



# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**> 05 AUGUST 2025**

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

### 1. PM Modi visited Varanasi, inaugurated ₹2,200 crore projects and released PM-Kisan funds.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi commenced his visit to Varanasi on August 2, 2025, at approximately 11 AM in the morning. Accompanied by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Governor Anandiben Patel, he presided over a public event in Mehdiganj where he laid the foundation stone and inaugurated 52 development projects worth nearly ₹2,200 crore. These works spanned diverse sectors including roads, power, tourism, education, sports, healthcare, and urban infrastructure.

- In the transport and connectivity domain, PM Modi inaugurated widening and strengthening of the Varanasi–Bhadohi and Chhitauni–Shool Tankeshwar roads, along with a new railway overbridge at Hardattpur on the Mohan Sarai–Adalpur stretch. He also initiated corridor upgrades across Dalmandi, Lahartara–Kotwa, Gangapur, and Babatpur, as well as overbridges at Level Crossing 22C and Khalispur Yard to ease congestion.

- A significant infrastructure milestone was the launch of the Smart Power Project, allocating over ₹880 crore for smart distribution and

underground cabling to improve reliability in electricity supply. This move aims to modernize urban power systems and prevent frequent outages.

- Cultural conservation and tourism received emphasis with the development of eight riverfront ghats, restoration of temples including Durgakund and Kardameshwar Mahadev, and beautification of Kalika Dham. Urban forestry initiatives such as Miyawaki parks in Karkhiyaon and Shaheed Udyan were also launched to promote green urban spaces.

#### Key Points:-

(i) In education and healthcare sectors, the PM laid foundation stones for a new homeopathic college and hospital, upgraded 53 school buildings, and inaugurated a district library. Healthcare infrastructure was bolstered by installing advanced medical equipment like CT scanners and robotic surgical systems at Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Cancer Centre and Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital.

(ii) During the event, PM Modi released the 20th instalment of the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi, transferring ₹20,500 crore directly to bank accounts of over 9.70 crore farming families nationwide, of which roughly ₹900 crore benefited farmers in Varanasi. Additionally, more than 7,400 assistive devices were distributed to senior citizens and people with disabilities, reflecting inclusive welfare outreach.

(iii) PM Modi chose not to perform darshan at the Baba Vishwanath Temple during the Shrawan (Sawan) month, stating that his presence could cause crowding and inconvenience to devotees in this holy period. He expressed deep spiritual reverence and devotion, emphasizing public



convenience over personal desire. At the close of his address, he advocated the “Vocal for Local” ethos, highlighted the success of Operation Sindoor, and reaffirmed a vision of India ascending to the world’s third-largest economy.

## 2. PM Modi’s Pariksha Pe Charcha 2025 Earns Guinness World Record for 3.53 Crore Registrations.



In August 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s annual interactive programme ‘Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC)’ set a new milestone by securing a Guinness World Record with 3.53 crore valid registrations in a single month. The programme, held under the Ministry of Education and MyGov, promotes stress-free examination among students, teachers, and parents.

- The 2025 edition marked the 8th edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC), which was first launched in 2018. PPC is an initiative under the Ministry of Education (MoE) where the Prime Minister engages in direct dialogue with students, parents, and teachers to discuss ways to reduce exam stress and promote holistic education.

- This year, PPC achieved a new global feat with 3.53 crore valid registrations, making it the holder of the Guinness World Record for the most people registered on a citizen engagement platform in one month. Registrations were conducted through the MyGov platform—India’s premier citizen participation portal operated under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

- The Guinness World Record certificate was formally awarded during an official event in New Delhi. Present at the event were Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education (MoE); Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics and Information Technology; and Jitin Prasada, Minister of State for Education.

### Key Points:-

(i) Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan highlighted that the 2025 edition of PPC had a combined viewership of over 21 crore people across television and digital platforms. He emphasized that this demonstrates the growing importance of public engagement in educational reform and aligns with the vision of a Viksit Bharat (Developed India).

(ii) Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw commended the initiative for integrating technology into governance. He said PPC not only helps build exam preparedness but also strengthens emotional intelligence and mental well-being among students—key goals under Mission LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment) and Digital India campaigns.

