



# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**>> 02 AUGUST 2025**

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

### 1. Union Cabinet Clears ₹2,000 Crore 'Grant-in-Aid to NCDC' Scheme with 10× Market Leverage Potential.



On 31 July 2025, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the Central Sector Scheme “Grant-in-Aid to National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)” with a ₹2,000 crore outlay. The funding will be disbursed over four financial years (2025–26 to 2028–29), with ₹500 crore allocated annually.

- This government-funded grant serves as equity support, enabling NCDC to raise up to ₹20,000 crore from the open market—a tenfold leverage ratio—to significantly expand cooperative financing capability across India.
- The scheme aims to benefit approximately 2.9 crore members of 13,288 cooperative societies, including those in dairy, livestock, fisheries, sugar, textiles, food processing, storage, cold storage, labour, and women-led ventures. This reflects massive rural outreach potential.
- Funds disbursed by NCDC will finance new project setups, plant expansion, technological modernization, and crucial working capital for operations. This enables cooperatives to

generate income assets, improve liquidity, and enhance operational continuity.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) NCDC will oversee the implementation — disbursing loans either through state governments or directly to eligible cooperatives that satisfy its direct funding criteria. Responsibilities include follow-up, monitoring, and recovery to ensure program integrity.
- (ii) Known for its discipline, NCDC currently maintains a 99.8% recovery rate and zero non-performing assets (NPA), underscoring its capacity to deploy funds effectively and sustainably.
- (iii) Established in 1963, NCDC plays a central role in promoting cooperatives across India’s rural economy. This grant reinforces national goals of inclusive growth, women’s workforce participation, and infrastructure-led rural development, in line with the government’s vision of cooperative sector empowerment.

### 2. Seven New Textile Parks Sanctioned Under PM MITRA Scheme to Bolster India’s Textile Sector.





In 2025, the Government of India reinforced its push to transform the apparel and textile industry by accelerating the rollout of seven integrated PM MITRA parks across Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh. Designed to embed complete textile value chains under one roof, these parks reflect India's ambition to grow into a global textile leader through infrastructure modernization, enhanced exports, and job creation.

- **Approved in October 2021, the PM MITRA (Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) initiative carries a total financial outlay of ₹4,445 crore, planned for implementation from 2021–22 to 2027–28. The parks will be developed through a Public–Private Partnership (PPP) model, with Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) jointly formed by the central and state governments. The selection of park locations was based on a challenge method considering land availability, connectivity, and infrastructure readiness.**

- **The scheme is expected to attract an estimated ₹70,000 crore in private and foreign investment and generate nearly 20 lakh direct and indirect jobs. Each park is projected to bring in around ₹10,000 crore in investment and contribute to employment growth across the value chain, including spinning, weaving, dyeing, processing, and garmenting sectors. This will significantly boost India's textile exports and manufacturing capacity.**

- **Financial assistance from the central government includes capital support up to ₹500 crore for greenfield parks and up to ₹200 crore for brownfield parks. Each park will also be eligible for Competitiveness Incentive Support (CIS) of up to ₹300 crore to attract anchor**

**investors. Facilities such as common effluent treatment plants, design labs, incubation centers, worker hostels, and logistics zones will be integrated to provide world-class industrial ecosystems.**

#### **Key Points:-**

(i) The parks are aligned with India's broader textile strategy, which targets \$100 billion in textile exports by 2030. The initiative complements ongoing schemes like SAMARTH (Skill Development), SITP (Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks), PLI (Production Linked Incentive) for textiles, and the National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM). It also advances the government's 5F vision—Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.

(ii) Examples of state-level implementation include the Uttar Pradesh park near Lucknow, spread over 1,000 acres with projections of ₹10,000 crore investment and creation of up to 3 lakh jobs. In Madhya Pradesh, the Dhar park is allotted 1,550 acres with investment proposals of up to ₹15,000 crore.

(iii) These parks are envisioned as global manufacturing hubs, incorporating sustainable energy use, high environmental standards, and integrated logistics networks to meet international compliance and market demands.

### **3. ICRISAT Launches AI-Powered Climate Advisory Initiative to Support Smallholder Farmers under Monsoon Mission III.**



At a two-day inception workshop held from July 29–30, 2025, at its Hyderabad headquarters, the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) unveiled a landmark initiative titled “AI-powered Context-Specific Agromet Advisory Services for Climate-Resilient Agriculture at Scale.” Supported under the Government of India’s Monsoon Mission III, the project aims to equip millions of smallholder farmers with hyper-local, timely, and actionable climate advisories using advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) tools to bolster resilience in the face of worsening climate variability.

