



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

>>> 30 JULY 2025

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. MoRTH Launches India's First AI-Based Road Safety Pilot Project in Uttar Pradesh to Reduce Highway Accidents under Vision 2047.



The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has approved India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based road safety pilot project in Uttar Pradesh in July 2025. This initiative aims to reduce road accidents through smart surveillance, predictive analytics, and AI-powered enforcement tools on accident-prone stretches of National Highways.

- The pilot project was approved by MoRTH under the leadership of Union Minister Nitin Gadkari. It will be implemented on select high-risk corridors in Uttar Pradesh with a focus on real-time traffic monitoring, detection of violations, and quick emergency response using AI technologies. The pilot officially commenced in July 2025.

- The AI-based system will include Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras, speed detection radars, lane violation sensors, and AI-enabled black spot mapping. These tools will help traffic authorities monitor violations such as overspeeding, wrong-lane driving, and signal jumping in real-time and take instant action.

- The project will be executed in coordination with the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), and local police authorities. A centralised control centre will receive alerts from highway sensors and initiate emergency responses in coordination with ambulances and enforcement teams.

Key Points:-

- (i) This initiative is inspired by earlier AI road safety models like the iRASTE (Intelligent Solutions for Road Safety through Technology and Engineering) project in Nagpur, launched in September 2021 by MoRTH, NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India), CSIR-CRRI (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Central Road Research Institute), and IIIT-Hyderabad (International Institute of Information Technology-Hyderabad).
- (ii) MoRTH Secretary V. Umashankar highlighted that the pilot supports India's target to reduce road accident fatalities by 50% by 2030, in line with the UN's Decade of Action for Road Safety. The project will run for 12–18 months before nationwide rollout based on performance evaluation.
- (iii) The Uttar Pradesh pilot marks a major milestone in India's adoption of smart infrastructure and digital enforcement under the "Vision 2047" strategy. If successful, it will be scaled to other states with high accident rates, integrating AI with highway design, maintenance, and law enforcement systems.

2. MoES Launches 14 Scientific Tools on 19th Foundation Day to Strengthen India's Climate Resilience.



On 28 July 2025, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences and Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, unveiled 14 new scientific tools and digital services developed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) in New Delhi. These innovations are designed to bolster India's climate resilience, disaster preparedness, and public outreach.

- The launch coincided with MoES's 19th Foundation Day celebrations, themed "19 Saal – Vigyan, Sankalp aur Seva", held in New Delhi. Minister Singh described India's transformation into a citizen-centric, science-driven nation, emphasizing accessible real-time weather alerts and ocean forecasts via mobile platforms.

- Among the tools introduced were the Bharat Forecast System – Extended Range Prediction (BharatFS-ERP), high-resolution rainfall datasets, seismic microzonation maps for four cities, updated wave atlases, crop-weather calendars, ocean biodiversity reports, and a documentary titled Life-Saving Impact by the India Meteorological Department (IMD). These tools enhance services for agriculture, fisheries, disaster management, and coastal safety.

- Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted MoES's remarkable expansion over the past decade: Doppler Weather Radars have increased from 15

to 41 units, and seismic and weather monitoring systems have been significantly upgraded—enabling real-time earthquake alerts within 2–3 minutes to lakhs of users.

Key Points:-

(i) Today over 7 lakh farmers rely on the Meghdoot mobile app for location-specific crop advisories based on weather forecasts. Meanwhile, coastal fishermen benefit from SMS alerts to identify safe fishing zones and optimize fuel use. MoES has effectively combined scientific data with practical outreach for last-mile resilience.

(ii) MoES also showcased its leadership in ocean technology, with six Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) plants in Lakshadweep producing 1.5 lakh litres of drinking water daily. The Deep Ocean Mission, including the Samudrayaan project, was described as a future economic driver—envisioning Indian scientists diving 6 km below sea level.

(iii) Highlighting institutional strength, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted that the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)'s budget increased from ₹1,281 crore in 2014 to ₹3,658 crore in 2024, supporting high-performance infrastructures like supercomputing systems Pratyush and Mihir. This enhanced funding enabled key initiatives such as Mission Mausam, the National Monsoon Mission (NMM), and strengthened partnerships with premier agencies including the IMD, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), and the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF).

