

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

18 JULY 2025

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Union MoS B.L. Verma Launches Helpline 14473 for Waste Pickers on 'NAMASTE Day' in Lucknow.



A major initiative was launched on July 16, 2025, in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, where Union Minister of State (MoS) for Social Justice and Empowerment B.L. Verma unveiled a dedicated helpline number 14473 for waste pickers. This launch took place during a special programme organised to commemorate 'NAMASTE Day'—the National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem initiative, focusing on sanitation workers' welfare and mechanisation of sewer/septic cleaning operations.

- The helpline launch event was led by MoS B.L. Verma under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), and it included the distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits and Ayushman Bharat cards to Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs) and waste pickers. The event aimed to raise awareness about mechanised sanitation and provide direct support to frontline sanitation workers.

- The event also saw the presence of key dignitaries including Yogita Swaroop, Senior Financial Advisor at MoSJE, and Angela Lusigi, the India Representative for the United Nations

Development Programme (UNDP), along with several officers from State and Central Governments. Their participation emphasised the importance of global partnerships in improving sanitation workforce conditions.

Key Points:-

(i) As part of the NAMASTE Yojana, B.L. Verma announced the successful profiling of 85,067 sewer septic tank workers so far. PPE kits have been distributed to 45,871 SSWs, and Ayushman Bharat cards have been issued to 40,166 workers, marking a significant health protection milestone for India's sanitation workforce.

(ii) The programme also featured the launch of an Augmented Reality (AR)/Virtual Reality (VR) Training Module, designed to train SSWs in occupational safety practices. A fashion show was also organised to creatively highlight the safety and functionality of PPE kits under the NAMASTE initiative, promoting awareness through engagement.

(iii) Additionally, specialised safety equipment was distributed for Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs), ensuring readiness for sanitation-related crisis situations. This aligns with the central government's goal of ensuring dignity, safety, and mechanisation for sanitation workers under the NAMASTE scheme.

2. Mysuru Enters Super Swachh League, Bengaluru Rises to 36th in National Cleanliness Rankings.



In July 2025, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs released the Swachh Survekshan 2024–25 rankings, highlighting Mysuru’s entry into the prestigious Super Swachh League and Bengaluru’s substantial jump to 36th place among million-plus cities—showcasing Karnataka’s strengthened push for urban sanitation excellence.

- **Mysuru, with a population between three and ten lakh, reclaimed its status in the Super Swachh League, an elite cadre of cities that have consistently maintained top cleanliness performance. This recognition was awarded during a ceremony at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, where President Draupadi Murmu presented certificates under the Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM-U).**

- **Meanwhile, Bengaluru, governed by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), made a remarkable ascent from 125th in 2023–24 to 36th in the Million-Plus Cities category. The city scored an impressive 5,642 out of 10,000, with waste segregation at 82%, while residential and commercial cleanliness reached near saturation.**

- **Despite its progress, Bengaluru still grapples with issues in public toilet maintenance, with scores dropping from 87% to 27%, and continues to contend with legacy landfill sites that scored**

zero, underscoring areas marked for urgent attention by BBMP.

Key Points:-

(i) The awards function in New Delhi was led by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Minister of State Tokhan Sahu, who latterly emphasized the importance of public participation, community-led efforts, and digital sanitation monitoring, all of which contributed significantly to Mysuru’s resurgence.

(ii) Data from Swachh Survekshan indicates that Mysuru demonstrated over 100% waste segregation and high standards in sanitation services, supported by frontline pourakarmikas (sanitation workers) whose commitment and community engagement were lauded during the award ceremony.

(iii) Overall, these results reveal both Bengaluru and Mysuru as examples of Karnataka’s progressive achievements under SBM-U, while signaling the growing need for sustained focus on public sanitation and landfill remediation in large urban centres.

3. Gujarat Launches India’s First Tribal Genome Sequencing Project to Tackle Inherited Diseases.



The Government of Gujarat launched India's first-ever Tribal Genome Sequencing Project (TGSP) on July 16, 2025, in Gandhinagar. This initiative aims to create a comprehensive genetic reference database to understand and tackle inherited diseases prevalent among tribal communities through scientific research and data analysis.

- The project titled "Creation of Reference Genome Database for Tribal Population in Gujarat" will be implemented by the Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC) with technical collaboration from various state departments and health experts. This initiative will focus on identifying hereditary disorders and genetic markers to aid in personalized medicine for tribal populations.

