

# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**>> 07 JULY 2025**

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

### 1. India Hosts INC-WMC Conference in Hyderabad and Launches Copper & Aluminium Vision Documents and 'Mission Green' for Sustainable Mining.



On July 4, 2025, the Indian National Committee of the World Mining Congress (INC-WMC) concluded its International Conference on 'Sustainable and Responsible Mining through Best Mine Closure Practices' in Hyderabad, Telangana. The event marked the unveiling of major policy documents and frameworks to advance sustainable mining in India.

- The conference brought together policymakers, environmental experts, industry leaders, and international stakeholders to exchange ideas and global best practices related to mine closure. Key themes included environmental sustainability, mining safety, scientific restoration, and the development of responsible closure mechanisms.

- During the event, the "Mission Green" booklet was released, highlighting India's approach to best practices in mine closure. It focuses on restoring degraded ecosystems and repurposing mined land for community benefits such as agriculture, fisheries, or other sustainable uses that promote local livelihoods and biodiversity.

- Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy launched the Copper Vision Document, which defines copper as a key mineral for India's clean energy future. The document outlines copper's role in electric vehicles (EVs) and solar power infrastructure, placing it at the center of India's green energy transition roadmap.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) The minister also unveiled the Aluminium Vision Document, aimed at achieving self-reliance in aluminium production for India's domestic requirements. The document includes a strategic roadmap focusing on aluminium's role in clean energy, electric mobility, and infrastructure, making it central to India's industrial decarbonization strategy.
- (ii) The conference introduced the RECLAIM Framework – Reach Out, Envision, Co-Design, Localise, Act, Integrate, Maintain – to strengthen scientific mine closure methods. It aligns with the 6R Philosophy: Reclamation, Repurposing, Rehabilitation, Re-vegetation, Remediation, and Relinquishment, promoting structured and phased mine closure operations.
- (iii) A significant technological update during the conference was the introduction of the Single Window Clearance System (SWCS) – Exploration Module, developed to digitize mine closure approvals and increase transparency. This module aims to streamline regulatory processes and enable faster and more efficient implementation of closure plans.

### 2. Himachal Pradesh Becomes First State to Use Aadhaar-based Face ID for Ration Distribution.





On July 5, 2025, Himachal Pradesh introduced Aadhaar-linked facial authentication (FaceAuth) for its Public Distribution System (PDS), making it the first Indian state to do so. Launched by the Department of Digital Technologies and Governance (DDTG), this initiative aims to overcome verification hurdles and ensure faster, more accurate delivery of subsidised food grain.

- Himachal Pradesh Ministerial advisors and officials gathered in Shimla to unveil the new FaceAuth system, ushering in a major technological shift in ration delivery. Principal Advisor (Innovation, Digital Technologies & Governance) to the Chief Minister, Gokul Butail, highlighted that the move replaces unreliable OTP (One-Time Password) and fingerprint biometric methods, which had often failed due to poor SMS delivery or UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India) mismatches.

- The system, developed by the DDTG, uses a mobile application installed on the fair price shop (FPS) dealer's smartphone. Beneficiary authentication now happens through a mobile camera capturing a live facial scan, compared to their Aadhaar-linked photograph—thus bypassing dependence on internet or fingerprint

scanners during POS (Point of Sale) authentication.

- According to government statements, this FaceAuth mechanism has significantly increased the authentication success rate, reduced verification time, and minimised queues at FPS outlets. Gokul Butail emphasised that these improvements reflect Himachal's ambition to harness digital tools for delivering essential welfare services more equitably.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The rapid rollout across all PDS ration shops in Himachal Pradesh occurred under the leadership of Chief Minister Sukhu, whose administration has prioritised e-governance initiatives aimed at enhancing transparency, efficiency, and social inclusion. The shift demonstrates the state's readiness to adopt modern solutions to longstanding public service challenges.

(ii) India introduced Aadhaar-based biometric authentication in PDS around 2015 to eliminate ghost beneficiaries, but issues like fingerprint mismatches and SMS failures continued. The new FaceAuth system aims to resolve these problems with more reliable and inclusive technology.

(iii) Experts suggest that Himachal's successful deployment could serve as a model for nationwide adoption. The state government has urged central bodies, including the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and UIDAI, to consider scaling FaceAuth to other states. A tech-driven rollout, they argue, will bolster India's goals of ensuring no eligible citizen is denied food support due to authentication failures.

