

# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**28 JULY 2025**

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

### 1. MoPSW Organizes Maritime Financing Summit 2025 in New Delhi to Boost India's Port Efficiency and Global Investment.



In July 2025, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) successfully hosted the Maritime Financing Summit 2025 in New Delhi, India. The event convened senior policymakers, global investors, domain experts, and industry leaders to explore financial solutions aimed at strengthening India's maritime infrastructure and global port competitiveness.

- The summit aligned with the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision (MAKV 2047), which envisions India as a leading global maritime hub by 2047. The vision focuses on strengthening shipbuilding, port infrastructure, and financial resilience across the country.

- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of MoPSW, delivered the keynote address. He emphasized that India's ports have dramatically enhanced their operational performance, with average ship turnaround time reduced from 4 days to less than 1 day, setting a benchmark in global port efficiency.

- Major ports in India have witnessed a 70% increase in container handling capacity, along

with a significant rise in cargo volume. These improvements are attributed to targeted infrastructure investments and port modernization.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The Government of India (GoI) has permitted 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the shipping sector under the Automatic Route (AR), allowing faster approvals and making India more attractive for international maritime investors.

(ii) To further boost the sector, the government announced the launch of the Maritime Development Fund (MDF)—a dedicated financing vehicle to support long-term capital investment in ports, shipyards, and related infrastructure, without regulatory bottlenecks.

(iii) Additionally, the introduction of the Maritime Digital Maturity Matrix (FDMM) will help assess and enhance digital capabilities of India's major ports. This tool aims to ensure smart infrastructure and real-time operational transparency to support the evolving global maritime trade ecosystem.

### 2. President Droupadi Murmu Marks 3 Years in Office with New Initiatives on Accessibility, Digital Inclusion, and Net Zero Goals.





On July 25, 2025, President Droupadi Murmu marked the completion of 3 years as the 15th President of India by launching several initiatives focused on accessibility, digital outreach, sustainability, and citizen engagement at Rashtrapati Bhavan and associated estates in New Delhi.

- President Murmu, who assumed office on 25 July 2022 as India's first tribal President and the second woman to hold the post, commemorated the occasion by highlighting inclusive governance. Her tenure has emphasized public participation and environmental leadership from the highest constitutional office.

- As part of the accessibility initiative, Rashtrapati Bhavan, Amrit Udyan, and the Rashtrapati Bhavan Museum have been made fully Divyangjan-friendly. This includes tactile paths, Braille boards, ramps, and other facilities aimed at inclusive public access in line with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

- The Rashtrapati Bhavan website and President of India portal are now available in 22 Indian languages, enabling multilingual digital access to citizens across states and promoting digital inclusion as envisioned under the National Education Policy 2020.

### Key Points:-

(i) Over 250 gifts received by the President have been auctioned online under 'E-Upahaar Season 2', with proceeds supporting child welfare programs. This digital auction initiative ensures transparency and connects civil society with the President's charitable engagements.

(ii) An official electronic (e)-book was launched compiling the President's speeches, events, and engagements over the past year. It aims to improve public awareness and offers open access to the functioning of the presidency through a single digital document.

(iii) To promote environmental responsibility, the 'Net Zero by 2027' initiative was introduced. It includes steps to make Rashtrapati Bhavan carbon-neutral through solar installations, waste management, and green energy use, aligning with India's climate commitments.

### 3. PM Modi Inaugurates New Terminal at Tuticorin Airport on 26 July 2025 to Boost Regional Connectivity.



On 26 July 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the state-of-the-art new

terminal building at Tuticorin (Thoothukkudi) Airport in Tamil Nadu. This expansion is part of a broader ₹4,800–₹4,900 crore infrastructure push in southern Tamil Nadu aimed at elevating air, road, port, and rail connectivity.

- The new terminal, constructed at a cost of approximately ₹450 crore and spanning 17,340 sq m, is equipped with 21 check-in counters, 3 aerobridges, 7 baggage scanners, 4 entry gates, and seating for 644 passengers in the departure area. It can handle up to 1,350 passengers during peak hours and 20 lakh passengers annually, with scope to scale to 25 lakh passengers.

- The runway has been extended from 1,350 metres to 3,115 metres, and widened from 30 m to 45 m, enabling the handling of larger wide-bodied aircraft like Airbus A320/A321. Night landing capabilities are now fully supported, enhancing round-the-clock operational flexibility.

- Designed to achieve a GRIHA-4 sustainability rating, the terminal boasts 100% LED lighting, energy-efficient electrical and mechanical systems, and an on-site sewage treatment plant enabling treated water reuse. These elements position the facility as one of India's most eco-friendly airports.

