

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

> 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. DPIIT Signs MoU with Zepto and Hero MotoCorp to Support Manufacturing Startups through 'Zepto Nova' and 'Hero for Startups' Initiatives.



On August 12, 2025, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), signed MoUs with Zepto Private Limited (formerly Kiranakart Technologies Private Limited) and Hero MotoCorp Limited (Hero MotoCorp) to strengthen support for manufacturing startups. These initiatives, including the 'Zepto Nova Innovation Challenge' and 'Hero for Startups' accelerator programme, aim to mentor, scale, and provide resources for early-stage startups in India's manufacturing ecosystem.

- The MoU signed by Dr. Sumeet Jarangal, Director of DPIIT, and Kailavya Vohra, Co-founder of Zepto, formally launches the six-month long 'Zepto Nova' Innovation Challenge. The programme focuses on identifying and mentoring manufacturing startups, helping them advance from prototype to market-ready solutions by leveraging Zepto's robust delivery network and digital infrastructure.

- The challenge emphasizes startups developing technologies in hardware, Internet of Things (IoT), packaging, and sustainable manufacturing. It particularly supports women-led ventures and startups from Tier II and Tier III cities, promoting inclusive growth within the manufacturing sector. Under the initiative, Zepto will integrate 100 Indian startups into its supply chain, offering direct market exposure and a platform to showcase their innovations.

- DPIIT also signed a partnership MoU with Hero MotoCorp Limited (Hero MotoCorp) to support and scale startups at their early stage through the innovation accelerator programme 'Hero for Startups'. The MoU was signed by Dr. Sumeet Jarangal, Director of DPIIT, and Utkarsh Mishra, Global Innovation Portfolio Lead of Hero MotoCorp, reflecting a strategic collaboration to foster entrepreneurship in the manufacturing sector.

Key Points:-

(i) The collaboration will focus on startups developing solutions in future mobility, clean technology, and deep technology. Selected startups will gain access to Hero MotoCorp's Research and Development (R&D) facilities in Germany and India, its extensive dealer and supplier network, and mentorship, facilitating rapid scaling and industrial integration.

(ii) Both initiatives aim to provide a structured support system for startups. Zepto Nova offers guidance through expert-led workshops, mentorship sessions, and capacity-building, while Hero for Startups facilitates hands-on industrial mentorship, access to R&D, and opportunities to pilot Proofs of Concept (PoCs). These programmes collectively aim to bridge the gap between innovation and

commercialization in India's manufacturing ecosystem.

(iii) Through these MoUs, startups are expected to accelerate product development, gain market insights, and access funding and industry networks. Both Zepto Nova and Hero for Startups provide platforms for startups to demonstrate their innovations, integrate into industrial supply chains, and contribute to the growth of India's manufacturing and technology sectors, promoting a robust startup ecosystem at the national level.

2. Union Cabinet Approves Four New Semiconductor Units in Punjab, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh with ₹4,600 Crore Investment.



NEW SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING UNITS

Cabinet approves four more semiconductor projects under India Semiconductor Mission

- Proposals approved today are from SiCSem, Continental Device India Private Limited (CDLI), 3D-Glass Solutions Inc., and Advanced System in Package (ASIP) Technologies.
- Manufacturing units to be set up in ODISHA, PUNJAB and ANDHRA PRADESH
- Cumulative investment of around Rs.4,600 crore
- Cumulative employment for 2024 skilled professionals which will catalyse the electronic manufacturing ecosystem resulting in creation of many indirect jobs
- Total approved projects under ISM now stand at 10 with cumulative investments of around Rs.1.60 lakh crore in 6 states

On August 12, 2025, the Union Cabinet of India approved the establishment of four new semiconductor manufacturing units across the states of Punjab, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh. This strategic move, under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), represents a significant investment of approximately ₹4,600 crore and aims to bolster India's self-reliance in semiconductor production.

- The approved projects include two semiconductor units in Odisha and one each in Andhra Pradesh and Punjab. These facilities are

expected to generate employment for over 2,000 skilled professionals, contributing to regional economic development and technological advancement.

- One of the projects has garnered support from global industry leaders, including U.S. chipmaker Intel and aerospace and defense company Lockheed Martin. These collaborations are anticipated to bring advanced manufacturing technologies and expertise to India, enhancing the country's capabilities in semiconductor production.