- The project aims to create a Gujarat-wide genetic database for early detection of diseases like sickle cell, thalassemia, cancers, and to identify immune markers for better tribal healthcare solutions.

- A total of 2,000 individuals from over 20 tribal communities across 17 districts of Gujarat will participate in genome sequencing under this initiative. The study ensures 50% female participation and follows a trio-based approach—involving both parents and one child—to analyze hereditary patterns in families. This inclusive approach is designed to capture diverse genetic traits and intergenerational inheritance trends.

Key Points:-

(i) The participating tribal communities include Bamcha, Garasia Bhil, Dholi Bhil, Chaudhari, Bhanka, Tadvli, Vavli, Dubla, Gamit, Gond, Kathodi, Kukna, Kunbi, Nayaka, Pardhi, Patelia, Rathwa, Warli, Kotwalia, and others. Notably, the Siddi

community, known for its African ancestry, from regions such as Armeli, Bhavnagar, Jamnagar, Junagadh, and Rajkot will also be part of this genetic mapping initiative.

(ii) Each tribe will include at least one genetic trio (father, mother, and child) in the study, with participants aged 18 and above. Only visible blood disorders are prioritized. Cutting-edge labs and health screening facilities will ensure accurate, tribal-led genomic research.

4. Cabinet Clears PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana & ₹27,000 Cr Green Energy Investment.



On July 16, 2025, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, approved a series of landmark proposals including a mega agriculture scheme named PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PM-DDKY), major renewable energy investments by NTPC Limited and NLCIL, and a resolution celebrating the space achievement of Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla. These decisions reflect the government's multi-sectoral push in agriculture, green energy, and space science.

- The Cabinet approved the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PM-DDKY) for a six-year period from 2025–26 to 2031–32, with

an annual outlay of Rs. 24,000 crores. The scheme consolidates and merges 36 existing agricultural schemes across 11 central departments, thereby bringing synergy, avoiding duplication, and improving farmer outcomes. This marks a major step in rationalising public expenditure in the agri-sector and ensuring targeted support.

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) also approved investment exemption for NLC India Limited (NLCIL), a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Coal, enabling it to invest Rs. 7,000 crores in its wholly owned subsidiary NLC India Renewables Limited (NIRL). This exemption allows NLCIL and NIRL to bypass the 30% net-worth cap mandated by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), under the Ministry of Finance (MoF), thereby facilitating faster and larger investments in renewable energy.

- In another key green energy move, CCEA cleared enhanced delegation of powers to NTPC Limited, allowing the company to invest up to Rs. 20,000 crores in its green energy arm NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) and its subsidiaries. This will significantly aid in the setting up of new Renewable Energy (RE) capacity across India. NTPC, a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power, has been taking the lead in India's clean energy transition.

Key Points:-

(i) The Union Cabinet also passed a special resolution to honour Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, the Indian astronaut and IAF officer, for the successful completion of the Axiom-4 space mission, a historic 18-day mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS). His participation marked India's growing role in

international space collaboration and human spaceflight. This is the first time an Indian Air Force officer has been officially recognised by the Cabinet post an international manned mission.

(ii) The PM-DDKY scheme will integrate schemes from ministries such as the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoAFW), Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Jal Shakti, and Ministry of Food Processing Industries, among others. It will offer components like infrastructure support, climate-smart farming, irrigation enhancement, and post-harvest management—all under a unified administrative framework.

(iii) These decisions reflect the government's focus on triple front advancement—boosting agriculture productivity, accelerating renewable energy investments, and promoting India's global leadership in space technology. The cumulative approved investment across green energy sectors on this date alone touches Rs. 27,000 crores, marking one of the most financially significant cabinet meetings of the year.

INTERNATIONAL

1. India Co-Chairs UN Group of Friends Meeting on Accountability for Crimes Against Peacekeepers.



India co-chaired a high-level Group of Friends (GoF) meeting at the UN Headquarters, reaffirming global commitment to justice and accountability for crimes committed against UN peacekeepers worldwide.

