



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

11 & 12 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Government Extends PM E-DRIVE Scheme by Two Years to March 2028.



The Indian government has announced a two-year extension of the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) scheme, extending its validity from March 31, 2026, to March 31, 2028. This extension aims to bolster the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in public and essential services, including electric buses, trucks, and ambulances, while maintaining the original budget allocation of ₹10,900 crore.

- The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) confirmed that the PM E-DRIVE scheme will now conclude on March 31, 2028, or until the allocated budget of ₹10,900 crore is fully utilized. This extension focuses on segments such as electric buses, trucks, ambulances, and public charging infrastructure.

- Despite the extended timeline, the government has clarified that no additional financial resources will be allocated to the scheme. The existing budget will be utilized to complete pending projects and support the continued adoption of electric vehicles in the specified segments.

- The extension does not apply to subsidies for electric two-wheelers (e-2Ws), electric three-wheelers (e-3Ws), registered e-rickshaws, and e-carts. Incentives for these categories will conclude on March 31, 2026, as per the original scheme guidelines. The extended scheme aims to address challenges faced by the heavy-duty EV sector, including high initial costs, limited charging infrastructure, and the need for specialized skills in operation and maintenance. By extending the scheme's validity, the government seeks to provide additional support to these segments.

Key Points:-

(i) A significant portion of the scheme's budget is allocated to the development of public charging infrastructure. The government plans to install a substantial number of fast chargers for electric vehicles, aiming to enhance the accessibility and convenience of EV charging across the country.

(ii) The implementation of the extended scheme will be closely monitored to ensure effective utilization of the allocated funds. The MHI will oversee the progress of ongoing projects and ensure that the objectives of the scheme are met within the extended timeframe.

(iii) The two-year extension of the PM E-DRIVE scheme reflects the government's commitment to accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles in India, particularly in the public and essential services sectors. While maintaining the original budget, the extension aims to address sector-specific challenges and promote the development of necessary infrastructure to support the growing EV ecosystem.

2. IndiaAI and National Cancer Grid Launch CATCH Grant Program to Boost AI Innovation in Cancer Treatment.

IndiaAI and National Cancer Grid Launch CATCH Grant Program to Boost AI Innovation in Cancer Treatment



In August 2025, IndiaAI Independent Business Division (IndiaAI IBD), under the Digital India Corporation (DIC) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), partnered with the National Cancer Grid (NCG), established by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India, to launch the Cancer Artificial Intelligence & Technology Challenge (CATCH) Grant Program. This program aims to foster AI-driven innovations to improve cancer care in India.

- The CATCH Grant Program is designed to accelerate the development and deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) solutions focused on enhancing cancer screening, diagnostics, treatment support, and overall healthcare operations. By leveraging AI, the initiative seeks to strengthen the entire cancer care ecosystem, improving outcomes and accessibility for patients nationwide.

- Co-funded by IndiaAI and the National Cancer Grid, the program offers financial support of up to ₹50 lakh (Indian Rupees Fifty Lakh) per project during the pilot phase. Selected teams, including technology innovators working

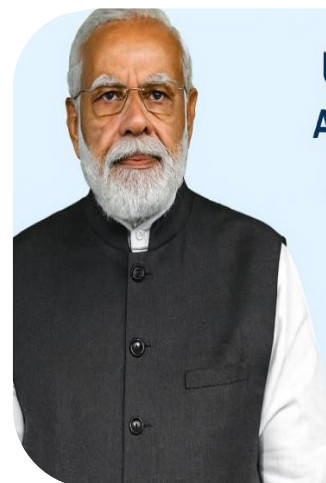
alongside clinical institutions, will receive this funding to develop scalable AI solutions tailored to cancer care challenges.

- Successful pilot projects will be eligible for additional funding of up to ₹1 crore (Indian Rupees One Crore) from IndiaAI for wider implementation across the extensive NCG network. This expanded support aims to facilitate the adoption of proven AI innovations at a national scale, ensuring greater reach and impact within cancer treatment facilities.

