



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

23 JULY 2025

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Union Minister Piyush Goyal Inaugurates DSCI Advanced Cyber Skill Centre in Mumbai.



On 19 July 2025, Union Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated the DSCI Advanced Cyber Skill Centre in Kandivali East, Mumbai. Developed by the Data Security Council of India (DSCI) and supported by the Kyndryl Foundation, the centre aims to train nearly 1,000 youths annually in cybersecurity under PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

- The centre was launched with the goal of empowering women and students from Tier-II and Tier-III cities, bridging the gender gap in cybersecurity, and enabling underserved communities to access digital job opportunities.
- The inaugural cohort of 28 engineering graduates, known as Cyber Vaahini, is currently undergoing an intensive four-month training programme in ethical hacking, threat hunting, and incident response.
- Equipped with state-of-the-art cyber ranges, live cyberattack simulators, and mentorship from industry professionals, the centre will train approximately 1,000 candidates each year. The curriculum is aligned with national skill goals

under PMKVY and supports India's ambition to become a global cybersecurity talent hub.

Key Points:-

- Speaking at the event, Minister Piyush Goyal highlighted that cybersecurity is not just a national security priority, but also a key driver of employment and innovation. The centre supports the government's Digital India and Skill India visions, aiming to nurture hackers-for-good, promote "Hack-to-Help", and prepare the youth for future-ready roles.
- The initiative is part of DSCI's broader effort—supported by the Kyndryl Foundation—to build a global network of cybersecurity professionals. DSCI has previously organised conclaves in India, Singapore, Dubai, Riyadh, and plans further international collaborations to enhance skills exchange and capacity-building.
- The launch event was attended by senior dignitaries including Vinayak Godse (CEO, DSCI), Una Pulizzi (Global Head of Corporate Affairs, Kyndryl), Lingraju Sawkar (President, Kyndryl India), and North Mumbai MLAs and CII officials. Their presence underlined the importance of public-private partnerships in building a cyber-resilient and inclusive digital ecosystem.

INTERNATIONAL

1. India Emerges as Malaysia's Largest Palm Oil Seeds Importer in 2024, Boosting Edible Oil Mission.



On July 21, 2025, the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) officially announced that India became the largest importer of germinated palm oil seeds from Malaysia in 2024. This development aligns with India's strategic efforts to reduce edible oil imports and promote domestic cultivation under the National Mission on Edible Oils–Oil Palm (NMEO–OP).

- India imported 3.03 million tonnes (MT) of palm oil from Malaysia in 2024, making it the top destination for Malaysian palm oil exports. This quantity accounted for 17.9% of Malaysia's total palm oil exports. The import surge reflects India's growing demand for palm oil seeds to support its expanding oil palm cultivation strategy.
- India's imports are linked to the targets set under NMEO–Oil Palm, a mission launched in 2021 to promote edible oil self-sufficiency.
- The mission aims to increase oil palm cultivation to 1 million hectares by 2025–26, with a production goal of 2.8 million tonnes of crude palm oil by 2029–30. These targets aim to curb India's dependency on edible oil imports, which currently form a significant part of the national food basket.

Key Points:-

(i) As of now, India has brought about 370,000 hectares under palm oil cultivation, with a focus on Northeast India and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. These regions are prioritized due to their tropical climate, which is ideal for oil palm farming. States like Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, and Assam are leading the regional expansion efforts.

(ii) The bulk purchase of germinated palm oil seeds from Malaysia is a strategic move to improve domestic production capacity. It not only ensures better productivity but also enhances the quality of planting materials for farmers enrolled under the scheme. This move is expected to boost rural employment and farmer incomes, in addition to ensuring long-term edible oil security.

(iii) The NMEO–OP is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW). It provides financial and technical assistance to farmers for nursery development, seed procurement, processing units, and R&D. The initiative is aligned with India's "Atmanirbhar Bharat" vision to reduce dependence on global imports and develop a sustainable edible oil ecosystem.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. Government Completes RRB Consolidation Under 'One State-One RRB' Policy Slashing Numbers to 28.



On 1 May 2025, the Government of India implemented its 'One State-One RRB' policy, reducing the number of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) from 43 to 28, across 26 states and 2 Union Territories. The reform aims to enhance rural banking efficiency, cut costs, and boost financial inclusion nationwide.

- This marks the fourth phase of RRB consolidation since 2006 under the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976. Initially, the number of RRBs fell from 196 (2006) to 43 (2021); now Phase IV reduces them further to 28 to support streamlined operations and stronger governance.

