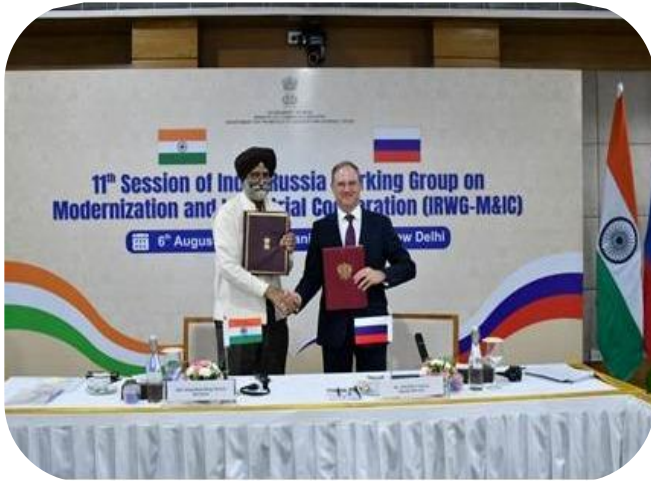


# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**> 08 AUGUST 2025**

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

### 1. India and Russia Signed a Protocol in New Delhi to Enhance Bilateral Industrial and Technological Cooperation in Sectors like Engineering, Innovation, and Advanced Manufacturing.



On August 6, 2025, India and Russia signed a protocol aimed at strengthening their strategic partnership in industrial and technological domains. The agreement was formalized during the 11th Session of the India-Russia Working Group on Modernization & Industrial Cooperation, held at Vanijya Bhawan in New Delhi.

- The protocol was signed under the framework of the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, and Cultural Cooperation, focusing on reaffirming and expanding bilateral industrial and technological ties.

- From India, the agreement was signed by Amardeep Singh Bhatia, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoCI). Representing Russia was Alexey Gruzdev, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation.

- The protocol aims to boost collaboration in areas such as aluminium, fertilizers, railway transport, mining sector technology transfer, engineering equipment, and industrial/domestic waste management, thereby enhancing industrial capacity and innovation.

#### Key Points:-

- The cooperation encompasses aerospace technology, modern wind and small aircraft engines, carbon fibre, additive manufacturing, 3D printing, exploration and extraction of rare earth minerals, underground coal gasification, and industrial infrastructure development.
- The session witnessed participation from around 80 delegates representing both countries, including senior government officials, industry representatives, and experts from various technological sectors.

### 2. Gujarat Retains Top Spot in India's Exports for FY25 with ₹9.83 Lakh Crore Shipments.



The Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) has released the Overview of States' Exports 2024-25, revealing Gujarat as India's leading exporter, contributing over one-fourth of the nation's



total exports with shipments worth ₹9.83 lakh crore.

- Gujarat's export performance in FY25, valued at ₹9.83 lakh crore, accounted for 26.6% of India's total exports. This achievement cements the state's dominance in trade, driven by strong industrial capacity and a diverse product portfolio across key sectors.

- The data, compiled by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), shows Gujarat exporting to top destinations including the United States, the Netherlands, the United Arab Emirates, Singapore, and Australia, reflecting the state's global competitiveness in various industries.

- Out of 169 commodities exported by India, Gujarat shipped 158, showcasing its wide-ranging industrial base. Major export categories included petroleum products (37.72%), cotton fabrics, ceramics, chemicals, plastics, and gems and jewellery, indicating the state's robust and diversified manufacturing strength.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Jamnagar district emerged as Gujarat's leading export hub, contributing ₹3.63 lakh crore-36.91% of the state's total shipments. This dominance is primarily due to its large petroleum refining capacity and strong logistics infrastructure supporting bulk exports.

(ii) The top five exporting states-Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh-collectively contributed nearly 71% of India's total exports in FY25, with a combined value estimated at approximately 27.07 lakh crore across multiple sectors and product categories.

(iii) FIEO's report highlights a slight decline

in Gujarat's export value compared to FY24's USD 134.39 billion. Despite this, the state maintained its leadership position, reflecting resilience in global trade amid fluctuating demand, geopolitical challenges, and changing market trends.

