



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

> 01 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Dharmendra Pradhan Inaugurates ABSS 2025 in New Delhi to Mark 5 Years of NEP 2020.



In July 2025, Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS) 2025 in New Delhi to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The event marked the launch of various major educational reforms, including AI-based learning and infrastructure enhancements.

- The Ministry of Education (MoE) launched educational initiatives worth over Rs. 4,000 crore, led by both the Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL) and the Department of Higher Education (DoHE). These included artificial intelligence (AI)-powered tools, digital learning applications, campus upgrades, and advanced evaluation systems.

- Under the Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL), key initiatives included the launch of 22 Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) projects and the inauguration of a new CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education) regional office building in Digha, Patna (Bihar). The TARA App, aimed at enhancing data-driven academic decision-making and language proficiency in Classes III–VIII, was also unveiled.

- A student-focused platform titled My Career Advisor App was introduced to support informed career guidance using digital tools. In parallel, the Swachh Evam Harit Vidyalaya Rating (SHVR)-2025-26 system was launched, featuring a 5-star rating system to assess hygiene standards, waste management, handwashing, and energy and water conservation in schools.

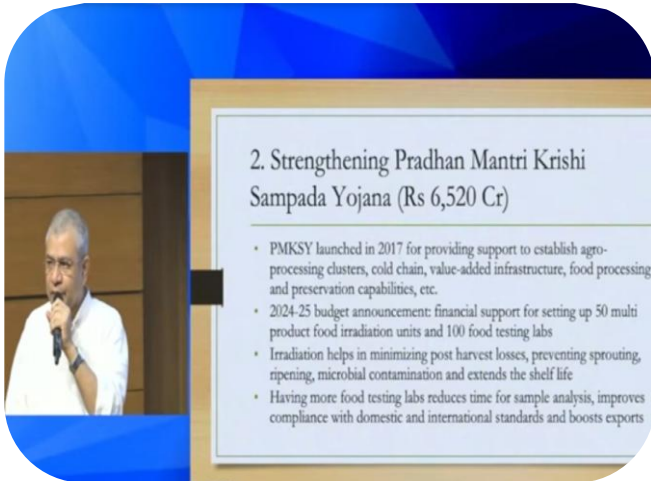
Key Points:-

(i) Under the Department of Higher Education (DoHE), major projects included the launch of a Web-based Local Language Proficiency Test Portal, developed by National Testing Service–India (NTS-I) to assess Speaking, Reading, and Writing (LSRW) skills. This initiative aims to improve language learning outcomes for Indian students.

(ii) Other DoHE initiatives included strengthening National Apprenticeship through the National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) and introducing AI-based platforms like Vibe: Engage. Enjoy. Enlighten. Additionally, the Bhasha Sagar app was launched to help students learn multiple Indian languages.

(iii) The event also highlighted international collaborations with four foreign universities including Western Sydney University (Australia) and Victoria University (Australia) through the Intent (Lots) to 4 foreign universities program.

2. Cabinet Approves ₹6520 Crore for PMKSY Including ₹1920 Crore for Irradiation Units and Food Labs.



On July 31, 2025, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved a total outlay of ₹6520 crore for the Central Sector Scheme – Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY), which includes an additional ₹1920 crore for new establishments under the scheme during the 15th Finance Commission (FCC) Cycle (2021–22 to 2025–26).

- Under this new funding, ₹1000 crore will be directed toward the establishment of 50 Multi-Product Food Irradiation Units under the Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure (ICCVAI) component of PMKSY.
- These irradiation units are expected to significantly boost food preservation capacity, with an estimated annual capability of 20–30 lakh metric tonnes (LMT), thus reducing post-harvest losses and enhancing food shelf life.
- In addition to irradiation units, the remaining ₹920 crore under this ₹1920 crore package will facilitate the setting up of 100 Food Testing Laboratories (FTLs) through the Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure (FSQAI) component of PMKSY. These labs will be accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) and will focus on improving food safety compliance across the country.

