

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

>> 11 JULY 2025

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Punjab Tops PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024, Leading National Learning Outcome Rankings.



In early July 2025, Punjab emerged as the leading state nationwide in the PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024 report, showcasing outstanding student performance across foundational, preparatory, and middle stages of schooling. This comes as part of India's largest-ever competency-based learning assessment under the National Education Policy 2020.

- Punjab achieved a remarkable score of 80 in Class 3 assessments, surpassing Himachal Pradesh (74) and Kerala (73), and secured the top position nationally. For Class 6, Punjab joined Kerala at the top with 67 marks, while in Class 9, it led once again with 57 marks—the highest score across all states and UTs.

- The PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan is a robust, system-level survey conducted by NCERT in December 2024, encompassing over 21 lakh students from Grades 3, 6, and 9 across 74,229 schools in 781 districts nationwide. It marked a shift from previous NAS assessments by aligning with NEP 2020's focus on stage-wise foundational learning.

Key Points:-

(i) Punjab's education minister Harjot Singh Bains publicly credited this success to sustained quality education reforms by the Mann-led state government, including improved teacher training, resource allocation, and student mentoring. The state also saw 845 government school students qualify NEET and 265 clear JEE Main, indicating broader academic excellence.

(ii) Despite Punjab's exemplary results, the PARAKH report signals caution: it noted a decline in average performance from Class 3 to Class 9 across India, with only a 60 percent average in early grades dropping to 37 percent by Class 9 in mathematics. Persistent gaps were also noted among students from SC/ST communities and those in state-run schools.

(iii) Going forward, PARAKH recommends data-driven, district-level interventions, emphasizing the need for strengthening foundational learning via NIPUN Bharat, targeted support for lagging student groups, and localized educational planning. Punjab's leading performance is expected to serve as a blueprint for fellow states pursuing holistic learning outcomes.

2. Piyush Goyal says India Achieves 4,000% Growth in Solar Power Over a Decade.



Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal announced at the 11th India Energy Storage Week (IESW) in July 2025 that India's installed solar capacity has grown by a remarkable 4,000% over the past decade, now contributing to a 227 GW total renewable energy portfolio, making India a forerunner in meeting its Paris Agreement commitments.

- India's solar photovoltaic (PV) manufacturing has seen a 38-fold increase in module capacity and a 21-fold rise in cell production over ten years. This manufacturing surge, backed by initiatives like the PM Surya Ghar and PM KUSUM schemes, now supports the nation's drive toward energy self-sufficiency.
- Piyush Goyal emphasized India is likely the first G20 nation to fulfill its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), underlining the critical role of solar adoption. He also cited Palli village in J&K as the country's first carbon-neutral panchayat powered entirely by solar energy.

Key Points:-

- India's total renewable capacity now stands at 227 GW. However, Goyal stressed that storage solutions—ranging from batteries and pumped hydro to geothermal

and nuclear—must be scaled rapidly to achieve 24x7 clean energy supply and meet the 500 GW by 2030 target.

(ii) The Union Cabinet recently sanctioned a ₹1 lakh crore (USD ~12 bn) R&D Innovation Fund for advanced battery technologies like next-gen chemistries, solid-state systems, and recycling strategies. Goyal called for supply chain resilience—from raw materials to recycling—to cement India's leadership in clean energy.

(iii) To escalate adoption of clean power and electric mobility, Goyal urged collaboration for charging infrastructure and battery swapping networks. He outlined a four-pronged strategy: innovation, infrastructure development, secure supply chains, and value chain integration—essential to realizing India's clean energy ambitions.

3. Union Minister G Kishan Reddy Launches ₹32,000 Crore 'Aspirational DMF Programme' for Mining-Affected Districts.



On July 9, 2025, Union Minister of Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy unveiled the Aspirational DMF Programme at the National DMF Workshop in New Delhi. The initiative aims to strategically channel District Mineral Foundation (DMF) funds toward India's

aspirational districts and blocks, aligning with central flagship schemes to enhance regional development.

- The Minister highlighted that over ₹32,000 crore is currently available in DMF accounts designated for aspirational districts. The scheme is designed to ensure 100% saturation across all health, nutrition, education, agriculture, and rural infrastructure projects in designated regions, with district collectors tasked to prepare action plans and implement them in a time-bound manner.

- G Kishan Reddy emphasized that since its inception in 2015, DMF funds have accumulated more than ₹1 lakh crore, with nearly ₹90,000 crore already deployed for various development projects. He stressed the importance of transparency, project tracking, and ensuring that funds directly benefit mining-affected communities.

Key Points:-

(i) The programme encourages convergence between DMF-funded projects and major central schemes like Jal Jeevan Mission, Ayushman Bharat, and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, under the umbrella of the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY). This integrated approach aligns district-level mineral welfare with India's broader socio-economic goals.