- The merger involves 26 RRBs across 11 states and 1 UT, now consolidated into 28 unified banks serving 700 districts via 22,000+ branches, approximately 92% in rural and semi-urban areas. Each state now has a single RRB entity.

- Each new RRB is endowed with an authorized capital of ₹2,000 crore, allowing a stronger financial base for lending to small and marginal farmers, artisans, and rural entrepreneurs, while promoting deeper credit penetration in rural India.

Key Points:-

(i) The 28 renamed and unified RRBs

include newly formed banks such as Andhra Pradesh Grameena Bank, Uttar Pradesh Gramin Bank, Gujarat Gramin Bank, Karnataka Grameena Bank, Bihar Gramin Bank, and Odisha Grameen Bank, all established from multiple previous RRBs in their respective states.

(ii) Digital transformation is underway: NABARD has committed to complete full IT integration and new technology stack rollout for the merged RRBs by 15 September 2025, in order to deliver enhanced digital banking services and financial inclusion across rural India.

2. SBI Research Report Highlights Five States Contributing Nearly 50 Percent of Active GST Taxpayers with Uttar Pradesh Leading.



In July 2025, SBI Research, the economic research division of the State Bank of India (SBI), published a research report on the occasion of the Octennial Anniversary of Goods and Services Tax (GST), revealing that five Indian states collectively contribute to nearly 50% of active GST taxpayers. Uttar Pradesh (UP) emerged as the top contributor among these states.

- Uttar Pradesh (UP) leads the list by contributing 13.2% of all active GST taxpayers in

India, ahead of Maharashtra (12.1%), Gujarat (8.4%), Tamil Nadu (7.7%), and Karnataka (6.9%). These five states alone account for nearly half of the country's registered GST payers, indicating a significant regional concentration in tax activity.

- The report also highlighted that these top 5 states collectively contribute 41% of India's gross GST revenue. Furthermore, 6 states have individually surpassed the milestone of Rs 1 lakh crore in GST collection, showcasing their substantial role in the national tax framework.

Key Points:-

- (i) As of May 31, 2025, India recorded over 1.52 crore active GST registrations, reflecting the expanding tax base. The data indicates a rising trend in tax compliance and registration among Indian businesses and entrepreneurs.
- (ii) The report revealed that around 20% (one-fifth) of all registered taxpayers have at least one female member. Additionally, about 14% of registered taxpayers are entirely women-led entities, showing increased female participation in the formal economy.
- (iii) Gross GST collection in India has nearly doubled over the last five years—from Rs 11.4 lakh crore in FY21 (2020–21) to approximately Rs 22.1 lakh crore in FY25 (2024–25), reflecting the robust growth of tax revenue under the GST regime and improved compliance.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. Deepak Bagla Assumes Charge as Director of Atal Innovation Mission at NITI Aayog.



On July 21, 2025, Deepak Bagla, former MD and CEO of Invest India, officially assumed charge as the Director of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under NITI Aayog, succeeding Dr. Chintan Vaishnav.

- Deepak Bagla was appointed by the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, the policy think tank of the Government of India (GoI). He replaces Dr. Chintan Vaishnav, who previously held the post of Director at AIM.
- Deepak Bagla began his international finance career with the World Bank (WB) and later joined Citibank in 1989. He served in multiple regions including Asia, Europe, Australia, and Africa before moving into private equity and national investment.
- In 2015, he was appointed as Managing Director and CEO of Invest India, the national investment promotion and facilitation agency. Under his leadership, Invest India earned several global recognitions and drove key reforms in investment facilitation and entrepreneurship.

Key Points:-

- (i) Deepak Bagla has served on several top-level Indian government committees and held global positions, including the Presidency of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA).

He was honored with the Italian Order "Grand Ufficiale dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia" by the President of Italy.

(ii) The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is NITI Aayog's flagship initiative for promoting a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. It includes core sub-initiatives like Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs), Atal Incubation Centres (AICs), Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACICs), and Atal New India Challenges (ANIC).

(iii) In 2024, the Union Cabinet approved AIM 2.0, extending its tenure up to March 2028. The government allocated ₹2,750 crore for its continued operation and scaling of innovation infrastructure.

- Nitin Gupta takes over the position from Ravneet Kaur, who was holding additional charge since April 2025. The post had remained vacant following the completion of Ajay Bhushan Pandey's three-year term on March 31, 2025.