- The establishment of these units aligns with the objectives of the India Semiconductor Mission, which aims to position India as a global hub for semiconductor manufacturing and design. The ISM focuses on reducing dependency on foreign semiconductor imports and promoting domestic production capabilities.

Key Points:-

(i) With the addition of these four units, the total number of approved semiconductor projects in India has reached ten, with a cumulative investment of approximately ₹1.6 lakh crore. This expansion underscores India's commitment to developing a robust semiconductor ecosystem and reducing reliance on external sources for critical electronic components.

(ii) The government's proactive approach includes offering incentives and creating a conducive environment for semiconductor manufacturing. This includes support for research and development, infrastructure development, and fostering collaborations between industry and academia to build a skilled workforce.

(iii) India's strategic push in semiconductor manufacturing is expected to enhance its

position in the global electronics supply chain. With significant investments and international partnerships, India aims to emerge as a key player in the global semiconductor market, contributing to technological advancements, economic growth, and self-reliance in critical electronic components.

3. India and Zambia Sign Trade Cooperation Pact to Boost Bilateral Cooperative Trade and Strengthen Economic Ties.



On August 12, 2025, the Government of India (GoI) signed announced trade cooperation pact with the Republic of Zambia to strengthen bilateral trade alliances and promote cooperative trade initiatives between the two nations.

- The trade cooperation agreement aims to promote cooperative trade alliances and facilitate mutually beneficial partnerships between Indian and Zambian cooperative entities. This includes creating a framework for trade collaboration, knowledge sharing, and business linkages.

- India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Zambia on July 18, 2025. The MoU emphasizes promoting cooperatives, enabling

trade facilities, and enhancing collaboration between Indian and Zambian cooperative sectors for long-term economic growth.

- The Ministry of Cooperation (MoC), Government of India, is leading the initiative and working closely with Indian Missions abroad to strengthen the cooperative export ecosystem. The pact ensures structured support for trade alliances and fosters international partnerships.

Key Points:-

(i) National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL) is a key implementing body under this pact. NCEL has expanded its global reach by signing MoUs with entities in countries such as Senegal and Indonesia, including Sinton Vantage Trading (Senegal) and PT Sinton Surini Nusantara (Indonesia), facilitating global trade collaborations.

(ii) The cooperation agreements are expected to facilitate the exchange of goods, services, and technical expertise. These initiatives aim to boost the global presence of Indian cooperatives, enhance international trade partnerships, and strengthen India's economic ties with Zambia.

4. Karnataka Launches "KATALYST" to Establish 500 New Global Capability Centres (GCCs) by 2029.



In August 2025, ahead of the Bengaluru Tech Summit, the Karnataka government launched KATALYST, a dedicated Ease-of-Doing-Business cell aimed at accelerating the setup of Global Capability Centres (GCCs). This initiative forms a key part of the state's GCC Policy 2024–2029, targeting the addition of 500 new GCCs by 2029.

- **KATALYST** serves as a single-window facilitation cell designed to streamline approvals, clearances, and investor assistance for GCCs. The programme was launched during a CEO Breakfast Meet attended by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and over 200 industry leaders, marking a proactive step towards positioning Karnataka as a global GCC hub.

- Under the GCC Policy 2024–2029, Karnataka aims to double its existing GCC count to around 1,000 by 2029. This expansion is expected to generate 3.5 lakh (350,000) new jobs, contribute USD 50 billion to economic output, and maintain nearly 50% of India's GCC market share. The state currently houses over 30% of India's GCCs and employs 35% of the country's GCC workforce.

Key Points:-

(i) The policy focuses on both Bengaluru and "Beyond Bengaluru" clusters, with plans

to set up three Global Innovation Districts — one in Bengaluru and two in other regions such as Mysuru, Mangaluru, Hubballi-Dharwad, Tumakuru, Kalaburagi, and Shivamogga. Special support will also be extended to smaller "nano GCCs" with 5–50 employees through flexible incentives and relaxed norms.

(ii) To attract GCCs, the state offers benefits like rent reimbursement up to ₹50 lakh for centres outside Bengaluru, electricity duty exemptions for five years, internship stipend reimbursements, and funding for applied R&D projects. The policy also includes establishing an AI Centre of Excellence, forming an AI Skilling Council, and launching a ₹100 crore Innovation Fund to boost industry–academia collaboration.