(ii) Addressing implementation gaps, Reddy urged state governments to avoid transferring DMF resources out of mining-affected districts and to complete pending projects, particularly the mine-closure work at 143 decommissioned coal mines. He emphasized district collectors' responsibility for execution and accountability.

(iii) The workshop, held at the Scope

Convention Centre, saw participation from 62 district collectors, State DMF nodal officers, and senior officials from ministries. A companion exhibition showcased Self-Help Group products supported by DMF, aiming to promote livelihood opportunities in affected areas.

4. NESTS and UNICEF Launch 'TALASH' to Empower Tribal Youth Through EMRS.



On July 10, 2025, the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in collaboration with UNICEF India, launched TALASH—an innovative digital initiative named the Tribal Aptitude, Life Skills and Self-esteem Hub.

- The programme aims to transform the educational experience of tribal students by fostering holistic development at Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) across India.

- TALASH has been designed as a comprehensive platform for self-discovery, skill development, and career guidance tailored specifically for tribal youth. By combining digital tools with life-skills modules, it seeks to strengthen self-awareness, boost self-esteem,

and enable informed decision-making among students enrolled in EMRSs.

- The scope of TALASH is vast: it is expected to benefit over 138,000 students studying in EMRSs across 28 states and 8 Union Territories, creating a truly national movement in inclusive education. During the launch, it was announced that the programme will roll out in a phased manner, with initial teacher training in 75 schools already completed.

Key Points:-

- (i) At present, 189 teachers from 75 EMRSs have been trained and are conducting TALASH sessions in their respective schools. By the end of 2025, the initiative aims to be operational across all EMRSs, offering regular digital guidance and mentoring to students.
- (ii) The initiative aligns strongly with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, emphasizing holistic development beyond academics. Ajeet Kumar Srivastava, NESTS Commissioner, stated that TALASH reflects a deep commitment to enabling tribal youth to "realize their full potential."
- (iii) This partnership also leverages technology and evidence-based tools to reach remote and underserved areas, ensuring tribal students receive equal access to quality education and life-skills training. Regular feedback and evaluation mechanisms will allow the platform to be refined and adapted to students' evolving needs.

5. Uttarakhand CM Launches 'Operation Kalanemi' to Tackle Fake Saints Exploiting Devotees During Kanwar Yatra.



In July 2025, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami initiated Operation Kalanemi, a statewide campaign aimed at rooting out impostors posing as saints or seers who exploit religious sentiments to defraud devotees, particularly during the Kanwar Yatra season. The operation underscores the government's commitment to safeguarding the sanctity of "Devbhoomi" (Land of the Gods).

- The operation's name is a reference to the demon Kalanemi from Hindu mythology, who deceptively cloaked himself as a holy man to mislead Lord Hanuman. Dhami likened today's fraudulent religious figures to modern-day Kalanemis and directed law enforcement agencies to act swiftly against individuals misusing religious identities for criminal activities.
- On the first day of the drive, police across Uttarakhand arrested 23–25 individuals masquerading as sadhus—one among them a 26-year-old Bangladeshi national—in towns like Dehradun and Haridwar. The accused were booked under Section 170 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and illegal migrants faced charges under the Foreigners Act.
- Law enforcement mobilized plain-clothes officers at pilgrimage hubs, religious venues, and

kadis (campsites for pilgrims), scrutinizing credentials and verifying documents to identify fake spiritual practitioners. Genuine saints welcomed the move, stating that it helped to restore trust and preserve the image of genuine spiritual traditions.

Key Points:-

- (i) The crackdown comes just before the Kanwar Yatra, which draws millions of pilgrims annually to Uttarakhand. With increased vigilance and police deployment, CM Dharami emphasized that no exception would be made based on religious identity, underlining a universal approach to maintaining law and order.
- (ii) Central to the operation's approach is strong support from local communities and advisories urging citizens to report suspicious figures. Officials highlighted that impunity for fake saints contributes to financial exploitation and moral harm, especially among vulnerable groups like women and the elderly.
- (iii) Uttarakhand police have pledged to continue Operation Kalanemi beyond the Yatra season. In Haridwar alone, nearly 50 suspects have been detained as of July 12, with rigorous documentation and background verification underway to prevent repeat offenses.

6. H.D. Kumaraswamy Inaugurates MSTC's New Office in New Delhi and Launches 'Upkaran' E-Portal to Digitize Equipment Trade.



In July 2025, Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, who heads the Ministry of Steel (MoS) and Ministry of Heavy Industries (MoHI), inaugurated the new office of MSTC Limited at Narojinagar, World Trade Center (WTC), New Delhi. The event also witnessed the launch of the 'Upkaran' e-portal, a major digital initiative aimed at transforming equipment trade and inventory management for public and private sector entities.