#### Key Points:-

(i) During the same event, PM Modi dedicated infrastructure projects worth over ₹2,350 crore for the 4-laning of 50 km Sethiyathope–Cholapuram stretch (NH-36) and ₹200 crore for the 6-laning of 5.16 km NH-138 Tuticorin Port Road. These highway upgrades are expected to significantly reduce travel time and boost logistics efficiency.

(ii) PM Modi also unveiled key rail and port projects, including electrifying the 90 km Madurai–Bodinayakkanur railway, doubling the Nagercoil–Kanniyakumari section, and launching the North Cargo Berth-III at V.O. Chidambaranar Port (capacity: 6.96 MMTPA, ₹285 crore)

(iii) A ₹550 crore Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) for evacuation from Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant was also dedicated. Collectively, these initiatives reflect a major thrust to enhance regional trade, tourism, and national connectivity.

#### 4. India Establishes COP-33 Cell Under MoEFCC to Strategically Host UN Climate Summit 2028.



India has set up a dedicated COP-33 Cell under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to prepare for hosting the 33rd session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP-33) in 2028. This marks a major diplomatic and environmental milestone for India as it readies itself to lead global climate negotiations.

- The COP-33 Cell has been created as an institutional mechanism within MoEFCC to coordinate inter-ministerial, international, and

logistical preparations for the summit. It will serve as the central planning and execution body, ensuring that India's climate leadership, commitments under the Paris Agreement, and sustainable development goals are effectively highlighted at the global stage.

- India's selection as the host for COP-33 is a recognition of its proactive climate actions, such as the Panchamrit pledges announced at COP-26 in Glasgow, where India committed to achieving Net Zero by 2070. Hosting the 2028 summit will provide India a platform to push for climate equity, climate finance, and technology transfer from developed to developing nations.

- The cell will also engage with states, civil society, academia, industries, and youth organizations to ensure inclusive participation and representation of India's diverse climate initiatives. It is expected to showcase India's domestic efforts like the National Green Hydrogen Mission, International Solar Alliance (ISA), and Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) movement during COP-33.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The 2028 climate summit will also coincide with critical global climate deadlines, including progress reviews of the Global Stocktake and updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). India aims to use this occasion to present its enhanced climate actions across renewable energy, forestry, sustainable transport, and adaptation.

(ii) Senior officials from MoEFCC, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), and NITI Aayog are part of the planning framework, and the host city for COP-33 is expected to be finalized by 2026. This will be the first time India hosts a COP summit since the inception of

UNFCCC in 1992, making it a landmark event in India's climate diplomacy.

#### 5. India Observes 26th Anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas on 26 July 2025 Honouring Brave Soldiers of 1999 War.



On 26th July 2025, India marked the 26th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas to honour the unmatched bravery and sacrifice of Indian soldiers who reclaimed Indian territory from Pakistani intruders during the 1999 Kargil War. The day was commemorated with national pride, remembering the valour of the Indian Armed Forces.

- The Kargil War commenced in May 1999 when nearly 1,500 Pakistani soldiers and militants infiltrated across the Line of Control (LoC) into the Indian side in the Kargil sector of Jammu & Kashmir (now Ladakh UT). Their main aim was to disrupt the strategic Srinagar–Leh route and create pressure on India diplomatically and militarily.

- In response, the Indian Army launched Operation Vijay to reclaim the occupied heights. Over 60 days of grueling high-altitude warfare ensued, leading to complete eviction of the infiltrators by 26th July 1999. The victory came



at a steep cost, reflecting India's unwavering commitment to defend its sovereignty.

- During the intense conflict, 545 Indian soldiers laid down their lives for the nation. Their bravery was honoured with gallantry awards including 4 Param Vir Chakras (PVCs), 9 Maha Vir Chakras (MVCs), and 55 Vir Chakras (VCs), symbolising the highest traditions of selfless service and sacrifice in battle.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The official Kargil Vijay Diwas ceremony in 2025 took place at the Kargil War Memorial in Dras, Ladakh. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu paid solemn tributes to the fallen heroes, acknowledging their enduring inspiration for India's youth and armed forces alike.

(ii) On the same day, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS), through Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), organised the Kargil Vijay Diwas Padyatra in Dras. The event brought together youth participants from across the country to honour the spirit of nationalism and remember the courage shown by the soldiers during the Kargil War.

(iii) Kargil Vijay Diwas stands as a national symbol of India's military might and unity. It reinforces the message that every inch of India's territory will be defended at all costs. The annual observance also aims to keep alive the stories of heroism that shaped modern Indian military history.

#### 6. NCERT to Introduce Curriculum Modules on Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla & Operation Sindoor in Classes 3–12.