INTERNATIONAL

1. UN Releases SOFI 2025 Report: Global Hunger Affected 8.2% of World's Population in 2024, Africa Worst Hit.



On 28 July 2025, the United Nations released the “State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2025” report, revealing that approximately 673 million people, or 8.2% of the global population, experienced chronic hunger in 2024. While hunger decreased slightly from 8.5% in 2023, progress remains uneven across regions.

- The SOFI 2025 report—prepared jointly by FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund), WFP (World Food Programme), and WHO (World Health Organization)—shows hunger continued to decline globally for a third year in a row, although levels remain higher than in 2019 pre-pandemic baselines.

- The reduction in global hunger has been largely driven by gains in Southern Asia (notably India) and South America, where hunger rates fell to 11% and 3.8%, respectively. These improvements reflect better access to nutritious diets, agricultural advancements, and effective social protection initiatives.

Key Points:-

(i) In stark contrast, Africa remains the most vulnerable region, with 307 million people—or one in five—chronically undernourished in 2024. The proportion of food-insecure people in Africa is expected to rise to nearly 60% of the global total by 2030, driven by conflict, climate shocks, and slow agricultural productivity.

(ii) The report highlights that approximately 2.3 billion people globally—or 28% of the population—were moderately or severely food insecure in 2024. This figure was still 355 million higher than in 2019 and 683 million higher than in 2015 when the UN adopted its Sustainable Development Goals.

(iii) While undernourishment declined slightly, global obesity rates increased: adult obesity reached 15.8% by 2022, up from 12.1% in 2012, and child stunting declined modestly to 23.2% in 2024. The report underscores rising food inflation as a key barrier to accessing healthy diets.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. LIC Signs USD 1 Billion Forward Rate Agreements with JPMorgan and Bank of America to Manage Interest Rate Risks.



In July 2025, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), India's largest insurance company, entered into Forward Rate Agreements (FRAs) worth USD 1 billion (approximately ₹8,300 crore) with two leading U.S.-based financial institutions—JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Bank of America (BoA). This move aims to shield LIC's investments from the impact of declining interest rates and provide stable long-term returns amid rising market volatility.

- LIC's decision to enter FRA transactions comes after its November 2024 announcement to foray into the bond derivatives market. The initiative marks a strategic financial maneuver to safeguard fixed income returns at a time when equity market fluctuations threaten the insurer's portfolio performance.

- By July 2025, LIC had already executed FRA trades worth USD 1 billion, making up nearly 38% of India's total FRA market volume, which stands at USD 2.6 billion. This highlights LIC's dominant role in this evolving financial instrument segment within the Indian market.

- Forward Rate Agreements (FRAs) are derivative contracts where two parties agree on a fixed interest rate for borrowing or lending a notional amount at a future date. In this agreement, LIC locks in the interest rate today for future bond purchases, effectively mitigating potential future rate changes.

Key Points:-

(i) In these contracts, the counterparty—usually a global bank like JPMorgan or BoA—takes on the interest rate fluctuation risk and is compensated with a premium. To minimize their exposure, banks typically purchase long-term bonds that align with the maturity date of the FRA, making these

trades mutually beneficial.

(ii) This FRA initiative by LIC is part of a broader strategy to build resilience into its investment portfolio and ensure consistent returns, especially in a macroeconomic environment where central banks may reduce rates to stimulate economic activity.

2. RBI Reports 10.7% Surge in Digital Payments Index to 493.22 in March 2025 Reflecting Robust Infrastructure and Performance Growth.



In July 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its latest RBI-Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) data showing a 10.7% year-on-year rise to 493.22 in March 2025, up from 445.50 in March 2024. This semi-annual index reflects the extent of digital payments adoption and infrastructure advancement in India.

- The RBI-Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) saw a substantial growth of 10.7% over the year, rising to 493.22 in March 2025 from 445.50 in March 2024, and also showing improvement from 465.33 in September 2024. This consistent rise highlights growing digital payment penetration and transaction volumes across the country.

- The surge in the index was majorly driven by two key components—Payment Infrastructure-Supply-Side and Payment Performance. The improved availability of payment acceptance devices, digital banking services, and efficient payment processing systems contributed significantly to this growth.

- The RBI-DPI was first launched in 2021 by the Reserve Bank of India as a composite measure to track the adoption and reach of digital payments. It serves as a crucial tool for assessing the progress of India's digital economy initiatives and financial technology expansion.