Key Points:-

- The FTLs will be established under private sector participation and are expected to modernize the country's food testing ecosystem. Through better detection of contamination and improved quality assurance, the initiative aims to strengthen consumer confidence in processed food products.
- Both ICCVAI and FSQAI are demand-driven sub-schemes under PMKSY. Eligible stakeholders can submit project proposals in response to Expressions of Interest (EOIs) that will be issued, and final approvals will be granted based on scheme guidelines and proposal evaluations.
- Apart from the ₹1920 crore allocation, the Cabinet also approved ₹920 crore for the sanctioning of projects under other component schemes of PMKSY. These additional projects will also be implemented within the ongoing 15th Finance Commission Cycle, ensuring comprehensive infrastructure support for India's food processing sector.

3. Indian Railways Commissions Kavach 4.0 on Mathura–Kota Section of Delhi–Mumbai Corridor.



On 30th July 2025, Indian Railways (IR), under the Ministry of Railways (MoR), commissioned the indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system Kavach 4.0 on the Mathura–Kota section of the high-density Delhi–Mumbai rail corridor. This initiative represents a major milestone in enhancing railway safety and operational modernization.

- The Kavach 4.0 system is an upgraded version of India's indigenous Automatic Train Protection (ATP) technology and received final approval from the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) in July 2024, after comprehensive evaluations.

- Designed for high-speed operations, Kavach 4.0 can support trains running at up to 160 kilometres per hour (kmph) and significantly improves collision avoidance mechanisms.

- This system was approved in May 2025 and implemented specifically on the Mathura–Kota section, a critical and high-traffic route used for both passenger and freight movement. This route was strategically chosen for its importance and traffic density to pilot safety upgrades and ensure maximum operational efficiency and safety.

Key Points:-

(i) The National Rollout Plan for Kavach 4.0 involves expanding this technology to Indian Railways' entire network over the next 6 years, thereby strengthening the national railway safety infrastructure and modernizing train operations across India.

(ii) To support large-scale deployment, over 30,000 railway personnel have already been trained to operate and implement Kavach 4.0. These training initiatives ensure system standardization, troubleshooting, and

integration into real-time train handling procedures.

(iii) On the academic side, the Indian Railways Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications (IRISET) has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with 17 All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)-approved institutions to integrate Kavach into engineering curricula. This will foster future-ready talent capable of managing India's smart rail safety systems.

4. Union Cabinet Approves ₹11,169 Crore for Four Multi-Tracking Railway Projects Covering 882 km Across Six States.



On 31 July 2025, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved four critical multi-tracking railway projects under the Ministry of Railways, with a total investment of approximately ₹11,169 crore. These projects span 13 districts across six states and aim to decongest rail networks while lowering logistics costs.

- The sanctioned projects—including the Itarsi–Nagpur 4th Line, Aurangabad (Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar)–Parbhani Doubling, Aluabari Road–New Jalpaiguri 3rd & 4th Line, and

Dangoaposi–Jaroli 3rd & 4th Line—will collectively extend India’s rail network by approximately 574 kilometres, improving capacity and connectivity in high-density freight and passenger corridors.

- These projects span six states—Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, and Jharkhand—covering 13 districts and directly benefiting around 2,309 villages with a combined population of approximately 43.6 lakh (4.36 million).

- Once completed, the augmented lines are expected to handle an additional 95.91 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of freight traffic, facilitating the smooth movement of key commodities like coal, cement, clinker, gypsum, fly ash, containers, agricultural commodities, and petroleum products.

Key Points:-

(i) These rail expansion projects are projected to reduce national logistics costs by over ₹11,500 crore, cut oil imports by 16 crore litres, and lower CO₂ emissions by 515 crore kg—equivalent to planting 20 crore trees—thus supporting India’s climate goals.

(ii) The implementation will generate approximately 229 lakh human-days of direct employment during construction. These multi-tracking initiatives align with India’s PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, aiming to enhance multi-modal connectivity and promote Atmanirbhar Bharat through integrated infrastructure development.

(iii) Slated for completion by 2028–29, these projects are expected to significantly decongest key corridors—especially those overlapping with the Delhi–Mumbai and Delhi–Chennai high-density networks—boosting operational efficiency and service

reliability for both freight and passenger services.

