibia
3.	Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross	Brazil
4.	Key to the City of Buenos Aires	Argentina

2. Hollywood Walk of Fame Award

- **Deepika Padukone** was recently honored with a star on the **Hollywood Walk of Fame**, becoming the first Bollywood actress to receive this prestigious recognition.
- The award highlights her role in bridging the gap between Bollywood and Hollywood, promoting Indian cinema on a global stage.

3. S.R.N. Mehta School Wins Top Prize in NASA Contest for Space Settlement Design

- S.R.N. Mehta CBSE School in **Kalaburagi** won the top prize in the NASA-NSS international contest in the 8th Grade Large Group category for their project "**Ira**", a space settlement design.
- The students received their award at the **International Space Development Conference (ISDC) 2025** in Orlando, USA, where they showcased their innovative space settlement project.

4. Veteran Archaeologist Vedachalam Wins Tamil Wikki Suran Award

- Veteran archaeologist Vedachalam has been honored with the prestigious **Tamil Wikki Suran Award** for his outstanding contributions to archaeology and heritage preservation in Tamil Nadu.
- Vedachalam is recognized for his decades-long work in uncovering and preserving historical sites, artifacts, and cultural heritage of Tamil Nadu, especially in ancient archaeological excavations.

5. Kasaragod Wins Kerala Fisheries Department Excellence Award 2025

- Kasaragod district has been honored with the **Kerala Fisheries Department Excellence Award 2025** for its outstanding achievements in sustainable aquaculture and community-driven fisheries development.
- The award recognizes the district's effective implementation of the **Popular Fish Farming Project**, which has significantly boosted inland fish production and farmer engagement

Individual Honors for Innovators:

- **Ravi P.P.** from Padanna secured second place in the "Best Backwater Fish Seed Production Farmer" category.
- **Sea Pearl Aquafarm** of Kumbala won third place for "Best Innovative Fish Farming."

6. Varsha Deshpande Honored with 2025 UN Population Award for Advancing Gender Equality

- Varsha Deshpande, a women's rights activist from Satara, Maharashtra, has been conferred with the **2025 United Nations Population Award** in the individual category.
- She is the third Indian to receive this honor, following Indira Gandhi (1983) and J.R.D. Tata (1992).
- In 1990, Deshpande established the **Dalit Mahila Vikas Mandal**, an organization dedicated to empowering marginalized women through vocational training, financial independence, and access to essential services.
- The UN Population Award, established in 1981, recognizes outstanding contributions to population and reproductive health issues. Deshpande's work exemplifies the power of grassroots activism in advancing gender equality and reproductive rights.

7. Telangana Wins IESA Industry Excellence Award for Leadership in Battery Manufacturing

- Telangana received the **IESA Industry Excellence Award 2025** in the **State Leadership – Battery Manufacturing** category at the **India Energy Storage Week (IESW) 2025** held in New Delhi.
- The state's achievements are attributed to its progressive policies, including the **Telangana EV and Energy Storage Policy** and the **Telangana Renewable Energy Policy**, which support clean energy solutions.

8. Sarankumar Limbale Honored with Chintha Raveendran Award 2025

- Marathi writer and critic Sarankumar Limbale has been selected for the **Chintha Raveendran Award 2025**, recognizing his significant contributions to literature and social thought.
- Limbale is renowned for his writings that focus on Dalit identity, equality, and human rights. He has authored over 40 books, including novels, poetry, stories, and criticism.
- The award includes a cash prize of ₹50,000, a memento, and a citation. It will be presented on **July 26, 2025**, at the **K.P. Kesavamenon Hall** in Kozhikode during a special event held in memory of Chintha Raveendran.

9. India's Maratha Forts Added to UNESCO World Heritage List

- India's historic **Maratha forts** have been officially added to the **UNESCO World Heritage List** in 2025. This includes several forts that played a pivotal role in the Maratha Empire.
- These forts represent the architectural brilliance and strategic military importance of the Maratha dynasty, contributing to India's rich cultural heritage.

- The fort complex includes prominent forts like **Raigad, Shivneri, and Pratapgad**, located in the state of Maharashtra, among others.