- This initiative is being implemented through a powerful multi-institutional consortium, including ICRISAT; the Indian Council of Agricultural Research—Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (ICAR-CRIDA); the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI); and technical partners such as the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), India Meteorological Department (IMD), CSIR—Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO), IIT Ropar (AI for Agri Centre of Excellence), and Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

- At the heart of the new service is iSAT (Intelligent Systems Advisory Tool), initially

piloted under Monsoon Mission II to convert agrometeorological data into practical advisories. The platform has now been enhanced with ML-based crop weather models, satellite analytics, and decision-tree frameworks to generate personalized recommendations for key farm decisions like sowing, irrigation, and pest control.

- Advisories are disseminated through intuitive, low-bandwidth digital channels — most notably, an AI-powered WhatsApp bot that supports regional languages, alongside SMS messages and village resource center interfaces. This last-mile design ensures even remote and digitally underserved farmers receive actionable weather and management alerts.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The first implementation phase is already underway in Maharashtra, leveraging ICAR’s Agro-Meteorological Field Units (AMFUs) to reach smallholder farmers. Learnings from the pilot will guide a planned nationwide rollout and serve as a global blueprint for similar solutions across climate-stressed regions of the Global South.

(ii) During prior pilot deployments, iSAT advisories yielded impressive outcomes — nearly 80% farmer satisfaction, over 75% prediction accuracy, and up to 16% yield improvement in some crops. The upgraded AI model is projected to enhance adaptive farming decision-making across 120+ million smallholders, promoting climate-smart agriculture in semi-arid landscapes.

(iii) This initiative aligns closely with India’s broader digital agriculture, climate resilience, and innovation frameworks, including Monsoon Mission III, Atmanirbhar Bharat, and the developing MausamGPT platform. Leveraging indigenous technology and inter-

institutional collaboration, it signals India's emergence as a leader in scalable climate-smart farming solutions.

#### 4. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Inaugurates 1 MW Green Hydrogen Plant at DPA, Gujarat.



On 31st July 2025, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, who heads the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), inaugurated India's first Make-in-India 1 megawatt (MW) Green Hydrogen Plant at the Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) in Kandla, Gujarat. This project is aligned with the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) and is a significant step toward achieving India's Net Zero targets by 2070.

- The newly inaugurated plant is the first green hydrogen facility in India developed fully under the Make-in-India initiative, showcasing the country's capability in building sustainable and indigenous green energy infrastructure. The plant will produce 140 metric tonnes of green hydrogen annually, contributing substantially to port decarbonization and cleaner fuel adoption.
- The project was developed with engineering support from Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Limited, a prominent Indian engineering firm

headquartered in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. It reflects a strong commitment to technical self-reliance and innovation in India's hydrogen ecosystem.

- The inauguration event was attended by key dignitaries including Shantanu Thakur, Minister of State (MoS), MoPSW; T.K. Ramachandran, Secretary of MoPSW; and Sushil Kumar Singh, Chairman of DPA, along with senior officials from MoPSW, DPA, and L&T.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) This green hydrogen plant is part of India's broader push to implement eco-friendly initiatives at its ports. Earlier, DPA had commissioned the country's first Make-in-India all-electric green tug, reinforcing its commitment to green transformation under the Maritime India Vision 2030.
- (ii) The establishment of this 1 MW plant underlines India's goal of becoming a global hub for green hydrogen through indigenous innovation. The project supports national missions like Atmanirbhar Bharat and contributes to Viksit Bharat@2047 by building future-ready, sustainable port infrastructure.
- (iii) The National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) was approved by the Government of India in January 2023 with a total financial outlay of ₹19,744 crore. It is being implemented by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). The mission aims to establish India as a global hub for green hydrogen production, storage, utilization, and export, while driving technological innovation and supporting the country's clean energy transition. The NGHM is a central pillar in achieving India's decarbonization goals, aligned with broader initiatives like Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit



Bharat@2047.

## BANKING & FINANCE

### 1. Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025 Comes into Force from 1 August to Strengthen Governance, Audit Transparency & Depositor Protection.



The Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025, notified on 15 April 2025, came into effect on 1 August 2025 with the enforcement of key provisions. This landmark legislation amends five principal banking statutes—including the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and the Banking Regulation Act, 1949—through 19 reforms aimed at ushering in robust governance, depositor protection, audit transparency, and alignment of cooperative banks with constitutional norms.