INTERNATIONAL

1. 32nd India–Singapore Naval Exercise ‘SIMBEX’ Held in Singapore from July 28 to August 1, 2025.



The 32nd edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) was held from 28 July to 1 August 2025 in Singapore—marking

India’s longest-uninterrupted annual naval exercise with any country. The exercise, conducted jointly by the Indian Navy (IN) and Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), reaffirmed deep maritime ties and strategic cooperation between the two nations.

- On this occasion, the IN deployed four frontline indigenously built warships—INS Delhi (guided-missile destroyer), INS Satpura (Shivalik-class frigate), INS Kiltan (anti-submarine corvette), and INS Shakti (fleet support tanker)—all key platforms of India’s Eastern Fleet. The RSN contributed two key warships: Formidable-class frigate RSS Supreme and Victory-class corvette RSS Vigilance, supported by fleet support vessel MV Mentor.

- The exercise followed a two-phase format: an intense Harbour Phase at RSS Singapura (Changi Naval Base) featuring joint staff talks, Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEEs), cross-deck ship visits, and simulator-based tactical planning; followed by the Sea Phase in the southern reaches of the South China Sea, involving advanced live drills including air-defence, anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare, cross-deck helicopter ops, and Visit-Board-Search-Seizure (VBSS) operations. The sea phase concluded with a formal sail-past ceremony.

- Viewed through the lens of India's strategy, SIMBEX 2025 reinforced the country's Act East Policy and the Vision SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region) initiative. The drill coincided with the 60th anniversary of India-Singapore diplomatic ties, underscoring shared maritime interests and a joint pledge to maintain a stable, rules-based maritime order.

Key Points:-

(i) Senior Naval officials lauded the exercise as a platform for honing interoperability, enhancing maritime domain awareness, and refining joint operational doctrines. SIMBEX continues to contribute significantly to regional security architecture by preparing participating forces for real-world scenarios, including Search and Rescue (SAR) and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.

(ii) SIMBEX, initiated in 1994 as "Exercise Lion King", is now the longest continuous bilateral naval exercise India conducts with a partner nation.

(iii) Its 32nd edition further strengthened professional camaraderie between the navies and sets the stage for India's

leadership role in future multilateral engagements such as the International Fleet Review, Multinational Exercise MILAN, and the IONS Conclave of Chiefs in Visakhapatnam in early 2026.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. India's Non-Food Bank Credit Growth Slows to 10.2% in June 2025, Down from 13.8% a Year Ago.



According to the Reserve Bank of India's Financial Stability Report as of the fortnight ending June 27, 2025, non-food credit growth decelerated sharply to 10.2% year-on-year, down from 13.8% in June 2024, reflecting weakening demand across key sectors amid economic uncertainty.

- Deposit growth stood at around 10.5% year-on-year by June 2025, nearly matching the pace of credit — resulting in a notably smaller gap between deposits and bank lending. This marks a significant shift from previous years when credit had outpaced deposit mobilisation.

- Loan disbursements to agriculture and allied activities slowed drastically to 6.8%, versus 17.4% a year ago, while services-sector credit decelerated sharply to 9.6% from about 15%, pulling down aggregate non-food credit growth.

- Consumer credit witnessed marked moderation, with personal loans, vehicle finance, and credit card lending growing at much slower rates. For instance, personal loan growth slipped from over 13% to roughly 9%, and credit card outstanding growth dropped to the single digits.

Key Points:-

- (i) Credit growth to large industries slowed to around 0.8%, while MSMEs, particularly micro and small firms, saw higher lending growth of close to 19%, becoming one of the few bright spots in the credit landscape.
- (ii) The component of retail deposits surged, while wholesale and corporate deposits declined, causing the liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) to rise sharply as banks parked excess funds in government securities rather than extending loans.
- (iii) RBI's regulatory tightening—raising risk weights on unsecured retail and NBFC lending in late 2023—has cooled demand in fragile credit segments, even as corporate firms increasingly raise funds through bond and equity markets instead of bank loans.