### 3. Arunachal Pradesh's Kabak Yano Becomes First Woman from State to Successfully Summit Africa's Highest Peak, Mount Kilimanjaro.



On August 4, 2025, celebrated mountaineer Kabak Yano from Arunachal Pradesh climbed to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro—the highest peak in Africa—marking a stellar milestone in her ongoing Seven Summits expedition.

- Standing at 5,895 meters, Mount Kilimanjaro is both Africa's tallest mountain and the tallest free-standing peak globally. Kabak Yano's successful ascent contributes to her ambitious mission of conquering the Seven Summits—the tallest mountains across all seven continents.

- Kabak Yano, originally hailed from Kamle district, Arunachal Pradesh, gained nationwide recognition for summiting Mount Everest in May 2024, becoming the fifth woman from her state and the first from the Nyishi community to do so.

### Key Points:-

(i) The expedition was officially flagged off by Governor Lt. General (Retd) K. T. Parnaik on July 28 from Raj Bhavan, Itanagar. Upon hearing of her success, he praised Yano's grit and her ability to inspire Arunachal Pradesh's youth, saying "with grit and determination, no summit is beyond reach.

(ii) At only 26 years, Yano's accomplishment resonated beyond mountaineering—it stood as a symbol of courage, perseverance, and empowerment. Her journey continues to inspire adventure seekers and women from the North East to pursue their dreams across daunting terrains.

### 4. MOSPI Proposes New Base Years for GDP, IIP, and CPI to Reflect Structural Economic Changes.



On 6th August 2025, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) proposed revising the base years for India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Index of Industrial Production (IIP), and Consumer Price Index (CPI). The move, presented in the Lok Sabha by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Rao Inderjit Singh, aims to better capture the evolving structure of the Indian economy through updated methodologies and data sources.

- MOSPI has suggested updating the base year for GDP and IIP calculations to 2022-23, ensuring that the indices better reflect the present-day industrial and economic landscape. For CPI, the base year is proposed to be 2024, aligning inflation measurement with the latest consumption patterns in the country.

- The revision of the CPI will incorporate the updated item list and respective weights derived from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2023-24. This is expected to enhance the accuracy of retail inflation measurement by accounting for changes in consumer spending habits across rural and urban India.

- The primary goal of changing base years is to incorporate structural shifts in the economy, such as advancements in technology, expansion of services, and changes in industrial output. It also aims to improve alignment with global statistical practices and provide a more realistic assessment of economic growth and inflation trends.

### Key Points:-

(i) Between November 2024 and January 2025, MOSPI conducted its first Forward-Looking Survey on Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) intentions in the private corporate sector. The findings, later published, provide valuable insight into future investment trends and the sectors likely to drive India's economic expansion.

(ii) In addition, MOSPI undertook a Pilot Study on the Annual Survey of Services Sector Enterprises (ASSSE) to capture data on the incorporated services sector. This marks an important step in measuring the economic contribution of India's fast-growing services industry more accurately.

(iii) The proposals and survey findings were formally presented in the Lok Sabha by Rao Inderjit Singh, who holds the Independent Charge of MOSPI and Ministry of Planning, and also serves as Minister of State for the Ministry of Culture. The announcement reflects the government's continued focus on data-driven policy formulation.

## INTERNATIONAL

### 1. Illinois Bans AI from Providing Therapy Under Landmark Wellness and Oversight for Psychological Resources Act.



On August 4, 2025, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker enacted the Wellness and Oversight for Psychological Resources (WOPR) Act, prohibiting the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) platforms like ChatGPT for independent therapy or mental health decision-making without human supervision.

- The WOPR Act forbids AI from diagnosing mental health issues, making treatment plans, or engaging in therapeutic conversations unless a licensed behavioral health professional oversees it. This move ensures only qualified practitioners provide mental health care.

- AI tools may be utilized for administrative and supplementary roles, such as scheduling, billing,

insurance processing, and drafting non-clinical communications—so long as a licensed expert retains full responsibility for content.