### 3. Bihar Launches 'Mukhya Mantri Pratigya' Scheme to Empower Youth Through Skill Development and Internships.



In July 2025, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar launched the 'Mukhya Mantri Pratigya' scheme, formally known as CM-PRATIGYA (Chief Minister – Promotion of Readiness, Awareness and Technical Insights for Guiding Youth Advancement). This initiative, under the Saat Nischay-2 (Seven Resolves Part 2) agenda, focuses on youth empowerment through internships and skill training from 2025–26 to 2030–31.

- The scheme targets 1 lakh youth across Bihar over a 6-year period, with a pilot batch of 5,000 youth to be supported in the inaugural year 2025–26. The objective is to improve employability, job-readiness, and technical capabilities of the state's youth, with a structured stipend-based engagement in training and internships.

- Eligible candidates aged 18 to 28 years will receive monthly financial support while undergoing skill development or internship training. The internship durations range between 3 to 12 months, depending on the course or training module undertaken by the youth.

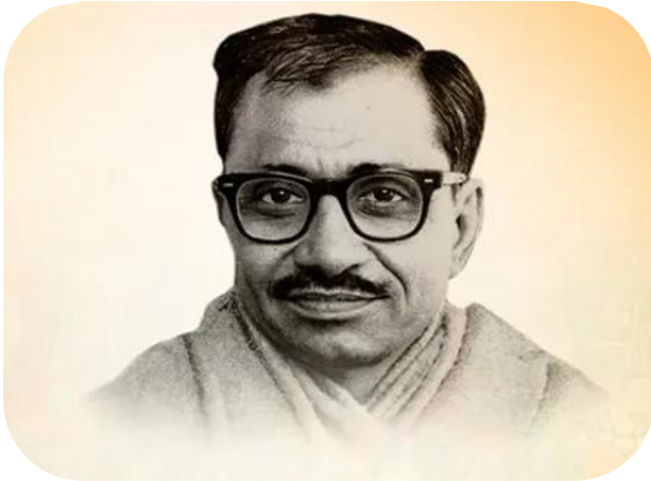
#### Key Points:-

(i) Under the financial assistance model, youth who have passed Class 12 and are engaged in skill training will receive ₹4,000 per month. Those with Industrial Training Institute (ITI) certificates or diploma qualifications will get ₹5,000 monthly, while graduates or postgraduates engaged in internships will be entitled to ₹6,000 per month.

(ii) To promote local employment, youths interning within their home districts will be eligible for an additional ₹2,000 per month, while those undertaking internships outside their districts will receive ₹5,000 extra per month, making the scheme more inclusive and mobility-friendly.

(iii) The Bihar Cabinet also approved other cultural and educational support schemes such as Mukhya Mantri Kalakar Pension Yojana (₹3,000/month for traditional artists with over 10 years' experience), Mukhya Mantri Guru-Shishya Parampara Yojana, and the Mukhya Mantri Chikitsa Sahayata Kosh, which funds medical emergencies in Panchayati Raj Institutions.

### 4. Rajasthan CM Launches 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Garibi Mukht Gaon Yojana' to Eradicate Rural Poverty.



On July 2, 2025, Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma announced the launch of the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Garibi Mukh Gaon Yojana, a flagship rural poverty-alleviation program targeting 5,000 villages in the first phase with a corpus of ₹1,300 crore, aiming to uplift 30,631 below-poverty-line (BPL) families.

- The new scheme allocates ₹21,000 cash incentives to each family that successfully moves above the poverty line through self-effort. It also includes direct benefit components like up to ₹1 lakh for self-employment, ₹15,000 working capital for women's self-help groups, and additional support for financial inclusion and livelihood initiatives.

- A comprehensive survey of 30,631 BPL households has already been completed across 5,002 villages. The government has verified 17,891 out of 22,400 families for direct benefit transfer (DBT) and issued Atmanirbhar Parivar Cards to facilitate ongoing support.

#### Key Points:-

(i) To ensure transparency and performance, district-level rankings are introduced: top-performing districts will receive ₹50 lakh, ₹35 lakh, and ₹25 lakh in quarterly awards.

Villages will be supported through online Poverty-Free Village Action Plans, aligning with other state welfare schemes.