- The newly inaugurated MSTC office is a strategic move to strengthen the organization's physical presence in the capital. The central location will facilitate MSTC's coordination with key ministries, public sector units (PSUs), and national institutions, thereby enhancing policy alignment and operational efficiency.
- MSTC Limited is a key PSU under the Ministry of Steel, known for its e-commerce and auction services in industrial and government sectors.
- This modern office setup is expected to support MSTC's participation in national platforms for resource procurement and management, especially in sectors like metals, heavy industries, and surplus inventory trading. The infrastructure is tailored to improve speed and transparency in its core operations, both online and offline.

Key Points:-

(i) One of the major highlights of the event was the launch of the 'Upkaran' E-Portal—a next-generation digital marketplace developed by MSTC. The portal has been designed as a platform to connect industries, MSMEs (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises), and government buyers, enabling transparent and competitive transactions for machinery and equipment.

(ii) The Upkaran platform is an end-to-end digital solution for equipment lifecycle management. It includes features like listing, transfer, resale, and disposal of surplus or obsolete machinery and industrial assets. It will enable departments, PSUs, and institutions to handle equipment transactions seamlessly, improving accountability and audit trails.

(iii) This launch reflects MSTC's commitment to digital transformation, innovation, and ease of doing business. By promoting open and efficient machinery trade, the Upkaran portal will help boost MSMEs, reduce wasteful spending, and improve transparency in government equipment procurement and disposal processes across India.



In July 2025, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW), Government of India, added seven new agricultural products to the Electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform. This move aims to boost farmers' income by improving market access, price realization, and trading transparency.

- The newly added farm commodities include sugarcane, Marcha rice, Katarni rice, Jardalu mango, Shahi litchi, Magahi paan, and Banarasi paan. With this inclusion, the total number of commodities available for trading on e-NAM has risen to 238.

- The seven products represent specialty and GI-tagged items from various states. These include aromatic and premium rice from Bihar, GI-tagged mango and litchi from Bihar, and specialty betel leaves from both Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. These additions aim to promote regional produce and improve farmers' market reach across states.

- The Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI), under the MoA&FW, has introduced quality-based tradable parameters and grades for the newly added products. These parameters—like extra class, class 1, and price ranges—will help ensure uniform pricing and transparency.

7. MoA&FW Adds 7 New Agricultural Products to e-NAM Platform, Taking Total to 238.

Key Points:-

(i) Additionally, existing parameters for four previously added commodities—Water chestnut flour, Baby corn, Dragon fruit, and Magahi paan—were revised based on feedback from stakeholders. These updates support better quality grading and standardized pricing across the e-NAM network.

(ii) e-NAM (Electronic National Agriculture Market) is a pan-India digital trading platform launched in 2016 to integrate regional agricultural markets. It promotes real-time price discovery, quality grading, transparent auctions, and digital payment settlements to empower farmers.

(iii) The Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) continues to serve as the nodal agency for implementing the e-NAM platform. It works under the MoA&FW and in coordination with state governments, agricultural scientists, and farmer groups to ensure the platform remains relevant and inclusive.

8. Mumbai's Historic Carnac Bridge Renamed 'Sindoor Bridge' to Honour Operation Sindoor.



In July 2025, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated the newly reconstructed Carnac Bridge in South Mumbai, renaming it “Sindoor Bridge”. This renaming marks a symbolic departure from colonial-era legacies and pays tribute to India’s successful Operation Sindoor, which targeted terrorist infrastructure across the border in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

- **Originally named after James Rivett-Carnac, a former British Governor of Bombay (1839–1841), the colonial-era bridge had been associated with historical injustices toward Indian rulers.**

- **The renaming aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of eliminating colonial symbols from public spaces, a shift championed by Speaker Rahul Narwekar and ratified by the BMC.**

Key Points:-

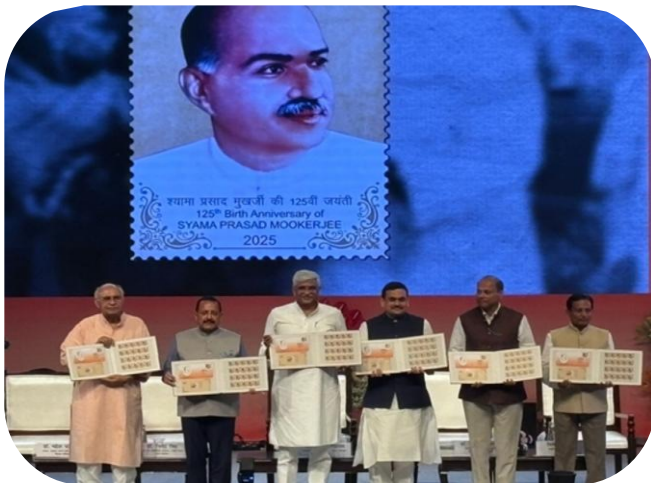
(i) The new name honors Operation Sindoor, a precise military operation conducted by Indian armed forces in May 2025. CM Fadnavis described it as a “befitting reply” to Pakistan after the Pahalgam attack. The renaming aims to immortalize national bravery and defence capabilities in India’s urban infrastructure.