(iii) With KATALYST, Karnataka projects the GCC sector to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 12–14% over the next five years. By combining strategic incentives, regional development, and cutting-edge infrastructure, the state seeks to cement its leadership in India's GCC landscape while driving substantial job creation and innovation.

5. BSF Launches 'Operation Alert' Along Rajasthan Border from 11 to 17 August 2025.



Between 11 and 17 August 2025, the Border Security Force (BSF) executed 'Operation Alert' along the Rajasthan–Pakistan border as part of heightened security efforts ahead of India's Independence Day. The operation focused on thwarting infiltration, smuggling, and other cross-border threats.

- **BSF formally commenced Operation Alert on 11 August 2025, with plans to sustain it until midnight of 17 August. The initiative reflects pre-Independence Day security vigilance aimed at ensuring border stability and deterrence of cross-border threats.**
- **A key aspect of the operation was a thorough review and rehearsal of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and drills, as reported by BSF DIG (Sector South) MK Negi.. This involved evaluating real-time intelligence inputs and ramping up preparedness across postings.**

Key Points:-

- (i) BSF significantly enhanced its foot and camel patrolling, set up additional security checkpoints, and maintained 24×7 surveillance. Extra troops were deployed to sensitive sectors to ensure persistent border monitoring and deterrence.
- (ii) The overarching aim of Operation Alert was to prevent any cross-border

disturbances or illegal activities during the Independence Day period. By fortifying security, the BSF intended to ensure that patriotic sentiments remained uninterrupted and robust along the border.

(iii) While emphasis remained on traditional patrolling methods, BSF also incorporated advanced technologies—such as enhanced monitoring gadgets—to gather and act on intelligence effectively. This blend of tech-backed surveillance and conventional field tactics helped reinforce border resilience during the sensitive period.

6. UPSC to Begin Year-Long Centenary Celebrations from 1 October 2025, Marking 100 Years Since Its Establishment in 1926.



The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), India's premier constitutional body for civil services recruitment, will launch a year-long centenary celebration beginning 1 October 2025, marking its hundredth year of service since establishment in 1926. The initiative underscores the Commission's legacy of transparency, meritocracy, and public trust.

- **The year-long observance will include a diverse array of commemorative events such as seminars, lectures, publications, and a special**

centenary logo to reflect UPSC's ethos of fairness and integrity. Plans also include a public outreach component, wherein eminent civil servants and public administration experts will share insights with aspirants and citizens alike.

- Detailing the significance, the Chairperson highlighted UPSC's milestone as more than a celebration—it represents continued commitment to uphold constitutional values, merit-based selection, and upholding public confidence in civil services appointments.

Key Points:-

(i) UPSC's centenary celebrations will directly involve the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, under whose jurisdiction the Commission functions. Events will be hosted at the UPSC headquarters in Dholpur House, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi, with potential outreach programs in regional training institutions of India's civil services.

(ii) Established as a constitutional body under Part XIV of the Indian Constitution, UPSC plays a pivotal role in appointing officers to All India Services and Central Civil Services (Groups A and B). Its centenary comes at a time when over 1.3 million applicants compete annually for a limited number of civil service positions.

(iii) This milestone year invites reflection on UPSC's evolution—from its early years in 1926 to modern-day exam conduct spanning Preliminary, Mains, and Personality Tests—and reinforces the Commission's resolve to enhance public administration and governance through fairness and excellence.

INTERNATIONAL

1. Nepal Waives Permit Fees for 97 Himalayan Peaks to Boost Tourism.



Nepal announced a bold move to waive permit fees for 97 Himalayan peaks in its remote western regions—Karnali and Sudurpashchim—for the next two years, aiming to attract climbers to lesser-explored areas and boost local tourism-driven economies.

- Nepal's Department of Tourism, under the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation (MoTCA), revealed that the permit waivers apply to 97 peaks ranging from 5,870 m to 7,132 m in the Karnali and Sudurpashchim provinces. The initiative, approved in a cabinet meeting on 27 July 2025 and announced on 11 August, seeks to open new frontiers in mountaineering across some of the country's least developed regions.

- This policy builds on earlier controlled experiments such as a similar waiver issued between 2008 and 2018. Over the past two years, just 68 climbers—from 21 teams—secured permits for only 15 of these peaks, generating a mere ₹1.4 million in royalties.