Key Points:-

- The CATCH Challenge focuses on multiple key areas such as AI-enabled screening, diagnostic assistance, clinical decision support, patient engagement tools, operational efficiency enhancements, research, and data curation.
- Eligible participants include startups, health technology firms, academic institutions, and both public and private hospitals, encouraging a diverse pool of contributors to this critical healthcare challenge.

3. Union Cabinet Approves Budgetary Support of Rs. 4,200 Crore for MERITE Scheme to Boost Technical Education.



**UNION CABINET
APPROVES BUDGET
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4,200 CRORE
FOR MERITE
SCHEME TO
BOOST TECHNICAL
EDUCATION**

On August 8, 2025, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the implementation of the Central Sector Scheme (CSS) – Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education (MERITE) Scheme. The scheme targets 275 technical institutions, including engineering colleges and polytechnics, aiming to enhance quality, equity, and governance in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

- The MERITE Scheme will be implemented in 275 technical institutions comprising 175 engineering colleges and 100 polytechnics. It aligns with NEP 2020 to improve standards in technical education, with a duration from 2025–26 to 2029–30.

- The total financial outlay for the scheme is Rs. 4,200 crore, of which Rs. 2,100 crore will be sourced as a loan from the World Bank. This funding will focus on infrastructure development, digital transformation, and academic excellence.

- Under the scheme, 275 government and government-aided technical institutions such as National Institutes of Technology (NITs), State Engineering Institutions, Polytechnics, and Affiliated Technical Universities (ATUs) will be selected, benefiting approximately 7.5 lakh students.

Key Points:-

(i) The MERITE Scheme will also extend support to state and Union Territory (UT) departments responsible for handling the technical education sector, enabling them to implement reforms and modern educational practices.

(ii) Key outputs of the scheme include the adoption of digitalization strategies in

participating states/UTs, development of guidelines for multidisciplinary programs, improved employability skills, and an increased transition rate of students into higher studies or employment.

(iii) By fostering stronger research and innovation ecosystems, the MERITE Scheme aims to establish an enhanced learning environment, encourage industry-academia collaboration, and contribute to India's long-term vision of a skilled and innovation-driven workforce.

4. Cabinet Approves Rs. 4,250 Crore Special Development Packages for Assam and Tripura.



The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved four new components under the Central Sector Scheme of Special Development Packages (SDPs) for Assam and Tripura. The packages aim to promote peace, rehabilitation, and inclusive growth through targeted infrastructure and socio-economic projects.

- The Union Cabinet sanctioned these components on August 8, 2025, allocating a total central outlay of Rs. 4,250 crore, with the Government of Assam contributing an additional Rs. 3,000 crore. This takes the total

financial implication of the new components to Rs. 7,250 crore.

- The approval follows the success of previous Memorandum of Settlement (MoS)-based initiatives for the Bodo and Karbi groups, which led to improved peace and accelerated development in Assam. The new components are designed to consolidate these gains and extend benefits to other communities.

- Three components have been sanctioned for Assam with a combined allocation of Rs. 4,000 crore over a five-year period (2025–26 to 2029–30). These projects will focus on enhancing infrastructure, connectivity, and social welfare across targeted districts and communities.

Key Points:-

(i) Under the Adivasi Infrastructure initiative, Rs. 500 crore has been allocated for development in Adivasi-inhabited areas of Assam, focusing on essential services and community facilities to uplift socio-economic conditions.

(ii) The Dimasa Community Infrastructure project will receive Rs. 500 crore for development in the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC) areas. This initiative will be implemented by members of the Dimasa National Liberation Army (DNLA) and the Dimasa People's Supreme Council (DPSC) as part of the post-conflict rehabilitation process.

(iii) The ULFA-Affected Areas Infrastructure component, backed by Rs. 3,000 crore, is based on the 2023 MoS with the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) and focuses on broad-based infrastructure development in conflict-affected regions. In addition, for Tripura, a separate allocation of Rs. 250 crore has been approved for

targeted development over a four-year period (2025–26 to 2028–29).