(ii) The original 150-year-old bridge had been dismantled in August 2022 after being deemed unsafe. Rebuilt by the BMC with a design approved by Central Railway, the new 342-meter Sindoor Bridge, including a 70-meter rail-over segment, features four lanes and modern steel girders. It connects key areas like CST, Masjid Bunder, Crawford Market, and Mohammad Ali Road—reducing travel time by nearly 30 minutes.

(iii) Completed in June 2025, the bridge's

hidden engineering operations—like girder launches in October 2024 and January 2025—were carried out over live railway lines. It received necessary certifications, including load testing, safety, and a Central Railway No-Objection Certificate, before opening to vehicular traffic on July 10 at 3 PM.

9. DoP Releases ₹125 Coin & ₹5 Stamp to Commemorate 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee.



On July 9, 2025, the Department of Posts (DoP), under the Ministry of Communications, released a special ₹125 commemorative coin and a ₹5 postage stamp to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee. The ceremonial launch took place at the Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi, honouring Dr. Mookerjee's legacy in Indian politics and education.

- The launch event was attended by Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, who heads the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology (MoS&TI). Their presence highlighted the

national importance of Dr. Mookerjee's contribution to Indian unity and ideology.

- The event also marked the beginning of a two-year-long national commemoration campaign of Dr. Mookerjee's contributions, which will run from July 6, 2025, to July 6, 2027. Various awareness programmes and exhibitions are expected to be organized during this period.

- The ₹125 commemorative coin is crafted with 99.9% pure silver, weighs 40 grams, and measures 44 mm in diameter. Its obverse side features the Lion Capital of Ashoka along with the inscription "Satyameva Jayate" and bilingual denomination markings, while the reverse side showcases a portrait of Dr. Mookerjee with the years "1901–2026" to signify his 125th birth year.

Key Points:-

(i) This is the second commemorative coin issued in Dr. Mookerjee's honour. The first was released in April 2002 for his birth centenary and came in ₹100, ₹50, ₹10, and ₹2 denominations. These coins were widely circulated and collected for their historic significance.

(ii) The ₹5 postage stamp, released alongside the coin, was designed by Nenu Gupta and includes imagery reflecting Dr. Mookerjee's legacy in education, national unity, and value-based governance. It highlights his vision of self-reliant India rooted in cultural pride.

(iii) Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, born in 1901, was the founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh (predecessor of BJP), a visionary educationist, and a firm believer in cultural nationalism. This coin-stamp release not only commemorates his birth anniversary but also reignites awareness among the

youth about his enduring contributions to Indian politics and society.

INTERNATIONAL

1. PM Modi Concludes 5-Nation Tour with Official Visits to Brazil and Namibia.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded the 4th and 5th legs of his five-nation official tour with visits to Brazil (July 5–8, 2025) and Namibia (one-day visit) after completing engagements in Ghana, Trinidad & Tobago, and Argentina. The visit to Brazil came at the invitation of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, while the Namibia visit concluded his international diplomatic mission.

- Upon arrival in Brazil, PM Modi received a ceremonial welcome at Galeao International Airport in Rio de Janeiro. He participated in the 17th BRICS Leaders' Summit held from July 6 to 7, 2025, which focused on economic cooperation, climate action, and digital transformation among the member nations—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

- During his Brazil visit, PM Modi held bilateral talks with President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva at Alvorada Palace in Brasilia. Both leaders aimed to enhance the India-Brazil relationship by setting a target to increase bilateral trade from

USD 1.2 billion to USD 20 billion over the next 5 years, focusing on new sectors including clean energy and technology.

Key Points:-

(i) In recognition of strengthening India-Brazil ties, President Lula awarded PM Modi with 'The Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross', Brazil's highest civilian honour. This award celebrates PM Modi's leadership in fostering South-South cooperation and global development.

(ii) India and Brazil signed six Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in areas such as renewable energy, agriculture, digital infrastructure, security, intellectual property rights, and space technology. These agreements are expected to enhance bilateral cooperation in strategic sectors that align with India's development priorities.

(iii) Following the Brazil visit, PM Modi visited Namibia and met President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah. India and Namibia signed 4 new MoUs focused on healthcare, mineral exploration, and defence cooperation. In a significant honour, PM Modi was conferred with the 'Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis', Namibia's highest civilian award, during a state reception in Windhoek.

2. UNESCO Removes Three African World Heritage Sites from Danger List Following Major Conservation Wins.



On July 9, 2025, UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, during its 47th session in Paris, officially removed three African sites from its renowned List of World Heritage in Danger—a significant milestone in global heritage conservation efforts.