IMPORTANT DAYS & OBSERVANCES

S.No.	Important Days	Date	Extra Information
1.	World Zoonoses Day	July 6, 2025	World Zoonoses Day is observed annually to honor the first successful rabies vaccination administered by Louis Pasteur in 1885.
2.	International Day of Cooperatives	July 5, 2025	Theme “Cooperatives: Driving Inclusive and Sustainable Solutions for a Better World”
3.	World Rural Development Day	July 6, 2025	Theme “Rural Development: Resilience to Global Change”
4.	World Kiswahili Language Day	July 7, 2025	Theme “Kiswahili: A Bridge for Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue”
5.	World Bioproduct Day	July 7, 2025	Theme: “The BioE3 Way”
6.	World Population Day	July 11, 2025	Theme “Empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world”
7.	World Horse Day	July 11, 2025	The United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 79/291 on June 3, 2025, officially declaring July 11 as World Horse Day.

REPORTS & INDEXES

1. India's Income Equality Achieved

India has recently been recognized as one of the world's most equal societies, **ranking fourth globally** in income equality with a **Gini Index** of 25.5, according to the **World Bank**. This places India ahead of major economies like China (35.7) and the United States (41.8).

What is Gini Index?

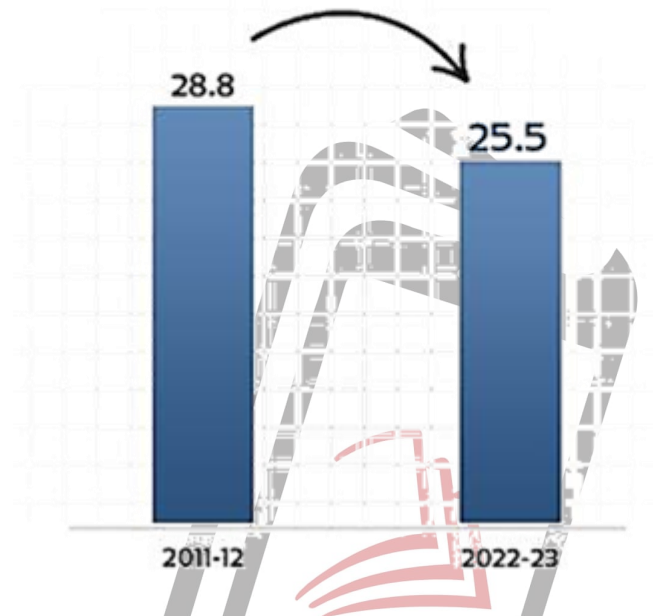
The Gini Index is a simple yet powerful way to understand how equally income, wealth or consumption is distributed across households or individuals in a country. It ranges in value from 0 to 100. A score of 0 means perfect equality. A score of 100 means one person has all the income, wealth or consumption and others have none, hence absolute inequality.

The higher the Gini Index the more unequal the country

India Achieves Greater Income Equality



Consumption-based Gini Index (Lower is More Equal)



2. India Becomes 4th Largest Biofuel User, Surpassing China in 2024

- India has emerged as the world's fourth-largest biofuel consumer in 2024, surpassing China for the second consecutive year. This milestone is highlighted in the **2025 Statistical Review of World Energy, published by the Energy Institute**. The report indicates that India's biofuel consumption reached 77 thousand barrels of oil equivalent per day (kboe/d), marking a 40% increase from the previous year. In comparison, China's consumption stood at 60 kboe/d, up by 18%

Top 4 Biofuel Consumers in 2024

- United States:** Leading global biofuel consumption.
- Brazil:** A significant player in biofuel usage.
- European Union:** Collective consumption from member countries.
- India:** Surpassed China to rank fourth globally

3. North Eastern Region (NER) District Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index for 2023–24

On July 7, 2025, NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MoDoNER) and UNDP, launched the second edition of the North Eastern Region District SDG Index (2023-24) in New Delhi. The index evaluates the performance of 121 districts across eight North Eastern states in relation to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This initiative is crucial for tracking progress and guiding more effective development planning in these regions.