Key Points:-

(i) The Digital Payments Index is published twice a year—covering the months of March and September—and uses March 2018 as its base period, which is indexed at a value of 100. This baseline helps in understanding the growth trajectory and systemic improvements over time.

(ii) RBI-DPI comprises five carefully structured components: Payment Enablers (25%), Payment Infrastructure-Demand-Side (10%), Payment Infrastructure-Supply-Side (15%), Payment Performance (45%), and Consumer Centricity (5%). These parameters ensure a holistic assessment of the digital payment ecosystem.

(iii) India has experienced a remarkable rise in digital transactions, with over 65,000 crore transactions valued at more than Rs. 12,000 lakh crore (Rs. 120 trillion) recorded during the Financial Year 2024–25. This reflects growing trust in digital platforms and sustained government initiatives promoting cashless payments.

3. CCI Approves Renault Group's Stake Acquisition in RNAIPL and Road Asset Deals by Anantam Highways Trust.



On 28 July 2025, the Competition Commission of India (CCI), functioning under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), granted approval to two major acquisition proposals: Renault Group's remaining stake acquisition in Renault Nissan Automotive India Pvt Ltd (RNAIPL), and road asset acquisition by Anantam Highways Trust, reflecting significant consolidation in the automotive and infrastructure sectors.

- The first CCI-approved deal involved Renault Group B.V. and its nominee Renault S.A.S. acquiring the remaining 51% stake in Renault Nissan Automotive India Pvt Ltd (RNAIPL) from Nissan Motor Company Ltd. and its affiliates, including Nissan Overseas Investments B.V., consolidating Renault's full ownership in the Indian venture.

- The proposed combination under this automotive deal includes the acquisition of equity shares as well as zero-coupon non-convertible redeemable preference shares, fully paid-up, from Nissan, Japan, and its entities. This acquisition enables Renault to strengthen control over manufacturing and operations in the Indian market.

- In the second deal, CCI approved the acquisition of road infrastructure assets by Anantam Highways Trust, an Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) backed by Mumbai-based Alpha Alternatives Fund Advisors LLP and sponsor Dilip Buildcon Ltd (DBL) and DBL Infraventures Pvt Ltd.

Key Points:-

- The Anantam deal includes full 100% shareholding in eight target Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs), covering key national highway assets such as Doddaballapur Hoskote Highways, Repallewada Highways, Chhindwara Highways, and others spanning across Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.
- Additionally, the deal also includes a 49% stake acquisition in PHL Infrastructure Pvt Ltd, a road asset entity, further expanding Anantam's portfolio of highway concessions and improving long-term infrastructure investment viability.
- These approvals by the CCI align with the Indian government's focus on ease of doing business and infrastructure modernization, paving the way for enhanced foreign investments and strategic asset consolidation in key sectors.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1. IMF Raises India's Growth Forecast to 6.4% for FY26 and FY27 Amid Improved Global Outlook.



In its July 2025 update to the World Economic Outlook, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) revises India's GDP growth projection upward to 6.4% for both Fiscal Year 2025-26 and 2026-27—up from 6.2% and 6.3% in the April forecast. The upgrade reflects a more favourable external environment and strong domestic reform momentum.

- The IMF raised India's growth forecast by 20 basis points in FY26 and 10 basis points in FY27, attributing the upward revision to factors such as easing global tariffs, improved financial conditions including a weaker U.S. dollar, and sustained reform efforts boosting consumption and public investment.
- Globally, the IMF now projects 3.0% GDP growth in 2025 and 3.1% in 2026, also revising emerging markets' growth to 4.1% for 2025 and 4.0% for 2026. China's forecast was lifted to 4.8%, contributing to a more benign environment for global trade and capital flows.
- The revised forecast cements India's position as the world's fastest-growing major economy. Despite global slowdowns, IMF affirms India's growth trajectory ahead of peers like China and the U.S., reinforcing investor confidence in India's economic fundamentals.

Key Points:-

(i) The IMF warned that renewed tariff tensions or fiscal slippages could derail momentum, leading to inflationary pressures and tightening financial conditions. It emphasized the need for continued structural reforms in education, labor markets, land policies, and regulatory ease to sustain growth.

(ii) To build on the revised forecast, IMF recommends India to enhance job creation through upskilling agricultural labor, sustain infrastructure investments, and promote digital and manufacturing reforms—all of which underpin India's long-term growth and inclusion agenda.