In a significant educational development, NCERT is preparing to roll out new curriculum modules for Classes 3 through 12 to highlight India's recent achievements in space and defense—notably Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's historic ISS mission and the military success of Operation Sindoor.

- The initiative aligns with NEP-2020's vision to integrate national pride and contemporary milestones into school education.

- NCERT is developing two separate modules: one tailored for Classes 3–8 and another for Classes 9–12, each spanning 8–10 pages. These will structure content by age, presenting simplified narratives for younger students and detailed strategic analysis for older learners.

- Operation Sindoor—the precision military strike launched on 7 May 2025 in response to the 22 April Pahalgam terror attack—will be featured as a case study illustrating India's counter-terrorism capabilities. Students will learn how coordinated defense, diplomacy, and inter-ministerial initiatives ensured strategic success.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The modules will celebrate Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, the first Indian

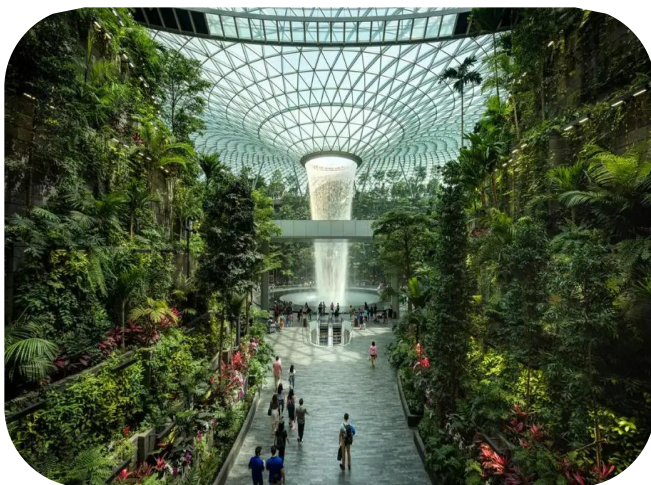
astronaut to visit the ISS (Axiom Mission 4). A notable quote featured in Class 5 EVS ("The Earth looks completely one; no border is visible from outside") emphasises unity and global citizenship.

(ii) Additional sections in the modules will address India's Mission LiFE initiative, the Partition trauma, and major space missions including Chandrayaan and Aditya L1. These inclusions aim to combine defense, environmental stewardship, and scientific excellence into learning.

(iii) Veterans and educationists have welcomed the move. Retired officers describe this as a patriotic milestone that will inspire national pride and career aspirations among students. The initiative is part of a broader effort to instil values of service and strategic awareness via education.

## INTERNATIONAL

### 1. Yantai Penglai International Airport Terminal 2 Named World's Most Beautiful Airport of 2025.



In July 2025, the prestigious Prix Versailles Architecture Awards recognized Yantai Penglai International Airport's Terminal 2 in China as the world's most beautiful airport of 2025. The terminal won praise for integrating ecological sustainability, regional identity, and

artistic architecture into a striking, functional design.

- A new terminal in Yantai, Shandong province (China), Terminal 2 (spanning 167,000 m<sup>2</sup>) was developed by Aedas, CSWADI, and the Shanghai New Era Airport Design and Research Institute. Officially opened in mid-2024, it features an E-shaped layout inspired by the nearby Kunyu Mountain and coastal motifs, optimizing passenger flow while minimizing environmental impact. Interior curves and materials evoke wooden ship hulls, paying homage to the Maritime Silk Road heritage. Natural light floods the space through a glazed diagrid dome above a multi-level atrium.

- Terminal 1 of Marseille Provence Airport in France was recognized for using 70% recycled steel and timber interiors inspired by the Old Port. Roland Garros Airport in Réunion was praised for its tropical bioclimatic design with natural ventilation and native vegetation.

- Kansai International Airport's Terminal 1 in Japan improved capacity by 25% with smart queue systems and natural materials. Portland Airport in the US featured a mass-timber roof using local wood, while San Francisco's Harvey Milk Terminal cut carbon by 79% and hosts the world's only accredited airport art museum.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The awards recognized not just aesthetics, but airports' roles as operational, ecological, and cultural landmarks. As per Jérôme Gouadain, Secretary General of Prix Versailles, these new air terminals blend advanced flow solutions and regional architectural beauty, turning transit spaces into "works of art." Price criteria included sustainability, passenger experience, and reflection of local heritage.

(ii) The victory of Yantai Terminal 2 over long-standing favourites like Singapore's Changi Airport, which did not feature in the 2025 list, underscores China's growing architectural influence in public infrastructure. Three of the six winning terminals will receive special World Titles (Prix Versailles, Interior, or Exterior) in December 2025.