5. Union Cabinet Approves Subsidy Continuation for PMUY, Rs 30,000 Crore Compensation to OMCs & Road Project in Tamil Nadu.



On 8 August 2025, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved major proposals, including continuation of subsidies under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), compensation to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), and a road infrastructure project in Tamil Nadu.

- The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of targeted subsidies for PMUY beneficiaries during Financial Year 2025-26 (FY 2026) to ensure Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) remains affordable for low-income households. This decision aims to maintain LPG adoption rates despite volatility in global energy prices.

- Under the approved scheme, each eligible household will receive a subsidy of Rs 300 per 14.2 kilogram (kg) LPG cylinder for up to nine refills annually. For smaller 5 kg LPG cylinders, the subsidy amount will be adjusted proportionately based on capacity. The scheme will involve a total expenditure of Rs 12,000 crore.

● The Union Cabinet also approved Rs 30,000 crore as compensation to three major public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for their under-recoveries in supplying domestic LPG at regulated prices. The beneficiaries are Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) headquartered in New Delhi, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) in Mumbai, and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), also based in Mumbai.

Key Points:-

- (i) This compensation package is designed to help OMCs cover financial losses incurred due to controlled LPG pricing and to support their operational sustainability. The funds will assist in meeting crucial expenses, ensuring uninterrupted LPG supply to domestic consumers across India.
- (ii) Separately, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the construction of a 46-kilometre, four-lane stretch between Marakkanam and Puducherry in Tamil Nadu. This stretch is part of the strategic East Coast Road network, enhancing connectivity and regional trade potential.
- (iii) The road project will be developed under the Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) with a total cost of Rs 2,157 crore, including Rs 1,118 crore allocated for construction and Rs 442 crore for land acquisition. The project aims to boost tourism, improve logistics, and strengthen infrastructure along Tamil Nadu's coastal belt.

6. DARPG Collaborates with RTS Commissioners to Improve e-Services under NeSDA and Announces Guidelines for NAEG 2026.



The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) has recently strengthened its partnership with Right to Services (RTS) Commissioners from 10 states to enhance digital service delivery, following the Prime Minister's directives in the PRAGATI meeting held on March 5, 2025.

- DARPG also issued guidelines for the 23rd National Awards for e-Governance (NAEG) 2026 to promote excellence in e-Governance.
- In March 2025, DARPG began integrating RTS portals with the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) using API technology. Haryana was chosen as the pilot state to test reverse integration, aiming to improve grievance resolution by mapping complaints from CPGRAMS directly to RTS portals.
- The National e-Governance Services Delivery Assessment (NeSDA), started in 2019, evaluates e-service delivery by states, union territories, and central ministries across seven sectors. The 2024-25 NeSDA report highlights improvements and challenges in digital governance, providing a roadmap for service enhancement.

Key Points:-

- (i) DARPG's Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has opened

nominations for the NAEG 2026 from September 1 to October 15, 2025. Projects operational between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2025, are eligible, focusing on innovative, citizen-centric digital services.

(ii) NAEG 2026 will grant 10 Gold and 6 Silver awards in categories like government process re-engineering, AI innovation, cybersecurity, district-level initiatives, and data analytics. The awards ceremony will be held in New Delhi under Minister Shri Jitendra Singh.

(iii) Winners of Gold awards will receive ₹10 lakh and Silver awardees ₹5 lakh, along with trophies and certificates. These incentives support scaling and resource enhancement for impactful public service projects, advancing India's e-Governance goals.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. RBI Imposes ₹75 Lakh Penalty on ICICI Bank for Regulatory Breaches.



On August 7, 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of ₹75 lakh on ICICI Bank Limited for non-compliance with regulatory guidelines concerning property valuation and the opening of current accounts. The penalty was levied following a statutory inspection for

supervisory evaluation (ISE 2024), which examined the bank's financial position as of March 31, 2024.