2. India's Concert Economy Set to Create 12 Million Jobs by 2032, Fueling Growth in Tier II and III Cities.



A recent report by global talent solutions firm NLB Services, published in July 2025, projects that India's booming concert economy will generate nearly 12 million (1.2 crore) temporary jobs by 2030–2032. The surge is led by over 100 large-format concerts annually, driving economic growth beyond metro cities.

• While major events continue in metros like Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad, concert activity is expanding into Tier II and III cities such as Guwahati, Kochi, Lucknow, Pune, Jaipur, Shillong, Indore, and Chandigarh, creating new opportunities and cultural vibrancy across the nation.

• Each large concert generates between 15,000 to 20,000 temporary roles across functions like venue operations, crowd management, food & beverage services, stage rigging, artist management, logistics, digital media, and content creation. Around 10–15% of these roles are converting into full-time careers in fields such as production management, audio engineering, and digital strategy.

• Concerts have boosted local economies in measurable ways—Coldplay's 2024 tour in Ahmedabad alone injected around ₹641 crore into the city's economy, including ₹72 crore in GST revenue, a surge of 300–350% in flight demand, a jump in train bookings, and record hotel tariffs. The ripple effect benefits travel, tourism, hospitality, retail, and MSMEs.

Key Points:-

(i) Despite rapidly rising demand, a shortage of skilled professionals—especially in areas like live production, lighting design, audio engineering, and digital event technologies—poses a challenge. Industry stakeholders emphasise the urgent need for investment in upskilling and structured training, particularly in emerging event hubs outside metro areas.

(ii) With over 100 major concerts expected per year, India's concert economy is forecast to exceed ₹15,000 crore in economic value soon. The industry is now evolving as a formal contributor to GDP and youth

employment, helping create a sustainable and inclusive entertainment ecosystem.

3. Reliance Jio Launches JioPC—India's First AI-Ready Cloud Desktop Turning Any TV into a Computer.



In July 2025, telecom giant Reliance Jio introduced JioPC, an AI-ready, cloud-based virtual desktop platform that transforms any television connected to a Jio Set-Top Box (STB) into a fully functional desktop experience. Available to both JioFiber and Jio AirFiber users, the platform targets affordable computing access across India.

- JioPC operates on a subscription-first, pay-as-you-go model, starting at ₹400–₹599 per month (plus GST), with no upfront cost or maintenance required. New users receive a one-month free trial, making high-end computing accessible even to households without traditional PCs.

- The service requires a Jio Set-Top Box (available with broadband plans or purchasable for ₹5,499), any HDMI-compatible TV, and a keyboard and mouse. Once set up, the user's TV screen becomes an interactive cloud desktop powered via Jio's remote servers.

- JioPC is designed to support e-learning, remote working, casual browsing, and basic entrepreneurship. It enables users to attend online classes, edit documents, apply productivity tools, and create digital content—all from home using their TV. Future updates may include support for peripherals like printers and webcams.

Key Points:-

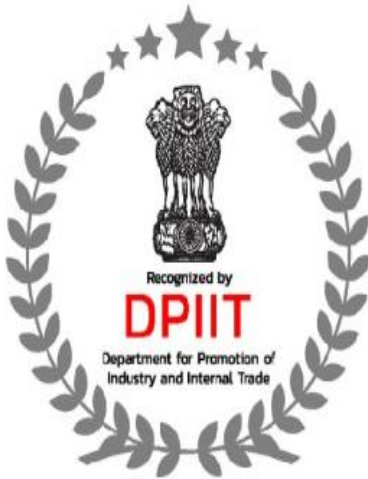
(i) JioPC runs entirely on the Ubuntu (Linux) OS hosted in Jio's cloud infrastructure. The virtual desktop offers fast boot-up, 512 GB cloud storage, network-level protection from malware and viruses, and built-in upgradability—ensuring seamless performance without hardware updates.

(ii) JioPC comes pre-installed with LibreOffice, offers in-browser access to Microsoft Office, and includes AI-ready productivity tools. Subscribers also get complimentary access to Adobe Express, enabling content creation, graphic editing, and learning—making the platform suitable for students, professionals, and creators.

(iii) With only about 15% of Indian households owning a PC while over 70% have TVs, JioPC has the potential to reach hundreds of millions, especially in underserved rural and semi-urban areas. The platform aims to bridge India's digital divide by democratizing personal computing via existing infrastructure.