MOUs and Agreement

1. ICAI Signs MoUs with NSE IX and IVCA to Boost Global Investment Education and Capital Market Transparency.



In July 2025, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) signed two strategic Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with NSE IFSC (NSE International Exchange), a subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), and the Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association (IVCA). These MoUs aim to enhance investor awareness, global investment education, and professional development in the Indian capital and alternative investment markets.

- ICAI's MoU with NSE IFSC (NSE IX), located in GIFT City, Gujarat, focuses on strengthening investor education, promoting international investment knowledge, and building capacity among chartered accountants in the capital markets. The partnership is expected to boost awareness about global investment opportunities, derivatives markets, and innovation in financial instruments.

- Under this MoU, ICAI and NSE IFSC will jointly conduct co-branded educational programmes. These initiatives will cover advanced topics such as global investing, derivative instruments, and financial innovations, thereby equipping Chartered Accountants with the skills required for emerging trends in international finance and trading.

- The MoU with IVCA is intended to strengthen India's alternative investment sector by forming expert groups. These groups will deliberate on regulatory, operational, and reporting challenges faced by venture capital, private equity, and other forms of alternate capital, aiming to improve transparency and governance.

Key Points:-

- (i) One of the primary objectives of the ICAI-IVCA MoU is to standardize financial reporting practices within the alternative investment ecosystem. Through industry-led consultations and collaborative frameworks, the initiative seeks to develop consistent and transparent reporting standards aligned with global norms.
- (ii) These partnerships reflect ICAI's broader goal of aligning India's capital market practices with global benchmarks. By collaborating with NSE IX and IVCA, ICAI is playing a critical role in enhancing investor protection, promoting financial innovation, and enabling regulatory harmonization in India's financial ecosystem.
- (iii) The initiative is aligned with ICAI's statutory role in strengthening professional competence in capital markets. These MoUs are seen as timely steps towards enabling India's financial professionals to effectively contribute to global capital flows and the evolving financial services landscape.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. Lt Gen Pushpendra Singh to Assume Office as Next Vice Chief of Army Staff from 1 August 2025.



The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has cleared Lieutenant General Pushpendra Singh's elevation as the Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS) of India, effective 1 August 2025, succeeding Lt Gen N. S. Raja Subramani, who completed his tenure on 31 July.

- Commissioned in December 1987 into the 4 Para (Special Forces) after graduating from the Indian Military Academy, Lt Gen Singh brings over 35 years of elite operational experience spanning counter-terrorism, unconventional warfare, and cross-border assignments.
- He has been directly involved in major military operations—Operation Pawan (IPKF, Sri Lanka), Meghdoot (Siachen deployment), Rakshak (J&K counter-insurgency), and Orchid (Northeast). Singh also served in United Nations peacekeeping missions in Lebanon and Sri Lanka, contributing global exposure to his Indian Army portfolio.
- In April 2022, he took charge of the Rising Star Corps (IX Corps) in Yol, Himachal Pradesh, a frontline formation safeguarding the western border. At Army Headquarters, he served as Director General of Operational, Logistics & Strategic Movement, overseeing key troop mobility and deployment architecture.

Key Points:-

(i) A native of Lucknow, Singh is an alumnus of La Martiniere College and Lucknow University, before being commissioned through the IMA, Dehradun. His staff and leadership credentials are enhanced by courses at DSSC Wellington, CDM Secunderabad, and IIPA, alongside a Master's in Management Studies (Osmania University) and an M.Phil. in Defence Studies (Punjab University).

(ii) He is a recipient of the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) and the Sena Medal with Bar, testament to his exceptional dedication and professionalism in both combat and staff appointments.

(iii) As VCOAS, the officeholder acts as the deputy professional head of the Indian Army, advising the Chief of Army Staff and the Defence Ministry on operational planning, modernization, training, troop welfare, and joint force integration. Friday's appointment was part of a coordinated high-level leadership reshuffle across the armed services, including the Vice Chief of Naval Staff and Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command taking charge on 1 August 2025.