- India co-chaired the July 2025 meeting of the Group of Friends (GoF) for Accountability for Crimes Against Peacekeepers along with Bangladesh, Egypt, France, Morocco, and Nepal at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York, USA.
- The meeting was led by Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, and saw participation from around 40 UN Member States, senior UN officials, and legal field experts.
- The discussions at the meeting focused on addressing impunity in crimes against peacekeepers, strengthening domestic and international legal frameworks, and promoting intergovernmental cooperation. It emphasized the necessity for robust judicial systems and effective enforcement mechanisms to prosecute offenders who target peacekeeping personnel.

Key Points:-

- (i) A key message reiterated at the event was that ensuring accountability not only

delivers justice to victims and their families but also enhances the safety, operational credibility, and effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping forces deployed worldwide. This accountability builds trust among troop-contributing nations and local communities alike.

(ii) India, as the largest cumulative contributor to UN peacekeeping missions, has sent over 3,00,000 personnel to global missions over the last 70 years. Notably, 182 Indian peacekeepers have laid down their lives while serving in nearly every major UN peacekeeping operation, underlining the nation's deep commitment to global peace.

(iii) The GoF for Accountability for Crimes Against Peacekeepers was launched in December 2022 during India's presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). It was established to advance the implementation of UNSC Resolution 2589 (2021), which called for action against those who commit crimes against peacekeepers and encouraged member states to take firm steps toward legal accountability.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. HSBC Exits UN-Backed Net-Zero Banking Alliance Amid Industry Backlash.



HSBC (Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation) has officially exited the UN-convened NZBA (Net-Zero Banking Alliance) in July 2025, citing strategic independence after recent relaxations in alliance climate commitments.

- **HSBC, one of the world's largest banking and financial services organizations, has withdrawn from the NZBA (Net-Zero Banking Alliance) in July 2025. The decision follows recent changes in NZBA's framework, including a dilution of climate goals from the 1.5 °C target to a 2 °C threshold and removal of the 2050 net-zero requirement. HSBC stated that it has developed its own internal transition strategy and no longer requires coalition-based guidance.**

- **The NZBA was launched in April 2021 under the UN-convened GFANZ (Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero) to align the banking sector with the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 °C. With HSBC's exit, total capital represented by member banks has now dropped to \$44 trillion from a previous \$74 trillion. Earlier in 2025, major U.S. banks including JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, Morgan Stanley, and Bank of America also withdrew from the alliance, citing political and regulatory complexities.**

- **Despite its withdrawal from NZBA, HSBC reiterated its long-term commitment to decarbonization. It confirmed that it remains on track to achieve net-zero emissions across its financed portfolio by 2050. The bank plans to publish a revised "Net Zero Transition Plan" by the end of 2025, grounded in science-based targets and sector-specific roadmaps. HSBC also stated it will continue measuring financed emissions, report transparently to stakeholders, and maintain alignment with credible international standards like those from the IEA (International Energy Agency).**

Key Points:-

(i) The exit drew sharp criticism from climate advocacy group ShareAction and institutional investors managing over £1.2 trillion in assets. These groups expressed concerns that HSBC's departure from a structured global climate platform would send a negative signal to other banks and undermine global efforts to standardize climate accountability. ShareAction stated the move was "deeply disappointing" and could weaken public trust in banks' voluntary net-zero commitments, especially in the absence of clear international regulation or enforcement.

(ii) HSBC's decision also reflects broader trends in the global financial industry, where banks face growing political, regulatory, and reputational pressures. In the United States, anti-ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) sentiment—particularly among Republican-led states—has led to lawsuits, divestments, and regulatory scrutiny of climate-focused finance coalitions. This has prompted banks to reconsider public affiliations with voluntary alliances like NZBA, even as climate risks continue to grow. HSBC's move is seen as part of this

broader strategic recalibration.

(iii) Though no longer part of NZBA, HSBC remains engaged in several global and national climate finance initiatives. It continues to participate in the UK's TPT (Transition Plan Taskforce), supports the GFANZ network, and contributes to consultations led by the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). The bank maintains that multilateral exit does not mean climate disengagement. Instead, it aims to implement its climate strategy independently while adhering to global reporting benchmarks and sector-specific emissions reduction trajectories.

2. IRDAI Panel Recommends Ban on Mergers Between Insurance and Non-Insurance Companies to Protect Policyholders.



On July 17, 2025, the IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India) recommended a ban on mergers between insurance and non-insurance companies to safeguard policyholders. The panel was chaired by Dinesh Kumar Khara, Chairman of State Bank of India (SBI).