- The RBI's inspection revealed that ICICI Bank failed to conduct property valuations through independent, RBI-approved valuers in certain mortgage loan cases. Additionally, the bank was found to have opened or maintained current accounts in violation of existing regulatory guidelines. These lapses were deemed significant enough to warrant the imposition of a monetary penalty.

- The penalty was imposed under the provisions of Section 47A(1)(c) read with Section 46(4)(i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

Key Points:-

(i) The RBI emphasized that the action was based solely on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and does not affect the validity of any transactions or agreements entered into by ICICI Bank with its customers. Furthermore, the RBI clarified that this penalty is without prejudice to any further supervisory or enforcement action that may be initiated against the bank.

(ii) This action underscores the RBI's commitment to enforcing strict adherence to regulatory norms in the banking sector. It serves as a reminder to financial institutions about the importance of compliance with established guidelines, particularly concerning property valuations and the management of current accounts.

(iii) The RBI's proactive approach aims to maintain the integrity and stability of the banking system, ensuring that customer interests are safeguarded.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1. BEML to Establish Vande Bharat, Amrit Bharat Train Coach Manufacturing Unit in Madhya Pradesh.



In August 2025, Dr. Mohan Yadav, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, announced the setting up of a new manufacturing unit by Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) to produce premium train coaches including Vande Bharat, Amrit Bharat, and metro rail coaches in Umaria, Raisen district, Madhya Pradesh.

- The manufacturing unit will be established under Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), a 'Schedule A' Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Defence (MoD). The announcement was made by Dr. Mohan Yadav, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.
- The facility will focus on manufacturing advanced train coaches such as Vande Bharat, Amrit Bharat, and metro rail coaches, supporting India's growing rail infrastructure modernization.
- The unit will be located in Umaria, Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh, enhancing the region's industrial and transport sector capabilities.

Key Points:-

(i) The total investment for constructing the manufacturing unit is estimated at Rs 1,800 crore under the project named BRAHMA (BEML Rail Hub for Manufacturing).

(ii) Initially, BEML aims to produce between 125 to 200 train coaches annually. This production is expected to scale up to 1,100 coaches annually within five years, strengthening India's rail coach production capacity.

2. BSNL and NRL Partner to Launch India's First 5G Captive Non-Public Network for Industry 4.0 in Refinery Sector.



On August 3, 2025, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Guwahati, Assam, during the "Industry 4.0 Workshop for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)" organized by the Ministry of Finance (MoF).

- This collaboration marks a significant milestone as it aims to deploy India's first 5G Captive Non-Public Network (CNPN) in the refinery sector to enable advanced industrial connectivity.
- The primary objective of the BSNL and NRL partnership is to implement a secure, ultra-

reliable, and real-time 5G CNPN dedicated to NRL's refinery operations. This network will serve as a backbone for integrating cutting-edge Industry 4.0 technologies to enhance operational efficiency and digital transformation in the refinery sector.

- This initiative facilitates the adoption of various Industry 4.0 technologies including Digital Twins, Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered 3D Printing, Virtual Formulation, Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), Mixed Reality (MR), Internet of Things (IoT), and Big Data Analytics. These technologies are expected to revolutionize refinery processes, improving productivity and safety standards.

Key Points:-

- (i) The project is designed to be a replicable model that can be adopted by other industrial sectors across India, fostering modernization and digital transformation.
- (ii) Additionally, it is expected to generate employment opportunities, particularly benefiting the North Eastern Region of India, aligning with regional development goals.
- (iii) Supporting the Government of India's Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) vision and the "Whole of Government" (WoG) approach, this collaboration underscores the importance of indigenous technology deployment and cross-ministerial cooperation for sustainable industrial growth and digital empowerment.

MOUs and Agreement

1. Chhattisgarh Government Signs Agreement with NHPC for 1,800 MW Pumped Storage Projects.



The Government of Chhattisgarh, in collaboration with Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company Limited (CSPGCL), has signed an agreement with NHPC Limited (National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited) for the development of two Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs) with a total capacity of 1,800 Megawatt (MW). These projects aim to enhance renewable energy integration and ensure grid stability.