- Inscribed in 2007 for its rich biodiversity, including rare lemur species, this rainforest was placed on the danger list in 2010 due to rampant illegal logging, trafficking of precious woods, and forest cover loss. With supported programs involving satellite forest monitoring, anti-poaching patrols, and sustainable timber regulation, Madagascar has restored 63% of lost forest cover, halted major logging, and substantially reduced lemur poaching.

- This ancient Christian pilgrimage site, inscribed in 1979, was endangered from 2001 by rising groundwater caused by surrounding irrigation, leading to structural collapses. A solar-powered drainage system installed in 2021, coupled with a comprehensive conservation plan in 2024, effectively lowered water levels, prevented further ruin, and strengthened structural integrity.

Key Points:-

(i) World Heritage Site since 1986, Ghadamès had been on the endangered list

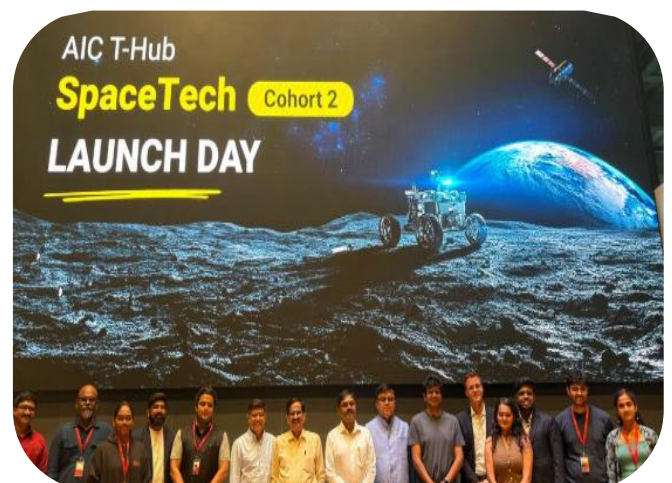
since 2016 due to civil conflict, wildfires, and destructive rains. Restoration efforts—including building repairs, pipeline rehabilitation, and infrastructure reinforcement—along with local community training and risk-management initiatives, have now stabilized the site.

(ii) UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay declared these removals a "great victory" for heritage preservation, highlighting UNESCO's strategic focus on Africa: training experts, supporting new heritage inscriptions, and raising endangered site rescue efforts. Since 2021, four other African sites (in DRC, Uganda, Senegal) have also been successfully delisted.

(iii) This list serves as a crucial alert to mobilize international technical and financial support, guiding restoration and monitoring efforts. Sites that overcome identified threats are eligible for enhanced funding, as demonstrated by these successful conservation initiatives.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1. T-Hub Launches Second Cohort of AIC-T-Hub "Orbit" Spacetech Accelerator with 17 Startups.



In July 2025, T-Hub (Technology Hub) and AIC–T-Hub (Atal Incubation Centre – Technology Hub), supported by the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India), launched the second cohort of the “Orbit” Spacetechn Accelerator Programme. The program has onboarded 17 early-stage startups, making it the largest cohort till date and strengthening India’s presence in the global spacetechn ecosystem.

- The AIC–T-Hub Orbit programme is designed to support startups working in satellite systems, reusable launch vehicles, space propulsion, space biology, aerospace manufacturing, and deep-space communications. The selected startups are at the Prototype or MVP (Minimum Viable Product) stages and will be nurtured to achieve market readiness through global mentorship and resource access.

- Startups in this cohort will receive structured mentorship, access to testing and fabrication facilities, regulatory support, and international collaboration opportunities with partners from countries like France, Australia, and the USA. The cohort also gets connected to funding bodies, policy experts, and space R&D institutions such as ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) and IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre).

- The program includes mentorship from prominent figures such as former DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) Chairman Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy, ex-ISRO scientists, and senior engineers from Indian spacetechn giants like Skyroot Aerospace and Dhruva Space. Their involvement will help startups tackle technical bottlenecks and scale with precision.

(i) T-Hub’s CEO Kavikrut stated that the Orbit 2.0 program aims to facilitate investment of over ₹3 crore, generation of over 10 intellectual properties, and a 15% increase in startup–lab linkages by the end of the cohort. The program will also enhance cross-domain R&D collaborations involving startups, academia, and government labs.

(ii) The Orbit accelerator’s first cohort supported 10 spacetechn startups, including Spantrik, Onnes Cryogenics, Nveeas Labs, TaraMandal, and STEM & Space. These startups gained exposure to government procurement channels, AIM–NITI Aayog innovation grants, and partnerships with institutions such as IITs (Indian Institutes of Technology) and C-DAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing).

2. Telecom Egypt Signs MoU with KareXpert to Launch National Digital Healthcare Platform.



In July 2025, Telecom Egypt, the primary telecom operator of Egypt, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with KareXpert Technologies Private Limited, a Reliance Jio-backed Indian health-tech company, to develop and launch a national digital healthcare platform aimed at improving

Key Points:-

medical access and operational efficiency across Egypt.