(iii) Minister of State Jitin Prasada praised the MyGov platform for making the initiative digitally inclusive, calling it a benchmark of participatory governance. PPC has become a flagship tool of the National Education

Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) by promoting experiential learning, stress-free education, and a shift from rote learning to analytical thinking.

### 3. Eight Cooperatives Unite to Launch 'Bharat' Taxi Service, Onboard 200 Drivers by December 2025.



In August 2025, eight major cooperatives jointly established the Multi-State Sahakari Taxi Cooperative Ltd with an authorized capital of ₹300 crore. Branded as "Bharat", this cooperative taxi service aims to launch by December across India, with 200 drivers already onboarded in four states.

- The cooperative venture-Multi-State Sahakari Taxi Cooperative Ltd -was formally registered on 6 June 2025. It brings together eight prominent cooperatives including National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO), Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd (KRIBHCO), National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), and National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL).

- With an authorized capital of ₹300 crore, pooled entirely from cooperative partners, the Bharat service is planned without government equity. Its objective is to offer driver-first earnings, safe and affordable rides, and a cooperative pricing model, thereby challenging private ride-hailing giants Ola and Uber.

- So far, 200 drivers have been onboarded across four key states -Delhi, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra-with 50 drivers from each state. Efforts are underway to expand the driver network by engaging additional cooperative societies.

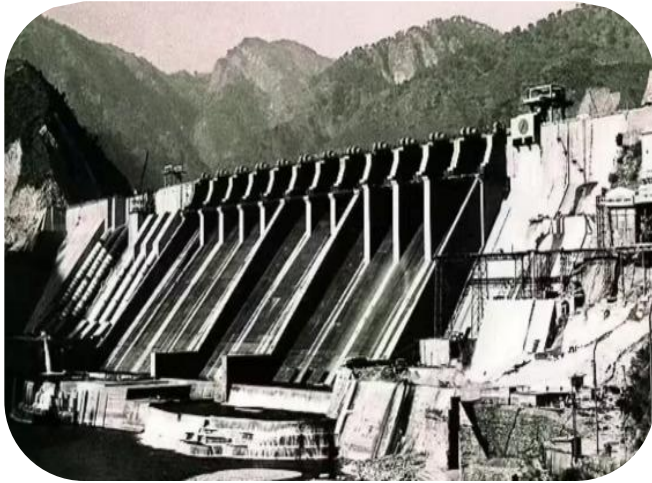
#### Key Points:-

(i) A tender has been floated to appoint a technology partner for developing the Bharat ride-hailing app. The app development is expected to be completed by December 2025. In parallel, IIM-Bangalore and other technology consultants are crafting a pan-India marketing strategy for the unified platform.

(ii) This initiative followed Cooperation Minister Amit Shah's unveiling of the National Cooperative Policy 2025-a strategic framework designed to expand cooperative activities into emerging Asectors like taxi services, tourism, insurance, and real estate. The policy was announced in July 2025.

(iii) The cooperative ownership model ensures that drivers and stakeholders share profits equitably and remain invested in the platform. Bharat is positioned as a driver-owned, transparent alternative to private aggregators, promoting dignity, income security, and inclusive mobility services across India.

#### 4. India Revives Sawalkote Hydropower Project in J&K and Jammu & Kashmir's Largest 1,856 MW Plant Cleared.



In July 2025, the Government of India fast-tracked the long-delayed Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project on the Chenab River in Ramban district, Jammu & Kashmir. With tendering initiated by NHPC, the project-planned for 1,856 megawatts (MW)-has been designated of national importance amid India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan.

- Originally conceived in the 1960s by the Central Water Commission (CWC) and surveyed by the Geological Survey of India between 1962-71, the project remained dormant for decades. It was only in February 2018 that a detailed project report (DPR) was submitted.

- Now, following the abeyance of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in April 2025, the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) has floated an international tender worth approximately ₹200 crore for Package-1-Planning, Design & Engineering-on July 29, 2025.