- Simultaneously, Nepal raised permit fees for Mount Everest dramatically—from USD 11,000 to USD 15,000 per climber, effective 1

September 2025—as part of efforts to reduce overcrowding and protect the fragile mountain ecology.

Key Points:-

(i) Authorities hope the free-permit initiative will diffuse climber traffic from Everest into the Himalayas' western hinterland, creating jobs—for guides, porters, and hospitality services—while stimulating infrastructure development in regions with poor road networks and limited amenities.

(ii) To balance economic opportunity with safety and preparedness, Nepal's government is also considering regulations requiring Everest aspirants to first climb a 7,000 m peak within Nepal. This amendment to the Tourism Act is currently making its way through Parliament.

(iii) By removing financial barriers to peaks in remote areas and addressing congestion on iconic summits, the policy represents a strategic shift toward sustainable—and equitable—mountaineering tourism in Nepal's Himalayas.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. NABARD, APGB and Aqua Exchange Launch Collateral-Free IoT-Enabled Shrimp Farming Loans in Andhra Pradesh.

NABARD, APGB and Aqua Exchange Launch Collateral-Free IoT-Enabled Shrimp Farming Loans in Andhra Pradesh



On August 11, 2025, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Andhra Pradesh Grameena Bank (APGB), and Aqua Exchange Agritech Private Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, to introduce a pilot Internet of Things (IoT)-enabled collateral-free loan model aimed at supporting shrimp farmers and promoting sustainable aquaculture.

- The collateral-free shrimp farming loan scheme offers low-interest, no-collateral loans, integrating farmers into the formal credit system, reducing reliance on informal lenders, promoting financial inclusion, supporting sustainable aquaculture, and enhancing economic stability while boosting India's aquaculture sector.

- Under this pilot program, a total of Rs. 25 crores in collateral-free loans will be disbursed to approximately 100 shrimp farmers within 3–6 months. An initial tranche of Rs. 1.25 crore will be sanctioned to five selected farmers, serving as a benchmark for scaling the program. The initiative aims to demonstrate the feasibility of IoT-enabled monitoring to support lending decisions in aquaculture.

- The program has ambitious expansion targets, with plans to disburse Rs. 100 crores in loans

during the Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26) and Rs. 250 crores in FY27. These projections indicate the government and financial institutions' commitment to integrating shrimp farmers into formal financing structures on a large scale, while boosting the productivity and sustainability of India's shrimp farming industry.

Key Points:-

(i) A Farm Rating Score (FRS) system will be introduced to assess the creditworthiness of shrimp farmers. The FRS will serve as a benchmark for lenders under the Unified Lending Interface (ULI) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This scoring mechanism ensures transparency, standardization, and easier access to formal finance for aquaculture entrepreneurs, while reducing risks for lending institutions.

(ii) The initiative incorporates Internet of Things (IoT) technology to monitor key parameters in real-time, including water quality, feed usage, and disease prevention. By leveraging IoT devices, farmers can optimize shrimp productivity, minimize losses due to environmental and biological risks, and increase operational efficiency. The technology-driven approach marks a significant step in modernizing India's aquaculture sector.

(iii) The NABARD, APGB, and Aqua Exchange collaboration demonstrates a public-private partnership enhancing agricultural financial inclusion. NABARD guides policy and funding, APGB manages grassroots loan disbursement, and Aqua Exchange provides IoT support, promoting sustainable aquaculture, formal credit, and technology integration in rural finance.

2. RBL Bank Collaborates with CAMSPay to Launch New Digital Payment Gateway Targeting Indian Enterprises.



On August 12, 2025, in Mumbai, Maharashtra, RBL Bank entered into a strategic partnership with CAMSPay, the payments unit of Computer Age Management Services (CAMS), to introduce a new digital payment gateway platform aimed at serving Indian enterprises.

- RBL Bank will serve as the Settlement Service Partner, leveraging its banking infrastructure to deliver smooth and efficient settlement services for high-volume transactions across diverse industries. This partnership aims to boost the speed, security, and regulatory compliance of digital payment processing in India.

- CAMSPay, acting as the Technology Provider, will bring advanced payment technology features, including real-time settlement capabilities, secure card and bank-based processing, and automated reconciliation. The platform will be delivered through open APIs, enabling integration with various business systems.