- The ACC also announced the appointment of Smita Ghingran, P. Daniel, and Sushil Kumar Jaiswal as full-time members of NFRA, strengthening the regulatory body's composition.

- Nitin Gupta is a 1986-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer from the Income Tax cadre. He has previously served in several high-ranking positions in financial regulation and taxation.

Key Points:-

2. Former CBDT Chairman Nitin Gupta Appointed as Chairperson of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).



On July 17, 2025, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, appointed Nitin Gupta as the new chairperson of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), functioning under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MoCA). He will serve a three-year term or until the age of 65, whichever comes earlier.

(i) Nitin Gupta served as the Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) under the Ministry of Finance (MoF) from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2024. During his tenure, he was instrumental in digitizing tax processes and enhancing compliance.

(ii) Before his CBDT role, he was Director-General (DG) at the Competition Commission of India (CCI), further solidifying his experience in policy enforcement and economic governance.

(iii) NFRA, headquartered in New Delhi, was constituted on October 1, 2018, under Section 132 of the Companies Act, 2013. It is responsible for recommending accounting and auditing standards, monitoring compliance, improving audit quality, and initiating disciplinary action against auditors when necessary.

3. Stephane Deblaise to Lead Renault Group India as CEO from September 2025.



French auto major Renault Group announced on 21 July 2025 that Stephane Deblaise will take charge as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), India operations, effective 1 September 2025. He will be responsible for steering the company's strategic direction across all entities in India.

- In his new role, Deblaise will oversee all Renault Group entities in India and will report directly to François Provost, Renault Group's Chief of Procurement, Partnerships, and Public Affairs. Venkatram Mamillapalle, Managing Director of Renault India, will continue in his current role and assist Deblaise on corporate affairs.

- A seasoned Renault veteran with over two decades of global experience, Stephane Deblaise has served in leadership roles across Latin America, China, France, and most recently, as CEO of Renault Korea (since 2022). He is credited with transforming Korea into a global development hub and modernizing its Busan facility for multi-energy vehicle production.

- Deblaise's appointment comes amid Renault India's declining passenger vehicle market share—down to 0.93% in FY25 with sales of just 38,636 units, despite over 14 years in the market. Renault aims to relaunch with five new models including an electric vehicle and the new

Duster SUV, targeting a 5% market share by 2030.

Key Points:-

(i) Renault India operates a manufacturing facility in Oragadam, Chennai, with an annual capacity of 480,000 units, supported by a retail and service network comprising more than 350 sales and 450 service touchpoints across the country. The appointment is aligned with a broader “Renaulution” transformation strategy focused on electrification and brand overhaul.

(ii) Alongside the leadership change, Renault India is introducing a new minimalist diamond-shaped logo and visual identity as part of the “renault. rethink” brand transformation. This rebranding will feature in upcoming vehicle launches, reflecting Renault's shift toward a tech-forward and consumer-centric presence in India.

AWARDS

1. Levon Aronian Wins Freestyle Chess Grand Slam 2025 in Las Vegas; India's Arjun and Praggnanandhaa Finish 6th and 7th Respectively.



In July 2025, Grandmaster (GM) Levon Aronian of the United States of America (USA) clinched the title at the Las Vegas leg of the Freestyle Chess Grand Slam Tour 2025, organized by World Chess Events Limited at the Wynn Las Vegas, Nevada. The tournament featured top global players and saw significant participation from Indian GMs.

- **Levon Aronian secured the championship title by defeating American Grandmaster Hans Moke Niemann in the final with a scoreline of 1.5–0.5. With this victory, Aronian claimed a prize of USD 200,000 (approximately ₹1.7 crore), while Niemann, finishing second, earned USD 140,000 (about ₹1.2 crore).**

- **GM Magnus Carlsen of Norway, currently ranked World No.1, secured third place in the event by defeating Hikaru Nakamura. Carlsen received a prize of USD 100,000 (approximately ₹86 lakh), further strengthening his status as one of the strongest active players in the freestyle chess format.**

- **Indian GM Arjun Erigaisi delivered a commendable performance by reaching the final eight before being defeated by GM Fabiano Caruana of the USA. Arjun finished in 6th position overall and earned a prize of USD 40,000 (approximately ₹34 lakh).**

Key Points:-

(i) R. Praggnanandhaa, another rising Indian chess star, defeated Wesley So of the USA in the placement round. He won both the first game and the classification match to finish in 7th position, receiving a prize of USD 30,000 (roughly ₹25 lakh). Notably, Praggnanandhaa also defeated Magnus Carlsen twice during the tournament—once in a group stage and again in a classification game.