(iii) The 2025 list marks a continuing shift in airport architecture — airports are no longer mere transit points, but expressions of identity, sustainability, and design excellence. Yantai Penglai's Terminal 2 sets a new benchmark for how an airport can shape regional pride, passenger flow, and environmental responsibility.

## 2. PM Narendra Modi Launches 'India-UK Vision 2035' During 2-Day Official Visit to the United Kingdom.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded a two-day visit to the United Kingdom from July 23 to July 24, 2025, as part of the first leg of his two-nation diplomatic tour (UK and Maldives).

- The visit was made at the formal invitation of UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, focusing on strategic bilateral talks, diplomatic

engagements, and advancing the long-term partnership between the two nations.

- This visit marked PM Modi's 4th official visit to the United Kingdom since assuming office in 2014. He arrived at London Airport, where he was received by Catherine West, UK Foreign Office Minister for the Indo-Pacific, as well as Vikram Doraiswami, Indian High Commissioner to the UK, and Lindy Cameron, British High Commissioner to India.

- During the visit, PM Modi held a bilateral meeting with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer at the PM's official country residence in Chequers, Buckinghamshire. The discussions centered around strengthening strategic cooperation, enhancing trade and investments, and reinforcing joint efforts in areas such as climate action and global security.

### Key Points:-

(i) A key highlight of the visit was the official launch of the 'India-UK Vision 2035', which replaces the earlier 'India-UK 2030 Roadmap' signed in 2021. The new framework aims to guide the bilateral relationship over the next 10 years across areas like economic growth, digital innovation, healthcare, security, education, defense, and climate technology.

(ii) The newly launched Vision 2035 is designed to boost the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) between India and the UK with deeper institutional collaboration and expanded people-to-people ties. It emphasizes mutual growth through inclusive, tech-driven development, focusing on long-term economic resilience and sustainable innovation.

(iii) On the cultural front, PM Modi met His Majesty King Charles III at Sandringham



Estate, the King's summer residence. During their interaction, PM Modi gifted the King a sapling of the 'Sonoma' tree (*Davidia involucrata*) under India's 'Ek Ped Maa ke Naam' initiative, symbolizing India's green diplomacy and commitment to nature-based global partnerships.

## BANKING & FINANCE

### 1. Xflow Receives RBI's In-Principle Approval to Operate as Cross-Border Payment Aggregator.



In July 2025, Bengaluru-based fintech firm Xflow received the In-Principle Authorization (IPA) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to function as a Payment Aggregator for Cross-Border (PA-CB) transactions. This approval marks a significant milestone for Xflow in expanding its regulated role within India's digital payments and forex management ecosystem.

- The RBI's in-principle clearance allows Xflow to facilitate both export and import-related international payment flows for Indian businesses. As a PA-CB, Xflow can now offer end-to-end digital cross-border payment solutions, improving regulatory compliance, transparency, and efficiency in foreign trade transactions.

- With this new authorization, Xflow plans to scale operations from its current 10,000 business clients to over 30,000 businesses by the end of 2025.

- This strategic expansion will enable broader market access for Indian exporters and importers, particularly MSMEs (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises), who face friction in cross-border fund flows.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Xflow also announced the launch of FX AI Analyst, India's first AI-powered tool for forex insights, designed to assist businesses in managing foreign exchange risks. The tool uses predictive analytics to optimize currency conversion decisions and helps in mitigating volatility-driven losses in international trade.

(ii) The authorization places Xflow among a select group of RBI-recognized PA-CBs. So far, only six entities have received such clearance: Adyen India, Amazon Pay India, Cashfree Payments, Indialdeas.com (BillDesk), Pay10 Services, and Worldline ePayments India, highlighting the exclusivity and importance of this regulatory milestone.

(iii) The PA-CB framework was introduced by the RBI to ensure secure, efficient, and legally compliant handling of online cross-border payments under India's FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act) guidelines. Xflow's entry into this category signifies its alignment with India's financial digitization and fintech innovation objectives.

## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

### 1. BEML and HSL Forge Strategic Partnership to Pioneer Next-Gen Marine Engineering Capabilities.



India's defence and heavy engineering PSU BHEL Limited, operating under the Ministry of Defence and classified as a Schedule 'A' enterprise, has signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL). The agreement was formally exchanged at BHEL's Delhi office, marking a pivotal step in advancing India's maritime industrial ecosystem

- The MoU sets in motion a strategic collaboration focused on the co-development of advanced marine systems, including indigenous design, innovation, precision manufacturing, and comprehensive lifecycle support. The partnership targets elevating India's shipyard infrastructure and logistics to global standards, supporting both defence and commercial maritime operations.