2. Composites Expert Dr. A. Rajarajan Appointed as Director of VSSC, Takes Charge on August 1, 2025.



On 1 August 2025, veteran ISRO scientist Dr. A. Rajarajan assumed office as the Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram. He succeeded Dr. S. Unnikrishnan Nair, who retired on 31 July 2025, and took over leadership of one of India's premier launch vehicle development centres.

- With nearly four decades of experience, Rajarajan is widely recognized as Australia's—and arguably the world's—pre-eminent expert in space-grade composites. His pioneering work includes design and production of high-temperature carbon-carbon structures, 5 m diameter payload fairings, and solar panel substrates, significantly enhancing India's indigenous launch-vehicle capabilities.

- From July 2019 until his VSSC appointment, Rajarajan served as Director of Satish Dhawan Space Centre (Sriharikota). He oversaw solid-motor production, launch complex expansion, and facilitated major Earth- and space- mission infrastructures including Chandrayaan-3, Aditya-L1, SSLV, and the maiden commercial flight LVM3-M2/OneWeb India-1. He was also instrumental in launching India's first private rocket, Vikram-S, implemented under India's New Space Policy.

- Dr. Rajarajan began his career in 1987 at VSSC's Fibre-Reinforced Plastic (FRP) division. Over the years, he held senior roles across Composites, Structures, and Propulsion Ordinance Entities, leading to the indigenization of critical supporting systems (payload adaptors, intertank structures) across PSLV, GSLV-MkIII, RLV-TD, and HSP programmes.

Key Points:-

(i) At VSSC, he helped forge strong public-private partnerships in composite manufacturing and space components. Dr. Rajarajan is the President of the Indian Society for Advancement of Materials and Process Engineering (ISAMPE) since November 2023, and has championed technology transfer to industry for scalable production of launch-ready components.

(ii) As VSSC Director, Rajarajan inherits responsibility for leading the centre's thrust areas: reusable launch technology, human spaceflight support (Gaganyaan), air-breathing propulsion, and composite-intensive next-generation launch vehicles. His appointment reinforces ISRO's drive toward self-reliant space systems.

(iii) Dr. Rajarajan takes charge at a pivotal junction for Indian space; his leadership is expected to accelerate spaceport modernization, mission readiness, and indigenization priorities. The appointment underscores ISRO's confidence in core scientific expertise to guide the nation's space ambitions.



In July 2025, Fortune magazine released the 71st edition of the Fortune Global 500 List for 2025, ranking the world's largest companies by revenue. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), led by Mukesh Ambani, secured the 88th position globally, maintaining its top position among Indian corporates.

- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) ranked 88th on the Fortune Global 500 list for 2025, slipping from 86th in 2024, with a total revenue of USD 114.12 billion. Despite a two-position dip, RIL retained its title as the highest-ranking Indian company on the global list, showcasing consistent performance amidst changing global dynamics.

- RIL has now been featured on the list for the 22nd consecutive year, the longest uninterrupted presence by any Indian private sector company. This reaffirms RIL's sustained global relevance and operational strength across multiple sectors including oil, telecom, and retail.

- The top position on the 2025 Fortune Global 500 was claimed by Walmart Inc. (United States of America) for the 12th straight year. Walmart retained the title of the world's largest retailer with a total revenue of USD 680.98 billion. The company also holds the top spot for the 20th time since 1995.

AWARDS

1. Reliance Industries Ranks 88th in Fortune Global 500 List 2025 And Walmart Retains Top Spot for 12th Consecutive Year.

Key Points:-

(i) Amazon.com Inc. (USA) and State Grid Corporation of China secured the 2nd and 3rd positions respectively. Amazon, the leading e-commerce giant, continued its dominance, while State Grid, China's electric utility major, also maintained its position among the top three.

(ii) The total cumulative revenue of all companies listed in the 2025 edition reached USD 41.7 trillion, reflecting a 1.8% increase over the previous year. This combined revenue was more than one-third (33.39%) of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), underscoring the scale of these corporates' global economic influence.

(iii) The 2025 list included 33 women Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), marking a marginal rise from 2024, and featured a total of 10 Indian companies. This represents consistent Indian representation among global economic leaders and reflects efforts towards gender inclusion in top corporate leadership.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Breastfeeding Week 2025 Observed from August 1-7.