- The Act redefines the definition of ‘substantial interest’—used for determining director eligibility—by raising the threshold from ₹5 lakh (unchanged since 1968) to ₹2 crore, ensuring that only economically significant stakeholders influence banking governance amid modern financial realities.

- Aligning with the 97th Constitutional Amendment, the maximum tenure of non-executive directors (excluding chairperson and

whole-time directors) in cooperative banks has been extended from 8 to 10 years, fostering continuity and enhanced oversight in these member-driven institutions.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Public Sector Banks (PSBs) are now permitted to transfer unclaimed shares, interest, and bond redemption proceeds to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF). This brings banking norms into coherence with the Companies Act, reinforcing investor protection and better utilization of dormant assets.

(ii) PSBs are granted new authority to determine remuneration for statutory auditors, enabling them to engage top-tier audit professionals and improve audit independence and transparency, which is expected to elevate governance standards across the banking sector.

### 2. CEF Group Secures €38 Million from German Export Finance Bank to Build Two Compressed Biogas (CBG) Plants.



On 1 August 2025, the German Export Finance Bank (a state-backed Export Credit Agency – ECA) approved €38 million (approx. ₹345 crore) in blended equity and

debt financing to CEF Group – a cleantech startup in India. This strategic funding will boost the development of Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants under India's clean energy drive.

- The €38 million funding will finance the development of two Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants by CEF Group (Clean Energy Fuels Group). These plants are part of CEF's larger vision of deploying 22 CBG units across India, converting agricultural waste, municipal solid waste (MSW), and industrial residues into clean, renewable gas.

- Established in 2018, CEF Group operates in alignment with the SATAT Scheme (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation)—an initiative launched by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) to promote the production and use of CBG as a green transport fuel. This aligns with India's goals of reducing carbon emissions and boosting rural entrepreneurship.

- CEF currently has three ongoing projects nearing completion: two MSW (Municipal Solid Waste)-based plants in Jammu and Ahmedabad, and a press-mud-based plant in Western Uttar Pradesh. Press-mud is a by-product of sugar mills. The new funding will enable faster construction of the next two biogas plants.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The project supports the circular economy by converting organic waste into valuable resources like CBG, Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF), and organic compost. These biogas plants will create rural jobs, provide additional income for farmers, reduce methane emissions, and cut India's dependence on Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and fossil fuels.

(ii) This marks a landmark cross-border partnership between India and Germany in climate finance. The role of Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) like the German Export Finance Bank strengthens clean tech investment ecosystems and fosters public-private partnerships (PPPs) critical for sustainable energy infrastructure in the Global South.

## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

**1. GST Collections Hit ₹1.96 Lakh Crore in July 2025, But Net Growth Slows Sharply to 1.7%.**



In July 2025, India's goods and services tax (GST) system garnered a record gross collection of approximately ₹1.96 lakh crore, marking a steady 7.5% year-on-year rise, despite ongoing global uncertainties—highlighting stable domestic consumption and import activity. However, a sharp surge in refunds eroded growth, pushing net GST revenue to just ₹1.69 lakh crore, or a modest 1.7% increase from July 2024.

- India's gross GST revenue constituted ₹1.95–1.96 lakh crore in July 2025, up from ₹1.82 lakh crore a year prior. While the headline collection indicator rose by 7.5%, the net realisation—after accounting for ₹27,147 crore in refunds—registered only a 1.7% increase to ₹1.69 lakh

crore, underscoring that a large share of the collection was returned to taxpayers.

- Domestic GST revenues rose at a moderate 6.7%, totaling around ₹1.43 lakh crore, whereas GST on imports jumped 9.5% YoY, touching ₹52,712 crore, buoyed by higher import volumes and increased consumption of imported goods. Notably, net revenue from domestic sources saw a slight contraction, pointing to softening internal demand or compliance issues amid rising refund claims.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Within total collections, IGST accounted for the largest slice—about ₹1.03 lakh crore, followed by SGST at ₹44,059 crore, CGST at ₹35,470 crore, and compensation cess of ~₹12,670 crore. Refund outflows soared by 66.8%, consistent with earlier trends and likely due to excess input tax credits, inverted duty structures, or procedural timing effects. This mismatch heavily weighed on net receipts.

(ii) For the April–July 2025 window, gross GST mop-up reached ₹8.18 lakh crore, up 10.7% YoY, while net collections touched ₹7.11 lakh crore, rising 8.4%. While the cumulative figures suggest continued fiscal strength, the dip in net growth rate is emerging as a fiscal warning, especially if refund trends persist through H2.