- The agreement covers the development of two major PSPs — an 800 MW project at Hasdeo Bango in Korba district with an estimated cost of ₹3,417 crore, and a 1,000 MW project in Kurund district, requiring an investment of around ₹6,000 crore.

- Pumped Storage Hydropower (PSH) is a proven large-scale energy storage technology that stores electricity in the form of potential energy of water at a higher elevation. The system pumps water from a lower reservoir to an upper reservoir during off-peak hours when electricity demand is low and renewable energy availability is high.

- During peak electricity demand hours, the stored water is released from the upper reservoir to flow through turbines, converting the potential energy back into electricity,

ensuring a steady power supply and grid reliability.

Key Points:-

(i) NHPC Limited, a central public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Power, is India's largest hydropower development organization. The collaboration with CSPGCL is expected to strengthen the state's position in renewable energy storage infrastructure.

(ii) The 800 MW Hasdeo Bango project will be a strategic addition to the Korba district's power infrastructure, known for its coal-based generation, thereby balancing thermal and renewable power sources.

(iii) The 1,000 MW Kurund PSP will significantly contribute to Chhattisgarh's renewable energy roadmap, enabling higher renewable penetration, efficient grid management, and reduced dependency on fossil fuels.

tank, launched the "Work for Viksit Bharat" portal to facilitate the recruitment of skilled professionals for various national development projects aligned with India's growth ambitions.

- The portal, accessible online at workforbharat.niti.gov.in, enables candidates to register, build their profiles, choose their areas of interest, and apply for roles across multiple sectors. This digital platform aims to streamline hiring for key initiatives in sectors such as economics, big data, infrastructure, climate change, telecom, and information technology.

- It covers a broad spectrum of policy domains, including Agriculture Policy, Education, Health, Urban Infrastructure, Governance, Science & Technology, and Women & Child Development. By doing so, it supports a wide array of government programs targeting comprehensive national progress.

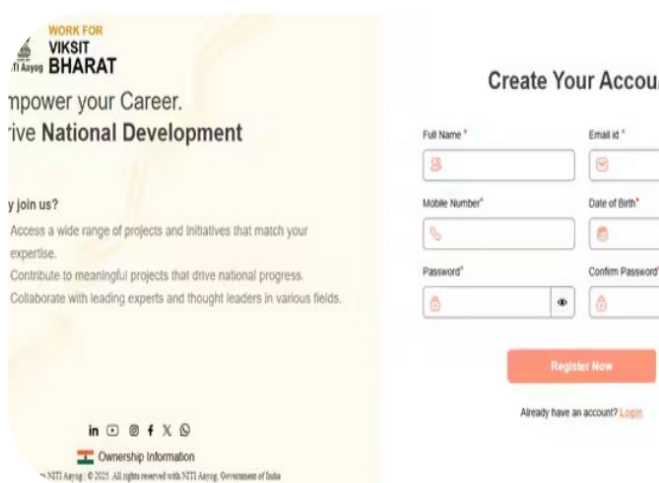
Key Points:-

(i) The launch of this portal is closely linked to the Ministry of Labour and Employment's Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY), which was activated on August 1, 2025.

(ii) The scheme targets the creation of 3.5 crore jobs by July 31, 2027, with a budget outlay of Rs. 99,446 crores, including nearly 1.92 crore jobs for first-time workers, reinforcing the government's commitment to inclusive economic growth.

App and Web Portal

1. NITI Aayog Launches 'Work for Viksit Bharat' Portal for Skilled Hiring.



On August 8, 2025, NITI Aayog, the Government of India's premier policy think

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2025 Observed on 9th August.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES 2025 OBSERVED ON 9TH AUGUST

The United Nations (UN) observes the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (IDWIP) every year on 9th August to promote awareness of Indigenous cultures, rights, and challenges. The 2025 theme highlights the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on Indigenous communities.