- BHEL will lead the design and engineering of specialized systems, leveraging its expertise in platform engineering and structural optimization developed over decades in mobility platforms, rail and metro systems, missile components, and mining equipment. HSL, India's premier shipbuilding PSU, will accelerate localization efforts by integrating its shipbuilding experience with BHEL's robust manufacturing capabilities.

### Key Points:-

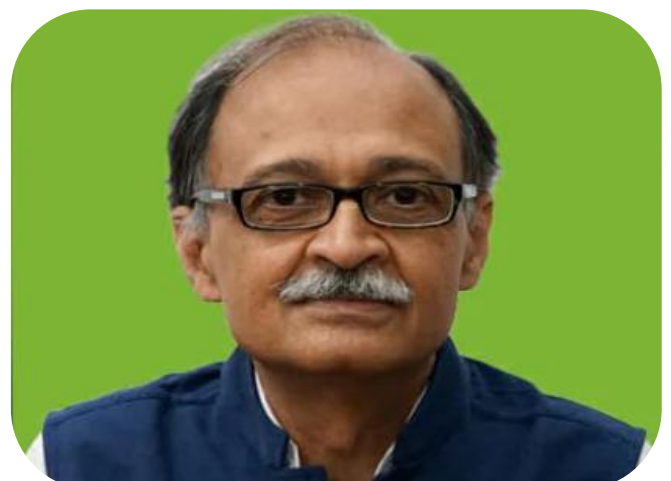
(i) The collaboration will focus on key systems essential for marine infrastructure: low-bed transportation platforms, dredging machinery, high-capacity cranes, and heavy load transporters. These core technologies form the backbone of efficient shipyard logistics and modern maritime infrastructure under India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

(ii) According to BHEL CMD Shantanu Roy, the partnership represents a defining moment in the company's expansion into the marine sector, combining engineering excellence and indigenisation to strengthen India's global presence in maritime innovation.

(iii) HSL CMD Commodore Hemant Khatri (Retd) called the alliance a "strategic leap toward self-reliance and innovation in marine infrastructure". Together, BHEL and HSL are charting India's path toward leadership in marine engineering, paving the way for possible future joint ventures, exports, and enhanced maritime readiness.

## APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

**1. Utpal Kumar Singh Appointed as Chief Executive Officer of Sansad TV.**



In July 2025, senior bureaucrat Utpal Kumar Singh, currently serving as Secretary General of the Lok Sabha, has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Sansad TV by the Rajya Sabha Chairman and Lok Sabha Speaker. He will lead Sansad TV in an additional charge capacity with immediate effect and until further orders.

- The Governing Council of Sansad TV has assigned Utpal Kumar Singh the additional responsibilities of CEO, transferring authority from Ravi Capoor—who was relieved of his duties at the end of August 2022. This appointment restores administrative oversight by the Parliament Secretariat.

- A 1986-batch IAS officer from the Uttarakhand cadre, Singh took over as Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha Secretariat on 30 November 2020. His deep institutional experience and coordination with parliamentary procedures position him to effectively lead Sansad TV.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Sansad TV, launched in September 2021 through the merger of Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV, broadcasts parliamentary proceedings and public-affairs content in Hindi and English. As CEO, Singh will oversee content strategy, program quality, and alignment with democratic ethos.

(ii) By assigning the Lok Sabha Secretary-General as CEO, Parliament ensures seamless policy coordination and content prioritization. The move strengthens Sansad TV's mandate to reflect legislative transparency and governance communication.

(iii) Known for his administrative leadership during Uttarakhand's post-flood rehabilitation and as a trusted career

bureaucrat, Utpal Kumar Singh is seen as a disciplined, low-profile official capable of shaping Sansad TV into a credible voice of parliamentary democracy.

## 2. Anuradha Thakur Nominated as Director on RBI's Central Board from July 24, 2025.



The Government of India has recently nominated Anuradha Thakur, Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), as a Director on the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Her appointment becomes effective from 24 July 2025, marking a significant development in strengthening fiscal and monetary policy synergy at the highest decision-making level of India's central bank.

- Anuradha Thakur, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 1994 batch from the Himachal Pradesh cadre, steps into this role replacing Ajay Seth (IAS 1987 batch), who retired as DEA Secretary on 30 June 2025.

- Her nomination to the RBI board is aligned with the convention of appointing the Economic Affairs Secretary as a government-nominated director responsible for ensuring coordination between fiscal and monetary domains.



- Anuradha Thakur assumed institutional leadership as Economic Affairs Secretary on 1 July 2025, becoming the first woman ever to hold that position in India. Her induction into the RBI Central Board ensures continuity in policy dialogue between the Finance Ministry and the RBI—especially crucial as the country navigates post-pandemic economic challenges.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Anuradha Thakur professional portfolio includes affiliations with departments such as the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), the Department of Corporate Affairs, and the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM). She played a critical role in initiatives like the Air India disinvestment and the launch of the Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund (ETF), showcasing her credibility in public policy implementation and financial reforms.