(ii) This initiative complements the ongoing Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Antyodaya Sambal Pakhwada campaign, which began on June 24, 2025, focusing on last-mile delivery of welfare—including land rights, NFSA grievance redressal, Swamitva deeds, soil health cards, and Aadhaar updates—to ensure poverty-free outcomes.

(iii) CM Sharma has mapped a larger vision, aiming to make 15,000 villages poverty-free by March 2027, with a second phase to cover an additional 10,000 villages. The scheme is part of a wider rural development strategy, including PMAY-G housing, smart city expansion, and creating 26,000 government jobs.

## INTERNATIONAL

### 1. Elon Musk Launches 'America Party' to Shake Up US Political Landscape.



On July 5, 2025, billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk announced the formation of the America Party via his social media platform X, positioning it as a fiscally conservative, tech-centric centrist alternative to the traditional Democratic and Republican parties.

in response to growing frustration over US political spending.

- Since launching the America Party, Musk has outlined a targeted strategy that focuses on flipping 2–3 key Senate seats and 8–10 House districts, leveraging razor-thin majorities to influence federal legislation—especially in areas like deficit reduction and bureaucratic efficiency.
- Musk’s announcement followed a poll conducted on July 4, where his audience on X supported the formation of a new party by a 2-to-1 margin (approximately 65% Yes vs 35% No), which Musk cited as a mandate to “give you back your freedom”.
- Ideologically, the America Party is described as fiscally conservative, pro-technology, deregulation-leaning, pro-high-skilled immigration, and supportive of modernizing the military with artificial intelligence, while also promoting pro-natalist policies and free speech.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Despite the hype, Musk has not yet taken official legal steps: no Federal Election Commission (FEC) paperwork has been filed, no state-level ballot access petitions have been submitted, and no leadership team or candidate list exists. Critics point to the daunting hurdles of registering a national party—even the well-funded America Party faces a multi-year, complex state-by-state qualification process.

(ii) The initiative has drawn mixed reactions. Republican Governor Ron DeSantis warned that a third-party effort risks handing power to Democrats by splitting the conservative vote. Meanwhile, Democratic National Committee Chair Ken Martin acknowledged Musk’s financial capacity and public discontent, stating that “both parties must

take it seriously”.

(iii) And the response from former President Donald Trump was harsh—labeling the America Party launch as “ridiculous,” predicting chaos due to third-party history, and accusing Musk of going “off the rails”. White House officials, including the Treasury Secretary, have cautioned Musk to stay out of politics, citing potential financial market and governance impacts.

## 2. Jennifer Geerlings-Simons Sworn in as Suriname’s First Woman President Amid Economic Crossroads.



On July 6, 2025, Suriname’s National Assembly elected Jennifer Geerlings-Simons—a 71-year-old physician and long-time parliamentarian—as the nation’s first female president. Representing the National Democratic Party (NDP), her tenure—set to begin on July 16—signals a historic shift during a time of mounting economic challenges and the promise of an oil boom.

- Dr. Geerlings-Simons, who led the NDP to win 18 of 51 legislative seats in the May 25, 2025 parliamentary elections, secured her presidency through an indirect vote requiring a two-thirds



majority. A swift coalition formed with five other parties to meet the 34-seat threshold, ending President Chandrikapersad Santokhi's Progressive Reform Party's near-majority of 17 seats.

- Her election was unanimous, running unopposed in Parliament. Geerlings-Simons, who served as Speaker of the National Assembly (2010–2020) and became NDP leader in July 2024, emphasized her commitment to “use all my knowledge, strength and insight to make our wealth available to all of our people,” pledging focus on youth and underprivileged communities.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Suriname's economy remains fragile: it has undergone IMF-backed debt restructuring and subsidy cuts, leading to public unrest. The country must currently repay around US \$400 million annually before its anticipated oil revenues from the Gran Morgu offshore fields begin flowing in 2028.

(ii) Geerlings-Simons has identified tax reforms—especially in small-scale gold mining—and strengthening public finances as her government's top priorities.

(iii) The discovery of substantial offshore oil reserves—estimated at 760 million barrels, with potential output of 220,000 barrels/day—has positioned Suriname for a possible economic transformation comparable to nearby Guyana's 43% GDP surge after oil production began. Still, experts caution that realizing this potential will require transparent governance and equitable distribution of oil wealth, something Geerlings-Simons aims to prioritize.