- In December 1994, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/49/214, declaring 9th August as IDWIP during the first International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995–2004).
- The UNGA proclaimed a second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People from 2005 to 2014 through Resolution A/RES/59/174, continuing support for Indigenous rights worldwide.

Key Points:-

- (i) The first-ever observance of IDWIP was held on 9th August 1995, marking the start of the UN's formal recognition and commitment to Indigenous peoples globally.
- (ii) The 2025 theme, "Indigenous Peoples and Artificial Intelligence (AI): Defending Rights, Shaping Futures," focuses on ensuring AI respects Indigenous rights and promotes inclusive technological futures.
- (iii) IDWIP serves to raise global awareness

about Indigenous identities, cultures, challenges, and the need to protect their rights in social, economic, and technological domains.

2. World Sanskrit Day 2025 Observed on August 9 to Promote One of India's Oldest Languages.



World Sanskrit Day, also known as International Sanskrit Day, Sanskrit Diwas, or Vishva Samskrita Dinam, is celebrated annually on Shravana Purnima, the full moon day of the Hindu month of Shravana, to honor and promote Sanskrit, one of the oldest languages in India and the world. The day highlights the cultural and linguistic heritage embodied by Sanskrit and its significance in Indian history and literature.

- World Sanskrit Day 2025 was observed on August 9, while in 2024 it fell on August 19, and in 2026 it will be observed on August 28, reflecting the lunar calendar timing based on Shravana Purnima. Additionally, Sanskrit Week 2025 is set to be celebrated from August 6 to August 12 to further encourage the learning and use of Sanskrit.
- The observance of World Sanskrit Day traces back to 1969 when the Government of India's Ministry of Education directed that Sanskrit

Diwas be celebrated at both central and state levels, establishing a formal government initiative to promote Sanskrit language education and awareness.

- The first official celebration of World Sanskrit Day by the Government of India took place in 1969, marking the beginning of a nationwide effort to revive and sustain interest in Sanskrit, especially among younger generations and scholars.

Key Points:-

(i) The day commemorates the birth anniversary of Panini, the ancient Sanskrit scholar and grammarian whose work laid the foundation for classical Sanskrit grammar. His contributions remain crucial to the study and understanding of Sanskrit linguistics.

(ii) Sanskrit is considered one of the world's oldest languages and is revered as the "Mother of All Languages" and the "Language of the Gods" due to its rich philosophical, literary, and spiritual traditions in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism.

(iii) In 2005, the Government of India granted Sanskrit the status of a Classical Language of India and included it in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, which officially recognizes 22 scheduled languages, thereby acknowledging its historical and cultural importance.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Skyroot Aerospace Successfully Conducts Static Test of Vikram-1 Rocket's KALAM-1200 Booster.



In August 2025, Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited (SAPL) achieved a significant milestone by successfully conducting the first static test of the KALAM-1200 solid rocket motor. This motor serves as the first stage booster of the Vikram-1 Launch Vehicle (LV). The test took place at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) located in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, marking a key advancement in the development of India's private sector-led space capabilities.

- The KALAM-1200 motor is an 11-meter-long, 1.7-meter diameter monolithic composite solid rocket motor carrying a propellant mass of 30 tonnes. It is designed to generate up to 1200 kilonewtons (kN) of peak thrust in space, providing the necessary power to propel the Vikram-1 launch vehicle.

- This powerful motor is named in honour of former President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, widely recognized as the 'Missile Man of India' for his contributions to India's space and missile programs.

- The motor uses Hydroxyl-Terminated Polybutadiene (HTPB) based solid propellant, equipped with a high-temperature nozzle to protect against thermal damage during combustion. The static test aimed to validate the motor's thrust profile, combustion stability,

thermal integrity of the nozzle, and overall structural performance under high pressure. This ensures the motor's reliability for operational launches.