Top 3 Districts

1. **Hnahthial, Mizoram** – Achieved the highest composite score of **81.43**, leading all 121 districts in the region.
2. **Champhai, Mizoram** – Secured the second position with a score of **79.86**.
3. **Gomati, Tripura** – Ranked third with a score of **78.79**.

Bottom 3 Districts

1. **Longding, Arunachal Pradesh** – Recorded the lowest score in the region at **58.71**.
2. **Kiphire, Nagaland** – Achieved a score of **59.07**.
3. **Tuensang, Nagaland** – Scored **59.77**.

4. Prajakta Koli Makes Time100 Creators List 2025

- Prajakta Koli, known as 'MostlySane', has been featured as the **only Indian** on **TIME100 Creators List 2025**, recognizing her influence in the digital space.
- The TIME100 Creators List includes other prominent figures such as **MrBeast (Jimmy Donaldson)**, **Khabane Lame**, **Kai Cenat**, and **Mel Robbins**. Koli's recognition underscores the growing influence of South Asian creators in the global digital landscape.

5. UNCTAD 2025 Report: India's Growth Amid Global Economic Slowdown

- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) released its 2025 report, "Trade and Development Foresights: Under Pressure," highlighting global economic trends and India's position in the evolving landscape

India's Economic Outlook

- **Projected Growth:** India's GDP is anticipated to grow by **6.5% in 2025**, maintaining its status as the world's fastest-growing major economy.
- **Growth Drivers:** The expansion is supported by robust **public spending** and **monetary easing**, with the Reserve Bank of India reducing the policy rate by 25 basis points to 6% in early 2025.
- **Global Comparison:** In contrast, global growth is projected at **2.3%**, indicating a recessionary phase.

6. Global Peace Index 2025

- **The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) has released the Global Peace Index, 2025.**
- According to the 2025 Global Peace Index (GPI) released by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), global peace has continued to decline for the sixth consecutive year, with 87 countries deteriorating in peacefulness. The GPI evaluates 163 countries based on 23 indicators across three domains: Societal Safety and Security, Ongoing Conflict, and Militarisation.

Top 5 Countries (Most Peaceful)

1. **Iceland**
2. **Ireland**
3. **New Zealand.**

4. Austria
5. Switzerland
- Bottom 5 Countries (Least Peaceful)**
163. Russia
162. Ukraine
161. Sudan
160. Democratic Republic of the Congo
159. Yemen

DEFENCE & SECURITY

1. Sub-Lieutenant Aastha Poonia: India's First Female Navy Fighter Pilot Trainee

- Sub-Lieutenant Aastha Poonia made history on July 3, 2025, by becoming the first woman inducted into the Indian Navy's fighter stream.
- She was awarded the '**Wings of Gold**' during the graduation of the Second Basic Hawk Conversion Course at INS Dega, Visakhapatnam, marking a significant step in gender inclusivity within the Indian Armed Forces.

2. Operation SHIVA 2025

- The **Indian Army has initiated Operation SHIVA 2025** to ensure the safe and smooth conduct of the Amarnath Yatra
- The operation includes drone surveillance, counter-drone systems, and medical support, with 150+ doctors and a 100-bed hospital.
- Operation SHIVA involves collaboration with **Jammu and Kashmir Police, CRPF, BSF, and the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB)**.
- The focus is on preventing terrorism, with avalanche warning systems and mobile medical units in place for emergencies.

3. DRDO and IAF Successfully Test Indigenous Astra Missile from Su-30 MKI.

About ASTRA Missile:

- The **Astra Missile** is an indigenously developed **Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM)** designed and produced by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- It is a significant step toward India's self-reliance in defense technology and is capable of targeting enemy aircraft at long ranges.
- The Astra missile has a range exceeding **100 kilometers**, making it highly effective in engaging adversary aircraft beyond visual range.

4. Jaa Mata Exercise

- On July 12, 2025, the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** and **Japan Coast Guard (JCG)** conducted a joint sea exercise named '**Jaa Mata**' (meaning 'see you later'). The

exercise focused on enhancing coordination and operational synergy at sea, including firefighting, boarding operations, and station-keeping drills.