## BANKING & FINANCE

**1. LIC Launches Two New Non-Linked Plans: Nav Jeevan Shree & Nav Jeevan Shree Single Premium with Focus on Youth.**



In July 2025, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launched two new individual insurance products—Nav Jeevan Shree (Plan 912) and Nav Jeevan Shree Single Premium (Plan 911). Aimed at building savings and offering protection, these plans were launched under the leadership of LIC MD & CEO Sat Pal Bhanoo in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- LIC's newly introduced products are classified as non-participating, non-linked individual plans, created to offer a combination of savings accumulation and life insurance. The initiative is part of LIC's broader objective to attract the younger generation and provide flexible financial protection products suited to individuals at various life stages.

- The Nav Jeevan Shree (Plan 912) is designed to help policyholders fulfil long-term goals such as education, family responsibilities, and security. It is a regular premium plan with coverage and maturity benefits. Meanwhile, the Nav Jeevan Shree Single Premium (Plan 911) is a one-time

payment policy designed for individuals who prefer to build a financial corpus and secure life coverage without recurring payments.

- As part of this launch, LIC has also introduced a new optional feature—Critical Illness Health Rider, a non-linked health rider that can be integrated with eligible plans. It offers lump-sum financial assistance upon diagnosis of specified critical illnesses, enhancing the protection aspect of the new insurance offerings.

#### Key Points:-

- For both plans, the minimum age at entry is 30 days (completed) and the maximum age is 60 years. The minimum age at maturity is 18 years (completed), and the maximum permissible maturity age is 75 years, ensuring that the plans cater to both young entrants and middle-aged policyholders.
- The launch was formally overseen by Sat Pal Bhanoo, the current Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) (In-Charge) of LIC. The event emphasized LIC's ongoing transformation to address the dynamic needs of India's youth and working-class population through innovative insurance products.
- The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, remains India's largest public sector life insurance company, continuously evolving its offerings to balance financial protection, corpus building, and inclusive coverage options for all demographics.

## 2. ₹2,000 Notes Worth ₹6,099 Crore Still in Circulation as per RBI June 2025 Report.



As per the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) latest data released on June 30, 2025, ₹2,000 denomination notes worth ₹6,099 crore are still circulating in the economy. This remaining amount accounts for just 1.71% of the total value of ₹2,000 notes that were in circulation when the RBI announced their withdrawal on May 19, 2023.

- The RBI also confirmed that 98.29% of the total ₹2,000 notes issued—valued at around ₹3.56 lakh crore—have already been returned by the public through banks and other official channels.
- Despite their withdrawal on May 19, 2023, these notes remain legal tender. The RBI allowed deposit or exchange at bank branches until October 7, 2023, and continues to accept them at its 19 Issue Offices.
- To improve accessibility, people may also mail ₹2,000 notes via India Post to RBI offices, with amounts credited directly to bank accounts. This service targets individuals in remote or rural areas.

#### Key Points:-

- The collapse in circulation—from ₹3.56 lakh crore to ₹6,099 crore—reflects the RBI's strategy to phase out high-denomination currency, enhance currency



management, and discourage unproductive stockpiling.

(ii) Beyond the phase-out of ₹2,000 notes, the RBI announced in its Annual Report 2024–25 that it will no longer print ₹2, ₹5, or ₹2,000 banknotes, signalling a major shift in India's currency strategy toward lower denominations, digital alternatives, and eco-friendly practices, such as recycling old notes.

### 3. Mashreq Becomes First UAE Bank to Secure In-Principle Approval for Branch in GIFT City.



On July 2, 2025, UAE-based Mashreq Bank received in-principle approval from India's International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to establish its first International Financial Services Centre Banking Unit (IBU) in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)—marking the first time a UAE bank has entered this global finance hub.

- Mashreq's IBU is expected to launch by Q4 2025, subject to final regulatory clearances. The bank has already obtained approvals from the UAE Central Bank and Special Economic Zone (SEZ) authorities, and is now waiting on the full license from IFSCA.

- The new branch will offer foreign currency loans, trade finance, and treasury and risk management products. The strategic advantage of GIFT City's aligned time zone with the UAE enables faster, more convenient cross-border services. Early operations will also benefit from Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) exemptions, allowing competitive structuring of financial products.