- The run-of-the-river design includes a 192.5-metre roller-compacted concrete gravity dam, three diversion tunnels (measuring 965 m, 1,130 m, and 1,280 m), and an underground

powerhouse with eight turbines of 225 MW each (totaling 1,800 MW), plus a 56 MW auxiliary unit to ensure mandatory environmental flow-bringing installed capacity to 1,856 MW. It will handle flood diversions of 2,977 cumec (non-monsoon) and 9,292 cumec (monsoon).

#### Key Points:-

(i) Estimated to cost around 22,704 crore according to the DPR, Sawalkote aims to generate over 7,000 million units of clean electricity annually. Once operational, it is expected to become Jammu & Kashmir's largest hydroelectric project-surpassing the 900 MW Baglihar plant-and significantly enhance energy availability in the Union Territory and northern India.

(ii) With the IWT now suspended, India has asserted sovereign rights over the Chenab River and other western rivers. Sawalkote's revival is both a strategic energy initiative and a diplomatic signal, reinforcing India's control over water resources.

(iii) The project has also been granted the status of a 'Nationally Important Infrastructure Project', streamlining approvals. Beyond energy, it offers flood mitigation, job creation during execution, and economic upliftment of Ramban and Udhampur districts.

#### 5. Ministry of Mines Recognized 7 Centres of Excellence (CoEs) under National Critical Minerals Mission (NCMM).





In August 2025, the Ministry of Mines (MoM) recognized seven premier institutes as Centres of Excellence (CoEs) under the National Critical Minerals Mission (NCMM), including four Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and three top Research and Development (R&D) laboratories. The initiative aims to promote critical minerals research and strengthen India's self-reliance in strategic mineral resources.

- The recognition was granted after the approval by the Project Approval and Advisory Committee (PAC), which was co-chaired by V.L. Kantha Rao, Secretary of the Ministry of Mines (MoM), and Professor Abhay Karandikar, Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T). The meeting finalized the institutions that will lead innovation in critical minerals exploration and processing.

- The four Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) recognized as CoEs are IIT Bombay (IIT-B), Maharashtra; IIT Hyderabad, Telangana; IIT-Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad, Jharkhand; and IIT Roorkee (IIT-R), Uttarakhand. These institutes were selected based on their research excellence and focus on minerals engineering, extraction technologies, and material sciences.

### Key Points:-

(i) The three Research and Development (R&D) laboratories designated as CoEs include the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research - Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT), Bhubaneswar, Odisha; CSIR -National Metallurgical Laboratory (NML), Jamshedpur, Jharkhand; and Non-Ferrous Materials Technology Development Centre (NFTDC), Hyderabad, Telangana. These labs will focus on high-value material development and non-ferrous extraction innovation.

(ii) These seven Centres of Excellence will initiate transformative research in critical mineral exploration, extraction, recycling, and advanced material development to support India's transition to clean energy and strategic mineral security. The initiative will also focus on enhancing domestic supply chains and technological self-sufficiency.

(iii) The Centres of Excellence under the National Critical Minerals Mission (NCMM) will be funded through a public-private model, involving government support, R&D institutions, and industrial stakeholders. These institutions are expected to attract investments, accelerate innovation, and strengthen India's global competitiveness in critical mineral value chains.

**6. "ICAR-CMFRI Annual Report 2024: India's Marine Fish Catch Drops by 2% to 3.47 Million Tonnes and Gujarat Leads Despite 8% Decline".**



In July 2025, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI) released its "ICAR-CMFRI Annual Report 2024," revealing a 2% decline in India's marine fish catch compared to 2023. The total catch for 2024 stood at 3.47 million tonnes, highlighting regional disparities and species-specific fluctuations.

- Gujarat led the marine fish landings in 2024 with 754,000 tonnes, followed by Tamil Nadu with 679,000 tonnes and Kerala with 610,000 tonnes. Despite topping the list, Gujarat, which accounts for 22% of India's total fish catch, recorded an 8% decline compared to 2023.

- Among the marine species, Indian mackerel was the most harvested, with a catch of 2.63 lakh tonnes, followed by oil sardine at 2.41 lakh tonnes. Pelagic species made up 54% of the total landings, indicating their dominance over demersal fishes, crustaceans, and molluscs.