- In February 2025, IRDAI constituted a seven-member expert committee to assess and

propose amendments to the Insurance Act, 1938. This initiative aimed to evaluate regulatory gaps and ensure policyholder protection amidst sectoral changes.

- The panel submitted its confidential report during the 132nd IRDAI meeting held in Hyderabad, Telangana. The discussion revolved around major regulatory safeguards and potential structural risks in allowing cross-sector mergers.

- The panel warned that mergers between insurers and non-insurers could introduce moral hazards. These include potential misuse of funds, conflicts of interest, and compromised protection mechanisms for policyholders in mixed business models.

Key Points:-

(i) According to the panel, allowing such mergers could jeopardize sectoral integrity by enabling unfair advantages or insider leverage. This could undermine regulatory checks and affect long-term trust in the insurance ecosystem.

(ii) To address possible violations, IRDAI formed adjudicatory panels composed of its whole-time members. These panels are empowered to investigate and penalize insurance companies and intermediaries breaching norms, ensuring regulatory enforcement remains strong.

(iii) To ensure long-term sectoral stability, the IRDAI is also exploring regulatory firewalls that restrict financial cross-ownership between insurers and non-insurers. This aims to prevent systemic risks, improve solvency monitoring, and safeguard policyholder interests from unrelated business risks and governance failures.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1. Tesla Opens First India Showroom at Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) with Model Y Launch.



Tesla Inc. has officially entered the Indian retail market by inaugurating its first showroom, called an "Experience Centre", at the upscale Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) in Mumbai. This strategic launch on 15 July 2025 marks a significant milestone in India's electric vehicle (EV) ecosystem, with the debut of the Tesla Model Y SUV and the rollout of its fast-charging infrastructure.

- Tesla has leased a 4,000 sq. ft. space in Maker Maxity Mall, BKC, Mumbai, for ₹35 lakh per month under a 5-year agreement. This high-profile location is intended to act as Tesla's flagship hub for showcasing EV technology and engaging with premium Indian consumers. The Experience Centre officially opened on 15 July 2025, making Mumbai the entry point for Tesla's physical presence in India.

- Tesla launched two variants of its Model Y SUV: the Rear-Wheel Drive (₹59.89 lakh) and the Long Range AWD (₹67.89 lakh). These units were imported from Tesla's Gigafactory in Shanghai, China. Due to India's import duties ranging from 70% to 100%, prices remain steep. This move reflects Tesla's "import-first" strategy

while negotiating for reduced tariffs for future locally assembled models.

Key Points:-

(i) Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated the showroom and pledged state support for Tesla's expansion. He emphasized Maharashtra's readiness to become a hub for EV manufacturing, R&D, and battery innovation. Discussions are ongoing to offer Tesla incentives under the Maharashtra Electric Vehicle Policy 2021, aligning with India's FAME-II (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles) initiative.

(ii) Tesla has announced plans to set up seven Supercharger stations across key urban centers including Mumbai, Thane, Navi Mumbai, and Delhi-NCR. These fast-charging stations will use Tesla's proprietary technology to reduce charging time significantly, with further integration expected under the national EV charging network overseen by the Ministry of Power and Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).

(iii) Tesla is preparing to open a second showroom in Delhi by Q4 2025 and is exploring Chennai and Bengaluru as future markets. However, a major factor affecting rapid expansion is the ongoing negotiation with the Government of India regarding import duty reductions and a clear EV manufacturing policy. Tesla is also monitoring the PLI (Production Linked Incentive) Scheme for Automobiles to assess local investment feasibility.

2. NABARD Launches NIVARAN initiative, RuralTech CoLab & WhatsApp Channel on 44th Foundation Day in Chennai.



On July 12, 2025, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) celebrated its 44th Foundation Day at the ITC Grand Chola, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, by launching transformative initiatives including NIVARAN, RuralTech CoLab, a new WhatsApp channel, and a Sub-Office in Leh. These initiatives reflect NABARD's ongoing commitment to fostering rural innovation, institutional governance, and inclusive development.

- During the Foundation Day ceremony, NABARD introduced RuralTech CoLab, an open innovation digital platform to empower startups, academic institutions, and rural-tech developers. This platform enables collaborative co-creation, testing, and scaling of rural-centric technologies. It aims to drive grassroots innovation and rural modernization through technology-based entrepreneurship and R&D convergence.