- The MoU was formalized at the Africa Health ExCon 2025 conference, held in Cairo, Egypt, to host the platform on Egypt's secure, sovereign cloud infrastructure. This step ensures data privacy and national ownership of patient records while strengthening Egypt's digital health ecosystem.

- The platform will offer a fully integrated Hospital Information Management System (HIMS), alongside Electronic Medical Records (EMR) and Revenue Cycle Management (RCM) tools. These features will streamline healthcare services by centralizing patient data, billing, diagnostics, and administrative processes.

Key Points:-

(i) The cloud-hosted platform will enable real-time access to healthcare data, promote digital-first hospitals, simplify healthcare billing, ensure regulatory compliance, and allow for data-driven clinical decisions across Egypt's public and private health sectors.

(ii) This MoU is aligned with Egypt Vision 2030, supporting sustainable digital transformation through technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), and cloud computing. It demonstrates India-Egypt health-tech collaboration to improve global healthcare standards.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. Priya Nair Set to Become HUL's First Female CEO & MD Effective 1 August 2025.



Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL), India's largest FMCG company, has announced the appointment of Priya Nair as its new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective 1 August 2025, making her the first woman to lead the company in its 92-year history. She will succeed Rohit Jawa, who is stepping down on 31 July 2025 after a two-year tenure—one of the shortest in the company's top leadership.

- Throughout her nearly 30-year career at Unilever and HUL, Priya Nair has held key leadership roles, including Executive Director – Home Care (2014–2020), Executive Director – Beauty & Personal Care (2020–2022), and Global Chief Marketing Officer, Beauty & Wellbeing (2023).

- Since January 2024, she has been President of the Beauty & Wellbeing division at Unilever, driving transformation across India and global markets.

Key Points:-

(i) Board Chairman Nitin Paranjpe lauded her appointment, describing Nair as “a globally-respected marketer with deep consumer insight” and expressing confidence in her ability to lead HUL through

its next growth phase.

(ii) This leadership change reflects HUL's continued emphasis on internal talent, innovation, and gender diversity at the highest levels.

(iii) Priya Nair's elevation is a major milestone in breaking the glass ceiling in India Inc., where women occupy less than 20% of C-suite roles.

SPORTS

1. India to Host ISSF World Cup 2027 and Junior World Championship 2028 in New Delhi.



India has been awarded the hosting rights for two major global shooting events—the ISSF World Cup 2027 and the ISSF Junior World Championship 2028. Both events will be held in New Delhi and are expected to strengthen India's status as a key player in international shooting sports.

- The ISSF (International Shooting Sport Federation) has confirmed that New Delhi will host the 2027 ISSF World Cup, one of the most prestigious global shooting tournaments. This event will bring together over 500 elite shooters from nearly 70 countries, competing across rifle, pistol, and shotgun disciplines. It is scheduled to be conducted at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting

Ranges in Delhi, a venue known for hosting multiple global events including the ISSF World Cup Final in 2024.

- India will also host the ISSF Junior World Championship 2028, making it the first time this event will be organised in the country. The championship will feature under-21 athletes from across the world competing in various team and individual shooting categories. The tournament is expected to run for around eight days in New Delhi and will act as a major global exposure opportunity for India's emerging shooters.

- These decisions were finalised during the ISSF Executive Committee meeting held on 10 July 2025 in New Delhi. The announcements follow a series of recent international event allocations to India, including the ISSF Junior World Cup in September 2025, the Asian Rifle/Pistol Cup in February 2026, and the Shooting League of India in November 2025, showcasing India's growing stature in shooting sport governance and infrastructure.

Key Points:-

(i) The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), under the leadership of President Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo, has played a pivotal role in securing these hosting rights. The organisation is working closely with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) to ensure smooth execution of these global events. NRAI Secretary General K. Sultan Singh stated that India's successful bid reflects the ISSF's confidence in India's sporting capabilities.

(ii) Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur has welcomed the ISSF's decision, highlighting that the

events will create a “pipeline of excellence” and promote sports culture across India. Hosting major competitions ahead of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games aligns with India’s Olympic preparation strategy, allowing athletes to compete against top international rivals on home soil.

(iii) These high-level international events are expected to lead to substantial investments in shooting sports infrastructure, international coaching exchanges, and capacity building. With an aim to conduct at least one major international shooting event every year till 2028, India is strategically positioning itself as a global hub for shooting sports, empowering young athletes and boosting medal prospects for future Olympics.

2. Sachin Tendulkar’s Portrait Unveiled at Lord’s MCC Museum.



In July 2025, cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar was honoured at the historic Lord’s Cricket Ground in London, when a new portrait depicting him in Indian whites was unveiled in the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) Museum ahead of the third Test between England and India.