MOUs and Agreement

1. DPIIT and Ather Energy Sign MoU to Accelerate EV Manufacturing and Clean Mobility under 'Build in Bharat' Initiative.



In July 2025, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), functioning under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian electric vehicle manufacturer Ather Energy Limited. This collaboration is a key component of the government's 'Build in Bharat' initiative to support clean mobility, advanced manufacturing, and deep-tech startup growth in India.

- The MoU was formally exchanged in the presence of Sanjiv Singh, Joint Secretary of DPIIT, and Tarun Mehta, Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ather Energy Limited. The agreement marks a public-private synergy to scale India's clean-tech capabilities and promote innovation in electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure and manufacturing.
- This partnership is part of the 'Build in Bharat' initiative steered by the Startup Policy Forum (SPF), a collective platform of over 50 innovation-led Indian startups. The initiative seeks to drive forward self-reliant manufacturing ecosystems and deep-tech capabilities with focused government and industry collaboration.
- Under the terms of the MoU, DPIIT and Ather Energy will work jointly to support 'strategic

mentorship' for deep-tech startups, especially those engaged in the EV value chain. The MoU also covers assistance in setting up infrastructure hubs that can facilitate innovation in mobility technology.

Key Points:-

- (i) One of the core deliverables of this partnership includes the launch of co-branded national-level programs such as the "Bharat Startup Grand Challenge." These initiatives will promote early-stage innovation, nurture talent pipelines, and engage with emerging startups aligned with India's electric and sustainable transport mission.
- (ii) The collaboration also emphasizes skills enhancement and talent development in the EV manufacturing sector. This will involve organizing industry-focused workshops, boot camps, and training programs aimed at boosting entrepreneurial and technical capabilities among youth and startup founders.
- (iii) The MoU will further strengthen participation in flagship national startup events like Startup Mahakumbh, fostering visibility and investment for EV and clean mobility startups. The initiative aligns closely with India's net-zero goals, industrial growth strategies, and commitment to achieving leadership in sustainable technologies.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. Shailesh Jejurikar Named President and Global CEO of Procter & Gamble (P&G).



Procter & Gamble (P&G) announced in late July 2025 that its Chief Operating Officer, Shailesh Jejurikar, will succeed Jon Moeller as President and Chief Executive Officer, effective 1 January 2026. Moeller will transition to the role of Executive Chairman. Jejurikar becomes the first Indian-born leader in P&G's 187-year history.

- Jejurikar joined P&G in 1989 as an Assistant Brand Manager in India and steadily rose through global roles in Africa, Asia, North America, Latin America, and Europe. He led the Global Fabric & Home Care division—including iconic brands like Tide, Ariel, Downy, and Swiffer—before becoming Chief Operating Officer in 2021.

- Jejurikar's elevation marks a historic moment: he will be the first India-born individual to head P&G. He joins the distinguished league of Indian-origin executives leading major global firms such as Satya Nadella, Sundar Pichai, and Shantanu Narayen.

- P&G emphasized that the move was a well-planned and orderly succession by the Board. On 1 January 2026, Jejurikar will take charge as CEO, while Jon Moeller shifts to the Executive Chairman role to oversee corporate governance and mentoring.

Key Points:-

(i) Jejurikar assumes leadership amid pressures such as slowdown in U.S. sales, rising tariffs, economic uncertainty, and a recently announced restructuring plan involving job reductions and divestitures. Analysts expect him to maintain operational stability while driving growth and innovation.

(ii) P&G Board's Lead Director Joe Jimenez praised Jejurikar's deep institutional insight and performance across divisions, calling him an "outstanding leader" capable of guiding P&G through global challenges. The Board also nominated him for election as a Director at the October 2025 shareholder meeting.

AWARDS

1. Indian Author Geetanjali Shree Wins PEN Translates Award 2025 for 'Once Elephants Lived Here' Translated by Daisy Rockwell.



In July 2025, Indian Hindi novelist and short story writer Geetanjali Shree was named one of the 14 recipients of the prestigious PEN Translates Award 2025 by English PEN (UK), for her short story collection 'Once Elephants Lived Here', translated into English by noted American translator Daisy Rockwell.

- Geetanjali Shree's *Once Elephants Lived Here* earned the PEN Translates Award for its powerful narrative that explores profound themes like memory, uprooting, and the erosion of cultural and ecological heritage. The award is given by English PEN, a UK-based literary and human rights organization that promotes global literary translation.