- NABARD also launched NIVARAN, a centralized Internal Grievance Redressal System specifically for Rural Co-operative Banks. The system ensures 24x7 digital access for lodging complaints, tracking resolution status, and facilitating improved governance. The platform was developed to strengthen accountability and transparency in rural banking services,

especially for cooperative structures with widespread reach.

- To increase its physical outreach in underserved areas, NABARD inaugurated a new Sub-Office in Leh, Ladakh (Union Territory). This strategic move aligns with the bank's vision to improve access to formal credit, capacity-building, and rural finance in remote Himalayan regions. The Leh sub-office will serve as a hub for developmental finance, sectoral outreach, and training in high-altitude rural economies.

Key Points:-

(i) The event also marked the launch of the official NABARD WhatsApp Channel, offering real-time access to market advisories, financial product updates, government schemes, and Price Forecasting Information (PFI) for farmers and stakeholders.

(ii) This digital initiative ensures last-mile connectivity and enhances NABARD's information delivery to grassroots beneficiaries and agri-entrepreneurs.

(iii) NABARD's 44th Foundation Day emphasized its commitment to sustainable rural transformation through policy innovation, grievance redressal systems, and tech-driven partnerships. With initiatives like NIVARAN and RuralTech CoLab, the bank reinforced its leadership in institutional capacity-building, digital rural finance, and inclusive infrastructure in collaboration with startups, state cooperatives, and development organizations.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. **IGPL Launches with Yuvraj Singh as Co-owner & Brand Ambassador.**



In July 2025, the Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL) officially launched with cricket legend Yuvraj Singh on board as a co-owner and brand ambassador, aiming to revolutionize golf in India.

- Yuvraj Singh, celebrated cricket all-rounder and passionate golfer, has officially taken the role of co-owner and brand ambassador for the Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL), marking a major boost for the series.
- Scheduled to debut in January–February 2026, IGPL will feature six franchise teams with a “home-and-away” model over four weeks, showcasing both men’s and women’s professional golfers.
- IGPL has signed an MoU with the Indian Golf Union (IGU), and partnered with the Women’s Golf Association of India (WGAI), aiming to promote emerging talent, especially among amateurs and women golfers.

Key Points:-

(i) IGPL CEO Uttam Singh Mundy highlighted international ambitions: the league plans a 10-week tour starting September 2025, followed by a strategic player auction in November to prepare for global competition.

(ii) The league will feature mixed-gender teams and a novel competition design—morning “Turf Wars” match-play and evening “X-Golf” relay formats—designed to enhance spectator appeal and inclusivity.

(iii) IGPL aims to connect grassroots and professional levels: through amateur integration and mentorship from golf legends, young Indian talents will receive exposure via training, tournaments, and international playing opportunities.

SPORTS

1. Bihar Clinches U18 Boys' Title at 10th Junior National Rugby 7s Championship 2025.



On July 14, 2025, Bihar’s U18 boys’ team emerged as champions at the 10th Junior National Rugby 7s Championship held in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, marking a major milestone for grassroots rugby in India.

- The Rugby India Federation, under the Indian Rugby Football Union (IRFU), organised the 10th edition of the Junior National Rugby Sevens Championship at Guru Gobind Singh Sports College, Dehradun, from July 12 to 14, 2025, with participation from 28 states and UTs.
- Bihar secured the U18 boys’ title by narrowly defeating Odisha 17–15 in a dramatic final

match. The game-winning try came in the last few seconds, reflecting Bihar's remarkable comeback and determination.

Key Points:-

- (i) The Bihar teams were lauded for their technical discipline, aggressive tackles, and fast-paced attack. The boys' team remained unbeaten throughout the tournament and outperformed traditional rugby hubs like Maharashtra, West Bengal, and Delhi.
- (ii) The winning teams were coached by Anand Kumar Singh and mentored under the Bihar Rugby Association, supported by Rugby India's Youth Development Programme. The program has helped Bihar emerge as a rugby talent hub since 2020.
- (iii) The 2025 championship plays a strategic role in Rugby India's roadmap for international competitiveness, especially in preparation for the Asian U18 Sevens Championship and the Youth Commonwealth Rugby program planned for 2026.

AWARDS

1. Vijayawada Receives Top Super Swachh League Award Despite 2024 Floods.



Vijayawada Municipal Corporation earned a coveted spot in the Super Swachh League category of Swachh Survekshan 2024, showcasing remarkable resilience by maintaining cleanliness standards even after devastating floods in 2024.

