



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

> 13 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. India's First Animal Stem Cell Biobank Inaugurated by Dr. Jitendra Singh at NIAB, Hyderabad, Telangana.



On August 9, 2025, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T) and Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), inaugurated India's first Animal Stem Cell Biobank and Laboratory at the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), Hyderabad, Telangana, marking a significant milestone in livestock regenerative medicine research.

- The inauguration ceremony was led by Dr. Jitendra Singh, who also oversees the MoS&T and MoES. This marks the first-of-its-kind animal stem cell facility in the country, dedicated to advanced cellular therapies for livestock.
- Alongside the inauguration, Dr. Singh laid the foundation stone for a new hostel block and Type-IV staff quarters at NIAB. This project, approved by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under MoS&T, carries an estimated cost of ₹19.98 crore.
- The Animal Stem Cell Biobank spans over 9,300 square feet and is constructed with an investment of ₹1.85 crore. The laboratory

infrastructure includes a Stem Cell Culture Unit, Three-Dimensional (3D) Bioprinter, Bacteria Culture Lab, Cryostorage Units, and Autoclave Rooms.

Key Points:-

- The biobank will primarily work on regenerative medicine and cellular therapies for livestock. Its research scope covers disease modelling, tissue engineering, and reproductive biotechnology, aimed at improving the health and productivity of farm animals.
- Equipped with advanced air handling systems and uninterrupted power supply, the facility ensures optimal conditions for sensitive research. The high-end lab systems support cutting-edge animal biotechnology work and international-standard biobanking protocols.
- The initiative is backed by the National Biopharma Mission (NBM) and envisions future expansion to include biobanking of animal stem cells and their derivatives. This strategic step aligns with India's broader aim to strengthen bio-research infrastructure in livestock sciences.

2. India's First Drone-AI-Powered Artificial Rain Trial Conducted over Jaipur's Ramgarh Dam.



In August 2025, Jaipur (Rajasthan) became the site of India's first pilot experiment using AI-controlled drones to induce artificial rain. The initiative, conducted over the Ramgarh Dam, is being hailed as a pioneering step in precision cloud seeding and climate intervention technologies.

- This trial is a collaboration between the Rajasthan Agriculture Department and GenX AI, a tech firm based in Bengaluru with U.S. connections. It marks the country's first use of drones, guided by AI systems, for cloud seeding.
- Approximately 60 drone flights are planned to conduct precise cloud seeding over the Ramgarh Dam and its immediate surroundings. This limited-area spread contrasts with the broader coverage typical of traditional aircraft-based seeding.
- The project has received clearances from the Agriculture Department, Meteorological Department, District Administration, and DGCA. Heavy rain warnings had initially postponed the trial from the scheduled July 31, 2025 to early August. In the interim, scientists have conducted test runs in Jaipur.

Key Points:-

- (i) The drones will disperse seeding agents—such as silver iodide, sodium

chloride, or dry ice—into moisture-laden clouds. These particles act as nuclei around which water droplets form and eventually precipitate as rain.

(ii) Ramgarh Dam, built in the early 20th century, once supplied Jaipur with drinking water and even hosted a boating event during the 1982 Asian Games. However, it has remained dry since 2005 due to encroachments and environmental degradation. The current trial aims to rejuvenate this vital reservoir.

(iii) If successful, the drone-AI seeding method could become a scalable solution to deliver targeted artificial rain in arid and drought-prone areas of Rajasthan—helping conserve water, support agriculture, and mitigate prolonged dry spells.

3. PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates Bengaluru Metro Yellow Line and Lays Foundation for Phase-3 Orange Line.



In August 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Yellow Line of the Bengaluru Metro and laid the foundation stone for the Phase-3 Orange Line project at the International Institute of Information Technology, Bengaluru (IIIT-B) auditorium.

The developments mark a significant expansion of the city's metro network.