World Breastfeeding Week 2025 is being observed globally from August 1 to 7, aiming to promote, support, and protect breastfeeding practices through sustainable social and institutional systems. The week is coordinated by the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The campaign theme for 2025 focuses on building long-term support systems to prioritize breastfeeding as a public health and developmental imperative.

- **The origins of World Breastfeeding Week trace back to the Innocenti Declaration of August 1990, adopted by WHO and UNICEF in Florence, Italy, which called for global efforts to support breastfeeding.**

- **To commemorate this commitment, World Breastfeeding Week was first observed in 1992 by WABA. Since then, it has grown into a major international campaign celebrated in over 120 countries to raise awareness and drive action on the importance of breastfeeding.**

- **The 2025 theme, "Prioritize Breastfeeding: Create Sustainable Support Systems," highlights the need for strong family, health, and workplace support to remove barriers to breastfeeding and ensure protections like paid leave and nursing breaks.**

Key Points:-

(i) According to WHO data, exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months of life can prevent over 820,000 child deaths every year globally. Breastfeeding is not only vital for providing infants with essential nutrients and antibodies, but it also reduces the risk of maternal diseases like breast and ovarian cancer. Breastfeeding also promotes cognitive development and supports

emotional bonding between mother and child.

(ii) In 2025, WHO reports that approximately 48% of infants worldwide are exclusively breastfed for the first six months—an improvement compared to previous years. However, only around 44% of newborns are breastfed within the first hour of birth, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, which remains a concern for global health agencies. The WBW 2025 campaign is using both policy advocacy and public engagement tools to bridge these gaps.

(iii) As part of World Breastfeeding Week 2025, global events include seminars, counseling, #NormalizeBreastfeeding campaigns, and outreach programs to educate caregivers, influence policymakers, and support working mothers with lactation rooms, maternity benefits, and peer support systems.

Coordinated by international healthcare organizations, the day calls for heightened awareness, early detection, and equitable access to care for all affected.

- **World Lung Cancer Day was officially launched in 2012 through a collaborative effort by the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS), International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC), and the American College of Chest Physicians, among others. The initiative was created to transform August 1 into a global health awareness day dedicated to lung cancer—encouraging policymakers, researchers, and communities to support education, research funding, and patient care initiatives.**

- **The theme for 2025—“Stronger Together: United for Lung Cancer Awareness”—reinforces the significance of collaboration among individuals, caregivers, healthcare workers, and entire communities. It emphasises dismantling barriers—medical, social, and economic—that prevent timely diagnosis and treatment, thereby improving outcomes for lung cancer patients everywhere.**

- **According to FIRS data, lung cancer accounted for nearly 2.48 million new cases and approximately 1.80 million deaths in 2020 alone, making it the deadliest of all cancers worldwide. It comprised nearly 19% of all cancer deaths, mainly because most diagnoses are made at advanced stages. Early detection remains critical, as survival rates drop sharply as the disease progresses.**

Key Points:-

(i) Tobacco use continues to be the predominant risk factor—responsible for nearly 85% of lung cancer cases—but environmental factors such as air pollution, radon gas, asbestos, and secondhand

2. World Lung Cancer Day 2025 Observed Globally on 1 August.



World Lung Cancer Day 2025 was marked worldwide on 1 August to spotlight the persistent threat of lung cancer, the leading cause of cancer-related deaths globally.

smoke also contribute heavily, often affecting non-smokers.

(ii) Myths surrounding lung cancer—for instance, that it only affects older smokers or that no effective screening exists—are still common. Evidence shows that low-dose CT screening for high-risk individuals can significantly improve survival outcomes when implemented early.

(iii) World Lung Cancer Day is broadly observed through public health campaigns, educational seminars, and community outreach, while global health advocates urge wearing white or pearl-coloured ribbons—symbols of lung cancer solidarity and awareness. Participating organisations include the Global Lung Cancer Coalition, lung cancer support groups, and healthcare institutions, all aiming to foster hope, break stigma, and promote screening initiatives worldwide.