- **Vijayawada was chosen in the 'above 10 lakh population' category for the Super Swachh League, joining elite cities like Indore, Navi Mumbai, and Surat. The award ceremony is scheduled for 17 July 2025 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, to be presented by Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.**
- **In September 2024, Vijayawada was hit by catastrophic floods triggered by heavy rainfall over Krishna and Budameru rivers, affecting 270,000+ residents and causing at least 35 fatalities. Despite this, the city managed flood-related waste effectively, earning praise for cleanliness continuity.**
- **Post-flood cleanup involved over 10,000 sanitation workers, 200+ officials, and leadership from Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Swachh Andhra Corporation. They cleared flood debris, sanitized canals and drains, and restored sanitation swiftly, saving the city's cleanliness reputation.**

Key Points:-

- (i) Vijayawada achieved nearly 99% in door-to-door garbage collection and 100% public toilet cleanliness, earning ODF (Open Defecation Free) certifications. It also secured 100% source segregation. Though its national rank dipped slightly, it remained in the elite top-10 across India.
- (ii) Vijayawada's award is part of Andhra Pradesh's wider success—five cities including Visakhapatnam, Guntur, Tirupati, and Rajamahendravaram received awards.

This reflects robust participation under the Swachh Andhra – Swarna Andhra mission and underscores the state's commitment to urban cleanliness and sustainability.

2. Zepto's Aadit Palicha and Kaivalya Vohra Ranked No.1 in Aventus Wealth–Hurun India U30 Entrepreneurs List 2025.



On 17 July 2025, Zepto co-founders Aadit Palicha and Kaivalya Vohra (both 22) were jointly ranked #1 in the inaugural Aventus Wealth–Hurun India Under-30 (U30) Entrepreneurs List 2025, ahead of 79 peers.

- Aadit Palicha and Kaivalya Vohra claim the top spot in the U30 list, emerging as the youngest entrepreneurs (age 22) leading a quick-commerce platform reshaping India's grocery delivery market.

- This inaugural U30 edition profiles 79 outstanding innovators under 30 across sectors like tech, finance, healthcare, retail and consumer goods — reflecting youth-driven economic transformation.

- Collectively, the U30 founders have raised over USD 5.2 billion in equity, USD 270 million in debt, and created more than 64,000 jobs,

highlighting their strong impact on India's startup ecosystem.

Key Points:-

(i) The Aventus Wealth–Hurun India U30 Entrepreneurs List 2025 aims to spotlight India's most impactful young entrepreneurs under the age of 30 who are driving innovation, value creation, and employment generation. This inaugural edition highlights founders with measurable achievements in business scaling, venture capital fundraising, and ecosystem disruption. The list is a youth-focused extension of Hurun India's flagship publications such as the Hurun Rich List and Hurun India Startup Index, emphasizing long-term entrepreneurial impact.

(ii) Mumbai heads the city-wise ranking with 15 entrepreneurs, Maharashtra tops the state tally at 21, and 66 of the 79 founders are self-made first-generation entrepreneurs.

(iii) Only six women are featured; the youngest woman, Devika Gholap (28), was recognised for her AI-based digital pathology startup. The average age of the cohort is just 28.

3. India Excels at the 57th International Chemistry Olympiad 2025 in Dubai.



India achieved exceptional success at the 57th International Chemistry Olympiad (ICHO) held in Dubai from July 5–14, 2025, securing two gold and two silver medals.

- Indian students Devesh Pankaj Bhaiya (Jalgaon, Maharashtra) and Sandeep Kuchi (Hyderabad, Telangana) won gold medals, while Debadatta Priyadarshi (Bhubaneswar, Odisha) and Ujjwal Kesari (New Delhi) earned silver medals.

- The Olympiad saw 354 students from 90 countries competing. India secured joint 6th position in the overall medal standings alongside Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Israel.

Key Points:-

(i) This marks India's 26th consecutive participation since 1999. Over the last decade, Indian students have improved significantly, with gold and silver medal rates increasing to 38% and 58%, respectively.