- The newly inaugurated Yellow Line has been built at an estimated cost of ₹7,160 crore. Additionally, the Phase-3 Orange Line project, spanning more than 44 kilometers with 31 elevated stations, is expected to cost ₹15,610 crore.

- The event was attended by Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Union Ministers Manohar Lal Khattar, Ashwini Vaishnaw, H. D. Kumaraswamy, and Union Ministers of State Shobha Karandlaje and V. Somanna. Deputy CM D. K. Shivakumar also participated in the ceremony.

- During the event, PM Modi flagged off three new Vande Bharat Express trains—Bengaluru to Belagavi in Karnataka, Nagpur to Pune in Maharashtra, and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra in Jammu and Kashmir to Amritsar in Punjab—aimed at boosting regional connectivity and tourism.

Key Points:-

(i) With the Yellow Line becoming operational, Bengaluru's metro network length will now exceed 96 km. The Orange Line, part of Phase-3, will link the western stretch of the Outer Ring Road (ORR) and extend along Magadi Road, with completion targeted for 2029.

(ii) Companies such as Infosys Foundation, Biocon, and Delta Electronics have contributed funding for several key metro stations under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, supporting the city's urban transport development.

(iii) PM Modi highlighted that India's metro network has expanded from just 5 cities in

2014 to over 24 cities in 2025, covering more than 1,000 km. Bengaluru's expansion contributes to India's position as the third-largest metro network globally.

4. President of the Philippines Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. Undertakes 5-Day State Visit to India and Strategic Partnership Announced.



The President of the Philippines, Ferdinand Romualdez (R.) Marcos Jr., completed a 5-day State Visit to India from August 04, 2025, to August 08, 2025, at the invitation of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi. The visit marked the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and the Philippines, featuring the release of special commemorative stamps and the signing of major agreements.

- The commemorative stamps released by PM Narendra Modi and President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. were themed on the national flowers of both nations — the Lotus for India and the Sampaguita for the Philippines. These stamps symbolised the shared cultural heritage and enduring friendship between the two countries.

- A major highlight of the visit was the joint announcement of the “Declaration on the Establishment of a Strategic Partnership”

between the Government of India (GoI) and the Government of the Philippines. This declaration marked a significant advancement in bilateral relations, building on decades of cooperation in trade, defence, and technology.

- The newly established Strategic Partnership will be guided by the Comprehensive Plan of Action (2025–2029), which was officially adopted by both nations on August 05, 2025. This plan focuses on enhancing collaboration in defence, maritime security, infrastructure development, and emerging technologies.

Key Points:-

(i) Defence cooperation was a key focus area during the visit. Out of 14 agreements signed, 3 were Terms of Reference (ToRs) between the Armies, Navies, and Air Forces of both nations. Additionally, a ToR was signed to improve maritime cooperation between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), reinforcing security in the Indo-Pacific region.

(ii) In total, both sides signed 18 agreements, including Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and Letters of Intent (LoIs), covering sectors such as Information Technology (IT), Telecommunication, Waste-to-Energy Generation, Healthcare, Business Management, and Digital Infrastructure. These agreements were formalised during the Philippines–India Business Forum held recently in Bengaluru, Karnataka, in the presence of President Marcos.

(iii) This historic State Visit underscored India's growing strategic and economic ties with Southeast Asia, aligning with New Delhi's Act East Policy, and reaffirming both nations' commitment to regional peace,

prosperity, and sustainable development.

INTERNATIONAL

1. Numbeo Safety Index Mid-2025: Mangalore Ranked as Safest City in India, Abu Dhabi Tops Globally.

Numbeo Safety Index Mid-2025: Mangalore Ranked as Safest City in India, Abu Dhabi Tops Globally

In August 2025, Numbeo recently released the Numbeo Safety Index Mid-2025 Rankings. Mangalore (Karnataka) was ranked as the safest city in India and 49th globally with a score of 74.3. Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) topped the list with a score of 88.8

Safest in India

74.3

Score for
49th

Most Unsafe

Delhi

Score 31
316th p

In August 2025, Numbeo, the world's largest crowd-sourced global database, released the Numbeo Safety Index Mid-2025 Rankings. Mangalore (Karnataka) emerged as the safest city in India, securing the 49th spot globally with a safety score of 74.3. Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates – UAE) maintained its global lead with a score of 88.8.