- Created by British artist Stuart Pearson Wright, the portrait is based on a photograph taken in Sachin’s Mumbai home 18 years ago. Painted in oil on abraded aluminium, the portrait presents a striking head-and-shoulders image against an abstract backdrop symbolizing timeless cricketing excellence.

- Tendulkar became the fifth Indian cricketer to be featured in the MCC’s prestigious portrait collection—joining Kapil Dev, Bishan Singh Bedi, Dilip Vengsarkar, among others. Unlike previous full-length tributes, this portrait’s grand scale emphasizes his iconic stature in cricket history.

- Tendulkar reflected on his deep connection with Lord’s, recalling his early visits as a teenager in 1988 and 1989 with Star Cricket Club. He described the experience as “life coming full circle” and expressed gratitude for this emotional milestone.

Key Points:-

(i) Following the unveiling, Tendulkar participated in the iconic five-minute bell-ringing ceremony, a prestigious Lord’s tradition honoring cricket greats. This event marked his first time ringing the bell, a gesture celebrated by players and fans alike.

(ii) The unveiling coincided with the ongoing third Test played for the newly renamed Anderson–Tendulkar Trophy, honoring Sachin’s prolific Test record at home and legendary English fast bowler James Anderson.

(iii) The Lord’s portrait programme, existing in some form since the Victorian era, and the MCC Museum, Europe’s oldest sports museum, now house approximately 300 cricket portraits in a collection of over 3,000 artworks. Tendulkar’s portrait will be

relocated permanently to the Pavilion later this year.

AWARDS

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



In July 2025, Telangana was honored with the prestigious IESA Industry Excellence Award 2025 in the State Leadership – Battery Manufacturing category by the India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA). The award was presented during the 11th edition of India Energy Storage Week (IESW) at the Yashobhoomi Convention & Expo Centre, New Delhi.

- Telangana's emergence as a battery manufacturing hub is the result of proactive government policies such as the Telangana EV & Energy Storage Policy and the Telangana Renewable Energy Policy. These initiatives, along with the establishment of infrastructure like industrial clusters, incentivized investments in the complete battery value chain—from cell manufacturing and EV assembly to key component production.

- Several large-scale projects have taken root in Telangana: Amara Raja's gigafactory in Mahabubnagar is set to produce up to 16 GWh

of lithium-ion cells and 5 GWh of battery packs with an investment of ₹9,500 crore . Additionally, GODI India has announced plans for a 12.5 GWh battery cell plant with an investment of ₹8,000 crore.

- The strategic ecosystem is further strengthened by government-backed infrastructure: in March 2025, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw laid foundation stones for four manufacturing units at Hyderabad's Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC), including facilities dedicated to battery cell casings, mineral refining, recycling, and an LFP-CAM giga factory.

Key Points:-

(i) Telangana's leadership in energy storage extends beyond manufacturing. The state's 250 MW/500 MWh battery storage tender, conducted by the Telangana Power Generation Corporation in March 2025, attracted competitive bids signaling strong demand for grid-scale storage solutions . Entities like Bondada Engineering, Pace Digitek, and TrueRE-Oriana Power secured contracts, reinforcing the state's role in integrating renewables.

(ii) Industry leaders appreciate Telangana's consistent focus on an enabling business environment encompassing incentives, streamlined approvals, land availability, and dedicated clusters. Telangana's IT & Industry Minister D. Sridhar Babu and officials credited this success to foresight and stakeholder collaboration.

(iii) Looking ahead, Telangana aims to deepen its role in India's clean-energy push by fostering manufacturing capacity, innovation in battery technology (including sodium-ion and solid-state variants), and building a skilled workforce. The IESA

accolade not only honors past achievements but also propels Telangana's vision to become a national leader in energy storage.

2. Prajakta Koli Named Only Indian on TIME100 Creators List 2025.



In July 2025, YouTuber-turned-actor Prajakta Koli—known online as MostlySane—made history as the only India-born creator to be featured on TIME magazine's inaugural TIME100 Creators List, showcasing the world's most influential digital voices alongside global icons like MrBeast and Jay Shetty.

- Prajakta's inclusion underscores her global resonance, with over 7 million YouTube subscribers and 8 million Instagram followers, thanks to her relatable comedy sketches, advocacy, and compelling storytelling.
- A multi-dimensional talent, she headlines Netflix's hit series *Mismatched*, has a best-selling debut novel titled *Too Good To Be True*, and is active in climate activism—serving as UNDP India's First Youth Climate Champion.

Key Points:-

(i) Prajakta's journey from a radio intern to global influencer includes winning a Daytime

Emmy for the YouTube Originals docuseries "Creators For Change," participation in high-level forums like the World Economic Forum, and engagements with the International Olympic Committee, UN, and Gates Foundation.