- The English translation of *Once Elephants Lived Here* was done by Daisy Rockwell, a renowned American translator known for translating major Hindi and Urdu works. The book's translation showcases a successful collaboration that bridges linguistic and cultural divides, further solidifying India's position in global literary discourse.

- Geetanjali Shree is a renowned Hindi novelist and short story writer from Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh. She began her literary journey in 1987 with the short story *Bel Patra*, followed by her first collection *Anugoonj* in 1991. Her major works include *Mai*, *Hamara Shahar Us Baras*, *Khalij Jagah*, *Ret Samadhi*, and *Tomb of Sand*.

Key Points:-

(i) In 2022, Geetanjali Shree made history when *Ret Samadhi* (translated into English as *Tomb of Sand* by Daisy Rockwell) won the International Booker Prize, making her the first Hindi-language author to win this global honor. Her latest PEN award continues her recognition as a pioneer of South Asian literature in translation.

(ii) The PEN Translates Award is part of English PEN's initiative to support the translation of global literature into English to promote linguistic diversity and underrepresented voices. In 2025, 14 works from 13 languages and 11 global regions were selected, featuring authors such as

Mohammed Al-As'ad and Conceição Evaristo.

(iii) The 2025 edition of the award emphasized South Asian literature, highlighting works under the 'PEN Translates × SALT (South Asian Literature in Translation)' collaboration with the University of Chicago's South Asia Institute. Alongside Geetanjali's book, *Eyes, Eyes, Eyes* by Sara Shagufta (translated from Urdu by Javeria Hasnain) was also recognized.

App and Web Portal

1. Sanchar Saathi Mobile App Launched in 21 Indian Languages to Boost Telecom Security and Curb Fraud Nationwide.



On 17 January 2025, Union Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya M. Scindia launched the Sanchar Saathi mobile application in New Delhi. Developed by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), the app supports 21 scheduled Indian languages and empowers over 90 crore smartphone users with tools to combat telecom fraud and unauthorized usage.

- Sanchar Saathi builds on the earlier Sanchar Saathi portal, inaugurated in May 2023, enabling citizens to report telecom fraud, block lost or

stolen mobile devices using the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR), and manage mobile connections tied to their name. The app version streamlines these features into a mobile interface with easy access.

- A signature feature named Chakshu allows users to directly report Suspected Fraud Communications (SFC)—calls, SMS, or WhatsApp messages—from their phone logs. Other modules let users verify handset authenticity via International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI), report incoming international spoofed calls with local mobile numbers, and block unauthorized connections.

- The app's multi-lingual interface supports 21 scheduled Indian languages including Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Punjabi, and others—making it uniquely accessible nationwide. The launch aims to serve over 90 crore smartphone users across rural and urban India.

Key Points:-

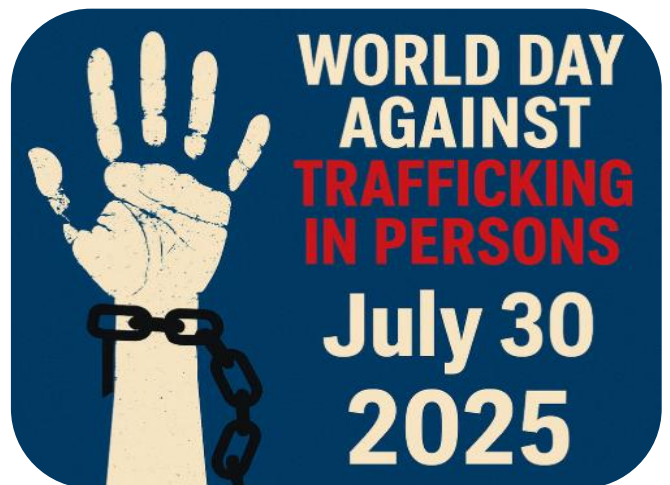
(i) At the launch event, Minister Scindia emphasized the app's role in enhancing telecom security and user trust, noting complementary initiatives such as National Broadband Mission (NBM) 2.0 and Intra-Circle Roaming at Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) funded 4G mobile sites to expand connectivity and digital inclusion.

(ii) Since the portal's inception, over 9 crore visits have led to the disconnection of 2.75 crore fraudulent connections, recovery of 25 lakh stolen phones, freezing of 12.38 lakh WhatsApp accounts linked to cybercrime, and suspension of 11.6 lakh mule bank accounts. Sanchar Saathi mobile app is expected to amplify these results via increased user engagement.