- The collaboration addresses industry-wide payment challenges by offering scalable, regulation-ready solutions for enterprises

handling significant transaction volumes. It also ensures adherence to compliance norms while enabling fast and reliable payment settlement cycles.

Key Points:-

- (i) Key leaders in this partnership include R Subramaniakumar, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of RBL Bank, and Vasanth Jayapaul, CEO of CAMSPay.
- (ii) Their joint vision focuses on creating a technologically advanced, enterprise-friendly payment gateway that meets the evolving demands of Indian businesses.
- (iii) The launch of this digital payment gateway is expected to strengthen the digital infrastructure for enterprises in India, supporting smoother transactions, reducing payment delays, and enhancing the overall efficiency of business payment ecosystems.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1. Tata's Nelco to Roll Out Eutelsat OneWeb LEO Satellite Services in India.



In August 2025, Tata Group's satellite communications company, Nelco Limited, partnered with French satellite provider Eutelsat to deliver OneWeb Low Earth Orbit

(LEO) satellite connectivity across India, aiming to enhance digital infrastructure, connectivity, and national security.

- The collaboration will provide secure, high-speed, and low-latency satellite internet across India's landmass, territorial waters, and remote regions, ensuring consistent connectivity for government, enterprise, and underserved areas.
- By leveraging LEO satellite services, the initiative strengthens India's digital infrastructure and enhances national security, offering reliable communication for critical sectors in land, sea, and air domains.

Key Points:-

- (i) The LEO-based connectivity ensures low-latency communication, high-speed internet, and reliable services even in areas where terrestrial networks are limited or unavailable, bridging the digital divide.
- (ii) OneWeb, initially backed by Bharti Enterprises, merged with Eutelsat in 2023, forming the world's second-largest satellite operator with 669 satellites in orbit, now collaborating with Nelco for India-focused deployment.
- (iii) The satellite services are expected to support government operations, enterprise connectivity, defense, disaster management, and remote area communication, promoting economic growth and technological advancement across India.

2. LTIMindtree Partners with Andhra Pradesh to Develop India's First Quantum Valley Tech Park in Amaravati.



LTIMindtree

On August 11, 2025, LTIMindtree, an Information Technology (IT) services and consulting company, along with its parent group Larsen & Toubro (L&T), announced a strategic collaboration with the Government of Andhra Pradesh and industry stakeholders to establish India's first Quantum Valley Tech Park in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh.

- Under this partnership, LTIMindtree will set up a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in the Quantum Valley to drive deep-tech research, quantum education, incubation support, and applied Research and Development (R&D). The CoE will act as a hub for innovation in emerging quantum technologies.

- L&T will take charge of designing, developing, and managing the physical infrastructure of the Quantum Valley Tech Park, utilizing its expertise in executing large-scale technology and construction projects. This includes creating state-of-the-art facilities to support research and industrial collaboration.

Key Points:-

(i) A key highlight of the initiative is the integration of the IBM Quantum System Two at the Quantum Computing Centre, developed in collaboration between International Business Machines (IBM) and

the Government of Andhra Pradesh. This will make it India's largest quantum computing deployment.

(ii) The partnership positions LTIMindtree and L&T as the core technology and infrastructure leaders in the Quantum Valley ecosystem, expected to attract global talent, boost research capabilities, and strengthen India's position in advanced quantum computing technologies.

(iii) By bringing together government support, corporate expertise, and global technology partnerships, the Quantum Valley Tech Park aims to accelerate India's journey in the global quantum research landscape and foster industrial applications for next-generation computing.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. Odisha Appoints Madhuri Dixit as Brand Ambassador for State's Handloom Industry.



In August 2025, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced the appointment of Bollywood legend and Padma Shri awardee Madhuri Dixit as the brand ambassador for the state's handloom industry, aiming to promote its rich heritage and empower local artisans.

- The appointment was declared during the inauguration of the Exhibition-cum-Knowledge Sharing for Textile Advantage (EKTA) programme, coinciding with the 11th National Handloom Day celebrations on August 7, 2025, at Janta Maidan, Bhubaneswar.

- EKTA is a flagship effort by the Odisha government to provide handloom artisans with enhanced market access, skill training, and financial assistance, thereby ensuring sustainable growth and preservation of traditional weaving practices.