Key Points:-

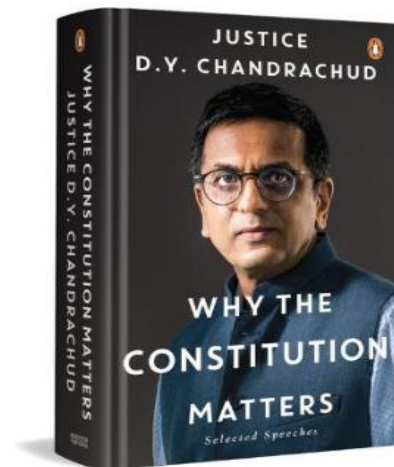
(i) The successful test of KALAM-1200 aligns with the Indian Space Policy 2023, which encourages private companies to participate actively in the space sector by providing technical infrastructure and managerial guidance. Skyroot Aerospace's accomplishment underscores India's progress in fostering private sector innovation in space technology and launch vehicle development.

(ii) Vikram-1 is India's first orbital-class launch vehicle developed by Skyroot Aerospace. It is a three-stage solid propulsion launch vehicle designed to deploy small satellites into Low Earth Orbit (LEO). Scheduled for launch in 2025, Vikram-1 offers fast and on-demand access to space, supporting satellite deployment missions with a payload capacity ranging from approximately 290 to 320 kilograms into Sun-Synchronous Orbit (SSO) and approximately 480 kilograms into Low-Inclination Orbit (LIO).

(iii) The KALAM-1200 booster's role is critical as it provides the initial high-thrust impulse needed to lift the rocket off the ground and accelerate it through the dense lower atmosphere. This successful static test marks a major step towards the first launch of Vikram-1, demonstrating Skyroot Aerospace's capability to build reliable and efficient propulsion systems, further advancing India's private space sector ambitions.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

1. Former Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud to Release Debut Book "Why the Constitution Matters".



Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud is set to publish his debut book titled Why the Constitution Matters by August 2025. The book, to be released by Penguin Random House India (PRHI) from Gurugram, Haryana, offers a deep and insightful view into the Indian Constitution and its foundational role in shaping democracy, justice, equality, and liberty in India.

- The book provides a detailed exploration of the relevance and transformative power of the Indian Constitution, presenting it as the bedrock of democracy and constitutional values like justice and equality.

- Justice Chandrachud served as the 50th Chief Justice of India from November 9, 2022, to November 10, 2024. With nearly 25 years of judicial experience, he draws on his expertise to reflect on constitutional values.

- The book discusses critical issues such as the right to dissent, freedom of speech, privacy, gender equality, disability rights, and environmental justice, including landmark

judgments that illustrate the Constitution's real-life impact.

Key Points:-

- (i) One of the aims of the book is to simplify complex legal concepts to foster greater civic engagement and enhance the public's understanding of India's constitutional framework.
- (ii) The work doubles as a judicial memoir and a call to action, urging citizens to safeguard democratic principles and constitutional values.
- (iii) Published by Penguin Random House India in Gurugram, Haryana, the book seeks to promote public engagement with India's constitutional values and encourage an informed citizenry.

Static GK

the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Administrator : Achim Steiner	Headquarters : New York, the United States of America (USA)
the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)	Union Minister : H. D. Kumaraswamy	Headquarters : New Delhi
Madhya Prades	Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel	Capital: Bhopal
MeitY	Minister : Ashwini Vaishnaw	Headquarters : New Delhi
Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited	CEO : Pawan Kumar Chandana	Headquarters : Hyderabad, Telangana
Assam	Chief minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma	Governor: Lakshman Acharya
National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Limited	Chairman & MD : Shri Raj Kumar Chaudhary	Headquarters : Faridabad
the Department of	Secretary : V Srinivas	Headquarters : New Delhi

Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)		
NITI Aayog	CEO : B.V.R. Subrahmanyam	Headquarters : New Delhi
RBI	Governor : Sanjay Malhotra	Headquarter : Mumbai