(iii) State-wise trends reveal disparate performance—Madhya Pradesh (+18%), Andhra Pradesh (+14%), and Bihar (+16%) recorded double-digit gains, while Maharashtra (+6%), Karnataka and Tamil Nadu (+7-8%) saw slower momentum. Telangana, Delhi, and Gujarat posted modest growth in the low single digits. On the downside, states like Manipur (-36%), Mizoram (-21%), and Jharkhand (-3%)

suffered steep declines—reinforcing the need for deeper analysis of intra-state compliance and economic divergence.

## MOUs and Agreement

1. DPIIT Signs Two Key MoUs with HDFC Capital and Roche India to Promote Innovation in Housing and Healthcare.



On July 31, 2025, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), signed two significant Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) — with HDFC Capital Advisors Limited and Roche India — to promote innovation in the affordable housing, property technology (PropTech), and healthcare startup ecosystems in India. These collaborations aim to align with national visions like Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat@2047.

- DPIIT signed an MoU with HDFC Capital Advisors Limited, a subsidiary of HDFC Bank, focusing on fostering innovation in affordable housing and PropTech sectors. The MoU was officially signed by Mohammad Isharar Ali, Director, DPIIT, and Vipul Roongta, CEO, HDFC Capital, to advance cost-effective, tech-driven solutions in India's urban real estate development landscape.



- This MoU centers around HDFC Capital's flagship initiative — the H@ART Programme (HDFC Affordable Real Estate and Technology Programme) — which aims to enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and boost scalability in the housing development value chain by supporting PropTech startups and linking them with developers, investors, and academic institutions.

- In alignment with the national missions of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Viksit Bharat@2047,' the partnership intends to catalyze sustainable innovation and strengthen the startup ecosystem through accelerators, mentorship programs, and access to high-impact networks in the infrastructure and housing sectors.

#### Key Points:-

(i) On the same day, DPIIT also signed an MoU with Roche Products (India) Private Limited (Roche India), a subsidiary of Switzerland-based Roche Group, to empower India's healthcare and life sciences startup ecosystem. The agreement was signed by Dr. Sumeet Jarangal, Director, DPIIT, and Rajwinder Mehdwan, MD, Roche India.

(ii) The DPIIT–Roche India MoU aims to support DPIIT-recognized startups in therapeutic areas such as oncology, neurology, ophthalmology, haematology, and rare diseases. The collaboration will provide startups access to Roche's expertise, global mentorship, advanced infrastructure, and platforms for international scaling and pilot validation.

(iii) Both MoUs mark a pivotal step in India's innovation-driven growth strategy across key sectors. While the HDFC partnership boosts urban and housing technology initiatives, the Roche collaboration strengthens healthcare

innovation and capacity-building through targeted startup support in critical therapeutic fields.

## APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

**1. Dr. Mayank Sharma Assumes Office as Financial Advisor (Defence Services), Ministry of Defence, with Effect from 1 August 2025.**



On 1 August 2025, the Ministry of Defence formally appointed Dr. Mayank Sharma, a distinguished 1989-batch officer of the Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS), as the new Financial Advisor (Defence Services) (FA (DS)). His tenure follows a rich career in defence accounting and governance, including his recent role as Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA).

- In his new role, Dr Sharma becomes the strategic CFO of one of India's largest ministries, responsible for providing financial advice and concurrence to the Army, Navy, Air Force, and defence organizations such as DRDO, MES, and Coast Guard.

- As per the integrated financial advisor system, he will oversee budget estimates, expenditure proposals, and ensure financial compliance across capital and revenue allocations. His

guidance is critical in managing a defence budget that crossed ₹6 lakh crore in FY 2025–26.

- Prior to assuming the FA (DS) office, Dr Sharma led the Defence Accounts Department as CGDA, where he supervised pay, pensions, audits, and financial digitization initiatives across service formations. His tenure was marked by systemic reforms and strengthening of the fiscal accountability framework within the Ministry of Defence.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Dr Sharma has served successively as Under Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and Joint Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat. These roles placed him at the intersection of policymaking, inter-ministerial coordination, and strategic governance—skills that will be leveraged in his advisory role to integrate finance and decision-making across defence acquisition and capital projects.

(ii) A seasoned diplomat, Dr Sharma has represented India as Alternate Permanent Representative to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the UN Commission on Crime Prevention, and UNCITRAL. He has also served in significant administrative roles outside defence, including Additional Commissioner of Delhi Municipal Corporation (MCD) and Senior Financial Advisor at AIIMS, New Delhi, illustrating his ability to manage complex organizations across sectors.

