



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

09 & 10 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Indian Railways Successfully Conducts Trial Run of Asia's Longest Freight Train 'Rudrastra' Spanning 4.5 km with 354 Wagons and 7 Locomotives.



On August 8, 2025, Indian Railways achieved a significant milestone by conducting the trial run of 'Rudrastra', Asia's longest freight train. Spanning approximately 4.5 kilometers, the train was operated by the East Central Railway (ECR) under the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya (DDU) Division.

- The trial run commenced from Ganjkhwaja station in Uttar Pradesh and concluded at Garhwa Road station in Jharkhand, covering a distance of 209 kilometers in 5 hours and 10 minutes at an average speed of 40.5 km/h.
- 'Rudrastra' is a technical marvel, comprising 354 box wagons and powered by seven locomotives. The formation was achieved by linking six long-haul rakes, effectively combining five goods trains into a single unit. This configuration allows for the movement of significantly larger loads in one go, drastically reducing the number of trips required for the same volume of freight.
- The train's journey passed through several key stations, including Nabinagar, Japla, Garhwa,

Daltonganj, Barwadih, Latehar, and Tori. At Phulbasiya and Sheopur coal sidings, the train was split into smaller parts for unloading—118 wagons at the former and 236 at the latter. This operational strategy enhances logistical efficiency and reduces turnaround time.

Key Points:-

- Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw hailed the trial as a proud moment for the nation, describing 'Rudrastra' as Bharat's longest freight train. He emphasized that this initiative aims to enhance transport efficiency, save operational time, reduce costs, and accelerate the movement of goods—particularly along the busy corridor between the DDU Division and the Dhanbad Division.
- The successful operation of 'Rudrastra' is a testament to the improved coordination and management capabilities of the DDU Division. It reflects the division's commitment to innovation and operational excellence in freight transportation.
- Looking ahead, the introduction of such super-long freight trains is expected to revolutionize coal transport and other logistics operations. By optimizing train formations and reducing the number of trips, Indian Railways aims to boost freight capacity, enhance efficiency, and contribute to the nation's economic growth.

2. Archaeological Survey of India Nominates Sarnath for UNESCO World Heritage List 2025-26 Cycle.



In August 2025, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), under the Ministry of Culture (MoC), Government of India (GoI), officially nominated the ancient Buddhist site “Sarnath” for inscription on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List for the 2025-26 cycle. This nomination marks a significant step in recognizing India’s rich Buddhist heritage on a global platform.

- The nomination process follows the World Heritage Convention of 1972, which allows each State Party to nominate only one site per year for inclusion on the World Heritage List.
- The entire process, from submission to inscription, typically takes around 1.5 years. This ensures that the nominated site meets UNESCO’s stringent criteria for outstanding universal value.
- Sarnath holds immense historical and religious importance as it is located at the confluence of the Rivers Ganga and Varuna in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. It is famed as the site where Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon after attaining enlightenment at Bodh Gaya in Bihar, marking the formal beginning of the Buddhist community.

Key Points:-

(i) The site is one of the four most sacred places for Buddhists worldwide, alongside Lumbini in Nepal (Buddha’s birthplace), Bodh Gaya (where he attained enlightenment), and Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh (where he passed away). Sarnath’s spiritual significance is complemented by its archaeological richness, featuring ancient stupas, monasteries, and ruins dating back to several centuries.

(ii) By nominating Sarnath for UNESCO’s World Heritage List, India aims to preserve and promote this vital cultural landmark. Recognition by UNESCO will boost global awareness, enhance conservation efforts, and promote sustainable tourism, helping to maintain Sarnath’s legacy for future generations.

3. Aadhaar Face Authentication Transactions Surge to Record 19.36 Crore in July 2025, Tripling from Previous Year.



India's digital identity infrastructure achieved a significant milestone in July 2025, with Aadhaar face authentication transactions soaring to an all-time high of 19.36 crore. This marks a threefold increase from the 5.77 crore transactions recorded in July 2024, underscoring the growing adoption of AI-

powered, contactless verification across various sectors.