(iii) Available for both Android and iOS platforms, the app has seen more than 40 lakh downloads on Play Store and over 3.6 lakh on the Apple App Store, as of June 2025. Privacy safeguards include restricted access only to call/SMS logs during reporting, and data is shared only with DoT for investigative purposes.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2025
Observed on July 30.



Every year on July 30, the world observes the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, established by the United Nations in 2013. The 2025 theme—"Human Trafficking is Organized Crime – End the Exploitation"—emphasizes dismantling global trafficking networks and protecting survivors through justice-system reforms and victim-centred approaches.

- In his official message, UN Secretary-General António Guterres described human trafficking as one of the world's fastest-growing organized crimes. He urged global unity to end impunity, choke off illicit profits, and strengthen criminal justice systems to protect the vulnerable.

- According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), from 2020 to 2023 over 200,000 victims were detected worldwide—only the visible ones. Globally, more than 50 million people remain enslaved, with women and girls accounting for over 70% and children making up nearly 38% of detected cases.

- The 2025 campaign theme underscores that trafficking is a structured criminal enterprise. It calls for reforming legal and enforcement frameworks, from prosecution to victim support. Central to the theme is developing victim-centred approaches to dismantle syndicates and curb exploitation.

Key Points:-

(i) To mark the day in India, Andhra Pradesh Police launched awareness initiatives and established a Victim Support Unit under the Women and Child Safety Wing. In Bihar, Police initiated a two-week mission titled 'Operation Naya Savera' from July 31 to August 14, rescuing over 600 minors and arresting 144 traffickers since January 2025. Human chains, workshops, and rescue campaigns were organized in multiple regions.

(ii) NGOs and civil society groups formed public rallies—such as human chains near railway stations—and launched sports-based empowerment programs like hockey training in Jharkhand to help vulnerable adolescent girls build life skills and resilience against trafficking. Community leaders and survivors participated actively to raise awareness at the grassroots.

(iii) The Blue Heart Campaign and global observances offer ways to support victims and advocate for change. Stakeholders are encouraged to educate themselves, report

suspected trafficking, support survivor shelters, and lobby for stringent legal measures. Social media platforms promote hashtags like #EndHumanTrafficking, #WorldDayAgainstTrafficking, and #SupportSurvivors to amplify the message.

2. Friendship Day 2025 in India Celebrated on Sunday, August 3.



In India, Friendship Day 2025 will be observed on Sunday, August 3, the first Sunday of August—a tradition that continues annually. Though unofficial, the day holds sentimental value, with people across generations celebrating companionship with gifts, messages, and quality time.

- The concept of Friendship Day was first proposed by Joyce Hall, founder of Hallmark Cards, in 1930. The World Friendship Crusade later promoted it internationally, leading the United Nations to designate July 30 as International Friendship Day during its 65th General Assembly in 2011. While globally recognized on July 30, many countries like India observe it on the first Sunday of August.

- Unlike the UN-recognized date, India follows a home-grown tradition of celebrating Friendship Day on the first Sunday of August. In 2025, this

falls on August 3, aligning with customs established in earlier years and widely embraced by schools, colleges, and young adults. Though not a public holiday, it's deeply ingrained in social culture and widely celebrated.

- **Friendship Day** is an occasion to express gratitude and love toward friends who support us through challenges and joys. It reinforces the importance of platonic relationships, trust, loyalty, and emotional bonds beyond family ties, often celebrated with sentimental notes, nostalgic throws into social media, and heartfelt tokens.

Key Points:-

(i) Common ways to celebrate include exchanging friendship bands, heartfelt messages, greeting cards, and small gifts. School and college campuses often host events, and youth engage through social media shout-outs, friendship-themed gatherings, and surprise meets. The tradition contributes to a sense of nostalgia and shared community spirit.

(ii) In India, commercial activity around Friendship Day peaks ahead of the day—shopping malls and stores stock friendship bands, greeting cards, and gifts. Advertising campaigns and festive promotions reinforce the celebratory mood. Digital platforms buzz with sentiments, quotes, and images celebrating friendship. This fusion of commerce and emotion strengthens cultural bonding.

(iii) Friendship Day 2025 inspires varied ways to connect: organizing picnics, road trips, or movie nights; crafting handmade DIY cards; planning virtual hangouts for long-distance friends; and sharing personalized digital content like photo

montages or friendship playlists. These gestures amplify the emotional resonance of the day and create lasting memories.