(ii) The RBI Central Board, where she now serves alongside the Financial Services Secretary M. Nagaraju, is responsible for overseeing monetary policy formulation, banking regulation, and maintaining financial stability. Her appointment is timed just ahead of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting scheduled from 4–6 August 2025, where policy stances are expected to reflect both data-driven outlooks and macroeconomic objectives.

(iii) Anuradha Thakur's nomination symbolizes India's evolving approach toward inclusive leadership in economic policymaking, bringing the strengths of fiscal governance into central banking. With her record in strategic economic initiatives and regulatory oversight, she is poised to influence RBI deliberations on issues ranging from financial inclusion to capital market development and inflation

management.

## SPORTS

### 1. Oscar Piastri Triumphs at Rain-Affected 2025 Belgian Grand Prix to Extend Championship Lead.



On 27 July 2025, Formula 1 returned to the legendary Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps in Belgium for the 13th round of the 2025 World Championship. Australian ace Oscar Piastri, driving for McLaren-Mercedes, held off his teammate Lando Norris amid heavy rain conditions to secure a commanding victory, further boosting his title aspiration.

- The race weekend began under torrential rain that delayed the start by over 80 minutes and required several laps behind the Safety Car. When racing finally commenced, Piastri made a decisive early move through Eau Rouge and down the Kemmel Straight, overtaking Norris and then maintaining control over the remaining 44 laps despite switching from intermediates to slick tyres.

- This win marked Piastri's sixth victory in 13 races in the 2025 season and represented McLaren's sixth one-two finish of the year, with Norris following closely in second. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc took the final podium spot, while

Max Verstappen in the Red Bull drew his team home in fourth place.

- Piastri's dominant performance also transformed the championship standings: he now leads the drivers' table with 266 points, ahead of teammate Norris with 250. McLaren's constructors' tally rose to 516 points, more than double that of second-placed Ferrari (248), solidifying their lead.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Earlier in the weekend, Piastri had impressed in practice and sprint qualifying by setting fastest lap time of 1:42.022 in the sole free practice, followed by a record-breaking 1:40.510 for sprint pole position at Spa-Francorchamps. Although he lost the Sprint race to Red Bull's Max Verstappen, Piastri's Spa success highlighted his crash-proof consistency and composure across varied conditions.

(ii) Spa's unpredictable weather and newly resurfaced track corners were widely regarded as wildcard factors this weekend, yet Piastri remained unflappable. His victory was also McLaren's first Belgian Grand Prix win since Jenson Button in 2012, signifying a key milestone in the team's resurgence under a new era of performance.

## 2. Divya Deshmukh Makes History by Winning FIDE Women's Chess World Cup 2025.



Nineteen-year-old International Master (IM) Divya Deshmukh etched her name in the annals of Indian chess on 28 July 2025, becoming the first Indian woman ever to win the Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE) Women's Chess World Cup.

- The victory, clinched in Batumi, Georgia, against veteran compatriot Grandmaster Koneru Humpy, earned Divya the prestigious Grandmaster title and marked a monumental milestone for Indian chess.

- Divya's path to glory included decisive victories over top-seeded rivals. She stunned Grandmaster Harika Dronavalli in the quarterfinals with a clean 2-0 win in rapid playoffs and eliminated former Women's World Champion Tan Zhongyi of China in a gripping semifinal—securing her spot in the final with a 1.5–0.5 scoreline. These victories also earned her a coveted Grandmaster norm and qualification for the Women's Candidates Tournament 2026.

#### Key Points:-

(i) In the historic final match against Koneru Humpy, both classical games ended in draws. The match proceeded to the rapid tie-breakers, where Divya exhibited remarkable composure and tactical

precision to win the second tie-break 1.5–0.5—finally lifting the World Cup trophy amidst tears of triumph.

(ii) This victory also transformed Divya's career: she became India's 88th Grandmaster and only the fourth Indian woman to earn the GM title, joining the ranks of Koneru Humpy, Harika Dronavalli, and R Vaishali. Her performance received praise from national leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu, who celebrated her victory as a turning point in Indian women's chess.

(iii) Divya Deshmukh's triumph symbolizes the emergence of a new generation of Indian chess talent, with her win also serving as a powerful inspiration for young women across the country. Her balanced academic pursuits in sports psychology and performance science, along with her sporting success, reflect the evolving role of education and mindset in modern chess excellence.

of Parliament (MPs) in recognition of their outstanding contributions to parliamentary proceedings, accountability, and democratic values.