- July 2025 witnessed a record-breaking 19.36 crore face authentication transactions, a 22% increase from June 2025, which had already set a high with 15.87 crore transactions. This consistent month-on-month growth highlights the escalating reliance on Aadhaar's biometric verification system for secure and efficient service delivery.
- Over 150 organizations, including the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), have integrated Aadhaar face authentication into their operations. This widespread adoption spans various sectors, from welfare schemes to banking services, facilitating seamless and secure access for beneficiaries and users alike.
- The AI-driven face authentication system is designed to function on both Android and iOS platforms, ensuring broad accessibility. This feature is particularly beneficial for individuals who may face challenges with traditional biometric methods, such as the elderly or differently-abled users, thereby promoting inclusive digital services.

Key Points:-

- (i) All 850 medical colleges under the National Medical Commission (NMC) and central recruitment boards have adopted Aadhaar face authentication. This integration streamlines processes in education and employment sectors, enhancing transparency and reducing administrative burdens.
- (ii) Since its introduction in October 2022, Aadhaar face authentication has seen exponential growth, with over 130 crore transactions recorded by the end of the 2024-25 fiscal year. The system's rapid

adoption reflects its effectiveness in facilitating secure and efficient digital transactions, positioning it as a cornerstone of India's digital identity infrastructure.

(iii) The record 19.36 crore face authentication transactions in July 2025 signify a pivotal moment in India's digital transformation journey. As more sectors embrace this technology, Aadhaar face authentication is poised to play a crucial role in enhancing service delivery, ensuring security, and promoting inclusivity in the digital age.

4. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Inaugurates Digital IT Initiatives at IT Conclave 2025 to Transform India's Maritime Sector.



On 7th August 2025, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), along with Union Minister of State Shantanu Thakur, inaugurated the digital Information Technology (IT) initiatives at the "IT Conclave 2025 – Leveraging Technology in Maritime" held in New Delhi. This event marks a significant step toward modernizing India's maritime sector by adopting advanced digital tools to enhance efficiency, transparency, and global competitiveness.

- The IT Conclave 2025 was hosted by the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS), under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), in collaboration with the Company of Master Mariners of India (CMMI). The conclave served as a platform for stakeholders to discuss and demonstrate cutting-edge digital maritime technologies.
- The primary aim was to showcase digital initiatives designed to build a smart, secure, and transparent maritime ecosystem. These efforts are intended to strengthen India's position in the global maritime domain by enhancing governance, service delivery, and stakeholder engagement.
- The Directorate General of Shipping website was upgraded to comply with the Indian Government Websites Guidelines (GIGW) 3.0. The revamped platform offers a multilingual, mobile-responsive interface that improves accessibility for seafarers, shipowners, training institutes, and other maritime stakeholders.

Key Points:-

- (i) A key digital initiative launched was the cloud-native e-Samudra Platform, integrating over 60 maritime services. This platform aims to streamline service delivery and improve governance within the maritime sector by offering a unified, digital interface for various stakeholders.
- (ii) Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal also released a digital roadmap booklet detailing technology interventions planned for the maritime sector. This booklet outlines future digital strategies that will further modernize and enhance the efficiency of India's maritime infrastructure.
- (iii) The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) is headed by Union

Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, representing Dibrugarh, Assam, and Minister of State Shantanu Thakur, representing Bangaon, West Bengal. Their leadership is driving India's maritime digital transformation agenda forward.

5. GeM Marks 9th Anniversary, Achieves ₹5.4 Lakh Crore Gross Merchandise Value in FY 2024–25.



On August 8, 2025, the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) celebrated its 9th Foundation Day, marking a significant milestone by achieving a Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) of ₹5.4 lakh crore in the financial year 2024–25. This growth highlights GeM's expanding role in revolutionizing public procurement in India through digital transparency, inclusivity, and efficiency.