- The law aims to shield vulnerable individuals, including children, from unregulated AI advice and protect jobs of trained mental health professionals. Violations can lead to civil fines up to USD 10,000 per offense, enforced by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR).

#### Key Points:-

(i) Legislators emphasized that AI lacks empathy, contextual understanding, and accountability—key elements of effective mental health care. Concern arose from cases where AI chatbots gave alarming advice, including promoting self-harm or substance misuse.

(ii) Illinois became the first U.S. state to specifically regulate AI use in therapeutic services. This follows similar but less restrictive moves in states like Utah and Nevada, and precedes upcoming federal and legal regulations on AI in healthcare.

(iii) The WOPR Act sets an important precedent in balancing innovation and ethical care. While experts recognize AI's potential in enhancing mental health services, this legislation draws clear boundaries, affirming that AI may empower but must not replace human therapists.

## BANKING & FINANCE

### 1. AU Small Finance Bank Makes History as First SFB to Receive RBI's In-Principle Approval for Universal Bank Transition.





On August 7, 2025, AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to convert into a Universal Bank, becoming the first Small Finance Bank (SFB) in India to achieve this milestone. The last such approval was granted to Bandhan Bank in 2015.

- The transition follows RBI's voluntary conversion framework and "on-tap" licensing guidelines released in April 2024. AU satisfied all eligibility norms, including a five-year track record of satisfactory performance, adequate net worth (10 billion), capital adequacy, profitability, and low levels of non-performing assets (NPAs).
- With universal bank status, AU can now expand beyond retail banking to provide larger corporate loans, launch subsidiaries, offer wealth management services, enter forex operations, and broaden its digital banking solutions under one consolidated umbrella.
- This in-principle nod marks the first full-fledged universal banking license the RBI has granted in almost ten years. The last approvals were for Bandhan Bank and IDFC (now IDFC First Bank) in 2015.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) As per RBI mandates, AU's promoter-

Sanjay Agarwal-will transfer his entire 22% equity stake into a Non-Operative Financial Holding Company (NOFHC) structure within the next 18 months. Additionally, the bank will shift its corporate headquarters from Jaipur to Mumbai.

(ii) In Q1 FY26, AU reported a 16% year-on-year rise in net profit, at 580.9 crore, along with a rising loan portfolio exceeding 1 lakh crore and strong retail operations. Market response was positive-AU shares surged nearly 8% intraday following the RBI announcement, reflecting investor optimism.

## 2. RBI Holds Repo Rate Steady at 5.50% in 3rd Bi-monthly Monetary Policy FY2025-26.



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently conducted its 56th meeting of the 3rd Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) for FY2025-26 from August 4 to 6, 2025, under the chairmanship of Governor Shri Sanjay Malhotra. The MPC decided to keep the policy rates unchanged while maintaining a neutral stance.

- The 3rd Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting was held over three days, from August 4 to 6, 2025, with the participation of all six members, including Governor Shri Sanjay Malhotra, Dr. Nagesh

Kumar, Shri Saugata Bhattacharya, Prof. Ram Singh, Dr. Poonam Gupta, and Dr. Rajiv Ranjan. This was the 56th meeting since the MPC's formation.

- The MPC unanimously voted to maintain the Policy Repo Rate under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) at 5.50%. The decision also left the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate unchanged at 5.25%, the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate steady at 5.75%, and the Bank Rate fixed at 5.75%.
- The committee's neutral stance reflects its dual focus on sustaining economic growth while keeping inflation under control. RBI stated that the unchanged rates would help the transmission of the earlier monetary easing measures into the economy.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) The decision was influenced by the need to allow the effects of the earlier 100 basis points (bps) repo rate cut made in February 2025 to filter through to lending rates. The RBI believes this will stimulate economic activity in sectors that are sensitive to interest rates.
- (ii) Key RBI monetary policy rates after this meeting include: Repo Rate -5.50%, Reverse Repo Rate - 3.35%, Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) -5.25%, Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) - 5.75%, Bank Rate - 5.75%, Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) - 3.00%, and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) 18.00%.
- (iii) This meeting's outcome is crucial for borrowers, investors, and the banking sector as it signals policy stability amid global economic uncertainties. It also underscores RBI's cautious approach to balancing inflation management with economic

expansion.