- The awards, now in their 15th edition, celebrate excellence in legislative work since their inception in 2010, inspired by the ideals of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

- The Sansad Ratna Awards 2025 ceremony took place in New Delhi and was organized by the Prime Point Foundation in association with the Sansad Ratna Awards Committee. The awards honoured 17 distinguished MPs from both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for their exceptional performance in debates, private members' bills, questions, and overall attendance. Notable recipients included Supriya Sule, Ravi Kishan, Nishikant Dubey, and Arvind Sawant.

- The Special Jury Awards category was introduced to honour MPs who have shown consistent excellence since the 16th Lok Sabha. This year, the Special Jury Awards were conferred upon Bhartruhari Mahtab, N.K. Premachandran, Supriya Sule, and Shrirang Appa Barne. These parliamentarians were recognised for their long-standing commitment to quality legislative contributions and public accountability.

#### Key Points:-

(i) In addition to individual honours, the Standing Committees on Finance and Agriculture were also felicitated. These committees were acknowledged for their robust role in shaping national policy, promoting democratic values, ensuring legislative scrutiny, and holding the executive accountable. Their work highlights the growing importance of committees in

## AWARDS

### 1. Sansad Ratna Awards 2025 Recognises 17 MPs for Exemplary Parliamentary Contributions.



On 26th July 2025, the Sansad Ratna Awards 2025 were presented to 17 Members



India's parliamentary functioning.

(ii) The Sansad Ratna Awards are supported by key institutions including the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) and the eMagazine "PreSense." The awards align with the goal of strengthening democracy through performance-based recognition, thereby motivating MPs to actively engage in quality legislative activities. The initiative also draws attention to the importance of data-driven evaluations of MPs' contributions.

(iii) The awards were launched in 2010 following a suggestion by former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, who envisioned a culture of transparency and recognition in democratic institutions. Since then, the awards have become one of India's most prestigious recognitions for legislative excellence, rooted in verified data from the Indian Parliament and PRS Legislative Research (PRS – Parliamentary Research Services).

In a groundbreaking initiative, India—through the Department of Hospital Administration at the Army Hospital (Research & Referral)—organised SHAPE 2025 (Sustainable Hospital Architecture, Planning, Infrastructure and Equipment), the first-ever national conference of its kind, in July 2025 at New Delhi. This milestone event brought together civil and military healthcare experts to chart a future-ready roadmap for India's healthcare infrastructure.

- In the inaugural SHAPE 2025 conference, over 275 professionals from armed forces, public health services, hospitals, and architectural design sectors convened to deliberate on issues spanning sustainable design, resilient infrastructure, and advanced equipment integration. Participants included hospital administrators, doctors, nurses, engineers and architects.

- . The conference marks a strategic pivot towards futuristic healthcare infrastructure aligned with national resilience and sustainability goals.

## SUMMITS & CONFERENCE / COMMITTEES & MEETINGS

### 1. India Hosts First-Ever SHAPE 2025 Conference on Sustainable Hospital Planning.



#### Key Points:-

(i) The Continuing Medical Education (CME) event was formally inaugurated by Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin, Director General Armed Forces Medical Services, and Dr M. Srinivas, Director of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (New Delhi). Their presence underscored the convergence of military precision and medical excellence in shaping the future of hospital planning.

(ii) SHAPE 2025 emphasised integrated, green hospital planning frameworks. Sessions detailed models for achieving GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) and CFEES (Certified Facility Energy Efficiency Standard) certifications,

and showcased design elements like solar integration, rainwater harvesting, disaster-resilient layouts, and zero-emission operational protocols to enhance patient safety and environmental sustainability.

(iii) The conference also laid the foundation for a proposed doctrine on sustainable hospital infrastructure in India, aimed at guiding future public and private healthcare projects. This doctrine would standardise hospital design, infrastructure resilience, ergonomic facilities, and green building norms—thereby aligning with India's long-term vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047 under a health-secure developmental paradigm.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### 1. UN Observes First-Ever International Day for Women and Girls of African Descent on 25 July 2025.



On 25th July 2025, the United Nations celebrated the inaugural International Day for Women and Girls of African Descent, marking a global recognition of their contributions, strength, and leadership. This day serves as a powerful reminder of the need for inclusion, empowerment, and equality for African-descended women and girls worldwide.

- The theme for the first observance of the International Day for Women and Girls of African Descent in 2025 was “Rising Together: Women and Girls of African Descent Leading with Strength,” emphasizing unity, empowerment, and leadership in the face of historical exclusion and inequality.

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) officially adopted the day through Resolution A/RES/78/323 on 13 August 2024, calling for greater international commitment to recognizing the achievements and challenges of women and girls of African heritage.