- GeM recorded a remarkable increase in GMV from the previous year's ₹4 lakh crore, reflecting the growing adoption of the platform by government buyers and sellers.
- The platform has played a critical role in streamlining procurement processes and enabling faster, more transparent transactions

across various government departments and organizations.

- Over the nine years since its launch in August 2016, GeM has onboarded over 1.5 lakh women-led enterprises, startups, self-help groups (SHGs), artisans, and micro and small enterprises (MSEs). This inclusive approach has empowered diverse sellers by providing them access to government procurement opportunities, promoting economic growth and social equity.

Key Points:-

- (i) To further encourage participation, GeM has introduced reforms such as removing caution money requirements for sellers, rationalizing vendor assessment fees, and exempting 97% of orders from transaction charges. These initiatives have made the platform more accessible and attractive to new and existing sellers, expanding the seller base and increasing competition.
- (ii) GeM has integrated advanced technologies including artificial intelligence (AI) and other next-generation digital tools to enhance user experience, improve governance, and ensure transparency in procurement.
- (iii) Additionally, GeM has expanded its offerings into new service verticals like insurance, manpower, and Mine Development & Operations (MDOs), broadening the spectrum of government procurement services available on the platform.

6. PM Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' Programme Generates ₹34.13 Crore Revenue Since 2014 and Expands Reach Through Multi-Platform Visual Engagement.



On August 8, 2025, the Government of India informed the Rajya Sabha that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio programme, Mann Ki Baat, has generated a revenue of ₹34.13 crore since its inception in October 2014. This revenue has been accrued without any additional expenditure, as the programme is produced by Akashvani (All India Radio) using existing in-house resources.

- The Mann Ki Baat programme has earned ₹34.13 crore since its inception, with no additional expenditure incurred, as it is produced by Akashvani using existing in-house resources.
- The programme reaches audiences through various traditional and digital platforms, including All India Radio's national and regional networks, Doordarshan TV channels, DD Free Dish, YouTube, Prasar Bharati's OTT platform WAVES, and social media platforms like Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and Instagram.
- To cater to a diverse audience, Mann Ki Baat is broadcast in multiple regional languages, ensuring accessibility to vernacular audiences across the country.

Key Points:-

- (i) The programme's visual format

incorporates video broadcasts and multimedia elements across television and digital platforms, enabling greater viewer engagement through compelling storytelling and interactive content. This approach not only broadens its audience base but also fosters collective discussions among citizens, thereby amplifying the programme's social impact and encouraging active public participation in national initiatives.

(ii) Mann Ki Baat is accessible globally through various digital platforms, allowing the Indian diaspora and international audiences to engage with the programme.

(iii) Since its first broadcast on October 3, 2014, Mann Ki Baat has become a significant medium for Prime Minister Modi to communicate directly with the citizens of India, discussing various issues and initiatives. The programme's success in revenue generation and its wide reach underscore its effectiveness as a tool for public engagement and communication.

Numbeo Safety Index 2025, securing an impressive 49th position globally among 393 cities worldwide. This ranking reflects Mangaluru's consistent efforts in maintaining low crime rates, disciplined civic management, and ensuring the safety and well-being of its residents and visitors.

- **Mangaluru topped all Indian cities with a safety index score of 74.2, indicating a high perception of security among its population. This score surpasses several metropolitan hubs known for their safety measures, placing Mangaluru firmly ahead in the national context. The index evaluates factors such as crime levels, street safety, and trust in local law enforcement agencies.**

- **Globally, Mangaluru's 49th rank situates it among some of the safest cities internationally, highlighting its effective urban governance and public safety infrastructure. This global recognition underscores the city's commitment to sustainable and secure urban development and sets a benchmark for other Indian cities striving to improve their safety standards.**

7. Mangaluru Ranked Safest City in India, Secures 49th Spot Globally in Numbeo Safety Index 2025.



In August 2025, Mangaluru emerged as the safest city in India according to the mid-year

Key Points:-

(i) Key contributors to this achievement include Mangaluru's clean streets, disciplined civic systems, proactive policing, and community engagement initiatives. Local government efforts such as increased surveillance, public awareness campaigns, and rapid response teams have significantly reduced crime rates and enhanced public trust in safety institutions.