### 3. RBI Issues Final Co-lending Norms to Strengthen Risk Sharing and Transparency.



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued final revised guidelines for co-lending between banks and Non-Bank Financial Companies (NBFCs) to enhance transparency and ensure balanced risk-sharing. The updated norms, issued in August 2025, will take effect from January 1, 2026.

- The revised norms make it mandatory for all Regulated Entities (REs) engaged in Co-lending Arrangements (CLAS) to retain at least 10% of each individual loan in their own books. This provision applies to all banks and NBFCs operating under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949; Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934; and National Housing Bank Act, 1987.
- The RBI has clarified that digital lending arrangements will continue to be governed by the Reserve Bank of India (Digital Lending) Directions, 2022. This ensures that both physical and digital co-lending models maintain regulatory compliance and borrower protection standards.

- The guidelines specify a strict timeline, requiring the originating lender to transfer the loan portion to the co-lender within 15 days of loan origination. This is aimed at preventing operational delays and ensuring a smooth flow of credit between lending partners.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Under the new rules, originating lenders may offer a maximum Default Loss Guarantee (DLG) of 5% of the outstanding loan portfolio, subject to conditions, to support credit enhancement. The applicability of these norms covers Small Finance Banks (SFBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Local Area Banks (LABs), financial institutions, and all categories of NBFCs, including Housing Finance Companies (HFCs).

(ii) These finalised co-lending rules are expected to improve risk-sharing mechanisms, enhance operational efficiency, and expand credit access to underserved sectors of the economy while ensuring stronger regulatory oversight.

#### 4. IFC and HDFC Capital Launch \$1 Billion "H-DREAM" Fund to Advance Green Affordable Housing in India.



The International Finance Corporation (IFC) and HDFC Capital Advisors Limited have jointly launched the \$1 billion "H-DREAM" (Housing Development and Eco-Friendly Affordable Market) Fund to accelerate the development of green and affordable housing in India, aiming to meet the country's rising urban housing demand while promoting sustainability.

- The partnership focuses on creating a large-scale financing platform dedicated to supporting the construction of environmentally friendly homes that cater to low- and middle-income households. The fund aligns with India's Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Housing for All initiative and will provide long-term capital to developers committed to green-certified projects.

- This initiative will prioritize projects that adhere to recognized green building standards such as EDGE (Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies), IGBC (Indian Green Building Council), and GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment), thereby reducing carbon emissions, water usage, and energy consumption.

- The aim is to promote climate-resilient housing infrastructure while keeping costs affordable for the targeted population segment.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The \$1 billion corpus will be financed through IFC's investments, HDFC Capital's Affordable Real Estate Fund (H-CARE), and other domestic and international institutional investors. The fund will operate as a blended finance model, combining concessional capital with market-rate investments to make housing projects more viable.



(ii) According to IFC, India faces an urban housing shortage of nearly 29 million units, with 95% of this demand coming from the affordable housing segment. By promoting green construction in this segment, the initiative is expected to have a dual impact—reducing India's carbon footprint and meeting the urgent housing needs of its urban population in a sustainable manner.

(iii) The fund also reflects the growing collaboration between global financial institutions and Indian developers to address the twin challenges of climate change and urban housing. By leveraging IFC's global expertise in sustainable finance and HDFC Capital's deep market presence, the initiative is positioned to transform India's housing landscape over the next decade.

## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

### 1. Amazon India and FIEO Sign MoU to Boost E-Commerce Exports of MSMEs.



On August 6 2025, Amazon India and the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in New Delhi to strengthen e-commerce exports from India's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

(MSMEs) through policy support, training, and global market access.

- The MoU was signed by Dr. Ajay Sahai, Director General and CEO of FIEO, and Mr. Chetan Krishnaswamy, Vice-President of Public Policy at Amazon India. The signing marked the creation of a joint e-commerce export task force that will draft a policy and infrastructure roadmap for MSME exporters.