(iii) Dr Sharma assumes office at a critical juncture when India is accelerating defence procurement under the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP), expanding digital platforms like GeM and SRIJAN for indigenous sourcing, and prioritizing Atmanirbhar Bharat through fiscal reforms. His appointment signals the government's

focus on financial prudence, transparency, and cost-effectiveness in defence modernization.

## 2. Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan Assumes Charge as the 47th Vice Chief of Naval Staff (VCNS).



Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, AVSM, NM officially assumed charge as the 47th Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS) on 01 August 2025. He marked the occasion by paying tribute at the National War Memorial in New Delhi, honouring the Bravehearts who laid down their lives for the nation.

- Vice Admiral Vatsayan is an alumnus of the 71st course of the National Defence Academy (NDA), Pune, and was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 January 1988. A specialist in Gunnery and Missile Systems, he has held various command, operational, and strategic staff roles across his naval career spanning more than three decades.

- During his sea tenures, he served aboard numerous frontline warships, including being part of the commissioning crew of the Guided Missile Destroyer INS Mysore, INS Nishank, and Coast Guard OPV ICGS Sangram. He also served as the Executive Officer of INS Mysore and commanded vessels such as C-05, INS Vibhuti,

INS Nashak, INS Kuthar, and INS Sahyadri, the last as Commissioning Commanding Officer.

- In February 2020, he assumed the role of Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, overseeing major operational deployments and exercises amid heightened maritime security following the Galwan clashes. His leadership was instrumental in shaping the Eastern Fleet's preparedness during sensitive periods.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Vice Admiral Vatsayan is a graduate of the Defence Services Staff College (Wellington), Naval War College (Goa), and the National Defence College (New Delhi). He has held several high-level appointments at Naval Headquarters including Joint Director and Director of Personnel (Policy), Director Naval Plans (Perspective Planning), and Principal Director Naval Plans.

(ii) Upon his promotion to Flag Rank in February 2018, he served as Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Policy and Plans), later leading the Eastern Fleet. He was honoured with the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2021 for exceptional service. He subsequently became Deputy Commandant of the National Defence Academy and later Chief of Staff, Eastern Naval Command, where he focused on operational readiness and infrastructure growth.

(iii) Before his current appointment, he was Deputy Chief of the Integrated Defence Staff (DCIDS) - Operations and later DCIDS (Policy, Plans and Force Development) at HQ IDS, where he contributed significantly to joint operations, integration, policy formulation, and promotion of indigenisation. He is married to Sarita and has two children— a son who is an Economics graduate and MBA from the Indian School of

Business, and a daughter who has completed her studies in Humanities.

### 3. Myanmar Forms New Interim-Union Government and U Nyo Saw Appointed PM and State of Emergency Officially Ends.



In July 2025, Myanmar's National Defence and Security Council (NDSC) officially announced the formation of a new Interim-Union Government, along with a National Security and Peace Commission, to manage defence and oversee preparations for general elections scheduled for later in the year.

- U Nyo Saw has been appointed as the 13th Prime Minister of Myanmar and will lead the newly formed Interim-Union Government. His appointment marks a significant political transition in Myanmar's post-coup administration structure, aiming to restore constitutional processes.

- As per the military junta, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing will head the National Security and Peace Commission. He will continue to serve as the Acting President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Myanmar, retaining de facto control over key security and military functions.



### Key Points:-

(i) The National Defence and Security Council (NDSC), which was originally constituted in February 2021 following the military coup, has now expanded its role to include electoral management and peace oversight. This move comes amid international scrutiny over democratic restoration.

(ii) Following the announcement, Myanmar's military government officially ended the state of emergency that had been imposed for over four years. This emergency was first declared in February 2021 after the military ousted the elected government led by the National League for Democracy (NLD) under Aung San Suu Kyi.

(iii) Additionally, the NDSC has revoked the 2021 order that transferred sovereign powers to the Commander-in-Chief and has dissolved itself, signaling a rollback of extended military control and the beginning of preparations for civilian elections by December 2025.

### 4. Shashi Prakash Goyal Takes Charge as New Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh.



On 31 July 2025, senior IAS officer Shashi Prakash Goyal of the 1989 batch officially assumed office as the new Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh, succeeding Manoj Kumar Singh, who retired that day. This appointment reinforces the state government's administrative continuity and rapid development agenda under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

- Goyal served as Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for eight years, handling departments such as Civil Aviation, Estate, and Protocol. He is widely known as one of the Chief Minister's most trusted aides, ensuring policy coherence and stable governance.