- By establishing this presence, Mashreq reinforces India–UAE financial collaboration. Its Group CEO Ahmed Abdelaal highlighted the move as a part of the bank's strategy to “foster innovation, investment and facilitate trade between India and Gulf corridors”.

#### Key Points:-

(i) GIFT City has seen growing global interest, with Mashreq joining other foreign banks like Natixis and First Abu Dhabi Bank to strengthen the ecosystem. As of June 2025, there are 31 IBUs operating in GIFT City—including 14 foreign banks—reflecting India's expanding financial hub.

(ii) This expansion positions Mashreq to serve an increasing flow of capital between India and the UAE, tapping into the India–UAE CEPA framework, rising bilateral investment, and India's projected 7% GDP growth in 2025.

## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

**1. Tracxn Report: India Ranks 3rd Globally in FinTech Startup Funding with \$889 Million in H1 2025.**



According to Tracxn's Semi-Annual India FinTech Report H1 2025, India's FinTech sector raised \$889 million in the first half of 2025, securing the 3rd highest global ranking in startup funding—trailing only the United States and the United Kingdom, despite an overall global slowdown.

- India's FinTech funding dropped by 26% from the record \$1.2 billion raised in H2 2024 and by 5% year-on-year from \$936 million in H1 2024, demonstrating a softening of investment climate. Nevertheless, the nation's position among the top three FinTech ecosystems globally remains undiminished.

- Early-stage funding surged to \$361 million, up 10% from H2 2024's \$329 million and 9% from H1 2024's \$333 million, indicating growing investor confidence in scalable, innovation-driven startups. In contrast, seed-stage funding dipped to \$91.2 million, falling 27% from the previous half and 33% year-over-year.

#### Key Points:-

(i) FinTech mergers & acquisitions picked up pace, with 16 deals in H1 2025—a 45% increase over H1 2024's 11 deals. Notable transactions included Groww's acquisition of Fisdom for \$150 million, and InCred Money's purchase of Stocko for \$35 million,

underscoring consolidation in the industry.

(ii) Geographically, Bengaluru dominated FinTech investment, attracting 55% of the total funds, followed by Mumbai with 14%, highlighting regional investment hubs in India.

(iii) Top investors during H1 2025 included Peak XV Partners, AngelList, and LetsVenture. At the early-stage level, Accel, Bessemer Venture Partners, and Peak XV led the rounds, while Blume Ventures shined at the seed level. Late-stage investments featured major participation from SoftBank Vision Fund, Lathe Investment, and Sofina.

## APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

**1. Sukanya Sonowal Appointed as Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassador from India.**



On July 5, 2025, Sukanya Sonowal, a final-year B.Tech student in Biosciences & Bioengineering at IIT Guwahati, was selected for the 2025–2027 term as Lead – Communications & Public Relations on the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network (CYPAN), representing 56 member nations.

- IIT Guwahati's 23-year-old from Lakhimpur district, Assam, emerged from a three-stage selection process involving initial application, interviews, and leadership assessments. Her appointment underscores her dedication to peacebuilding, youth empowerment, and international communication.

- This appointment is a proud moment for both Assam and IIT Guwahati, reflecting Indian youth's readiness to contribute to global peace initiatives. As communications lead, Sukanya is well-placed to champion youth-led diplomacy and amplify underrepresented voices across the Commonwealth.

#### Key Points:-

(i) In her role, Sukanya will steer the network's communication strategies, amplify youth efforts to counter violent extremism, and foster dialogue, respect, and intercultural understanding across the Commonwealth's 56 member countries.

(ii) A proven leader, Sukanya co-founded STEMvibe – STEM for Viksit Bharat Empowerment, reaching over 3,000 students nationwide, and launched The Integral Cup, a maths competition engaging 2,500+ undergraduates.

(iii) She also played a significant role in Techniche, IITG's techno-management fest, managing media and branding. Additionally, her collaborations with global firms like Optiver, Qube Research & Technologies, and Jane Street added professional depth to her candidacy.

## 2. Priyanka Kakkar Appointed Co-President of BRICS CCI Women's Wing for 2025–27 Term.



On July 4, 2025, Aam Aadmi Party's national spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar was officially appointed Co-President (Co-Chair) of the Women's Wing within the BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BRICS CCI), marking her two-year term spanning FY 2025–2027, and signalling AAP's rising global influence.