- Mangalore topped the Indian rankings with a safety score of 74.3, reflecting high citizen-reported safety levels. At the other end, Delhi was ranked the most unsafe city in India, standing at 316th globally with a low safety score of 41, indicating significant security challenges in the capital.

- Numbeo's safety index scores range from 0 to 100, categorized into five distinct levels: Very Low (below 20), Low (20–40), Moderate (40–60), High (60–80), and Very High (above 80). The 2025 mid-year list evaluated 391 cities

worldwide, providing comparative data across diverse geographies.

- The Middle East retained dominance in the global safety rankings, with 5 cities from the region appearing in the global top 5. UAE cities, along with one city from Qatar, featured prominently. Ras al-Khaimah (UAE) secured 5th place globally with a score of 83.8, underscoring the UAE's consistent investment in security and urban safety measures.

Key Points:-

(i) The top 10 global list also included Taipei (Taiwan) ranked 7th with a score of 83.4, Muscat (Oman) 8th with 81.2, The Hague (Den Haag – Netherlands) 9th with 79.9, and Tampere (Finland) 10th with 79.5. These rankings highlight a diverse global distribution of safe urban environments beyond the Middle East.

(ii) Apart from Mangalore, other Indian cities with high rankings include Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra) ranked 63rd globally with 63.5, Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) 74th with 61.3, Chennai (Tamil Nadu) 158th with 60.3, Pune (Maharashtra) 167th with 59.8, and Gurugram (Haryana) 170th with 57.4. These cities have shown steady improvement in public safety perceptions.

(iii) Numbeo's methodology is based on crowd-sourced responses from residents and travelers, covering aspects like walking alone during daylight/night, crime rates, and law enforcement efficiency. By mid-2025, the index compiled data from over 391 cities, offering a citizen-driven, comparative safety snapshot.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. SEBI Introduces SWAGAT-FI Framework to Streamline Compliance for Trusted Foreign Portfolio Investors.



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has recently proposed the creation of a Single Window Automatic & Generalised Access for Trusted Foreign Investors (SWAGAT-FI) framework to streamline the regulatory process for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs). The initiative aims to ease compliance, attract long-term capital inflows, and enhance India's global investment appeal.

- The proposed SWAGAT-FI framework will provide a unified, automated, and standardised compliance mechanism for a select group of trusted FPIs. These include government-owned funds, central banks, sovereign wealth funds, multilateral agencies, and highly regulated pooled funds such as mutual funds and pension funds. This move will simplify onboarding procedures, reduce duplication, and create faster market access for global investors.

- The system is designed to replace multiple regulatory approvals with a single-window clearance process, integrating both FPI and Foreign Venture Capital Investor (FVCI) registrations. Currently, these processes are

handled separately, creating delays and higher compliance costs. By merging these procedures, SEBI aims to create a more investor-friendly environment while maintaining strong regulatory oversight.

- A major change under the proposal is the modification of Know Your Customer (KYC) requirements. At present, FPIs undergo annual or triennial KYC reviews based on their risk category, while FVCIs are reviewed every five years. Under SWAGAT-FI, the frequency for trusted investors will be reduced, reflecting their low-risk profile and lowering the operational burden on both investors and intermediaries.

Key Points:-

(i) Another significant relaxation is related to the participation of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs), and Resident Individuals (RIs) in FPIs. The current 50% cap on their collective investment in an FPI's corpus will be eased for low-risk funds such as diversified retail mutual funds. This will encourage more NRI/OCI participation in India's capital markets, especially in regulated schemes.