- The report noted a positive trend in the landings of species such as lesser sardines, penaeid shrimps, anchovies, and tuna, which showed improved numbers compared to the previous year. However, key species like mackerel, threadfin breams, ribbonfish, non-penaeid shrimps, and cephalopods faced a significant decline.

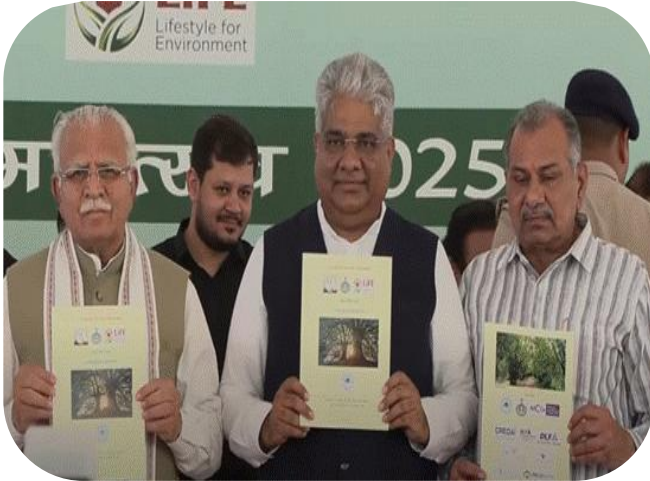
### Key Points:-

(i) Regionally, East Coast states recorded strong gains, with Maharashtra showing a 47% increase, West Bengal 35%, Tamil Nadu 20%, and Odisha 18%. In contrast, West Coast states such as Karnataka, Goa, and the union territory of Daman & Diu saw declines in fish catch volumes.

(ii) Sector-wise analysis indicated that the motorised fishing sector grew significantly by 10 lakh tonnes, especially in Tamil Nadu and East Coast regions. However, the mechanised sector, which contributes 76% of the total fish catch, saw a decline of about 1.7 lakh tonnes, hinting at operational inefficiencies or resource strain.

(iii) The ICAR-CMFRI monitored over 2.5 lakh fishing trips in 2024 to assess national Afishing productivity. Mechanised vessels had an average catch of 2,959 kg per trip, while motorised boats used by traditional fishermen yielded 174 kg per trip. Non-motorised vessels, often manually operated, recorded only 41 kg per trip, showing vast productivity gaps between different fishing technologies.

**7. 'Matri Van' Urban Forest Initiative Launched in Gurugram, Haryana under Van Mahotsav 2025 by Union Ministers Bhupender Yadav and Manohar Lal Khattar.**



On August 2, 2025, Union Ministers Bhupender Yadav and Manohar Lal Khattar launched the 'Matri Van' initiative in the Aravalli Hills region of Gurugram, Haryana. Developed under the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam programme, the 750-acre forest project was launched as part of Van Mahotsav 2025 by the Haryana Forest Department.

- The 'Matri Van' initiative was jointly launched by Union Minister Bhupender Yadav from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and the Ministry of Power. This initiative forms a key highlight of Van Mahotsav 2025, India's annual tree-planting campaign observed from July 1 to 7, initiated in 1950 by former Agriculture Minister K. M. Munshi.

- The project is a theme-based urban forest concept titled 'Matri Van', meaning "Mother's Forest." Spread over 750 acres in the Aravalli Hills, this ecological initiative aims to serve both environmental and cultural purposes. It is envisioned as a unique green space that promotes biodiversity conservation, public wellness, and urban sustainability in one of India's most critically threatened ecological zones.

- The forest includes dedicated ecological and thematic zones such as Bodhi Vatika (sacred fig grove), Bamboosetum (bamboo species garden), Aravalli species Arboretum, Pushp Vatika (flowering plants), Sugandh Vatika (fragrance plants), Medicinal Plants Vatika, Nakshatra Vatika (zodiac-based plants), Rashi Vatika, Cactus Garden, and Butterfly Garden. These botanical zones are designed to showcase spiritual, medicinal, and aesthetic plant diversity.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The Matri Van project also involves the ecological restoration of the Aravalli range by removing invasive species like Kabuli Kikar (*Prosopis juliflora*) and replacing them with native trees such as Dhak and Amaltash. The plantation efforts aim to restore soil quality, boost local wildlife habitats, and revive traditional flora of the region, all while increasing green cover and mitigating urban heat islands.