(ii) In her statement, she recognized this recognition as "humbling and meaningful," committing to use her platform to inspire climate action, gender equality, mental health awareness, and positive social change.

(iii) This achievement not only highlights Prajakta Koli's rise in the content creation space but also represents a landmark moment for Indian digital creators asserting global influence in the entertainment and social activism landscape.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Horse Day observed annually on 11 July 2025.



World Horse Day, observed annually on July 11, honours the enduring bond between humans and horses. Established by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2025 through Resolution 79/291, the day spotlights horses' roles in agriculture, transport, culture, therapy, and economy.

• The UNGA adopted the resolution on 3 June 2025 during its 79th session, backed by a vote of 169 in favour, 1 against (United States), and no abstentions. Sponsored by Mongolia and supported by 56 nations—including Austria, Brazil, China, Germany, Japan, Qatar, and Türkiye—the resolution designates July 11 as World Horse Day to raise global awareness of horses’ social, economic, and cultural value.

• UN data from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates a global horse population of approximately 57 million used in riding, draft work, racing, sports, tourism, healthcare, and food production.

• In the United States alone there are 2.41 million horses across 63,000 farms (2022 USDA), while the EU’s equine sector accounts for around 7 million equines and supports 800,000 jobs. Mongolia’s nomadic communities maintain a near one-to-one ratio of horses to people, with 3.4 million horses for 3.3 million population.

Key Points:-

(i) World Horse Day serves as a call to action, urging governments, NGOs, businesses, schools, and individuals to engage in welfare initiatives, research, education, and cultural preservation. It also highlights key threats to equines, including habitat loss, climate change—with 2024 being the first year above +1.5 °C warming—economic stress, and technological displacement.

(ii) The resolution encourages adoption of best practices like equine husbandry, climate-adaptive protocols (e.g. misting lanes at equestrian events), and support for rural livelihoods reliant on horses.

(iii) Ultimately, World Horse Day

underscores horses’ multifaceted contributions—from sustainable agriculture and rural economies to cultural heritage and therapy. By engaging in rescue centre visits, fundraising, education, sport and welfare advocacy, the global community amplifies efforts to safeguard the welfare of these majestic animals and preserve their essential roles in our shared heritage.

2. World Population Day 2025 will be observed on 11 July 2025.



World Population Day 2025 will be observed on July 11 to highlight global population trends and their multifaceted impact. Established by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1989, this date marks the historic milestone when global population reached five billion on July 11, 1987, known as “Five Billion Day”.

• The theme for this year is “Empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world.” It emphasizes youth agency, reproductive rights, gender equality, and access to education and healthcare, urging policy-makers to prioritize informed choices and equitable support for today’s largest generation of young people.

Key Points:-

(i) World Population Day matters now more than ever: with the global population surpassing 8.2 billion and expected to reach nearly 10 billion by mid-century, challenges like resource scarcity, aging societies, and slowing birth rates demand urgent policy response. The observance aims to transform awareness into action, promoting sustainable development, family planning, and human rights.

(ii) Since its launch, the day has grown into a global platform involving the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), governments, NGOs, academic institutions, and youth groups. Observances include seminars, health camps, advocacy campaigns, and community-driven initiatives—reinforcing its mission to foster inclusive and sustainable societies in alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goals.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. ISRO Conducts Hot Tests of Gaganyaan's SMPS at Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.



In July 2025, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted two short-duration hot tests of the

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Gaganyaan Service Module Propulsion System (SMPS) at the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), located in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu (TN). These hot tests lasted for 30 seconds and 100 seconds, respectively, and validated the propulsion system's performance by meeting all test benchmarks.

- **The Service Module Propulsion System (SMPS)** is an essential element of the Gaganyaan Orbital Module (OM), which is responsible for performing orbital manoeuvres and handling specific abort scenarios during the human spaceflight mission. It includes a combination of advanced thrusters to ensure mission safety and control.

- The SMPS incorporates five Liquid Apogee Motor (LAM) engines and sixteen Reaction Control System (RCS) thrusters. These are critical to providing the necessary thrust and directional control needed for orbital adjustments and in-orbit manoeuvring.

- The development and testing of the SMPS is spearheaded by the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), a major ISRO center headquartered in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. LPSC is responsible for the design, development, and qualification of all liquid propulsion systems used in India's space missions.

Key Points:-

(i) In the 100-second test, ISRO engineers successfully demonstrated the simultaneous firing of five LAM engines, producing 440 Newtons (N) of thrust, along with sixteen RCS thrusters, each generating 100 N of thrust. Both steady-state and pulsed modes of operation were validated during this critical trial.

(ii) The Gaganyaan Mission, India's first human spaceflight program, is targeted for

launch in 2027. It aims to send Indian astronauts (Gagannauts) into Low Earth Orbit (LEO) using entirely indigenous technology, marking a major milestone in India's space exploration journey.

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