(ii) SEBI has also proposed allowing SWAGAT-FIs to maintain a single dematerialised (demat) account for all investments, whether classified as FPI or FVCI. At present, multiple demat accounts are required, creating operational complexity and higher maintenance costs. The unified account structure will reduce paperwork, transaction delays, and administrative expenses for global investors.

(iii) As of 30 June 2025, India had 11,913 registered FPIs with Assets Under Custody (AUC) totalling ₹83.81 trillion, marking a substantial rise from ₹51 trillion in March 2022. SEBI believes that implementing

SWAGAT-FI will further boost these numbers by improving India's ease of doing business, aligning with global best practices, and strengthening the country's position as a top emerging-market investment destination.

2. Kerala State Financial Enterprises Becomes First Miscellaneous NBFC in India to Cross Rs 1 Lakh Crore Turnover in August 2025.



In August 2025, Kerala State Financial Enterprises (KSFE), headquartered in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first miscellaneous non-banking financial company (NBFC) in India to surpass a business turnover of Rs 1 lakh crore. This remarkable feat doubled its turnover from Rs 50,000 crore in just four years, underscoring KSFE's rapid growth and financial strength.

- KSFE became the first miscellaneous NBFC in India to achieve a business turnover of Rs 1 lakh crore in August 2025, marking a landmark achievement in the NBFC sector.

- This accomplishment highlights KSFE's robust growth, financial stability, and its critical role in Kerala's economy as well as India's broader financial system.

- KSFE contributed to the economy through initiatives including a Rs 504 crore interest waiver, Rs 920 crore paid to the state government, and Rs 8,925 crore in fixed deposits, reflecting its strong financial management.

Key Points:-

- (i) To celebrate this achievement, Kerala's Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated events in Thiruvananthapuram, with Kerala's Finance Minister K N Balagopal chairing the occasion, emphasizing the government's support for KSFE's success.
- (ii) KSFE launched the 'Onam Samridhi Gift Card' and unveiled a new tagline, "KSFE: The Courage of Kerala," with actor Suraj Venjaramoodu as its brand ambassador, reinforcing its connection with Kerala's cultural identity and economic progress.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1. BEML Secures First Overseas Rail & Metro Contract Worth USD 1 Million from Malaysia.



On 9th August 2025, Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), a Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based Schedule 'A' Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of

Defence (MoD), secured its maiden international rail and metro contract worth USD 1 million (approximately ₹8.3 crore) from Malaysia for retrofitting and reconditioning its Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system.

- Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) received its first-ever overseas order in the Rail & Metro segment, marking a significant milestone in the company's global expansion efforts. The contract aims to modernise and improve the operational efficiency of Malaysia's MRT network.

- The project involves retrofitting and reconditioning essential components of the MRT system, ensuring enhanced safety standards and extending the operational life of existing infrastructure. This upgrade is expected to significantly benefit commuters through improved reliability and comfort.

- This international achievement strengthens BEML's Rail & Metro division's presence beyond domestic boundaries. Until now, the division primarily focused on supplying metro coaches and rail products within India, catering to cities like Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Kolkata.

Key Points:-

- (i) BEML, established in 1964, operates in three major sectors—Defence & Aerospace, Mining & Construction, and Rail & Metro—and maintains a nationwide sales and service network. The company plays a vital role in supplying equipment and solutions to multiple industries, both in civilian and defence applications.
- (ii) The contract not only enhances bilateral trade ties between India and Malaysia but also showcases India's growing capabilities in delivering advanced metro and rail

solutions to international markets.

SPORTS

1. India Hosts 1st World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze-Level Event at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar.



The Indian Open World Athletics Continental Tour (WACT) Bronze Meet 2025 was held on August 10, 2025, at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, marking India's debut in hosting a World Athletics Continental Tour (WACT) Bronze-level (Category C) event, featuring top athletes from across the globe.

- The one-day event witnessed the participation of over 150 athletes from 17 countries, competing in 19 events. The total prize purse for the competition was set at USD – United States Dollar 25,000, making it a significant international athletics meet in India.

- Over 90 athletes represented India, while others hailed from countries including Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Korea, Djibouti, Iraq, and Great Britain, competing in various track and field categories. This wide international representation enhanced the competitive atmosphere of the event.

Key Points:-

(i) One of the top Indian highlights was the performance of 17-year-old Shahnawaz Khan from Uttar Pradesh, who created history by breaking the U18 – Under 18 years national record in the men's long jump. He leapt 8.04 metres, securing the silver medal.

(ii) Khan's leap placed him at number 2 in the 2025 U18 – Under 18 years world list, number 4 in the U20 – Under 20 years world list, and number 1 in the U18 Asian list. His achievement was a major boost for India's athletics prospects at the youth level.

(iii) Notable international performances included Sri Lanka's Rumesh Tharanga winning the men's javelin throw with an 86.50m throw, surpassing the qualification mark for the World Athletics Championships (WAC). Great Britain's Louise Evans claimed victory in the women's 400m with a time of 54.28 seconds.

AWARDS

1. 10th National Anubhav Awards 2025 Presented to Retired Officials from Central Government, CPSEs & PSBs for Outstanding Public Service.



The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions (MoPPG&P) has recently announced the 10th National Anubhav Awards 2025, scheduled for August 18, 2025, at a national-level ceremony in New Delhi. The awards recognize retiring and retired employees—spanning the Central Government, Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), and Public Sector Banks (PSBs)—who have documented outstanding work experiences via the Anubhav Portal, enriching institutional memory and future governance.

- For the first time, eligibility has been expanded beyond Central Government personnel to include employees of CPSEs and PSBs. This broader coverage recognizes their role in nation-building and encourages participation from a wider public-sector spectrum.

- The 2025 edition saw a record 1,459 write-ups submitted from 42 Ministries, Departments, and Organisations, a significant increase from just 30 submissions in the previous year, highlighting growing engagement with the initiative.

- A two-tier evaluation process has selected 5 Anubhav Awardees, who will be honored with a medal, certificate, and a ₹10,000 cash prize, and 10 Jury Certificate recipients, who will receive a medal and certificate.

Key Points:-

(i) The 2025 Anubhav Awardees comprise distinguished retired officials including Hukum Singh Meena, Additional Secretary, Department of Land Resources; Shalini Kacker, Chief General Manager, State Bank of India (SBI); M. Venkatesan, Officer on Special Duty to the Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office (PMO); O. Virupakshappa, Senior Superintendent of Post Offices; and

Saju P.K, Head Constable, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

(ii) In addition, Jury Certificates have been awarded to ten notable retirees representing diverse departments such as the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Department of Space, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Telecommunications (DoT), and various security forces, recognising their valuable contributions and service.

(iii) Launched in 2015 via the Anubhav Portal, the scheme embodies the Government's commitment to preserving the institutional wisdom of retiring employees. By documenting their experiences, the initiative strengthens governance practices and serves as a valuable resource for administrative reform.

2. Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport's Terminal 2 Wins International Architectural Award 2025 in Transport Category.



On 8 August 2025, Terminal 2 (T2) of Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (LGBI Airport), also known as Guwahati International Airport, located in Guwahati, Assam, received the prestigious

International Architectural Award (IAA) 2025 in the Transport Category, recognising its world-class design and cultural symbolism.

- The International Architectural Award (IAA) 2025, a global recognition for innovative and sustainable architecture, was announced in the Transport Category to honour outstanding architectural projects in airports, stations, and transport hubs.

- Terminal 2 of Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International (LGBI) Airport, developed by Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL), received the award for combining modern passenger amenities with traditional Assamese design elements.

Key Points:-

- (i) The award is jointly conferred by The Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design, The European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies (ECAADUS), and Metropolitan Arts Press Limited, making it one of the most respected recognitions in the global architecture sector.
- (ii) LGBI Airport, situated in Guwahati, Assam, is the primary aviation gateway to Northeast India, connecting the region to the rest of the country and several international destinations, thereby playing a crucial role in regional connectivity.
- (iii) The architectural design of Terminal 2 draws inspiration from the resilience of bamboo and the grace of the foxtail orchid, the state flower of Assam—symbolising the rich cultural heritage and natural beauty of the state.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Biofuel Day 2025 Observed on 10th August to Promote Renewable Energy and Blended Biofuels in India.



World Biofuel Day 2025 was observed on 10th August to raise global awareness about the benefits of non-fossil fuels (green fuels) as sustainable alternatives to traditional fossil fuels. The day highlights the role of biofuels in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting cleaner energy.

- World Biofuel Day is celebrated annually on 10th August to encourage the adoption of renewable and eco-friendly fuels. It emphasizes the environmental benefits of biofuels in combating climate change and reducing dependency on fossil fuels.
- The day also pays tribute to Rudolf Christian Karl Diesel, the French-German inventor of the diesel engine (also known as the Compression Ignition engine) in the 19th century, whose work laid the foundation for modern fuel technology.
- Since 2015, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG), Government of India, has been officially observing World Biofuel Day to promote sustainable fuel adoption nationwide.

Key Points:-

- (i) One of the key objectives is to promote the use of blended biofuels in India, reducing reliance on pure fossil fuels and supporting energy diversification.
- (ii) India ranks as the third-largest oil consumer globally, following the United States and China, making the shift to blended fuels crucial for energy security and emission reduction.
- (iii) Biofuels are produced from biomass sources such as sugarcane, corn, soybeans, algae, agricultural residues, and animal waste. India's ethanol production capacity increased to 1,528 crore litres in 2024 (from 1,380 crore litres in November 2023) and is projected to reach 1,700 crore litres for achieving 20% ethanol blending (E20) by 2025.

2. World Lion Day 2025 Observed on 10th August.



World Lion Day is annually observed on 10th August to raise awareness about lions (*Panthera leo*), address conservation challenges, and promote efforts to protect their ecological and cultural significance. The 2025 observance marks the 13th edition of this global initiative.

- **World Lion Day** was initiated by Big Cat Rescue (BCR), a Florida-based wildlife sanctuary dedicated to lion conservation, co-founded by Dereck and Beverly Joubert. The first observance was held in 2013, aiming to unite global efforts for lion protection and habitat preservation.

- In 2009, Dereck and Beverly Joubert partnered with National Geographic to launch the Big Cat Initiative (BCI), a long-term conservation programme addressing threats to big cats, including habitat loss, poaching, and human-wildlife conflict. This collaboration significantly strengthened the visibility and impact of lion conservation efforts worldwide.

Key Points:-

- (i) The Asiatic (Indian) lion population in 2025 reached 891, marking a 32.2% increase from 674 in 2020 and over 70% growth in the past decade. These gains reflect sustained conservation strategies, including habitat protection, anti-poaching measures, and community involvement in lion protection in the Gir region of Gujarat, India.
- (ii) According to a LionAid report from July 2025, the African lion population stands at approximately 13,014 in eastern and southern Africa, and 342 in western and central Africa, totalling around 13,356 lions.
- (iii) These numbers highlight both the resilience of certain populations and the urgent need to address regional threats such as shrinking habitats and illegal wildlife trade.

3. World Elephant Day 2025 Observed on 12th August.



World Elephant Day is celebrated globally every year on 12th August to raise awareness about elephant conservation and the critical ecological and cultural roles elephants play. In 2025, the campaign adopts the theme “Matriarchs & Memories,” emphasizing the leadership of female elephants and honoring women in conservation.

- Launched in 2012 by Patricia Sims and the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation, World Elephant Day has grown into an internationally recognized observance, backed by over 100 wildlife organizations dedicated to elephant welfare.