- BRICS CCI is a non-profit economic forum uniting business leaders from BRICS+ nations—Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, UAE, and Indonesia—to drive youth entrepreneurship, technological partnerships, and women's empowerment. Over the past decade, BRICS CCI has expanded its membership, opened new country chapters, and forged key global alliances.

- The appointment letter emphasised Priyanka Kakkar's leadership acumen, passion for inclusivity, and commitment to women's development, stating she is "an ideal fit for this pivotal role." Her duties will include shaping strategic direction, mentoring emerging female business leaders, and driving gender-equity initiatives across participating countries.

#### Key Points:-

(i) AAP's national spokesperson role and her expertise in media and public engagement contributed to BRICS CCI's decision. This



marks the first time a key AAP leader has received such a senior position in a major multilateral economic platform, reflecting the party's expanding global footprint.

(ii) The term "2025–2027" refers to BRICS CCI's financial years, during which Kakkar will join fellow co-presidents to organise forums, leadership summits, capacity-building workshops, and networking events aimed at bolstering women-led startups, inclusive industrial opportunities, and cross-border collaborations.

(iii) Her elevation is expected to amplify India's voice on gender and economic platforms across BRICS nations. Experts believe her leadership may unlock increased participation of women entrepreneurs from India in global trade dialogues and signal a strategic win for both AAP and BRICS India's delegation

### 3. Eternal Appoints Aditya Mangla as CEO of Food Ordering & Delivery Business.



On July 6, 2025, Eternal Limited (earlier known as Zomato) appointed Aditya Mangla as the new CEO of its food delivery business. He replaces Rakesh Ranjan, who held the position for the past two years. Aditya Mangla will serve a two-year term in this role.

● Aditya Mangla, who joined Eternal in March 2021, has previously held key roles such as Head of Product, Head of Supply, and Head of Customer Experience for the food delivery vertical. Under his leadership, he streamlined restaurant partnerships and enhanced user satisfaction across the platform.

● The board of directors approved Mangla's appointment on July 6, 2025, and the change was communicated through an official regulatory filing to stock exchanges. Upon taking office, Rakesh Ranjan ceased being part of the Senior Management Personnel group.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Eternal founder and CEO Deepinder Goyal praised Mangla's leadership qualities—highlighting his "humility, systems thinking, decisiveness, and willingness to challenge" as essential traits for navigating the next growth phase.

(ii) Before joining Eternal, Mangla had leadership roles in product, P&L, and marketing across startups and major firms like HCL Technologies and Bloomberg, and holds credentials including an MBA from ISB, a Master's in Information Networking from CMU, and an IT degree from NSIT.

(iii) This leadership change aligns with Eternal's broader strategy to refocus on its core food delivery business amid rapid growth; the company's Q4 FY25 results showed a 64% year-on-year revenue surge to ₹5,833 crore, with its food delivery segment contributing 35% of total operating income.

## SPORTS

1. India Clinches Record 11 Medals at World Boxing Cup 2025, Including Three Golds.



At the World Boxing Cup 2025 held in Astana, Kazakhstan (June 30–July 7), India's boxing squad achieved its best-ever performance by securing 11 medals—comprising 3 gold, 5 silver, and 3 bronze medals—powered largely by standout performances in the women's categories.

- India opened the gold tally when Sakshi, the 24-year-old two-time Youth World Champion, dominated the women's 54 kg final with a unanimous 5-0 verdict over America's Yosline Perez. Her striking combination and ring control set the tone for the afternoon.

- Gold wins continued as Jaismine Lamboria, a Paris 2024 Olympian, triumphed in the 57 kg women's final—beating Brazil's Jucielen Romeu 4-1 —while Nupur claimed the heavyweight women's (+80 kg) gold with a commanding 5-0 victory over Kazakhstan's Yeldana Talipova.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Indian boxers added to their medal tally at the World Boxing Cup 2025 by securing a total of five silver medals. Meenakshi put up a strong performance in the 48 kg weight category but narrowly lost to Kazakhstan's Nazym Kyzaibay in a closely contested 3–2 bout, settling for silver. Similarly, Jugnoo (85 kg), Pooja Rani (80 kg), Hitesh Gulia (70 kg), and Abhinash Jamwal (65 kg) all

advanced to the finals in their respective weight classes. Despite giving tough competition to experienced and top-ranked international opponents, they missed out on the gold and finished with silver medals. Their performances remain a proud achievement for India, reflecting the country's rising strength and technical excellence in global boxing.