- The partnership aims to boost global sales for MSMEs by leveraging Amazon's presence in over 20 countries and FIEO's nationwide exporter network. The focus sectors include home linen, décor, personal care, wellness products, apparel, toys, handicrafts, packaged food, and home textiles.

- Capacity-building will be a key pillar of the initiative. Amazon India and FIEO will conduct training and awareness programmes across India to help MSMEs understand cross-border trade requirements, compliance processes, and digital marketing strategies for global marketplaces.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The collaboration also plans to establish local offline seller communities to enable peer-to-peer learning and shared access to logistics, warehousing, compliance assistance, and onboarding services—making the export process more seamless for small businesses.

(ii) Amazon announced that Indian e-commerce exports have already crossed USD 13 billion as of 2024, and the company targets enabling USD 80 billion in cumulative exports by 2030. This MoU is seen as a strategic step toward achieving that target.

(iii) FIEO highlighted that the MoU aligns with Government of India initiatives, including the e-commerce export hub programme under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, to promote “Made in India” products globally and create a robust digital export ecosystem.

## 2. India's Electronics Exports Surge 47% in Q1 FY26 and Driven by Mobile Phones.



India's electronics exports soared by 47% year-on-year in the first quarter of FY26, reaching USD 12.4 billion. This remarkable growth was primarily fueled by a 55% increase in mobile phone shipments, underscoring the nation's expanding role in the global electronics market.

- The surge in electronics exports marks a significant achievement for India, reflecting the success of initiatives like the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme and the Make in India programme. These policies have bolstered domestic manufacturing capabilities, enabling Indian companies to scale production and meet international demand effectively.

- Mobile phones emerged as the dominant contributor, with exports climbing from USD 4.9 billion in Q1 FY25 to approximately USD 7.6

billion in Q1 FY26. This 55% growth highlights India's growing strength in mobile manufacturing and its increasing competitiveness in the global market.

- Non-mobile electronics also experienced robust growth, rising by 37% to USD 4.8 billion. Key segments such as solar modules, switching and routing equipment, charger adapters, and electronic components played a pivotal role in this expansion, diversifying India's electronics export portfolio.

### Key Points:-

(i) The India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) projects that the Amomentum will continue, with total electronics exports expected to reach USD 46-50 billion by the end of FY26. This projection underscores the sector's potential and the effectiveness of supportive government policies.

(ii) Looking ahead, industry leaders emphasize the need for further investment in research and development, strengthening the domestic supply chain, and enhancing value addition across the electronics manufacturing value chain. These steps are crucial for maintaining global competitiveness and sustaining growth in the sector.

## 3. Goldman Sachs Revises India's GDP Growth Forecast Down to 6.5% for CY25 Amid US Tariff Imposition.



In August 2025, Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. lowered India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth projections to 6.5% for Calendar Year 2025 (CY25) and 6.4% for CY26. This revision follows renewed trade tensions after the United States imposed a 25% reciprocal tariff on Indian imports effective from August 1, 2025.

- **Goldman Sachs revised India's GDP growth estimate for CY25 downward by 0.1 percentage points from 6.6% to 6.5%, and for CY26, it was lowered by 0.2 percentage points to 6.4% from 6.6%. This downward revision reflects the economic impact anticipated from the increased trade barriers following the US tariff.**

- **Alongside GDP, the global financial services firm also adjusted its inflation outlook. Headline inflation for both CY25 and Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26) was forecast at 3.0%, marking a decrease of 0.2 percentage points compared to previous estimates. This suggests a relatively benign inflation environment despite the trade tensions.**

#### Key Points:-

(i) The Current Account Deficit (CAD), a key external sector indicator, was raised to 0.9% of GDP for both CY25 and CY26. The increase in CAD reflects the expected

impact of trade disruptions and tariff barriers affecting India's external balances.

(ii) In a related development, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on July 30, 2025, maintained the repo rate without any change and retained its GDP growth forecast for FY26 at 6.5%. However, it lowered the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation estimate from 3.7% to 3.1%, aligning partly with Goldman Sachs' view on easing inflation pressures.