- The Japan Coast Guard Ship ***Itsukushima*** arrived at Chennai Port on July 7, 2025, marking the commencement of a six-day port call aimed at strengthening maritime cooperation between India and Japan.
- This visit is part of the **Japan Coast Guard's Global Ocean Voyage Training program** and underscores the enduring strategic partnership between the two nations

5. INS Nistar

- **INS Nistar is India's first indigenously designed** and constructed Diving Support Vessel (DSV), delivered to the Indian Navy on July 8, 2025, **by Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) in Visakhapatnam.**
- The vessel is set to be commissioned on July 18, 2025, and will join the Eastern Naval Command to enhance the Navy's deep-sea diving and submarine rescue capabilities.
- INS Nistar is equipped with state-of-the-art diving systems, including both air and saturation diving capabilities, enabling operations up to 300 meters depth.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. India Launches First National Biobank for Personalized Healthcare

- India inaugurated its first **National Biobank** on July 6, 2025, at the **CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB)** in New Delhi.
- The biobank will collect genomic, clinical, and lifestyle data from **10,000 individuals** across diverse regions of India, focusing on personalized medicine.
- It aims to advance **precision healthcare** by tailoring treatments based on an individual's genetic makeup, lifestyle, and environment.
- The project will address India's unique health challenges, such as **central obesity**, to develop targeted therapeutic strategies.
- The biobank will support indigenous research in areas like **CRISPR genome editing**, antimicrobial resistance, and rare diseases, strengthening India's biomedical research capabilities.

2. ISRO Achieves Milestone with Successful Hot Tests of Gaganyaan Propulsion System

- On July 3, 2025, ISRO conducted two successful hot tests of the **Gaganyaan Service Module Propulsion System (SMPS)** at the ISRO Propulsion Complex in Tamil Nadu.
- The tests, lasting 30 and 100 seconds, validated the propulsion system's performance under simulated flight conditions.
- ISRO demonstrated the operation of **five Liquid Apogee Motors (LAM)** and **sixteen Reaction Control System (RCS) thrusters** during the tests.
- The SMPS plays a key role in **orbit circularization, on-orbit control, de-boost maneuvers**, and handling **abort scenarios** during ascent.
- ISRO plans a full-duration test soon to further assess the system's performance before the **crewed Gaganyaan mission.**

3. India Successfully Tests Indigenous Extended-Range Anti-Submarine Rocket (ERASR)

- India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted user trials of the **Extended Range Anti-Submarine Rocket (ERASR)** from the Indian Navy's anti-submarine warfare corvette, **INS Kavaratti**, between June 23 and July 7, 2025.
- A total of **17 ERASRs** were test-fired at varying ranges, demonstrating key parameters such as range performance, electronic time fuze functionality, and warhead effectiveness.
- The ERASR features a **twin-rocket motor configuration**, allowing it to operate in both short and long-range modes, with a maximum range of up to **8.9 kilometers**.
- Developed by DRDO's Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE) in collaboration with the High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) and the Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), the ERASR is designed to replace the existing Russian-origin Rocket Guided Bombs (RGBs) and enhance the Indian Navy's anti-submarine warfare capabilities.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

S.No.	Book Name	Author	Extra Information
1.	Confessions of a Shakespeare Addict	V.S. Ravi	-----

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & INITIATIVES

1. India Launches BHARAT Study to Establish National Health Baseline for Healthy Ageing

- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, initiated the **BHARAT study** in 2023 to create a national health baseline for healthy ageing in India, addressing the lack of India-specific health data.
- The study collects comprehensive data, including **genomic, proteomic, metabolic, environmental, and socio-economic** factors, to understand biological signs of healthy ageing and early disease indicators.
- Utilizing **artificial intelligence (AI)** and machine learning, the study analyzes complex datasets to detect health patterns, predict organ-level ageing, and simulate medical intervention outcomes.