3. World Wide Web Day Observed on 1 August 2025.



World Wide Web Day 2025 was observed globally on 1 August, commemorating the anniversary of the creation of the World Wide Web and its transformative impact on communication, information access,

commerce, and innovation. The day honours the vision of Sir Tim Berners-Lee, who invented the Web in 1989 at CERN and released it publicly in 1991.

● **The World Wide Web was invented by British computer scientist Sir Tim Berners-Lee in 1989 and made publicly available in August 1991. The observance of 1 August each year as World Wide Web Day recognises its global significance in ushering the digital age.**

● **The 2025 theme, “Empowering the Future: Building an Inclusive, Safe, and Open Web”, emphasises closing the digital divide, safeguarding users’ privacy and digital rights, promoting accessibility, and ensuring the Web remains a force for equitable innovation.**

Key Points:-

(i) By 2025, over 5.5 billion people are online, and the Web has become an essential utility—used for education, governance, banking, entertainment, and everyday communication, shaping social and economic relationships across the globe.

(ii) World Wide Web Day is marked worldwide through events such as webinars on cybersecurity and digital literacy, hackathons for Web-based solutions, awareness campaigns on safe surfing, and workshops aimed at educating users about responsible and inclusive Web usage.

(iii) Despite its transformative potential, the Web faces critical challenges—cybersecurity threats, data privacy breaches, misinformation, and unequal access. The 2025 celebration calls on governments, technologists, and users to act together in safeguarding an open Web that empowers all.

4. World Ranger Day 2025 Observed Globally on July 31



World Ranger Day (WRD) 2025 was globally observed on July 31 to honour forest rangers who have been injured or killed in the line of duty and to acknowledge their vital role in conserving the world's biodiversity and cultural heritage. This year marked the 18th observance of the day, focusing on the power and importance of rangers in achieving lasting environmental change.

- World Ranger Day is an initiative of the International Ranger Federation (IRF), founded in 1992, and is promoted in partnership with the Thin Green Line Foundation (TGLF), the United Kingdom's first dedicated charity supporting the welfare of rangers and their families.

- The first World Ranger Day was observed on July 31, 2007, commemorating the 15th anniversary of the founding of the IRF, which was established to connect and support rangers across the globe.

Key Points:-

(i) WRD was initially celebrated in memory of 8 brave rangers who lost their lives in the line of duty at the Virunga National Park in

the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), symbolizing global tribute to fallen rangers protecting wildlife and landscapes.

(ii) The theme for World Ranger Day 2025 is "Rangers, Powering Transformative Conservation," highlighting the critical leadership of rangers in enabling sustainable conservation practices and preserving the ecological balance in protected areas.

(iii) The annual observance on July 31 holds deep significance as it corresponds with the founding date of the IRF and emphasizes global solidarity in recognizing rangers as frontline defenders of both natural ecosystems and cultural heritage worldwide.

DEFENCE

1. Madras Regiment Commemorates 284th Anniversary of Battle of Colachel Victory Over Dutch.



On 31 July 2025, the Madras Regiment of the Indian Army commemorated the 284th anniversary of the Battle of Colachel (1741) at the Colachel War Memorial in Kanyakumari district. The event honoured King Marthanda Varma's landmark victory over the Dutch East India Company, marking

one of the earliest recorded Indian victories over a European naval power.

- Fought on 31 July 1741 (Gregorian calendar), the Battle of Colachel saw the Travancore forces led by King Marthanda Varma defeat the Dutch East India Company under Admiral Eustachius De Lannoy in a unique amphibious engagement involving both land and sea operations.
- This victory is hailed as the first instance of an Asian power defeating a fortified European naval force on both land and sea. It effectively ended Dutch colonial ambitions in South India and elevated Travancore as the sole Asian military power to achieve such success.
- The 9th Battalion of the Madras Regiment, tracing its roots to the Travancore Nair Brigade that fought in 1741, played a symbolic role in the commemoration. The regiment is today recognized as the oldest existing infantry unit of the Indian Army.

Key Points:-

- (i) The ceremony at Colachel War Memorial included a wreath-laying by Colonel Avinash Kumar Singh, commanding officer of the Madras Regiment, alongside senior officers, veterans, NCC cadets, and civilians. A public weapons display and military band performance also featured prominently.
- (ii) The commemorative event included ceremonial parades, tribute rituals, and war memorial visits to honour the legacy of Marthanda Varma and the soldiers who resisted European expansion in southern India.
- (iii) The victory pillar erected near Colachel beach by King Marthanda Varma stands as a symbol of courage and sovereignty. The annual commemoration—known locally as Colachel Day—reflects India's enduring

spirit of resistance and marks a significant chapter in pre-colonial military history.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Australia's First Indigenous Orbital Rocket 'Eris' Fails 14 Seconds After Launch.



Australia's first indigenously designed and built orbital rocket, 'Eris', developed by Gilmour Space Technologies, failed to achieve orbit and crashed just 14 seconds after liftoff on July 30, 2025.

- The mission was launched from the Bowen Orbital Spaceport, located in North Queensland, Australia, marking a significant but unfortunate milestone in the country's space exploration efforts.
- 'Eris' was a 23-metre-long, 3-stage small satellite launch vehicle built by Gilmour Space Technologies, a Queensland-based private aerospace company. The rocket was equipped to place satellites into Low Earth Orbit (LEO), including sun-synchronous orbits, and was designed to improve Australia's independent access to space.
- The rocket featured hybrid propulsion technology, combining solid fuel and liquid oxidizers, making it safer and more cost-

effective compared to conventional liquid-fueled engines. Despite its technical potential, the mission ended prematurely due to an in-flight failure during initial ascent.

Key Points:-

(i) 'Eris' had a payload capacity ranging between 215 kilograms to 305 kilograms, tailored for launching small satellites for both commercial and research purposes. It aimed to serve satellite operators seeking dedicated and low-cost launch opportunities within the Indo-Pacific region.

(ii) The launch site, Bowen Orbital Spaceport, is Australia's first commercial orbital spaceport and a critical part of the country's long-term space strategy. The mission was viewed as a stepping-stone toward establishing sovereign launch capabilities and strengthening private space innovation.

(iii) Although the mission did not succeed, it marks Australia's growing presence in the global space sector and reflects a broader effort to support domestic aerospace startups under the country's Australian Civil Space Strategy 2019–2028, spearheaded by the Australian Space Agency (ASA).

OBITUARY

1. German Olympic Biathlete Laura Dahlmeier Passes Away in Karakoram Mountaineering Accident at Age 31.



On July 28, 2025, renowned German Olympic biathlete and two-time gold medalist Laura Dahlmeier passed away at the age of 31 following a mountaineering accident at Laila Peak (5,700 meters) in the Karakoram mountain range of Pakistan. A sudden rockfall in the Hushe Valley led to the tragic incident, which occurred during her expedition following a successful summit earlier that month.

- Laura Dahlmeier was the first female biathlete to win five gold medals at a single Biathlon World Championship held in 2017, marking her legacy as one of the most decorated athletes in the history of the sport. She also achieved global recognition for securing gold in both sprint and pursuit events during the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

- She was born on August 22, 1993, in Germany and began her professional career during the 2013 Junior World Championships in Austria. She rose to international prominence with her historic performances across Olympic and World Championship platforms.

- Earlier on July 8, 2025, Laura had successfully climbed the Great Trango Tower (6,287 meters), situated near the Baltoro Glacier in the Karakoram region, showcasing her adventurous spirit beyond biathlon. Her expedition

continued towards Laila Peak, where the fatal accident took place at an altitude of approximately 18,700 feet (5,700 meters).

Key Points:-

(i) Laura's Olympic achievements include 2 gold and 1 bronze medal at the 2018 Winter Olympics. In the same year, she won the Women's 7.5 km Sprint and 10 km Pursuit, while earning a bronze in the 15 km Individual event. Her total career haul includes 7 gold, 3 silver, and 5 bronze medals at the Biathlon World Championships.

(ii) Her death has sent shockwaves through the global winter sports community. She was known not only for her biathlon prowess but also for her humility, discipline, and love for the mountains.

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