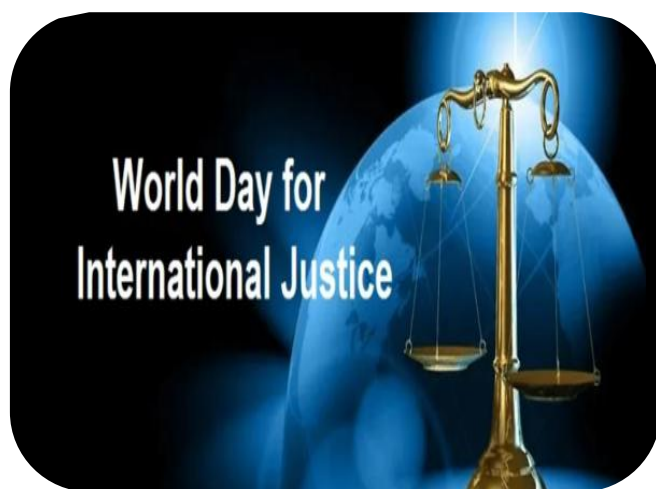
(ii) Instituted by the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE) under Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), the training included national-level selections and guidance by Professor (Prof.) Ankush Gupta (Head Mentor), Professor (Prof.) Seema Gupta, Doctor (Dr.) Neeraja

Dashaputre, and Doctor (Dr.) Amrit Mitra.

(iii) The IChO 2025 was praised for its world-class organization, reinforcing India's commitment to global academic excellence and science diplomacy.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. Day of International Criminal Justice 2025
Observed on 17 July.



The Day of International Criminal Justice, also known as International Justice Day or World Day for International Justice, was observed on 17 July 2025 to mark the 27th anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute that led to the formation of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 1998.

- This day commemorates the adoption of the Rome Statute on 17 July 1998, which established the International Criminal Court (ICC), a permanent institution to prosecute serious crimes like genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. It reflects the global commitment to uphold international justice and human rights.

- The observance in 2025 marked the 27th anniversary of the Rome Statute. The ICC was officially made operational on 1 July 2002, after

the statute came into effect, having been ratified by the required number of countries. As of now, 120 countries have ratified the statute.

Key Points:-

(i) The Rome Statute, which serves as the foundational legal document of the International Criminal Court (ICC), was adopted on 17 July 1998 during the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries (UNDCP) held in Rome, Italy. It defines the ICC's jurisdiction and functioning. However, the ICC can only investigate crimes committed after 1 July 2002, the date on which the statute came into effect, officially making the court operational; it does not have jurisdiction over incidents that occurred before this date.

(ii) The day aims to promote accountability for international crimes and reaffirm the global fight against impunity. It raises awareness of the importance of international criminal justice mechanisms and legal cooperation between nations.

(iii) In 2010, during the first Review Conference of the Rome Statute held in Kampala, Uganda, the member states officially declared 17 July as the Day of International Criminal Justice, recognizing its significance in supporting peace, security, and justice worldwide.

DEFENCE

1. India Successfully Tests Prithvi-II and Agni-I Ballistic Missiles from Odisha.



On 17 July 2025, the Ministry of Defence confirmed that India successfully test-fired two nuclear-capable, short-range ballistic missiles—Prithvi-II and Agni-I—from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha. Conducted by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC), these tests validated operational readiness and technical accuracy amid regional security challenges.

- The launches were carried out under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command (SFC), the tri-service unit responsible for India's nuclear arsenal. Both missiles were launched consecutively, with Agni-I lifted off from APJ Abdul Kalam Island and Prithvi-II from Chandipur, marking a coordinated exercise to affirm deterrence capabilities.

- Prithvi-II is a liquid-fuel, single-stage missile with a maximum range of approximately 350 km, capable of delivering conventional or nuclear warheads up to 1,000 kg.

- Agni-I is a solid-fuel, surface-to-surface missile with a strike range of 700–900 km, able to carry payloads of around 1,000 kg.

Key Points:-

(i) Defence sources and the Ministry confirmed that all mission objectives were met and “operational and technical

parameters validated,” including night-time capability, launcher functioning, navigation systems, and accuracy of re-entry — cementing confidence in both delivery systems.

(ii) This back-to-back missile test comes in the wake of Operation Sindoor—the May 2025 India–Pakistan border skirmishes. The tests underscore India’s strategic posture and deterrence readiness, confirming that these short-range nuclear-capable missiles remain integral components of India’s responsive defence strategy.