(ii) The government and civic bodies in Mangaluru continue to emphasize safety as a priority, investing in smart city projects, technological upgrades, and inclusive community programs.

(iii) This prestigious ranking is expected to boost Mangaluru's attractiveness for tourism, investment, and overall urban growth, while inspiring continued vigilance and collaboration between citizens and authorities.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. Bank of Baroda and FSSAI Sign MoU to Launch Customized Web-based Payment Solution.



In August 2025, Bank of Baroda (BoB), India's second largest Public Sector Bank (PSB), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to launch a customized web-based payment platform named 'FSSAI Payment Solution'.

- The MoU was signed by Commander Sharad Aggarwal, Director of FSSAI, and Mini TM, Chief General Manager (CGM) & Zonal Head of New Delhi Zone, BoB, in the presence of several senior government officials.

- The 'FSSAI Payment Solution' aims to promote ease of doing business by streamlining digital payment processes for various stakeholders engaging with FSSAI. This strategic partnership seeks to enhance efficiency and transparency in

financial transactions related to food safety governance and related activities.

- The platform will simplify and automate critical financial functions such as the disbursement of grants and vendor payments. Additionally, it will offer Management Information System (MIS) functionalities, enabling systematic tracking and reporting of transactions to improve financial oversight.

Key Points:-

(i) The implementation of this Information Technology (IT)-based payment platform will also facilitate effective monitoring and control over nodal accounts, including State Child Accounts and District Sub-Child Accounts. This will ensure better financial governance at different administrative levels and enhance accountability.

(ii) Bank of Baroda will provide a wide range of banking services under this collaboration, including personal banking, corporate banking, international banking, small and medium enterprise (SME) banking, rural banking, non-resident Indian (NRI) services, and treasury services. This comprehensive support aims to meet the diverse financial needs of FSSAI stakeholders.

2. DSP Mutual Fund Launches India's First Passive Flexicap Fund DSP Nifty500 Flexicap Quality 30 Index Fund.



On August 7, 2025, DSP Mutual Fund, a subsidiary of the DSP Group, launched the DSP Nifty500 Flexicap Quality 30 Index Fund, marking India's first passive flexicap fund. This fund is developed in partnership with the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and combines quality-only stocks with a dynamic market capitalization allocation strategy driven by momentum.

- The fund is designed to replicate the Nifty 500 Flexicap Quality 30 Index. This index selects 30 high-quality stocks, choosing 10 stocks each from the Nifty 100 (large-cap), Nifty Midcap 150, and Nifty Smallcap 250 indices. These stocks are selected based on quality factors such as return on equity (ROE) and low debt-equity ratio, ensuring strong fundamentals in the portfolio.
- A key feature of the flexicap fund is its flexibility in investing across large, mid, and small-cap stocks without fixed allocation limits. This allows fund managers or the index methodology to shift investments dynamically depending on changing market conditions, optimizing returns and risk management according to market momentum.
- The fund actively adjusts its exposure between small and mid-cap stocks (SMID) and large-cap stocks every quarter. This adjustment is based on the moving average of 200 days,

allocating either 33% or 67% to these segments, which helps in capturing the changing trends in different market capitalization segments effectively.