Key Points:-

- (i) As brand ambassador, Madhuri Dixit will promote Odisha's handloom products at national and international platforms, increasing awareness about the craftsmanship and cultural significance of the state's textile industry.
- (ii) A celebrated Indian actress, dancer, and philanthropist, Madhuri Dixit has acted in over 70 films in a career spanning four decades, becoming a cultural icon and a symbol of grace and artistic excellence.
- (iii) Madhuri Dixit received the Padma Shri in 2008 in the 'Arts' category and was honoured in 2023 with the Special Recognition to Bharatiya Cinema Award at the 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) held in Goa.

SPORTS

1. India Clinches 27 Medals at Asian U19 & U22 Boxing Championships 2025.



At the Asian U19 & U22 Boxing Championships held in Bangkok in August 2025, India delivered a stellar performance, securing a total of 27 medals across both age categories — marking the nation's growing dominance in Asian youth boxing.

- India's contingent of 40 boxers — 20 in each age group — returned with 27 medals. The U19 team claimed 14 medals (3 gold, 7 silver, 4 bronze), finishing second overall, while the U22 team added 13 medals, culminating in a strong continental showing.

- The U19 category witnessed standout performances, particularly from female pugilists. Nisha (54 kg) and Muskan (57 kg) clinched gold in their respective divisions, while Rahul Kundu secured a hard-earned gold in the men's 75 kg final. These top-tier wins underscore India's strength in youth boxing.

Key Points:-

- (i) In the U22 category, several boxers made it to the finals: Neeraj (75 kg), Ishan Kataria (90+ kg), Yatri Patel (57 kg), and Priya (60 kg), guaranteeing at least silver medals. Additionally, Ritika sealed gold in the women's 80+ kg bracket, helping India complete a robust campaign with 13 medals.
- (ii) The championships reaffirmed India's

rising status in Asian youth boxing. With a haul of medals from both the U19 and U22 levels, the results reflect strong groundwork—from grassroots training to strategic investments by the Boxing Federation of India (BFI)—and signal a promising future for Indian boxing on the international stage.

AWARDS

1. Karnataka's Bibi Fatima Women's SHG Wins UNDP Equator Prize 2025 for Climate-Resilient Farming & Biodiversity Conservation.



A women-led initiative from Karnataka, the Bibi Fatima Self-Help Group (SHG), clinched the prestigious Equator Prize 2025 awarded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), recognising its exemplary work in climate-resilient agriculture and biodiversity conservation in 30 villages.

- In a special virtual ceremony on 8 August 2025, coinciding with the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, UNDP announced the Bibi Fatima SHG among 10 global winners of the Equator Prize 2025. Chosen from over 700 entries spanning 103 countries, the group has been celebrated under the theme

“Nature for Climate Action” for its outstanding women- and youth-led nature-based solutions.

- Founded in 2018 in Teertha village, Kundgol taluk of Dharwad district, Karnataka, the SHG began with just 15 women under the mentorship of Sahaja Samrudha. It now supports 5,000 farmers across 30 villages through innovative practices such as millet-based mixed cropping, climate-resilient farming, livestock rearing, and community seed banks.

Key Points:-

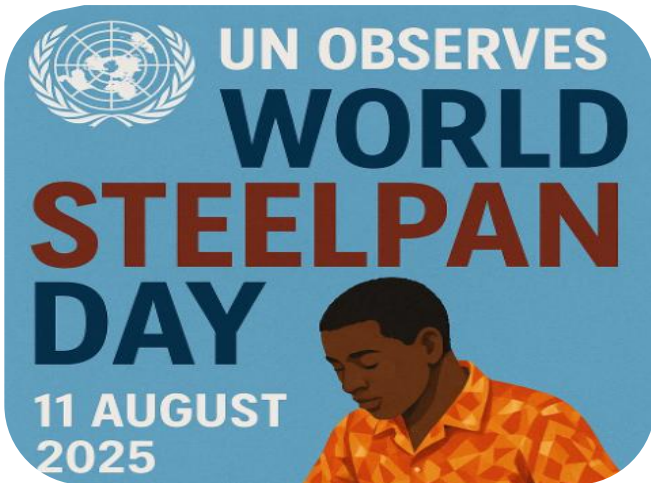
(i) The group's work integrates traditional knowledge with regenerative agriculture and renewable energy, contributing to biodiversity restoration, nutritional and food security, and empowerment of marginalised women and youth as agripreneurs. These efforts have significantly bolstered rural livelihoods and ecological resilience.