(ii) India's bronze medal tally included Sanju (60 kg), Nikhil Dubey (75 kg), and Narender Berwal (+90 kg), who all reached the semifinals but fell short to clinch third place.

(iii) This triumphant haul marked a significant improvement over India's earlier leg in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, where they had won six medals (including one gold and one silver). With 400+ boxers from 31 nations, the Astana leg remains India's most successful international outing in the Cup's debut year.

## AWARDS

**1. PM Modi Presented 'Key to the City of Buenos Aires' During Historic Argentina Visit.**



During a two-day bilateral visit to Buenos Aires on July 5–6, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded the prestigious Key to the City of Buenos Aires by Jorge

Macri, Head of the City Government, in recognition of his efforts to strengthen India–Argentina ties.

- PM Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister in 57 years to undertake a standalone bilateral visit to Argentina. The ceremony saw enthusiastic support from the Indian diaspora, who gathered outside the Alvear Palace Hotel, waving flags, singing patriotic songs, and performing cultural dances, highlighting the strong people-to-people linkages.

- Aside from receiving the Key, PM Modi paid homage to key historical figures—laying wreaths at the memorials of General José de San Martín, Argentina’s liberator, and offering tributes to statues of Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore, symbols of shared values between both nations.

#### Key Points:-

(i) During talks with President Javier Milei, Modi and Milei committed to expanding cooperation in agriculture, defence, energy, pharmaceuticals, and lithium mining. Argentina is expected to support India’s energy transition by providing lithium and shale gas, while India seeks easier access for its pharmaceuticals.

(ii) PM Modi expressed gratitude for this honour, tweeting: “Honoured to receive the Key to the City of Buenos Aires from Mr. Jorge Macri, Chief of the City Government of Buenos Aires”. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, this key symbolises friendship and trust between the two cities.

(iii) This visit is part of PM Modi’s broader five-country tour, which includes Trinidad and Tobago (where he received the Order of the Republic), Brazil (for the BRICS Summit), and Namibia—highlighting India’s

growing engagement with the Global South.

## SUMMITS & CONFERENCE / COMMITTEES & MEETINGS

### 1. PM Modi Attends 17th BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro and Pushes Global South Voice and Multilateral Reforms.



On July 6–7, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 17th BRICS Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where he strongly advocated for reforming global institutions, promoting climate justice, responsible use of AI, and strengthening the voice of the Global South in international forums.

- Prime Minister Modi attended the opening plenary session on the theme “Reform of Global Governance and Peace and Security”, where he called for structural changes in major multilateral institutions such as the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank (WB). He also raised concerns about global terrorism, referring to the April 2025 Pahalagam attack as an example of why counter-terrorism must be a shared priority.

- In the session on Multilateral, Economic-Financial Affairs and AI, PM Modi outlined four



key proposals: strengthening the New Development Bank (NDB) to meet the long-term financing needs of BRICS countries; creating a BRICS Science, Technology & Research Repository; enhancing cooperation on critical mineral supply chains; and ensuring responsible AI development that balances innovation and ethics.

### Key Points:-

- (i) PM Modi welcomed Indonesia as a new full member of BRICS, with its President Prabowo Subianto attending for the first time in that capacity. He also supported Brazil's proposal to launch the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF) to fund rainforest conservation efforts. Additionally, PM Modi called for concrete commitments from developed nations toward climate finance and a just energy transition.
- (ii) On the sidelines of the summit, PM Modi held bilateral meetings with Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel, and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. The discussions covered areas such as trade, defence, pharmaceuticals, clean energy, and AI collaboration, and included support for India's bid to host COP33 (33rd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – UNFCCC) in the year 2028.
- (iii) After the BRICS Summit, PM Modi travelled to Brasília, where he was given a ceremonial welcome, including a 114-horse cavalry salute and traditional Samba-Reggae performances. This visit to Brazil is part of his broader five-nation diplomatic tour, which also includes visits to Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, Namibia, and Indonesia, reinforcing India's leadership

within the Global South.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### 1. India Inaugurates Phenome India 'National Biobank' to Propel Personalized Healthcare and Genomic Research.