- The resolution was strongly backed by key UN entities such as UN Women (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women), OHCHR (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights), and UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), which collectively advocated for this global recognition.

#### Key Points:-

(i) This international day highlights the importance of diversity and inclusivity within development agendas, and calls for an end to racial discrimination and gender bias while spotlighting African-descended women as vital contributors to global peace, innovation, and resilience.

(ii) The UN General Assembly has invited all member states, UN agencies, civil society, the private sector, academic institutions, and media organizations to actively participate in observance events, ensuring that the voices and aspirations of African-descended women and girls are heard and elevated globally.

## 2. India Celebrates 87th CRPF Foundation Day on 27 July 2025 Honouring Legacy of Service and Sacrifice.



On 27 July 2025, India celebrated the 87th Foundation Day of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)—marking a proud legacy of unwavering service, discipline, and sacrifice. As India's largest Central Armed Police Force, CRPF continues to play a pivotal role in safeguarding internal security and upholding national peace.

- Established on 27 July 1939 in Neemuch, Madhya Pradesh, as the Crown Representative's Police, CRPF was rechristened in December 1949 under an Act of Parliament. Spearheaded by leaders like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, it evolved into a central force responsible for maintaining internal security across India.

- Operating under the Ministry of Home Affairs, CRPF undertakes diverse roles: counter-insurgency, law and order enforcement, VIP security, election duty, and disaster response. Specialized units include the Rapid Action Force (RAF) and CoBRA, trained for riot control and anti-Naxal operations, respectively.

- Over decades, CRPF has been instrumental in major operations: combating insurgencies, thwarting parliamentary-terror attacks, and

aiding during natural disasters. Its personnel have received prestigious honors such as Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra, and George Cross, with over 2,255 personnel sacrificing their lives in service.

### Key Points:-

(i) In 2025, Foundation Day was marked across the country with events like parades, wreath-laying at martyr memorials, community outreach, "Fit India" cycle rallies, and tree plantations. At the 37th Battalion in Nagpur, Commandant Dao Injirkan Kindo and senior officers led commemorations honoring fallen heroes and reinforcing patriotic spirit.

(ii) With a strength exceeding 3.1 lakh active personnel across 246–247 battalions, CRPF remains essential for India's internal security architecture. As a force built on the motto "Service and Loyalty", its legacy underscores India's resilience, vigilance, and ability to adapt to evolving security landscapes.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### 1. Russia Successfully Launches 20 Satellites Including Iran's Nahid-2 from Vostochny Cosmodrome.





In a major step towards enhancing international space cooperation, Russia launched a total of 20 satellites—including one from Iran—on July 25, 2025, using a Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket. The launch took place from the Vostochny Cosmodrome located in Amur Oblast, Russia, and included multiple scientific and communication payloads.

- The launch comprised two key Earth Observation Satellites (EOS) from Russia under the Ionosphere-M program, 17 smaller satellites by Russian companies and institutes, and the Nahid-2 communications satellite developed by Iran. The mission highlights Russia's growing partnerships with international space agencies, particularly Iran's space organizations.

- Iran's Nahid-2 satellite, meaning "Venus" in Persian, was developed by the Iranian Space Agency (ISA) in collaboration with the Iranian Space Research Centre (ISRC). Weighing 110 kilograms, Nahid-2 was placed into an orbit approximately 500 kilometers above Earth and is expected to function for two years. It is designed to enhance civil communication infrastructure in Iran.

- The Nahid-2 is equipped with deployable solar panels and can both send and receive telecommunication signals. Its key function is to support Iran's domestic communication network development and represents a major milestone in the country's independent space capabilities.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Russia's Ionosphere-M Earth Observation Satellites No. 3 and No. 4 were the primary payloads of the launch. These satellites are intended to study Earth's ionosphere and collect data on atmospheric weather, radiation levels, and other geophysical

processes affected by natural and anthropogenic factors.

(ii) Among the 17 smaller satellites onboard, 9 were developed by Russian company Geoscan, which specializes in Earth imaging and monitoring. These satellites will also be used for traffic surveillance and to support academic research in space science.

(iii) The Russia-Iran space partnership was earlier formalized in January 2025 to enhance collaborative projects in planetary science and technology.

**Static GK**

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<b>BEML Limited</b>	Chairman & MD : Shantanu Roy	Headquarters: Bengaluru
<b>RBI</b>	Governor : Sanjay Malhotra	Headquarter : Mumbai
<b>Russia</b>	President: Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin	Currency: Russian Ruble
<b>UN Women</b>	Executive Director : Sima Sami Bahous	Headquarters : New York City, (USA)