DEFENCE

1. Indian Coast Guard's 6th Indigenous Fast Patrol Vessel 'Atal' Launched at Goa Shipyard on 29 July 2025.



On 29 July 2025, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned ICGS Atal, the sixth in a series of eight indigenously designed Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) constructed by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) at Vasco-da-Gama, Goa. Built under Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliance), Atal enhances India's coastal surveillance and maritime rescue capabilities.

- **Designed and built entirely in-house by GSL, the Adanya-class FPVs—including Atal—feature over 60% indigenous content, demonstrating India's growing defense manufacturing expertise. These vessels follow a dual-class certification model from both the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) and the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS).**

- **Measuring 52 m in length, with an 8 m beam and 320-tonne displacement, Atal is powered by a controllable-pitch propeller (CPP) propulsion system, enabling top speeds up to 27 knots.**

Primary missions include coastal patrols, island security, exclusive economic zone (EEZ) monitoring, and anti-smuggling, anti-piracy, and search-and-rescue (SAR) operations.

Key Points:-

- (i) The vessel was launched at the GSL yard in Goa by Smt. Shilpa Agarwal, attended by Rozy Agarwal, IDAS, Principal Internal Financial Advisor (PIFA) at ICG Headquarters, along with senior officials from the Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy, Ministry of Defence, and GSL leadership, including Chairman & Managing Director Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay.
- (ii) Atal reinforces ICG's capacity to safeguard India's 11,098.81 km long coastline and maritime zones. These vessels play vital roles in national coastal security, protection of offshore assets and island territories, fisheries protection, and emergency response to maritime incidents.
- (iii) The project aligns with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and has significantly contributed to employment generation—particularly among MSMEs involved in FPV production across supply chains. The vessel's indigenous content underscores India's accelerating shipbuilding capabilities.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. DRDO Conducts Back-to-Back Successful Flight-Tests of Indigenous 'Pralay' Missile from APJ Abdul Kalam Island.



The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted two consecutive successful flight-tests of the indigenous 'Pralay' quasi-ballistic missile on July 28 and 29, 2025.

- These tests were conducted during User Evaluation Trials by the Indian Armed Forces from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, off the Odisha coast.
- The 'Pralay' missile is a short-range, solid-propellant, quasi-ballistic surface-to-surface missile with a range capability of 150 to 500 kilometers. It is designed to carry conventional warheads ranging from 350 to 700 kilograms and is capable of delivering payloads between 500 to 1,000 kilograms.
- The missile was launched from high-mobility vehicles equipped with a twin-launcher configuration, enabling rapid deployment across active border zones. The successful tests validate its operational mobility and accuracy across multiple mission scenarios, enhancing India's strategic strike capabilities.

Key Points:-

- (i) The development of the 'Pralay' missile is led by the Research Centre Imarat (RCI) under DRDO in collaboration with key labs such as the Advanced Systems Laboratory

(ASL) and Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL). It is supported by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), and several MSMEs, ensuring 100% indigenous development under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative in defence.

(ii) The flight tests were conducted under User Evaluation Trials to assess the missile's minimum and maximum range capabilities. Both launches successfully demonstrated quasi-ballistic trajectories with pinpoint accuracy, striking targets in the Bay of Bengal and meeting all mission objectives.

(iii) Technical validation involved the use of advanced tracking systems and sensors from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), including ship-mounted sensors. All onboard subsystems performed flawlessly, confirming full system readiness and mission compatibility under real-world operational conditions.

Static GK

Uttar Pradesh (UP)	Chief Minister (CM) : Yogi Adityanath	Governor : Anandiben Patel
Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)	Director-General (DG) : Qu Dongyu	Headquarters : Rome, Italy
RBI	Governor : Sanjay Malhotra	Headquarter : Mumbai
Reliance Industries	Presidents: Mukesh Ambani, Jyoti Deshpande	Headquarter : Mumbai
CCI	Chairperson : Ravneet Kaur IAS	Headquarters: New Delhi
Indian Coast Guard (ICG)	Director-General: Paramesh Sivamani	Headquarters: New Delhi
DRDO	Chairman: Sameer V. Kamat	Headquarters: New Delhi
Procter & Gamble (P&G)	President: Jon R. Moeller	Headquarters: Cincinnati, Ohio, United States