2. India Launches ₹500 Crore Electric Truck Incentive Scheme Under PM E-DRIVE

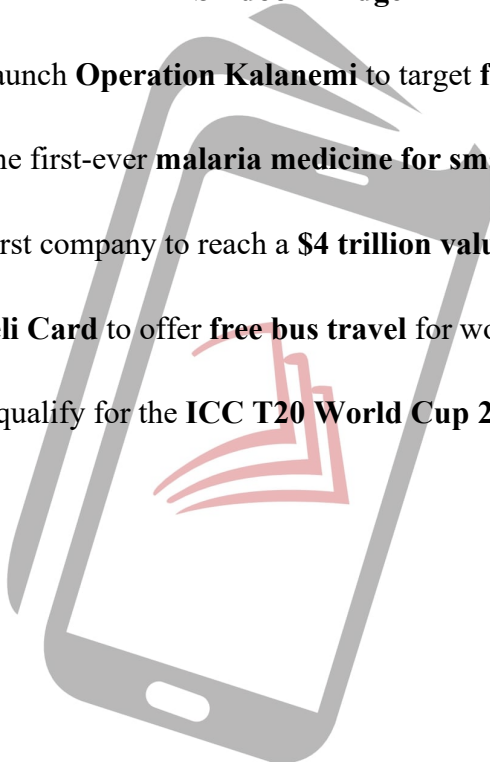
- The **PM E-DRIVE scheme**, launched in 2024, offers ₹10,900 crore to incentivize electric vehicles (EVs) and build charging infrastructure across India.
- The scheme targets **5,600 electric trucks, buses, and two-wheelers** with up to **₹9.6 lakh** incentives per vehicle, focusing on sustainability and air quality.

- It allocates ₹2,000 crore for **72,300 charging stations** and aims to integrate **AI-driven apps** for better EV management.
- **Excluding electric cars** from direct subsidies has led to a decline in their sales, although the GST reduction continues to support their adoption.
- The initiative supports **local manufacturing** and aims to reduce emissions, enhancing India's energy security and fostering economic growth.

MISCELLANEOUS (ONE LINER CURRENT AFFAIRS)

1. **Elon Musk** launches a new political party in the U.S. to challenge the existing political framework.
2. The **EU** sets new climate goals targeting **net-zero emissions by 2040** with flexibility to accommodate member states.
3. **Russia** becomes the first country to officially recognize the **Taliban** government in Afghanistan.
4. **Himachal Pradesh** becomes the first state in India to implement **Face ID** for ration distribution.
5. **Microsoft** shuts down its **Pakistan office** after 25 years of operations.
6. **Puducherry** integrates **TB screening** into its family adoption program, becoming the first state to do so.
7. **SAIL** opens its first overseas office in **Dubai** to enhance its global presence.
8. **Trinidad and Tobago** joins the **UPI network** to facilitate easy transactions for Indian travelers.
9. **Haryana** announces plans to build **Asia's largest jungle safari**.
10. **International umpire Bismillah Jan Shinwari** passes away at the age of 41.
11. **Vatsala**, Asia's oldest elephant, passes away at **Panna Tiger Reserve** in Madhya Pradesh.
12. **Bihar** reserves **35% of government jobs** for women domiciled in the state.
13. **Kerala** to open its first **skin bank** in Thiruvananthapuram for skin transplant and burn treatment.
14. **Uttarakhand** plans to plant over **5 lakh saplings** during the **Harela Festival**

15. **Arthunkal Police Station** becomes **India's first ISO-certified police station**
16. **Microsoft** launches **BioEMU**, an AI system designed to accelerate **protein research**
17. **Maharashtra** government declares **Ganeshotsav** as a state festival to recognize its cultural significance.
18. **Assam** launches **Gajah Mitra**, a program to protect both **people and elephants**.
19. **Carnac Bridge** in Mumbai is renamed **Sindoor Bridge**
20. **Uttarakhand** plans to launch **Operation Kalanemi** to target **fake saints**.
21. **Switzerland** approves the first-ever **malaria medicine for small babies**
22. **NVIDIA** becomes the first company to reach a **\$4 trillion valuation**.
23. **Delhi** launches the **Saheli Card** to offer **free bus travel** for women.
24. **Italy and Netherlands** qualify for the **ICC T20 World Cup 2026**.



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