(ii) Public engagement is a major component of this initiative. The urban forest will be developed through collaborative efforts involving Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributors, Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), multinational corporations (MNCs), school students, and multiple government agencies, thus encouraging environmental ownership among citizens.

(iii) To support community interaction and sustainability, the forest will include public amenities such as nature trails, cycling tracks, yoga spots, seating gazebos, eco-parking facilities at four corners, and a treated water irrigation system. The project is also aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for



Environment), and directly contributes to India's non-fossil fuel commitments and long-term climate action goals.

management and governance norms. This includes periodic audits and transparent disclosures.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The HKMA released final guidelines- Aincluding the supervision, AML/CFT, and 30 transitional policies-on July 29, 2025. Applications will be accepted through August-September 2025, with the first licenses expected in early 2026, initially 9 limited in number.

(ii) This regulatory framework positions Hong Kong ahead of peers like the EU (MICA) and the US in stablecoin supervision-particularly with bankruptcy remoteness protections, redemption rights enforcement, and extraterritorial authority over HK dollar-backed issuers globally.

(iii) Following the new licensing regime, over US\$1.5 billion was raised by HK-listed fintech companies in July 2025 to build stablecoin and blockchain payment platforms. Investments surged as investor enthusiasm grew for Hong Kong's regulated fintech roadmap.

## INTERNATIONAL

### 1. Hong Kong Rolls Out Full-Reserve Stablecoin Regulatory Framework with Selective Licensing to Boost Digital Finance Leadership.



On May 21, 2025, Hong Kong's Legislative Council passed the landmark Stablecoins Bill to regulate fiat-referenced stablecoins. The regime mandates full-reserve backing, strict redemption rights, and licenses from the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), positioning the region as a global digital finance hub.

- Under the Stablecoins Ordinance-effective August 1, 2025-any issuer of fiat-referenced stablecoins (including those backed by the Hong Kong dollar) must be licensed by the HKMA. Licensees must maintain 100% backing of issued tokens, segregate client assets, and ensure redemption at par value upon request.

- Issuers must be incorporated in Hong Kong, maintain minimum paid-up capital (HK\$25 million or 1% of issued stablecoin value), implement robust anti-money laundering (AML/CFT) protocols, and adhere to strong risk-

### 2. India Emerges as World's 5th Largest Aviation Market in 2024 and Handling 241 Million Passengers.



In 2024, India ascended to become the fifth-largest aviation market globally, transporting 241 million passengers across domestic and international routes, overtaking Japan. This milestone was revealed by the latest World Air Transport Statistics (WATS) report from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

- India's air passenger volume rose by 11.1% year-on-year, reaching 241 million in 2024. This surge enabled India to surpass Japan, which handled 205 million passengers with an 18.6% annual increase, placing India at the 5th spot globally.

- According to IATA's 2024 WATS report, the United States (876 million passengers) retained the top position, followed by China (741 million), United Kingdom (261 million), Spain (241 million), and India at fifth.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The Mumbai–Delhi air corridor ranked among the world's top busiest airport pairs in 2024, transporting 5.9 million passengers—the 7th busiest route globally.

(ii) Surging passenger demand has fuelled massive infrastructure development in India. As of early 2025, the government achieved over 91% of planned capital expenditure

under the FY2020–25 aviation expansion plan, including the addition of new airports and enhancement of existing facilities.

(iii) The milestone underscores India's fast-growing domestic aviation demand and reinforces its ambition to become a global aviation hub by 2047. However, barriers like airline capacity constraints, infrastructure gaps, and regulatory hurdles remain key challenges.

## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

### 1. BIAL Completed India's Largest Unlisted NCD Issuance Worth ₹9,000 Crore for Airport Expansion.



In August 2025, Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), the Joint Venture (JV) operating Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport in Karnataka, successfully completed India's largest unlisted Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs) issuance in the airport sector, raising a total of ₹9,000 crore to support infrastructure expansion and debt refinancing.