On July 6, 2025, Union Minister for Science & Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh launched India's first National Biobank—a centralised genomic and health database—at CSIR-IGIB in New Delhi. This initiative under the Phenome India Project aims to revolutionize healthcare by capturing diverse population data for precision medicine.

- The National Biobank, built by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB), will gather comprehensive genomic, lifestyle, and clinical data from 10,000 Indian participants across different geographic, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds, serving as the backbone for a long-term cohort study.
- Inspired by the UK Biobank but tailored to India's vast diversity, the Biobank will enable AI-powered diagnostics, gene-guided therapies, and early disease detection. It is expected to accelerate research on diabetes, cancer,

cardiovascular diseases, rare genetic disorders, and antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

### Key Points:-

(i) During the launch, Dr. Singh emphasized India's strengths in quantum technologies, CRISPR-based genome editing, and its pioneering work in AMR. He noted the importance of addressing Indian-specific health challenges, such as central obesity, by leveraging population-specific data.

(ii) Leaders from CSIR, including DG Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, described the Biobank as a "baby step" toward India becoming a global leader in personalised healthcare infrastructure. Director Dr. Souvik Maiti highlighted IGIB's legacy—decoding the Indian genome, COVID-19 sequencing, developing 300+ rare disease diagnostics, and ongoing CRISPR therapies for conditions like sickle-cell anemia.

clean energy transition, reflecting the country's policy focus on energy diversification and climate goals.

- In 2024, India's biofuel consumption reached 77,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day (kboe/d), placing it behind only the United States, Brazil, and Indonesia in global rankings.

- According to the International Energy Agency (IEA) and Rystad Energy, global biofuel demand stood at 2.2 million barrels/day, and India alone accounted for a significant share of the growth in Asia-Pacific, which saw the highest regional increase.

- Despite the surge in consumption, India's biofuel production was only 70,000 barrels/day, whereas China produced around 106,000 barrels/day. This means India continues to rely partly on imports or existing stock to meet its domestic demand, underlining the gap between usage and domestic output. Still, production in India grew by 27% over the previous year, showing steady progress.

### Key Points:-

(i) Over the past decade (2014–2024), India's biofuel landscape has transformed significantly. Biofuel consumption has grown at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 31.8%, and production at 30.4%, reflecting consistent policy support and private sector participation. India's increased focus on clean energy and blending mandates has been a key driver behind this growth.

(ii) The Indian government has been implementing several initiatives, including the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme, targeting 20% blending by 2025-26. Feedstock sources have diversified to include sugarcane, maize,

## 2. India Becomes 4th Largest Biofuel Consumer Globally in 2024, Surpassing China.



India has officially become the fourth-largest consumer of biofuels in the world in 2024, overtaking China for the first time. With a 40% year-on-year increase in consumption, India is now a major player in the global

surplus rice, jatropha, and compressed biogas. Notably, in 2025, the government redirected 5.2 million tonnes of surplus rice toward ethanol production, and India also became a net corn importer, bringing in nearly 1 million tonnes of maize in 2024 to support ethanol blending.

(iii) India's growing role in the global bioenergy sector aligns with its climate targets, including achieving 50% of power capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030, as per its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. Experts believe that with the removal of policy bottlenecks and support for second-generation (2G) biofuels, India could triple its biofuel usage by 2030, making it a leading force in global energy sustainability.



**Static GK**

<b>International Copper Association (ICA)</b>	President and CEO : Juan Ignacio Díaz	Headquarters : Washington, D.C., USA
<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>	Chief minister: Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu	Governor: Shiv Pratap Shukla
<b>Suriname</b>	Capital: Paramaribo	Official language: Dutch
<b>Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)</b>	CEO & MD (In-Charge) : Sat Pal Bhanoo	Headquarter : Mumbai
<b>Tracxn Technologies</b>	Chairperson and Managing Director (CMD): Neha Singh	Headquarters : Bengaluru, Karnataka
<b>Bihar</b>	Chief minister: Nitish Kumar	Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan
<b>Mashreq Bank</b>	CEO: Ahmed Abdelaal	Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates
<b>Rajasthan</b>	Chief minister: Bhajan Lal Sharma	Governor: Haribhau Bagade