(iii) This revision by Goldman Sachs underscores the challenges India faces in sustaining high economic growth amid global trade uncertainties, while inflation and monetary policy outlooks remain relatively stable in the near term. The focus remains on navigating the trade tensions and their ripple effects on exports and macroeconomic stability.

## MOUs and Agreement

### 1. Atal Innovation Mission Partners with Bhashini to Boost Vernacular Innovation Across India.



On August 7, 2025, the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), under NITI Aayog, signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) with Bhashini - the Digital India Bhashini Division under the



Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) - to promote vernacular innovation and facilitate language-inclusive entrepreneurship across India.

- The partnership aims to democratize access to innovation by integrating Bhashini's language technologies into AIM's programs, thereby breaking language barriers and empowering innovators across diverse linguistic backgrounds.
- As an initial step, content from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Academy will be translated into multiple Indian languages using Bhashini's AI tools to support knowledge dissemination.
- AIM ecosystem participants including startups - will gain access to Bhashini tools and sandbox environments, enabling the development of multilingual products and services.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) AIM plans to incorporate Bhashini platforms into its existing innovation infrastructure - such as Atal Incubation Centres (AICs), Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACICs), and newly launched Language Inclusive Program for Innovation (LIPI) centres - for enhanced local outreach and capacity building.
- (ii) Deepak Bagla, Mission Director of AIM, emphasized that this collaboration is "a practical step toward ensuring accessibility and opportunity for innovators across India, regardless of language." Amitabh Nag, CEO of the Digital India Bhashini Division, added that "language should never be a barrier to innovation".
- (iii) The partnership will also involve developing AI-powered translation tools and APIs that startups can integrate into their products, enabling real-time multilingual

support for customers in sectors like healthcare, education, and e-governance, thereby enhancing inclusivity and reach.

#### AWARDS

**1. Jensen Huang Tops Fortune 2025 "100 Most Powerful People in Business" List; Four Indian-Origin CEOs and 19 Women Leaders Highlight Global Business Influence.**



On August 5, 2025, Fortune, the American global business magazine, released the 2nd edition of its "Fortune 100 Most Powerful People in Business List." Jensen Huang, CEO and President of NVIDIA, an American technology company, topped the list, while Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), was ranked 56th.

- The list also features Dr. Reshma Kewalramani, an Indian-origin woman and CEO of Vertex Pharmaceuticals, ranked 62nd. This marks her first appearance on this prestigious ranking, highlighting the growing global influence of Indian-origin leaders in the business world.
- Among the top 10 powerful business leaders, prominent names include Sundar Pichai, CEO of Alphabet (Google's parent company), Ren Zhengfei, Founder and CEO of Huawei

Technologies, Sam Altman, CEO and Co-Founder of OpenAI, Jamie Dimon, Chairman and CEO of JPMorgan Chase, and Mary Barra, Chair and CEO of General Motors. These leaders reflect diverse sectors ranging from technology to finance and automotive industries.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The list recognizes four Indian-origin leaders, including Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft; Sundar Pichai, CEO of Alphabet; Neal Mohan, CEO of YouTube; and Dr. Reshma Kewalramani, CEO of Vertex Pharmaceuticals. Their inclusion underscores the significant global footprint of Indian talent in leading multinational corporations.

(ii) Women leaders also have a strong presence in the Fortune 100 list, with 19 women featured. Notable among them are Julie Sweet, Chairperson and CEO of Accenture (Rank 11), Jane Fraser, CEO of Citigroup (Rank 12), Lisa Su, Chairperson and CEO of AMD (Rank 14), and Ana Botin, Executive Chairman of Banco Santander (Rank 20). Their leadership spans sectors such as technology, finance, and consulting.

(iii) The Fortune 100 Most Powerful People in Business list serves as an influential benchmark that celebrates impactful leadership across industries and geographies. The 2025 edition reflects the dynamic shifts in global business leadership, emphasizing technology-driven innovation, diverse representation, and expanding roles of Indian-origin leaders on the world stage.

## SUMMITS & CONFERENCE / COMMITTEES & MEETINGS

### 1. PM Modi Addresses M.S.Swaminathan Centenary International Conference in New Delhi.



On August 7, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference at ICAR PUSA, New Delhi. Themed "Evergreen Revolution: The Pathway to Biohappiness," the conference commemorated the 100th birth anniversary of Professor M.S. Swaminathan, a pioneer of India's Green Revolution and a global advocate for sustainable agriculture.