- The total ₹9,000 crore fundraising has been divided into two tranches—₹4,362 crore was raised on July 25, 2025, while the remaining ₹4,638 crore is scheduled to be raised in early

October 2025. This phased approach supports both immediate refinancing and phased infrastructure rollout.

- The State Bank of India Capital Markets (SBICAPS) acted as the sole arranger for the issuance of these unlisted NCDs, demonstrating strong institutional backing and credibility in India's financial markets.

- With a refinancing tenure of 15 years, BIAL aims to conserve operational capital, enabling it to strategically allocate resources toward upcoming airport infrastructure development projects, including terminal and runway upgrades.

#### Key Points:-

(i) This NCD issuance brings substantial financial benefits to BIAL by lowering borrowing costs. Key factors include its AAA credit rating, shift from Marginal Cost of funds-based Lending Rate (MCLR)-linked loans to a fixed interest rate, and an extended maturity profile.

(ii) The ₹9,000 crore will be utilised not only to refinance existing high-cost debt but also to fuel future infrastructure expansion of Kempegowda International Airport, enhancing its capacity and efficiency as one of India's busiest aviation hubs.

## 2. India's Tea Production Fell 9 % in June 2025 to 133.5 Million kg Amid Weather and Pest Attacks.



In June 2025, India's tea production declined by 9 percent, plunging to 133.5 million kilograms, compared to June 2024. The drop—driven by inclement weather, excessive rainfall, high temperatures, and widespread pest infestations—impacted both major tea-growing regions across North and South India.

- North India's tea output fell by about 7.44 percent, reaching 112.51 million kg, while South India experienced a steeper decline of 16.7 percent, producing 20.99 million kg only. States including Kerala (–31 %), Tamil Nadu (–11 %), and Karnataka saw sharp reductions, signalling pan-regional distress.

- In Assam, the decline hovered around 10 percent, with the Cachar region performing marginally better. In West Bengal, the Dooars region dropped by 10.3 percent, while the Terai and Darjeeling zones saw modest growth, highlighting localized variations amid overall contraction.

- Tea gardens in North Bengal's Dooars and Terai regions reported production reductions between 0.4 percent to 25.5 percent, largely due to unseasonal rainfall, higher-than-normal temperatures (reaching up to 36.9 °C), and infestation by pests like green fly, thrips, and red



spider mites, aggravated by fungal and bacterial infections.

#### Key Points:-

(i) According to the Indian Tea Association (ITA), erratic climate changes in 2025—including dry spells, temperature rises of 2 °C, and poor rainfall—worsened tea crop conditions. The July 2025 crop is also projected to decline by 15 percent to 20 percent, compounding industry stress from earlier shortfalls in 2024.

(ii) The sharp production decline has escalated downstream pressures: tea auction prices for CTC and dust varieties fell by 7 percent in Assam, and 9.5 percent in Dooars/Terai (West Bengal) between April and July. Rising tea imports (up 82 percent in 2024) have further depressed domestic price realisations, straining both planters and growers.

### 3. India's Palm Oil Imports Fell 10% in July 2025 While Soyoil Shipments Rose 38% to Three-Year High.



In July 2025, India's palm oil imports dropped by 10% to 858,000 metric tonnes, largely due to contract cancellations. Meanwhile, soyoil imports surged 38% to 495,000 tonnes, the

highest monthly level in three years, driven by delayed shipments and competitive pricing.

- Indian refiners cancelled approximately 65,000 tonnes of palm oil contracts for deliveries between July and September, citing a sharp price rally in benchmark Malaysian palm oil futures. This led to a 10% decline in imports from June levels.

- Soyoil imports climbed 38% month-on-month, reaching 495,000 metric tonnes in July—the highest volume in three years. This surge was fueled by competitive CIF prices and the discharge of previously delayed shipments from June.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The shift from palm oil to soyoil reflects refiners' response to global price dynamics: palm oil became relatively expensive, while soyoil commanded attention due to its lower landed cost. This changed the edible oil import mix significantly in favor of soyoil.

(ii) Although palm oil imports had reached an 11-month high just a month prior, low inventory and seasonal demand prompted refiners to cancel contracts and pivot. The refilling of stocks via soyoil imports also contributed to India's edible oil intake rising slightly overall in July.