(iii) This successful dual test reaffirmed India’s commitment to maintaining a robust credible minimum deterrence posture, as enshrined in its nuclear doctrine. It also highlights the continued operational readiness of the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) and the technological maturity of India’s indigenous missile development under DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation).

2. Indian Navy to Join 32nd SIMBEX 2025 with Four Indigenous Warships, Strengthening Maritime Ties with Singapore.



In July 2025, the Indian Navy deployed four indigenously built vessels—INS Delhi, INS

Satpura, INS Kiltan, and INS Shakti—to participate in the 32nd Singapore–India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) scheduled later this month in Singapore. The exercise aligns with India’s Vision SAGAR and Act East Policy, boosting cooperation and regional maritime security.

● **Under the command of Rear Admiral Sushil Menon, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, the Indian squadron comprising the destroyer INS Delhi, guided-missile frigate INS Satpura, INS Kiltan, and support tanker INS Shakti sailed to Singapore for SIMBEX 2025. These vessels represent India’s naval self-reliance and blue-water capabilities.**

Key Points:-

(i) SIMBEX is the longest uninterrupted annual bilateral naval exercise between India and Singapore since its initiation in 1994 (initially called “Lion King Exercise”). Over the decades, it has evolved from a focus on anti-submarine warfare to a comprehensive exercise including air defence, anti-surface operations, maritime domain awareness, and search-and-rescue drills.

(ii) SIMBEX typically unfolds in two phases: a Harbour Phase featuring professional exchanges, cross-deck visits, sports events, and planning sessions; followed by a Sea Phase involving live weapon firings, anti-submarine exercises (ASW), air defence manoeuvres, communication drills, and tactical training in air, surface, and underwater domains. These build interoperability and operational synergy.

(iii) Participation in SIMBEX 2025 underscores India’s commitment to Vision SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and the Act East Policy, enhancing

regional maritime security amid threats like piracy and non-state actors. India's High Commissioner to Singapore, Shilpak Ambule, described the exercise as integral to fostering rules-based maritime order and strengthening India-ASEAN naval cooperation.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. SpaceX Launches 24 Amazon Kuiper Satellites into Orbit, Marking Third Mission of Project Kuiper.



On 16th July 2025, Elon Musk-led SpaceX successfully launched 24 broadband internet satellites for Amazon's Project Kuiper, marking the third operational deployment of the constellation. The launch was conducted using the Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida, USA.

- This was the third operational launch under Amazon's Project Kuiper, a satellite-based broadband initiative targeting global internet coverage via a planned network of 3,200+ low Earth orbit (LEO) satellites. With this launch, the total number of deployed Kuiper satellites has reached 78.

- The launch was part of the KF-01 (Kuiper Falcon 1) mission and took place aboard the Falcon 9 launch vehicle, known for its reusable first-stage booster. The mission originated from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, a key US launch facility in Florida.

- The event coincided with the 56th anniversary of NASA's historic Apollo 11 mission, which took humanity to the Moon for the first time on July 16, 1969. The symbolic timing reinforces the continued legacy of space exploration through modern commercial ventures.

Key Points:-

(i) After liftoff, all 24 satellites were successfully deployed into a 465-kilometer-high orbit. These satellites will gradually be elevated to an operational altitude of 630 kilometers, enabling optimal broadband coverage capabilities.

(ii) Amazon's mission control for Project Kuiper is headquartered in Redmond, Washington, USA. From this facility, engineers oversee the tracking, telemetry, and command operations of the deployed satellites in real time.

(iii) SpaceX's satellite division, Starlink, currently operates around 8,000 LEO satellites and serves millions globally. In contrast, Amazon is still in the early deployment phase but plans to launch its full constellation and begin services by late 2025.

Static GK

Indian Navy (IN)	Current Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS): Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi	Headquarters: New Delhi
Gujarat	Chief minister: Bhupendra Patel	Governor: Acharya Devvrat
IRDAI	Chairperson: Debasish Panda	Headquarters: Hyderabad
Tesla	CEO: Elon Musk	Headquarters: Austin, Texas, United States
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)	Chairman : Shaji K.V.	Headquarter : Mumbai
Hurun India	Founder and Chief Researcher : Anas Rahman Junaid	Headquarter : Mumbai
Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX)	CEO : Elon Reeve Musk	Headquarters : Texas, United States of America (USA)
International	President :	Headquarters :

Criminal Court (ICC)	Judge Tomoko Akane	The Hague, The Netherlands
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