(ii) Vidit Gujrathi also represented India at the Las Vegas leg of the Freestyle Chess Grand Slam Tour 2025. He concluded his campaign in joint 13th place along with four other players and was awarded a participation prize of USD 7,500 (around ₹6.4 lakh).

(iii) The Freestyle Chess Grand Slam 2025 is known for its dynamic time controls and unorthodox starting positions, attracting top global talent. India's performance was particularly encouraging, with three Indian Grandmasters—Arjun, Praggnanandhaa, and Vidit—showcasing competitive gameplay against the world's elite.

2. Ministry of Textiles Announces 2024 National Handloom Awards to Honour Excellence.



On National Handloom Day, 7 August 2024, the Ministry of Textiles (MoT) presented 22 awards, including the prestigious Sant Kabir and National Handloom Awards, to weavers and master craftspersons. This initiative highlights India's rich handloom heritage and the sector's contribution to millions of rural livelihoods.

- **Two weavers from Telangana, Gajam Narmada and Guda Pawan, earned acclaim—one achieving a remarkable ₹8 crore turnover. Their**

work underscores the commercial viability of traditional weaving communities.

- Named after the 15th-century poet, the Sant Kabir Award celebrates master weavers who sustain traditional craftsmanship. Winners receive a gold coin, shawl, citation, and a ₹6 lakh grant to develop ten new high-quality products over one year.

- The handloom industry employs 3.5–4.5 million weavers, 70–72% of whom are women. It generates ₹37,000 crore annually and exports worth ₹2,500 crore, making it vital for rural economies and cultural preservation.

Key Points:-

(i) Under MoT programmes like Bunkar & Karigar Utthan, over 3,600 artisans have been upskilled in 100 clusters by July 2024. The Shilp Didi Mahotsav further empowered 100 women artisans through marketing opportunities, including showcases at Dilli Haat and INA.

(ii) The Government introduced schemes like GeM onboarding, Design Resource Centres (DRCs), Handloom Producer Companies, and e-commerce collaborations to enhance weavers' market access. Seven GI tags were awarded from April 2023–March 2024, protecting regional products.

3. 'Meri Panchayat' App Wins WSIS Prizes 2025 Champion Award for Promoting Cultural and Linguistic Diversity.



In July 2025, the 'Meri Panchayat' mobile application, developed under the joint initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) and the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), received the prestigious WSIS Prizes 2025 Champion Award. The app was recognised under the WSIS Action Line category for "Cultural Diversity and Identity, Linguistic Diversity and Local Content."

- The award was officially conferred during the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025, held from 7 to 11 July 2025 at Palexpo, Geneva, Switzerland. Sunita Jain, Senior Director at NIC/MoPR, accepted the award on behalf of the Government of India (GoI). A separate ceremonial event was held in New Delhi, where Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh (MoPR) formally received the WSIS Champion Certificate.

- The 'Meri Panchayat' app, launched in 2023, has emerged as a transformative digital governance platform empowering over 25 lakh elected Panchayat representatives and nearly 950 million rural residents across India. It spans across 2.65 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs), providing decentralized governance tools at the grassroots level.

- The application ensures transparency and participatory governance by offering real-time access to critical data such as Panchayat budgets, receipts, expenditure, development plans, details of elected officials, and public infrastructure assets. Citizens can monitor civic services directly from their mobile devices.

Key Points:-

- A unique aspect of the app is its commitment to cultural and linguistic inclusivity. It supports over 12 Indian languages, making governance accessible to citizens in their local dialects and promoting diversity in digital governance.
- The WSIS (World Summit on the Information Society) Prizes are awarded by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in collaboration with UN agencies. The 2025 edition marked the WSIS+20 milestone and focused on evaluating digital tools that support the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The award highlights India's growing leadership in leveraging digital tools for grassroots development and its commitment to inclusive governance through multilingual, transparent, and citizen-friendly platforms like 'Meri Panchayat'.

App and Web Portal

1. Mizoram Launches 'Mizo DiasporaHub' Portal to Strengthen Global Community Engagement.



In July 2025, the Chief Minister of Mizoram, Lalduhoma, officially launched the 'Mizo DiasporaHub' portal during a dedicated event at Aijal Club in Aizawl, Mizoram. This innovative digital platform aims to strengthen connections and coordination with Mizo communities living outside the state, both across India and abroad, by creating a centralised communication and welfare support mechanism.