Key Points:-

- (i) In terms of stock selection, the index identifies 10 companies each from large-cap, mid-cap, and small-cap segments using key metrics such as Return on Equity (ROE), debt levels, and earnings growth. This quantitative approach ensures that only financially strong companies with growth potential are included in the portfolio, maintaining the quality focus of the fund.
- (ii) The fund also assigns equal weight to each stock within its respective market segment, maintaining balance and diversification across the portfolio. This equal weighting minimizes concentration risk and ensures that performance is not overly dependent on any single stock or sector.
- (iii) Despite being passive, the fund addresses challenges like identifying high-quality stocks and automating the optimal allocation to large, mid, and small caps at a low cost. The passive nature means it does not rely on active decisions by a fund manager, but rather follows the rules of the underlying index, ensuring cost efficiency and transparency for investors.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. Zomato Names 2023 National Film Awardee Shah Rukh Khan as Brand Ambassador.



In August 2025, Zomato, one of India's leading online food delivery platforms, announced Bollywood superstar and 2023 National Film Award winner Shah Rukh Khan as its new brand ambassador.

- This collaboration strengthens Zomato's marketing presence by associating with one of India's most iconic and influential public figures.
- Zomato's association with Shah Rukh Khan follows his earlier appearance in the brand's 'Fuel Your Hustle' campaign, which also featured other renowned personalities including singer and music composer A.R. Rahman, Indian cricketer Jasprit Bumrah, and Olympic medalist Mary Kom. The campaign aimed to highlight the energy and dedication of individuals across different fields.

Key Points:-

(i) Shah Rukh Khan, often referred to as the "King of Bollywood," has had an illustrious career as an actor, producer, and entrepreneur. His filmography spans diverse genres, and he is celebrated for his versatility, charisma, and ability to connect with audiences worldwide.

(ii) Beyond cinema, Shah Rukh Khan is a co-owner of the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Kolkata Knight Riders.

(iii) He was honoured with the Padma Shri in 2005 for his contribution to Indian cinema in the field of arts and has won 14 Filmfare Awards, among numerous other accolades, cementing his status as one of the most decorated actors in Indian film history.

SPORTS

1. India's Annu Rani Clinches Gold in Women's Javelin Throw at Wiesław Maniak Memorial in Poland.



On August 6, 2025, India's premier women's javelin thrower Annu Rani delivered a stellar performance at the 8th International Wiesław Maniak Memorial meet in Szczecin, Poland, claiming the gold medal with a season-best throw of 62.59 meters. This marks a powerful return to form for the Asian Games champion.

- Annu opened her event with a strong throw of 60.95 m, followed by her best of the day - 62.59 m securing the top podium spot. She concluded her series with another 60 m-plus attempt of 60.07 m, demonstrating impressive consistency.

- These throws marked the first time in more than a year that Annu breached the 60-meter mark, a significant performance turnaround. Her

previous 60 m-plus effort had been recorded in May 2024.

Key Points:-

- (i) The competition was part of the World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze series. With this performance, Annu has elevated herself into the top 15 women's javelin throwers globally this season, strengthening her prospects for potentially qualifying for the World Athletics Championships via world rankings.
- (ii) In a field featuring top international talent, Annu outclassed Turkey's Eda Tugsuz (silver, 58.36 m) and Australia's Lianna Davidson (bronze, 58.24 m), underlining her dominant form at the meet.
- (iii) Annu's resurgence at this meet gives her momentum heading into the upcoming World Championships in Tokyo, for which the direct qualification mark stands at 64.00 m. While she hasn't yet met the automatic standard, her improved ranking and form position her as a strong contender for the Indian team.

App and Web Portal

1. J&K and Maharashtra Conduct First Interstate Agri Trade via eNAM Portal.



In August 2025, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) and Maharashtra completed their first-ever interstate agricultural trade through the National Agriculture Market (eNAM) portal, marking a key step toward a unified national market for agricultural commodities.

- Under the initiative, a truck carrying 11 metric tonnes of apples and pears from J&K successfully reached the Gultekdi Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) in Pune, Maharashtra, showcasing the eNAM portal's potential to connect distant agricultural markets.
- The eNAM portal, launched by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW), Government of India, is a centralized digital platform designed to integrate APMCs nationwide for transparent price discovery, quality assurance, and reduced middlemen interference.