- During the inaugural session, Prime Minister Modi paid tribute to Professor Swaminathan, describing him as a visionary whose contributions transcended any single era. He emphasized that Swaminathan transformed science into a medium of public service, dedicating his life to ensuring food security for the nation.

- The conference brought together global experts, policymakers, and scientists to discuss sustainable agriculture, food security, and innovations in farming. Prime Minister Modi highlighted Swaminathan's lasting impact on Indian agriculture and reaffirmed the

government's commitment to empowering farmers and boosting agricultural research.

- In his address, Prime Minister Modi noted that Professor Swaminathan awakened a consciousness that would continue to guide India's policies and priorities for centuries to come. He emphasized that the government had recognized farmers' strength as the foundation of the nation's progress.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The Prime Minister also announced the launch of the M.S. Swaminathan Award for Food and Peace, a new global honor aimed at advancing food security and climate justice in developing countries. This award reflects Swaminathan's enduring legacy in promoting sustainable agricultural practices worldwide.

(ii) As part of the centenary celebrations, Prime Minister Modi released a commemorative stamp and coin issued by the Government of India in honor of Professor Swaminathan. These commemoratives serve as a tribute to his monumental contributions to India's agricultural landscape.

(iii) The conference, organized by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), and the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, provided a platform for deliberations on advancing the principles of the 'Evergreen Revolution' and ensuring sustainable and equitable development in agriculture.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

**1. India Observes 11th National Handloom Day on 7 August 2025 with Theme "Weaving Innovation into Tradition."**



National Handloom Day is celebrated annually across India on 7 August to honour the handloom weaving community and recognize the vital role of the handloom industry in India's socioeconomic development. The 11th National Handloom Day in 2025 highlights the theme "Weaving Innovation into Tradition," reflecting the sector's blend of heritage and modernity.

- National Handloom Day was first inaugurated in 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Centenary Hall of Madras University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The day commemorates the significant contribution of handloom weavers to India's economy and cultural heritage.

- The day pays tribute to the Swadeshi movement, emphasizing the importance of indigenous products and the role of handloom in promoting self-reliance and rural livelihoods across India.

- The theme for the 11th National Handloom Day, "Weaving Innovation into Tradition," celebrates the integration of modern techniques



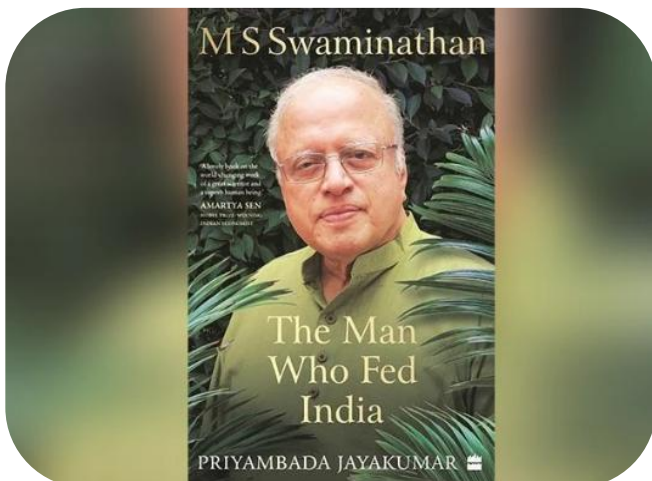
and designs with traditional weaving practices to keep the industry vibrant and competitive.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) The handloom sector is a major source of employment in India, providing livelihoods to millions, especially in rural areas, and contributing significantly to India's textile exports and rural economy.
- (ii) National Handloom Day aims to raise awareness about the challenges faced by handloom weavers and promote their products domestically and internationally, encouraging sustainable development and cultural preservation.
- (iii) The National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) plays a key role in promoting the handloom sector by supporting marketing, production, and the welfare of handloom weavers, helping to sustain and grow this traditional industry.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

**1. Biography 'The Man Who Fed India' Released to Mark 100th Birth Anniversary of M.S. Swaminathan.**



On August 7, 2025, a biography titled The Man Who Fed India was launched at the

India International Centre, New Delhi, commemorating the 100th birth anniversary of Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan (M.S. Swaminathan).