- The Mizo DiasporaHub portal was developed by the Mizo Diaspora Cell under the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) in technical collaboration with LushAI Tech Private Limited, a Mizoram-based startup. It is designed as a centralised, secure online platform for registration, updates, communication, and emergency support among Mizos residing globally.

- The portal serves as a dedicated digital bridge between the state government and its diaspora, offering tools to improve communication, coordination, and resource-sharing among registered Mizo welfare associations. It ensures timely updates and smoother interactions with those living outside Mizoram.

Key Points:-

- One of the core goals of the initiative is to

enhance collective welfare and mutual support systems. The platform enables coordinated responses to emergency situations and acts as a lifeline for Mizos facing challenges abroad, especially concerning health, safety, or legal issues.

(ii) The platform features a directory of officially registered Mizo welfare associations, complete with information on regional gathering centres, contact details of office bearers, and event listings. It also includes a user-friendly interface that allows quick registration and data updates by diaspora members.

(iii) Technologically, the portal is enhanced with AI-enabled automatic translation services, ensuring communication across language barriers. It also includes an SOS alert feature (Save Our Souls) that enables users to raise emergency signals directly through the system, making it a vital tool for real-time help and assistance.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. Pi Approximation Day 2025 Observed on 22 July to Celebrate the Mathematical Constant Pi (π).



Pi Approximation Day, also known as Casual Pi Day, is annually observed on 22 July
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across the world to promote awareness about the mathematical constant Pi (π). The day is recognized for its connection to the fraction $22/7$, which closely approximates the value of π , used extensively in mathematics, engineering, and physics.

● **Pi Approximation Day was first celebrated in 1995 at Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg, Sweden, making it a relatively recent but widely appreciated observance in the mathematical community. The celebration typically includes math-related games, educational discussions, and activities emphasizing the importance of mathematical precision.**

● **The choice of 22 July ($22/7$) as the date for the observance is based on the fractional approximation of π — $22 \div 7$, which equals approximately 3.142857, a value very close to the actual mathematical constant $\pi \approx 3.14159$. This makes the day especially significant for math educators and students.**

● **Pi (π) is an irrational and transcendental number representing the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. It cannot be expressed as a finite decimal or a fraction, but approximations such as 3.14 or $22/7$ are commonly used for practical calculations.**

Key Points:-

(i) The first known calculation of π was performed by Archimedes, the ancient Greek mathematician, who used a geometric method involving inscribed and circumscribed polygons to estimate its value. His work laid the foundation for future numerical approaches to computing π with greater accuracy.

(ii) The Greek letter " π " as the symbol for the mathematical constant was first

introduced in 1706 by Welsh mathematician William Jones. The notation gained widespread recognition after it was popularised by Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler in 1737, now a standard symbol in global mathematical literature.

(iii) Pi Approximation Day is a reminder of the role mathematics plays in scientific progress and day-to-day problem-solving. The celebration also complements Pi Day on March 14 (3/14), based on the American date format, another occasion used to highlight the enduring relevance of π .

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Indian Army Receives First Batch of AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopters from USA.



On July 22, 2025, the Indian Army (IA) received three AH-64E Apache attack helicopters from the United States, marking the first delivery under a six-helicopter deal signed in 2020. The aircraft were inducted at the Hindon Air Force Station in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, providing a significant boost to India's combat aviation capabilities.

- The delivery is part of a USD 600 million contract signed by the Government of India with the United States in 2020 to procure six AH-64E

Apache Guardian helicopters specifically for the Indian Army. These helicopters represent the latest model of the Apache series developed by Boeing and are being inducted into the Army Aviation Corps for the first time.

- The newly delivered helicopters will be deployed at the 451 Army Aviation Squadron at Nagtaloo near Jodhpur, Rajasthan. This marks a major milestone as it is the Indian Army's first operational deployment of Apache helicopters, while the Indian Air Force (IAF) already operates a fleet of 22 Apache helicopters delivered earlier under a separate deal.

- The delivery, initially scheduled for June 2024, was postponed to July 2025 due to supply chain disruptions and technical delays. The remaining three Apache helicopters are expected to be delivered by November 2025, completing the full order of six units.