Key Points:-

- (i) The portal enables real-time online transactions, eliminating the need for physical visits to mandis. Farmers gain direct access to Government of India-verified merchants across the country, improving efficiency and market reach.
- (ii) This successful interstate trade via the eNAM portal demonstrates India's progress toward digital market consolidation, fostering agricultural trade integration across states and supporting the vision of "One Nation, One Market."

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. National Javelin Day is annually observed on August 7.



National Javelin Day is observed every year across India on August 7 to celebrate India's historic moment in athletics when Neeraj Chopra won a gold medal in the javelin throw at the Tokyo Olympics 2020. The day aims to promote the sport nationwide and inspire future athletes.

- The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) declared 7 August as National Javelin Day in 2021 to commemorate Neeraj Chopra's Olympic victory and boost the popularity of javelin throw in India. The decision marked a new step in developing track and field events across the country.

- The first National Javelin Day was observed on 7 August 2022. Since then, the day has been celebrated with awareness campaigns, training sessions, and competitions across schools, colleges, and sports institutions to encourage participation in javelin throw.

- The date holds special significance as on 7 August 2021, Neeraj Chopra made history by winning the Men's javelin throw gold medal with a throw of 87.58 metres at the Tokyo Olympics 2020. He became the first Asian athlete to win Olympic gold in this event and the second Indian individual Olympic gold medalist after shooter Abhinav Bindra in 2008.

Key Points:-

(i) Neeraj Chopra, who hails from Haryana, began his international career by winning a silver medal at the Youth Olympics Qualification in Bangkok in 2014. He joined the Indian Army in 2016 as a Naib Subedar in the 4 Rajputana Rifles and later rose to the rank of Subedar after his double gold victories at the 2018 Asian Games and Commonwealth Games.

(ii) In 2025, Neeraj Chopra set a new national record with a throw of 90.23 metres at the Lausanne Diamond League in Switzerland. He has received several honours, including the Arjuna Award (2018), Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award (2021), Padma Shri (2022), Vishisht Seva Medal (2020), and Param Vishisht Seva Medal (2022). He also won a silver medal at the Paris Olympics 2024 with an 89.34m throw.

(iii) The 4th National Javelin Day will be observed on 7 August 2025, continuing its mission to inspire athletes and honour Neeraj Chopra's contribution to Indian sports. Events nationwide will focus on nurturing young talent and strengthening India's presence in global athletics.

2. Nagasaki Day Observed on 9 August to Mark 80 Years Since Atomic Bombing.



Nagasaki Day is annually observed on 9 August to commemorate the 1945 atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Japan, by the United States of America (USA) during World War II (1939-1945). The 2025 observance marks the 80th anniversary of this tragic event, promoting peace and remembrance.

- The atomic bombing of Nagasaki took place on 9 August 1945, just three days after the bombing of Hiroshima. This devastating act by the USA led to massive destruction and loss of life, ultimately contributing to Japan's surrender and the end of World War II.
- The inaugural Nagasaki Day ceremony was held on 9 August 1947, organised by the Government of Japan. The objective was to honour the victims of the atomic bombing and to promote the ideals of lasting peace across the world.
- Every year, memorial services are held at the Peace Statue Plaza in Nagasaki Peace Park, Japan. This site features a 10-metre-tall bronze Peace Statue, which stands as a symbol of hope, remembrance, and the global call for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Key Points:-

- (i) The Nagasaki Peace Park serves as a central location for peace-related events

and remembrance gatherings. Visitors and dignitaries from across the world participate in the annual observance, reflecting on the consequences of war and reaffirming their commitment to peace.

(ii) From 11 July to 17 August 2025, the United Nations University (UNU) in Tokyo hosted the "Exhibition for Peace: 80 Years Since the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bombings." This exhibition showcased historical records, survivor testimonies, and educational displays to spread awareness about the horrors of nuclear warfare.