(ii) The award includes a cash prize of USD 10,000 (approximately ₹8.5 lakh), along with international recognition. This commendation places Bibi Fatima SHG alongside winners from Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Indonesia, Kenya, Tanzania, Papua New Guinea, and Ecuador, reinforcing its global standing and influence.

(iii) This honour is often dubbed the “Nobel Prize for biodiversity”, and underscores the transformative potential of grassroots, women-led community action in addressing climate change, promoting sustainable agricultural systems, and preserving biodiversity.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. UN Observes World Steelpan Day on 11 August 2025.



On 11 August 2025, the United Nations (UN) observed the 3rd edition of World Steelpan Day, highlighting the cultural, historical, and developmental significance of the steelpan — the National Musical Instrument of Trinidad and Tobago (T&T). This day emphasizes its role in promoting cultural heritage and sustainable development worldwide.

- **World Steelpan Day was formally proposed in 2022** when the Government of Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) approached the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to designate 11 August as an annual observance. The aim was to recognize the steelpan’s global cultural impact and preserve its heritage for future generations.

- On 24 July 2023, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution A/RES/77/316, officially proclaiming 11 August each year as World Steelpan Day. The resolution acknowledged the steelpan’s unique contribution to music, cultural identity, and sustainable development.

- The first-ever World Steelpan Day was celebrated globally on 11 August 2023. It featured cultural performances, educational activities, and awareness campaigns showcasing the instrument’s history and influence beyond the Caribbean region.

Key Points:-

(i) The 2025 observance, held on 11 August, carried the theme “From Roots to Resonance: Echoing Across Generations and Nations.” It focused on bridging generational gaps in music appreciation, promoting cultural exchange, and emphasizing the steelpan’s role in fostering unity.

(ii) Since 1992, Pan Trinbago Inc. T.C., headquartered in Port of Spain (PoS), T&T, has celebrated “Pan Month” every August. This annual event commemorates the official declaration of the steelpan as the National Musical Instrument of T&T, hosting concerts, parades, and educational outreach programs.

(iii) The steelpan, invented in T&T during the 20th century, is celebrated not only as a musical innovation but also as a symbol of resilience and cultural pride. Through World Steelpan Day, the UN underscores its potential to contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by fostering cultural diversity, youth engagement, and global collaboration.

2. United Nations Marks International Youth Day 2025 on 12 August.



The United Nations (UN) annually observes International Youth Day (IYD) on 12 August to celebrate the role of young people in society and raise awareness about issues affecting them. The day promotes their active and equal participation in all spheres of life.

- **The 2025 International Youth Day holds special importance as it marks a decade since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and commemorates the 30th anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), a global framework guiding youth empowerment policies.**
- **The official theme for International Youth Day 2025 is “Local Youth Actions for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Beyond”, focusing on grassroots youth-led initiatives that contribute to achieving global development objectives.**
- **The concept of International Youth Day was first proposed in 1991 during the inaugural session of the UN System’s World Youth Forum in Vienna, Austria, as a dedicated global day to highlight youth issues and contributions.**

Key Points:-

(i) In 1998, the first session of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (WCMRY) adopted a resolution proclaiming 12 August as IYD. The following year, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), at its 54th session, endorsed this in Resolution A/RES/54/120 titled “Policies and Programmes Involving Youth”.

(ii) The first-ever International Youth Day was observed on 12 August 2000, setting the stage for annual global celebrations that encourage youth engagement in sustainable development, social progress, and cultural advancement.

Static GK

Zepto Private Limited (Zepto)	CEO : Aadit Palicha	Headquarters : Bengaluru, Karnataka
Punjab	Capital: Chandigarh	Chief minister: Bhagwant Mann
Zambia	Capital: Lusaka	Currency: Zambian Kwacha
Andhra Pradesh	Chief minister: N. Chandrababu Naidu	Governor: Syed Abdul Nazeer
Nelco Ltd	CEO: P. J. Nath	Founded: 1940
Odisha	Chief minister: Mohan Charan Majhi	Governor: Hari Babu Kambhampati
Karnataka	Chief minister: Siddaramaiah	Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot
Trinidad and Tobago (T&T)	Prime Minister(PM): Kamla Persad-Bissessar	Capital : Port of Spain (PoS)
Nepal	Capital: Kathmandu	Currency: Nepalese Rupee