- Throughout his career, Goyal has held pivotal positions including District Magistrate of Mathura, Etawah, Prayagraj, and Deoria, Additional Resident Commissioner of Uttar Pradesh, and Joint Secretary in the Department of Higher Education at the Centre. These roles spotlight his versatility and governance depth.

### Key Points:-

(i) As Uttar Pradesh's top bureaucrat, Goyal will also oversee key bodies: Infrastructure & Industrial Development Commissioner (IIDC), Chairman of PICUP, CEO of UPEIDA and UPSHA, Project Director of UP DASP, and Additional Chief Secretary Coordination Department.

(ii) Upon taking office, Goyal reaffirmed his commitment to implementing policies of "zero tolerance and zero corruption", while accelerating industrial development. He emphasized transforming Uttar Pradesh into a one-trillion-dollar economy, with timely completion of infrastructure projects and rising ease of doing business.

(iii) Shashi Prakash Goyal assumes charge following the Centre's decision not to extend his predecessor Manoj Kumar Singh's tenure despite state requests. Goyal is expected to serve until his retirement in January 2027, granting him approximately 18 months to leave a lasting imprint on the state bureaucracy.

## AWARDS

### 1. 71st National Film Awards 2023 Announced: 12th Fail Wins Best Film, Shah Rukh Khan and Rani Mukerji Get First National Awards.



The 71st National Film Awards for the year 2023 were announced on 1 August 2025 by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The awards honoured outstanding contributions in Indian cinema for films certified between 1 January and 31 December 2023, across feature, non-feature, writing, and new AVGC categories. The event marked a significant celebration of storytelling and cinematic diversity from across the nation.

- The awards process included consideration of 332 feature films, 115 non-feature films, 27 books, and 16 entries in the film criticism category. The Jury for Feature Films was headed by filmmaker Ashutosh Gowariker, while the

Non-Feature Film jury was chaired by renowned Kannada director P. Sheshadri. The rigorous selection process aimed to recognize cinematic excellence and artistic merit from multiple languages and genres across India.

- The Best Feature Film award went to 12th Fail, directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra. It won the Swarna Kamal along with a cash prize of ₹3 lakh. The film was celebrated for its realistic portrayal of the struggles faced by underprivileged aspirants in India's civil service ecosystem and was widely appreciated for its direction, writing, and humanistic storytelling.

- Shah Rukh Khan won his first-ever National Film Award by sharing the Best Actor award with Vikrant Massey. Khan was honoured for his performance in Jawan, marking a historic recognition of his mass appeal combined with social messaging, while Vikrant Massey was jointly awarded for his moving performance in 12th Fail. This tie was seen as a rare but balanced tribute to both commercial and content-driven cinema.

### Key Points:-

(i) Rani Mukerji received the Best Actress award for her performance in Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway, where she portrayed a mother fighting an international custody battle. This marked her first National Film Award in her career spanning over 25 years. Her role was lauded for its emotional intensity and cultural sensitivity.

(ii) Sudipto Sen won Best Director for The Kerala Story (Hindi), which was awarded the Swarna Kamal. Meanwhile, Karan Johar's Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani received the award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment. In a landmark addition, the new AVGC category saw Hanu-

Man (Telugu) win Best AVGC Film, recognising excellence in animation and visual effects.

(iii) Regional cinema received prominent recognition with Ullozhukku (Malayalam) and Parking (Tamil) winning Best Feature Film in their respective languages. Urvashi and Janki Bodiwala were awarded Best Supporting Actress. In the non-feature category, Flowering Man won Best Non-Feature Film, while God, Vulture and Human was named Best Documentary. Several other films, including Sam Bahadur, Animal, and Pookkaalam, received special mentions for contributions in music, choreography, and social themes.

2025 observance marked the 6th anniversary of this landmark legislation.

- The day commemorates the passing of the **2019 Act** by the Parliament of India on **1st August 2019**, which made instant triple talaq (Talaq-e-Biddat) a punishable criminal offence.
- Triple Talaq, an instant divorce method wherein a Muslim man could unilaterally divorce his wife by pronouncing "Talaq" three times, was legally practiced before being banned by the 2019 Act.
- The Act provided Muslim women with protection against unilateral divorce and legal recourse, marking a significant step towards gender justice within the framework of Muslim personal law.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### 1. India Observes 6th Muslim Women's Rights Day on 1st August 2025 to Mark Triple Talaq Law Anniversary.



The Muslim Women's Rights Day, also known as 'Muslim Mahila Adhikar Divas', is observed every year on 1st August to commemorate the enactment of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019. The law criminalized the practice of instant Triple Talaq, empowering Muslim women with legal protection and equality. The

### Key Points:-

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) declared in 2020 that 1st August would be observed annually as Muslim Women's Rights Day to honour and spread awareness about the rights of Muslim women.
- The first Muslim Women's Rights Day was observed on 1st August 2020, on the first anniversary of the law, and continues to be celebrated as a symbol of empowerment and social reform.

### 2. National Doctors Day 2025 Observed on July 1 to Honour Dr B.C. Roy and Spotlight Mental Well-being of Healers.





India observed National Doctors Day 2025 on 1 July, commemorating the birth and death anniversary of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, a legendary physician and former Chief Minister of West Bengal. The day recognizes the invaluable role of doctors in nation-building and public health, while also focusing this year on their mental well-being.

- **National Doctors Day is observed annually on 1 July since 1991, in memory of Dr. B.C. Roy (1882–1962), who was a pioneer in Indian medicine and a Bharat Ratna awardee.**
- **The 2025 theme—"Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers?"—emphasized the importance of mental and emotional support for doctors, highlighting burnout and psychological stress.**

#### Key Points:-

- (i) The day honours the dedication of doctors in saving lives, especially during public health emergencies, and promotes societal gratitude for their service.
- (ii) Events across India included blood donation camps, health check-up drives, and felicitation ceremonies organised by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) and hospitals.
- (iii) The observance serves as a platform to

advocate for better healthcare infrastructure and improved working conditions for medical professionals across India.

### 3. Cloves Syndrome Awareness Day 2025 – Observed Globally on 3 August to Support the Rare CLOVES Disorder Community.



Every year on 3 August, Cloves Syndrome Awareness Day is observed around the world to raise awareness of CLOVES syndrome—a rare congenital overgrowth disorder. First marked in 2010, the initiative aims to amplify early diagnosis, research, treatment access, and support for the estimated under 200 individuals globally affected by the condition.

- **CLOVES is an acronym for Congenital Lipomatous Overgrowth, Vascular Malformations, Epidermal Nevi, and Skeletal/Spinal anomalies (including scoliosis). It causes excessive fatty tissue, skin birthmarks, malformed blood or lymph vessels, and spinal or bone defects—often present at birth but worsening with age.**
- **CLOVES arises from somatic mutations—most often in the PIK3CA gene during early embryonic development—resulting in a mosaic pattern of affected cells. As these gene changes do not impact germ cells, CLOVES is not hereditary, and**

usually occurs randomly rather than being passed from parent to child.

- Because CLOVES is so rare and symptom variability is high, many cases are missed or misdiagnosed—often as conditions like Proteus Syndrome or Klippel–Trénaunay. Awareness drives earlier detection, access to interventions like sirolimus and sclerotherapy, and regular monitoring for complications like Wilms' tumour.

### Key Points:-

(i) Observed each year on 3 August, the day promotes public education, combats stigma, encourages medical research, connects families affected by CLOVES, and directs funding toward symptom management and life-enhancing therapies.

(ii) Supporters engage through social media campaigns using hashtags like #ClovesSyndromeAwarenessDay, virtual and in-person fundraisers, community storytelling, and by hosting educational webinars. The CLOVES Syndrome Community, part of the Rare As One Network, runs coordinated annual campaigns to unite patients, medical teams, and researchers.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### 1. Indian Navy Receives 3rd Project 17A Stealth Frigate 'INS Himgiri' from GRSE at Kolkata.



On 31 July 2025, the Indian Navy (IN) received the third stealth frigate of the Project 17A series, named INS Himgiri (Yard 3022), from Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE). The ship was officially handed over at Kolkata, West Bengal.

- INS Himgiri is the third warship of the Nilgiri-class (Project 17A) stealth frigates constructed by GRSE for the Indian Navy. The Project 17A is a follow-up to the Project 17 (Shivalik-class) and is part of India's indigenous warship-building programme aimed at modernizing its naval fleet.

- The ship was accepted on behalf of the Indian Navy by Rear Admiral Ravnish Seth, Chief Staff Officer (Technical) of the Eastern Naval Command. The ceremonial handover signifies a major boost to the Navy's surface combatant capabilities under its modernization initiative.

- The vessel was constructed under a ₹21,833 crore contract awarded to GRSE for the construction of three stealth frigates under Project 17A. This contract represents one of the most significant indigenous warship-building deals in Indian naval history.

### Key Points:-

(i) INS Himgiri was first launched on 14 December 2020. The ship is named after the original INS Himgiri (F34), a Leander-class

frigate that was decommissioned in 2005. The name reflects the Indian Navy's tradition of honoring legacy warships.

(ii) Designed by the Warship Design Bureau (WDB) of the Indian Navy, the ship integrates advanced stealth features and state-of-the-art systems. It is equipped with a Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG) propulsion system that powers Controllable Pitch Propellers (CPP) on each shaft.

(iii) The ship is 149 metres long with a beam of 17.8 metres and a displacement of 6,670 tonnes. It can achieve a top speed of 28 knots (52 km/h) and has a range of 5,500 nautical miles, enhancing the Indian Navy's blue-water operational reach.

## 2. ISRO-NASA Jointly Launch NISAR Satellite Aboard GSLV-F16 for First Dual-Frequency Earth Observation Mission.



On July 30, 2025, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, using the GSLV-F16 rocket. This marked a landmark collaboration between ISRO and NASA for advanced Earth observation capabilities.

- The NISAR satellite represents the first-ever joint Earth observation mission between ISRO and NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), with a total investment exceeding USD 1.5 billion and over a decade of development.

- It is the world's first radar imaging satellite designed to operate with dual-frequency radar bands—L-band and S-band—on a single platform, enabling precise monitoring of Earth's cryosphere, ecosystems, and soil changes.

### Key Points:-

(i) The mission marked the 18th launch of the GSLV series and the 12th launch using India's indigenous cryogenic upper stage, further enhancing ISRO's capability in deploying high-weight payloads.

(ii) The primary objective of NISAR is to deliver high-resolution, day-and-night, all-weather imaging across a 242-kilometer swath, revisiting the same area every 12 days and scanning almost the entire Earth's land and ice surfaces.

(iii) NISAR weighs approximately 2,392 kilograms and will operate in a sun-synchronous polar orbit at about 747 kilometers altitude. It is designed for a 5-year mission life with consumables supporting around 3 years of continuous operations.

## ENVIRONMENT

### 1. Three New Antlion Species Discovered for the First Time in Kerala by SERL Researchers.





In July 2025, researchers from the Shadpada Entomology Research Lab (SERL), Christ College, Thrissur (Kerala), discovered three new antlion species for the first time in Kerala—*Indopalpares pardus*, *Palpares contrarius*, and *Stenares harpyia*, all from the family *Myrmeleontidae*. These species were found in the Western Ghats of Kerala.

- The discovery was published in the *Journal of Insect Biodiversity and Systematics* and financially supported by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-India. The findings add significant value to India's insect biodiversity documentation.

- The species were discovered in various districts across Kerala, including Pathanamthitta, Idukki, Kollam, Kozhikode, Malappuram, and Wayanad. They were previously recorded in other Indian states but never reported from Kerala before.

#### Key Points:-

(i) *Indopalpares pardus* was found in Malappuram district and is known for its large size and broad wings with leopard-like spots. It had earlier been recorded in Bihar, MP, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, and Odisha.

(ii) *Palpares contrarius*, previously recorded

in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Mizoram, was discovered in Kerala regions like Kuttikapurza (Kannur), Payamthodu (Kozhikode), and Thirunelly (Wayanad). It is recognized for its broad, patterned wings with eye-catching markings.

(iii) *Stenares harpyia*, known for eagle-like or harpy-like wings, was found in Gavi (Pathanamthitta), Vazhathope (Idukki), and Vattavada. Earlier, this species had only been documented in Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

## Static GK

<b>National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)</b>	Managing Director(MD) : Pankaj Kumar Bansal	Headquarters: New Delhi
<b>International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)</b>	Director General (DG) : Dr. Himanshu Pathak	Headquarters :Hyderabad, Telangana
<b>MoD</b>	Minister : Rajnath Singh	Headquarters: New Delhi
<b>Indian Navy (IN)</b>	Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) : Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi	Headquarters: New Delhi
<b>ISRO</b>	Chairman : Dr. V. Narayanan	Headquarters: Bengaluru
<b>Kerala</b>	Chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan	Governor: Rajendra Arlekar
<b>Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&amp;I)</b>	Union Minister : Piyush Goyal	Headquarters: New Delhi
<b>Gujarat</b>	Chief minister: Bhupendra	Governor: Acharya

	Patel	Devvrat
<b>Myanmar</b>	Interim-Prime Minister (PM) : U Nyo Saw	Acting President : Senior General Min Aung Hlaing
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	Chief minister: Yogi Adityanath	Governor: Anandiben Patel