(iii) The decline in India's palm oil purchases added pressure on Malaysian and Indonesian exporters, potentially leading to inventory build-up. Meanwhile, the surge in soyoil imports supported U.S. soyoil prices. Analysts expect palm oil demand to rebound as price gaps narrow in coming months.

## AWARDS

### 1. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Honoured with 43rd Lokmanya Tilak National Award in Pune.



In August 2025, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, who leads the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH), was conferred with the 43rd Lokmanya Tilak National Award. The award ceremony took place in Pune, Maharashtra, and recognized Nitin Gadkari's outstanding contribution to the development of India's road infrastructure and promotion of transparent, efficient governance in the transport sector.

- The Lokmanya Tilak National Award is one of the most prestigious civilian honours instituted to celebrate the legacy of freedom fighter and nationalist leader Bal Gangadhar Tilak, widely revered as Lokmanya Tilak.
- It is conferred annually on his death anniversary, 1st August, to individuals who have significantly contributed to the development and progress of India in various fields.
- Nitin Gadkari received this recognition for spearheading transformational projects in national highways, expressways, and smart transportation under the MoRTH, aligning with the Government of India's goal of world-class infrastructure. His work has been pivotal in

reducing travel time, improving logistics efficiency, and enhancing road safety nationwide.

#### Key Points:-

- The award is instituted by the Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust in 1983 and has grown to become a symbol of national gratitude toward those contributing to India's development. It carries a cash prize of ₹1 lakh, a citation, and a commemorative memento presented at a public function in Pune.
- Over the years, the Lokmanya Tilak National Award has been conferred on several eminent personalities. Former Prime Ministers including Indira Gandhi, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and current PM Narendra Modi have been among the past awardees, reflecting its historical significance and stature.
- The 43rd edition held in 2025 gains significance as it reflects the continued importance of acknowledging leaders who drive national transformation. Nitin Gadkari's recognition is seen as a tribute to his pragmatic, technology-driven, and sustainable development approach in India's infrastructure sector.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### 1. National Bone and Joint Day 2025 Observed on August 4 to Promote Musculoskeletal Health Across All Age Groups.

## NATIONAL BONE AND JOINT DAY 2025 OBSERVED ON AUGUST 4 TO PROMOTE MUSCULOSKELETAL HEALTH ACROSS ALL AGE GROUPS



India observes National Bone and Joint Day annually on August 4, aiming to increase awareness about the significance of strong bones and joints for people of all age groups. The day also focuses on early detection and prevention of musculoskeletal disorders, encouraging a healthier lifestyle to reduce long-term bone and joint complications.

- The Indian Orthopaedic Association (IOA) has been organizing this observance since 2012 to spread awareness about bone and joint health. The date also commemorates the charter-signing day of the IOA, which was officially constituted in 1971, making August 4 a dual milestone in the medical community.

- The National Bone and Joint Day serves as the beginning of 'Bone and Joint Week', which is observed from August 4 to August 10. The week includes health camps, educational programs, and public awareness drives about maintaining musculoskeletal health and preventing orthopedic ailments.

- The campaign highlights the importance of healthy lifestyle choices, such as balanced diets rich in Calcium and Vitamin D, regular physical activity, and avoiding smoking and alcohol, which directly impact bone strength and joint flexibility. These practices are especially crucial

during youth to build Peak Bone Mass (PBM) before the age of 25–30.

### Key Points:-

(i) Bones play a vital role in protecting internal organs, supporting body structure, and enabling movement. They undergo high metabolic activity during growth periods, especially in children and adolescents, making adequate nutrient intake essential to prevent deficiencies that could cause irreversible damage later in life.

(ii) The day also focuses on common musculoskeletal disorders such as Osteoporosis, a progressive condition involving low bone density and fragile bones, and Osteoarthritis, the most common form of arthritis, marked by cartilage breakdown, joint stiffness, and chronic pain—especially affecting hands, hips, and knees.

(iii) Musculoskeletal conditions affect mobility, productivity, and quality of life, often causing long-term pain and disability. The observance aims to educate the public on preventive care, early intervention, and proper diagnosis to minimize the burden of these disorders on both individuals and the healthcare system.