- **Widely recognized as the father of the Green Revolution, Swaminathan played a pivotal role in transforming India's agricultural landscape and ensuring food security for the nation.**
- **The biography offers a humanizing portrayal of M.S. Swaminathan by revealing rarely known anecdotes, personal quotes, and significant moments from his early life, scientific career, policy-making roles, and his guiding personal philosophy. This deeper insight helps readers connect with the man behind India's agricultural transformation.**

#### Key Points:-

- (i) Swaminathan is celebrated as the father of the Green Revolution in India. The book highlights his pioneering efforts to introduce high-yield wheat and rice varieties in the 1960s and 1970s, which dramatically increased food production and helped India achieve self-sufficiency in food grains.
- (ii) Beyond the Green Revolution, Swaminathan coined the concept of the "Evergreen Revolution," which emphasizes sustainable, inclusive, and eco-friendly agricultural practices aimed at long-term food security without compromising environmental health.
- (iii) The biography's release during the centenary celebrations serves as a tribute to Swaminathan's lasting legacy and his immense contributions to India's agricultural development and food security, inspiring future generations to pursue sustainable farming innovations.

## ENVIRONMENT

### 1. New Narrow-Banded Rain Snake *Smithophis leptofasciatus* Discovered in Mizoram, Expanding Genus *Smithophis* to Five Species.



In August 2025, researchers from Mizoram University in collaboration with the Guwahati-based biodiversity conservation group Help Earth discovered a new species of narrow-banded rain snake named *Smithophis leptofasciatus* in Mizoram. The discovery, published in *Taprobanica: The Journal of Asian Biodiversity*, increases the total known species in the genus *Smithophis* to five, highlighting the rich herpetofaunal diversity of the region.

- The newly identified snake, *Smithophis leptofasciatus*, is visually distinct with its glossy black body marked by narrow, incomplete transverse bands that range in color from creamish-white to yellowish-lime. These unique markings set it apart from other species within the *Smithophis* genus.
- This species inhabits elevated montane forests in Mizoram at altitudes between 900 and 1,200 meters. It prefers areas near streams and dense leaf litter, adapting well to a semi-aquatic and nocturnal lifestyle. Its habitat choice reflects the ecological niche it occupies in this region.

- The diet of *Smithophis leptofasciatus* primarily consists of earthworms, supporting its role in the forest ecosystem. Captive observations noted a gravid female laying six leathery eggs, providing valuable insight into its reproductive biology.

#### Key Points:-

- Previously, *Smithophis leptofasciatus* was mistaken for the closely related species *Smithophis bicolor*. However, through genetic analysis, researchers confirmed its status as a unique species, emphasizing the importance of molecular techniques in modern taxonomy.
- This discovery marks the third species of the *Smithophis* genus recorded in Mizoram, following *Smithophis atemporalis* and *Smithophis mizoramensis*. It further underscores Mizoram's significance as a biodiversity hotspot and the need for continued conservation efforts in the region.

**Static GK**

<b>Russia</b>	Prime Minister: Mikhail Mishustin	Capital: Moscow
<b>Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO)</b>	Director General (DG) & CEO : Dr.Ajay Sahai	Headquarters: New Delhi
<b>Illinois</b>	Capital: Springfield	Governor: JB Pritzker
<b>NITI Aayog</b>	CEO: B. V. R. Subrahmanyam	Headquarter: New Delhi
<b>RBI</b>	Governor: Sanjay Malhotra	Headquarter: New Delhi
<b>Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.</b>	Chairman & CEO : David Michael Solomon	Headquarters : New York, United States of America (USA)
<b>Fortune Magazine</b>	CEO : Anastasia Nyrkovskaya	Headquarters : New York, USA
<b>the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC)</b>	Chairperson : Dr. M. Beena	Headquarters : Uttar Pradesh, India