- The theme “Matriarchs & Memories” honors the wisdom and guidance of elephant herd matriarchs and the emotional memory they preserve — alongside the women who protect them in the wild.

- In Shivamogga, Karnataka, World Elephant Day was marked with ceremonies at Sakrebailu Elephant Camp. Events highlighted female elephant leadership, released a commemorative postal envelope, and included naming ceremonies for two elephant calves, Chamundi and Tunga.

Key Points:-

(i) Majuli Island in Assam observed the day by spotlighting a herd of 150 elephants navigating riverine habitats with minimal conflict, due to active forest monitoring and proactive interventions.

(ii) Nandankanan Zoo in Bhubaneswar hosted awareness campaigns featuring storytelling, quizzes, and a special focus on an elderly elephant named Basanti and the recovery of a calf, Asha, symbolizing resilience.

(iii) Beyond celebrations, World Elephant Day 2025 urges action through scientific, technological, and policy-driven solutions—such as establishing wildlife corridors, employing AI to predict poaching risks, and ensuring matriarchal survival to preserve herd knowledge.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. BSNL Partners with Ericsson, Qualcomm, Cisco, and Nokia to Boost 5G, AI, and Digital Skills Development in India.



Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has announced strategic partnerships with leading global technology companies—Ericsson, Qualcomm, Cisco, and Nokia—to accelerate the rollout of 5G services, enhance Artificial Intelligence (AI) adoption,

and strengthen India's digital skills ecosystem. These collaborations aim to align with the Government of India's Digital India vision and Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) initiative.

- **BSNL, India's state-owned telecommunications company under the Ministry of Communications, signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Ericsson (Sweden), Qualcomm (United States), Cisco (United States), and Nokia (Finland). The partnerships will focus on building a robust 5G infrastructure, improving network efficiency, and promoting indigenous manufacturing capabilities in the telecom sector.**

- **Under the partnership with Ericsson, BSNL will leverage Ericsson's 5G Core and Radio Access Network (RAN) solutions to support India's 5G deployment roadmap. Ericsson will also provide technical training to BSNL engineers on advanced 5G and AI integration for telecom operations, enhancing service reliability and speed.**

- **In collaboration with Qualcomm, BSNL aims to develop and deploy energy-efficient 5G devices and solutions powered by Qualcomm's Snapdragon platforms. This will also include joint research initiatives to enable affordable 5G-enabled smartphones and IoT (Internet of Things) solutions tailored to the Indian market.**

Key Points:-

(i) The partnership with Cisco focuses on creating a secure and scalable network architecture. Cisco will assist BSNL in deploying AI-driven network automation tools and cybersecurity frameworks to protect critical infrastructure and ensure high-quality connectivity across urban and rural regions.

(ii) BSNL's tie-up with Nokia will focus on deploying advanced 5G equipment and solutions while also facilitating the development of digital skills among BSNL employees and students across India. Nokia will work with BSNL to establish 5G training labs in select telecom training centers.

(iii) These collaborations are expected to support India's goal of achieving nationwide 5G coverage by 2026 while also enhancing AI adoption across industries such as agriculture, healthcare, education, and manufacturing. The initiative aligns with the National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018, which emphasizes next-generation connectivity and skill development.

Static GK

Telangana	Chief minister: Revanth Reddy	Governor: Jishnu Dev Varma
Rajasthan	Chief minister: Bhajan Lal Sharma	Governor: Haribhau Bagade
Philippines	Currency: Philippine peso	President: Bongbong Marcos
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)	Managing Director (MD): A. Robert Jerad Ravi	Headquarters: New Delhi
Numbeo	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) : Mladen Adamovic	Headquarters : Belgrade, Serbia
SEBI	Chairperson: Tuhin Kanta Pandey	Headquarter : Mumbai
Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML)	Chairman & MD : Shantanu Roy	Headquarters: Bengaluru