Key Points:-

(i) The AH-64E Apache is known for its advanced battlefield capabilities including high-intensity warfare engagement, survivability, and target precision. It features cutting-edge avionics, night-vision systems, and multi-mission attack capabilities, earning it the nickname "flying tank" for its robust performance in complex combat situations.

(ii) Technologically, the AH-64E includes a 30 mm M230 chain gun, AGM-114 Hellfire missiles, and Hydra 70 rocket pods. It is powered by twin General Electric T700-GE-701D engines and supports MUM-T (Manned-Unmanned Teaming) to share real-time data with drones. The helicopter reaches a maximum speed of 293 km/h and an operational range of 480 km.

2. ICMR Invites EoI for Commercial Production of India's First Malaria Vaccine 'AdFalcivax'.



In July 2025, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) invited Expression of Interest (EoI) from eligible companies for the Transfer of Technology (ToT) for India's first indigenous malaria vaccine candidate 'AdFalcivax', aimed at large-scale production and deployment to combat malaria.

- **AdFalcivax** has been jointly developed by ICMR–Regional Medical Research Centre (ICMR–RMRC), ICMR–National Institute of Malaria Research (ICMR–NIMR), and the Department of Biotechnology–National Institute of Immunology (DBT–NII), under the Ministry of Science & Technology. The vaccine reflects a strategic public-sector collaboration to eliminate malaria through indigenous innovation.

- **AdFalcivax** is the first recombinant chimeric multi-stage malaria vaccine in India, designed to target both the pre-erythrocytic (liver) stage and the sexual (mosquito-transmission) stage of *Plasmodium falciparum* — the deadliest malaria-causing parasite in humans.

- The vaccine uses a novel recombinant chimeric technology that combines specific antigens to induce a broader immune response. It is engineered using *Lactococcus lactis*, a food-

grade bacteria, making it safe, scalable, and effective for commercial biomanufacturing.

Key Points:-

(i) Preclinical animal studies have yielded promising results, with evidence suggesting that AdFalcivax offers more comprehensive protection than existing single-stage vaccines. It reduces the possibility of immune escape and potentially offers long-term immunity, making it a game-changer in malaria control.

(ii) The Transfer of Technology (ToT) will allow private manufacturers to begin pilot and industrial production of the vaccine. Interested firms must meet specific eligibility and quality standards as outlined by ICMR to be part of the malaria elimination roadmap.

(iii) This move supports India's broader health policy goals, including the National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME) and aligns with WHO's Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016–2030. India aims to eliminate malaria by 2030 and AdFalcivax could play a central role in achieving this milestone.

OBITUARY

1. Kerala's Veteran Communist Leader V.S. Achuthanandan Passes Away at 101.



Velikkakathu Sankaran Achuthanandan, widely known as **V.S. Achuthanandan**, former Chief Minister of Kerala and senior CPI(M) leader, passed away on 21 July 2025 in Thiruvananthapuram at the age of 101, following a prolonged illness and hospitalisation

- **Achuthanandan was one of the last surviving founding members of the Communist Party of India (Marxist). He served as Kerala's Chief Minister from 2006 to 2011, and holds the record as the longest-serving Leader of Opposition, serving for approximately 15 years in the Kerala Legislative Assembly. He was elected to the Assembly seven times.**
- **Known for his unwavering integrity, V.S. spearheaded numerous campaigns against corruption, land encroachment, the lottery mafia, and film piracy. His government recovered illegally occupied land and championed free software in education—actions that earned him the public reputation of a resolute pro-people leader.**

Key Points:-

(i) Born on 20 October 1923 in a family of agricultural workers in Punnappra, Alappuzha, he began as a trade union activist in the 1940s. He joined the

Communist movement in 1940, faced arrests during underground activities, and became a core leader when CPI(M) was formed in 1964.

(ii) Following a cardiac arrest in late June 2025, Achuthanandan was admitted to SUT Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram. He remained on life support, with ongoing monitoring by doctors. He passed away on 21 July 2025 due to age-related illness.

Static GK

Kerala	Chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan	Governor: Rajendra Arlekar
Malaysia	Prime minister: Anwar Ibrahim	Official language: Malay
NITI Aayog	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) : B.V.R. Subrahmanyam	Headquarters: New Delhi
Indian Army	Chief of the Army Staff (COAS): General Upendra Dwivedi	Headquarters: New Delhi
SBI	Chairman : Challa Sreenivasulu Setty	Headquarter : Mumbai