## 2. Indian Organ Donation Day 2025 Observed on August 3 to Mark India's First Deceased Organ Transplant.





Indian Organ Donation Day (IODD) is observed annually across India on 3rd August to commemorate the country's first successful deceased organ transplant. It is organized by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). The 2025 observance marks the 15th edition of this national event aimed at raising awareness on organ donation.

- **Indian Organ Donation Day 2025** was observed on 3rd August and marked the 15th official celebration of the event. The date is significant as it commemorates the anniversary of India's first successful heart transplant, shifting the observance from 27th November (used until 2022) to 3rd August beginning in 2023.
- The event was conducted under the leadership of NOTTO, which functions under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). The main function of IODD 2025 was held at Bhim Hall, Dr. Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC), New Delhi, and was attended by senior health officials, dignitaries, medical professionals, and organ donation activists.
- The IODD was originally launched in 2010 by NOTTO and celebrated every year on 27th November until the change in 2023. The shift to

3rd August was made to align the observance with the date of India's first heart transplant, which was a landmark event in the country's medical history and took place at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi on 3rd August 1994.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Jagat Prakash Nadda, was present at the event and addressed the gathering. During the ceremony, he honored individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions to the field of organ donation and transplantation. He also emphasized the importance of public awareness and the government's efforts to promote ethical and accessible transplant services.
- (ii) Two new awareness booklets were released during the celebration. One booklet is designed for the general public and students and promotes organ health through Ayurveda and Yoga. The second booklet focuses on sharing the Best Practices of States in organ donation and transplantation, and both aim to enhance public engagement and participation in the national organ donation movement.
- (iii) The significance of 3rd August in Indian medical history stems from the country's first successful heart transplant performed in 1994 at AIIMS, New Delhi. This surgical breakthrough laid the foundation for India's organ transplant framework, which continues to grow under the leadership of NOTTO, contributing to saving countless lives through deceased donor programs.

## OBITUARY

### 1. Former Jharkhand CM Shibui Soren Passed Away at 81 in New Delhi.



On 4th August 2025, veteran leader Shibui Soren, former Chief Minister of Jharkhand and founder of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) party, passed away at the age of 81 in New Delhi. He was undergoing treatment for several health issues and was admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

- Shibui Soren, also known as Dishom Guru, was a tribal leader who played a big role in the movement to create the state of Jharkhand. He became Chief Minister of Jharkhand three times and was elected as a Member of Parliament (MP) many times. He was also a former Union Coal Minister.

- Shibui Soren had been suffering from kidney problems, diabetes, and had suffered a stroke around 1.5 months before his death. He was on life support in Sir Ganga Ram Hospital and passed away at 8:56 AM on 4th August 2025.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The Government of Jharkhand declared 3 days of state mourning from 4th to 6th August. All flags were flown at half-mast, and official events were cancelled. President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra

Modi, and many other leaders paid tribute to him and called him a strong voice for tribal rights.

(ii) Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren, son of Shibui Soren, said, "Guruji is no more. I have become zero today." The Jharkhand Assembly also adjourned early to pay respects to the veteran leader. Many people across the state gathered to offer their final respects.

(iii) Shibui Soren's body was brought to Ranchi, where thousands came to bid farewell. Many social and political leaders from across India attended. His legacy is expected to be carried forward by his son Hemant Soren and daughter-in-law Kalpana Soren, who are active leaders in JMM.

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<b>Indian Orthopaedic Association (IOA)</b>	President : Dr. Ajit Shinde	Headquarters: New Delhi
<b>National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)</b>	Chairman : Shaji K.V.	Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
<b>Ministry of Mines (MoM)</b>	Union Minister: Gangapuram (G.) Kishan Reddy	Headquarter: New Delhi
<b>Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI);</b>	Director- Grinson George	Headquarters - Kochi, Kerala
<b>MoRTH</b>	Union Minister: Nitin Gadkari	Headquarters: New Delhi
<b>Jharkhand</b>	Capital: Ranchi	Governor: Santosh Gangwar
<b>International Air Transport Association (IATA)</b>	Director general: Willie Walsh	Headquarters: Montreal, Canada