3. Quit India Movement Day 2025 Observed on 8 August to Mark 83rd Anniversary.



Quit India Movement Day, also known as August Kranti Diwas, is observed annually across India on 8 August to commemorate the launch of the Quit India Movement in 1942. This historic movement, led by Mahatma Gandhi, played a crucial role in India's struggle for independence by demanding the immediate withdrawal of British forces.

- Observed on 8 August each year, the day marks the anniversary of the Quit India Movement launched on 8 August 1942.

● In 2025, the day marks the 83rd anniversary of the movement's launch.

Key Points:-

- (i) The movement was triggered by the failure of the Cripps Mission in April 1942, which had aimed to secure Indian cooperation during World War II but failed to meet Indian aspirations.
- (ii) The resolution, proposed by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and seconded by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, was officially ratified at the All India Congress Committee meeting at Gowalia Tank, Bombay (now Mumbai, Maharashtra) on 8 August 1942.
- (iii) Bharat Chodo Andolan: The movement, also called Bharat Chodo Andolan, began on 9 August 1942 after British authorities arrested key leaders, including Mahatma Gandhi.

DEFENCE

1. Paras Defence Partners with German Firm to Develop Satellite Antenna Technology in India.



On August 7, 2025, Paras Defence & Space Technologies Limited, one of India's leading defence engineering companies, entered into a strategic Teaming Agreement with High

Performance Space Structure Systems GmbH (HPS GmbH) of Germany.

- The collaboration focuses on the joint development and supply of deployable antenna reflector subsystems for advanced satellite applications, marking a significant step towards strengthening India's indigenous space technology capabilities under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.
- The agreement has been signed for an initial duration of two years, with provisions for extension based on mutual consent. This timeframe allows both companies to execute the first phase of development and production, while laying the groundwork for long-term cooperation in space technology manufacturing. By establishing a localised production ecosystem, the collaboration aims to address both domestic and potential export demands.
- The scope of the partnership covers the design, development, and supply of critical satellite antenna components. These include reflector and arm assemblies, Hold-Down Release Mechanisms (HDRMs), deployment electronics, and thermal hardware, all of which are essential for large deployable antenna systems. Such systems are used extensively in high-performance satellites for communications, Earth observation, and scientific research missions.

Key Points:-

- (i) High Performance Space Structure Systems GmbH, based in Germany, is a globally recognised leader in large deployable antenna systems. Its expertise in precision engineering, lightweight materials, and deployment mechanisms will complement Paras Defence's manufacturing

infrastructure and defence technology experience, ensuring the creation of high-quality, space-grade systems within India.

(ii) This strategic tie-up is aligned with India's long-term objective of reducing dependency on imported high-end space hardware. By combining German engineering expertise with Indian manufacturing capabilities, the partnership is expected to enhance India's competitiveness in the global satellite technology market while supporting the vision of technological self-reliance in defence and space sectors.

(iii) Paras Defence & Space Technologies Limited has a track record of delivering advanced engineering solutions to India's defence and space agencies. Through this collaboration with HPS GmbH, the company aims to strengthen its foothold in the space technology sector, contribute to the development of indigenous capability, and open new avenues for future satellite-based projects.

Static GK

Indian Railways (IR)	Minister : Ashwini Vaishnaw	Headquarters: New Delhi
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Director-General : Audrey Azoulay	Headquarters : Paris, France
MoPSW	Union Minister: Sarbananda Sonowal	Headquarters: New Delhi
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)	Chairperson: Punya Salila Srivastava	Headquarters: New Delhi
DSP Mutual Fund	MD & CEO: Kalpen Parekh	Headquarters: Mumbai
Poland	President: Karol Nawrocki	Official language: Polish
Zomato	Founders: Deepinder Goyal, Akriti Chopra, Pankaj Chaddah, Gunjan Patidar	Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana
the Athletics Federation of	President: Bahadur Singh	Headquarters: New Delhi

India (AFI)	Sagoo	
United Nations University (UNU)	Chief Academic and Administrative Officer (Rector): Tshilidzi Marwala	Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan