



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

> 24 & 25 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Centre Forms Rajiv Gauba-Led Panels to Spearhead Next-Gen Reforms and Viksit Bharat Vision.



In late August 2025, the Indian government established two high-powered reform panels headed by Rajiv Gauba, full-time member of NITI Aayog and former Cabinet Secretary, to drive next-generation policy reforms aligned with the Viksit Bharat (Developed India) vision targeting 2047.

- India's Prime Minister, during his Independence Day address on 15 August 2025, announced the formation of a dedicated task force to propose and implement next-generation reforms across governance, taxation, and public service delivery, paving the way for these formal panels.

- The newly constituted panels are composed of senior secretaries, technocrats, and economists, and are charged with revitalizing institutional and economic reforms—including regulatory overhaul in non-financial sectors and strategic alignment of laws, policies, and practices with 21st-century global standards.

Key Points:-

(i) Former Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, now with the rank of Minister of State (MoS)

as a full-time NITI Aayog member since March 2025, will chair both panels, leveraging his extensive administrative experience to drive policy reforms.

(ii) These reforms are integral to steering India along the Viksit Bharat 2047 trajectory, an ambitious roadmap envisaging a developed, inclusive, and innovation-driven nation by its centenary of independence. The vision includes transforming governance, boosting economic growth, enhancing digitalization, and empowering citizens across diverse domains.

(iii) The panels are tasked with setting time-bound deliverables, engaging in multi-sectoral coordination, and recommending systemic changes, reflecting the government's strong commitment to building a future-ready nation. Their outcomes are expected to frame the policy roadmap required to actualize India's long-term developmental goals under the Viksit Bharat banner.

2. Kerala Becomes India's First Fully Digitally Literate State.



In August 2025, Kerala made history by becoming the first fully digitally literate state in India—achieving this feat through its Digi

Kerala initiative. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan declared the breakthrough, which involved training 21.87 lakh people across the state in essential digital skills.

- Kerala's achievement builds on its legacy of high literacy, with full conventional literacy first attained in 1991. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, echoing this spirit, described the milestone as a "giant leap" in progress and empowerment, reflecting the state's commitment to inclusive, knowledge-driven development.

- Launched in 2023, the Digi Kerala programme expanded digital literacy across all age groups and led to a survey covering over 83 lakh households. Subsequently, 21.87 lakh individuals—including senior citizens—were trained, achieving a remarkable 99.98% success rate in digital skills mastery.

- More than 2.57 lakh volunteers—including members from the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), National Service Scheme (NSS), National Cadet Corps (NCC), Nehru Yuva Kendra, and Kudumbashree—led community outreach, helping reach remote areas and bring digital access to marginalized populations.

Key Points:-

(i) The digital journey began in Pullampara, a village in Thiruvananthapuram district, which became India's first fully digitally literate panchayat in 2022. This success became the replicable model that fueled the statewide Digi Kerala rollout.

(ii) The campaign's impact transcended statistics, with centenarians like Abdullah Maulavi (105) and Karunakaran (104) embracing smartphones to video call family, access YouTube, WhatsApp, and navigate online services. Their stories spotlight

Kerala's inclusive approach toward digital equity.

3. Assam Govt Approves Rs.600 Crore Project with Nelco Limited to Boost Youth Skill Development under SSA.



सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

On 22nd August 2025, the Government of Assam, led by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, approved a Rs.600 crore partnership with Nelco Limited (subsidiary of Tata Power) to establish skill education centres across the state under the Samagra Shiksha Axom (SSA) framework.

- The project aims to strengthen skill-based education for Assam's youth by creating a robust hub-and-spoke model that connects schools with advanced vocational training opportunities across multiple sectors.

- Under this collaboration, Nelco Limited will provide satellite communication facilities while the Assam Government will oversee implementation within secondary and higher-secondary schools under the SSA framework.

- The funding pattern includes 75% investment by Tata Group through Nelco Limited, while the remaining 25% will be contributed by the

Government of Assam, making it a public-private partnership model.

Key Points:-

- (i) In the first implementation phase, 10 hubs and 70 spokes will be established. Each hub will focus on 10 futuristic trades or sectors with two trainers per hub, while spokes will train students in two trades each.
- (ii) The larger plan targets the establishment of 50 hubs and 500 spokes across Assam, aimed at transforming vocational education and ensuring wider coverage to rural and semi-urban areas.
- (iii) The project directly supports the vision of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to improve youth employability, while aligning with the Samagra Shiksha Axom (SSA) framework for integrated school education and vocational training.

4. PM Modi Inaugurates ₹5,200 Crore Development Push in Kolkata.



On 22 August 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth over ₹5,200 crore in Kolkata, West Bengal. These include three major metro stretches and a six-lane elevated expressway, aimed at

enhancing urban mobility and interoperability across the metro, rail, and road networks.

- PM Modi flagged off three new Kolkata Metro corridors, adding approximately 14 km to the network and expanding the city's transit grid to 74 km. These include the Sealdah–Esplanade (Green Line), Noapara–Jai Hind Bimanbandar (Yellow Line), and Hemanta Mukhopadhyay–Belegghata (Orange Line) stretches—linking crucial hubs like the airport, Howrah, and the IT district with enhanced connectivity.
- One of the key expansions is the Yellow Line extension from Noapara to Jai Hind (airport) station—marking Kolkata's first metro-airport link. This 7 km stretch, operational since the inauguration, notably reduces travel time between the city and the airport, offering seamless airport access for commuters.

Key Points:-

- (i) The Sealdah–Esplanade section on the East-West Metro (Green Line) finally became fully operational, completing the 16.6 km metro route from Sector-V to Howrah Maidan via the Hooghly River. This milestone marks the culmination of a 16-year effort near identity-defining infrastructure.
- (ii) In addition to rail projects, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for a 7.2 km, six-lane elevated Kona Expressway. Valued at over ₹1,200 crore, this elevated road corridor will significantly improve connectivity between Howrah, its outskirts, and Kolkata, reducing congestion and enhancing commute efficiency.
- (iii) PM Modi emphasized the need for 21st-century transport infrastructure—linking metro, rail, and roads—for urban development. He also highlighted India's

rapid metro expansion—from 250 km in 2014 to over 1,000 km by 2025. Inclusive public transport and initiatives like waste-to-wealth and green mobility were underscored as emblematic of modern India's progress.

5. MoTA Launched 'Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan' – World's Largest Tribal Grassroots Leadership Programme.



In August 2025, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) launched the Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan, the world's largest tribal grassroots leadership programme. The initiative aims to empower tribal communities, strengthen responsive governance, and promote local leadership across India, aligning with the long-term vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

- The Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan is designed as a nationwide leadership movement to train and nurture 20 lakh tribal change leaders. This extensive programme will span across 1 lakh tribal villages, covering 550 districts, and all 30 States and Union Territories (UTs) of India, ensuring large-scale participation and inclusivity.
- The programme builds upon the foundation of flagship initiatives like Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA), Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM

JANMAN), and the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (NSCEM). These schemes have already contributed significantly to tribal welfare and will now be integrated under the new leadership framework.

- A key emphasis of the Abhiyan is on the values of Sewa (Service), Sankalp (Resolve), and Samarpan (Dedication), reinforcing the principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas, Sabka Vishwas." This value-based approach aims to bring sustainable and inclusive development within tribal regions of the country.

Key Points:-

- The Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan also forms a core part of Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh, which commemorates tribal contributions to nation-building. By integrating tribal leadership at the grassroots, the government seeks to create pathways for responsive governance and stronger democratic participation at the village and community levels.
- The objectives of the programme include conducting Multi-Departmental Governance Lab Workshops/Process Labs across states, districts, blocks, and villages.
- These will train capacity builders such as State, District, and Block Master Trainers to implement responsive governance models, thereby empowering tribal youth and leaders to take active roles in decision-making processes.

INTERNATIONAL

1. Trump Nominates Sergio Gor as U.S. Ambassador to India and Special Envoy for South & Central Asia.



On 22–23 August 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump announced the nomination of his close aide Sergio Gor as the next U.S. Ambassador to India, with the added designation of Special Envoy for South and Central Asian Affairs, signaling a strategic expansion in his regional diplomatic mandate.

- President Trump announced the nomination via Truth Social during an escalating trade standoff—amid plans to impose 50% tariffs on Indian goods starting 27 August. The ambassadorial and envoy roles reflect a concerted U.S. shift to reinforce engagement with India and neighboring South Asian countries.

- Sergio Gor’s dual assignment marks the first time a U.S. Ambassador to India has also been designated Special Envoy to the broader South and Central Asian region. This positions him to oversee U.S. relations with critical neighbors including Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan.

Key Points:-

(i) A longtime Counselor to Trump, Sergio Gor currently serves as the White House Director of Presidential Personnel. Despite scrutiny over delayed security clearance and

alleged past feuds—most notably involving Elon Musk—President Trump lauded his loyalty and effectiveness in staffing key positions.

(ii) Until confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Gor will continue his existing role at the White House. The role of Ambassador requires Senate confirmation, while the Special Envoy position does not—highlighting a seamless continuity in both roles.

(iii) Observers view Gor’s nomination as a reflection of growing U.S. attention on India amid complex global dynamics. His expanded remit suggests a push for deeper political and strategic integration across South Asia—potentially reshaping initiatives like diplomacy, trade, and regional security cooperation.

2. EAM S. Jaishankar Concludes 3-Day Visit to Russia (August 19–21, 2025) to Strengthen Bilateral Ties in Energy, Defence, and Trade.



From 19 to 21 August 2025, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar conducted a high-level visit to Moscow by invitation of First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov. He co-chaired the 26th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission (IRIGC-TEC), engaged with business and strategic leaders,

and strengthened bilateral and regional dialogues.

- On 20 August, Dr. Jaishankar co-chaired the 26th Session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) alongside Mr. Denis Manturov, focusing on supply chain, investment, and bilateral trade ambitions. He also addressed the India-Russia Business Forum to explore new areas of economic collaboration.

- Throughout the visit, EAM called for urgent measures to tackle the expanding trade deficit between India and Russia, which has surged to approximately USD 58.9 billion, largely due to increased energy imports. He advocated for balanced economic ties.

- Dr. Jaishankar held substantive meetings with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and later with President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin. Discussions covered broad strategic topics including regional security, global geopolitical developments, and ongoing cooperation.

Key Points:-

(i) During the visit, Russian diplomats reaffirmed their commitment to continue supplying oil to India. They stated a “special system” was in place to navigate sanctions, emphasizing the reliability of the India-Russia energy partnership amidst external pressures.

(ii) MEA sources noted that Dr. Jaishankar reviewed global issues such as the situations in Ukraine, West Asia, Afghanistan, and regional security alongside efforts to fortify the India-Russia “Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership.”

(iii) The visit coincided with a diplomatic

clampdown by the U.S., which imposed steep tariffs on Indian exports in response to oil imports from Russia. Against this backdrop, India’s outreach to Moscow underlined its resolve to preserve geopolitical balance and secure its strategic autonomy.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. PFC Signs EUR 150 Million Loan Pact with Germany’s KfW to Support RDSS Projects.



POWER FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED

In August 2025, Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC), a ‘Maharatna’ Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Power (MoP), signed a loan agreement worth EUR 150 million with Germany’s Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW). The loan will be used to strengthen India’s power distribution network under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

- The agreement was signed in New Delhi between Parminder Chopra, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of PFC, and Stefan Wintels, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of KfW. Also present was Gottfried von Gemmingen, Head of Division for Economic Affairs, German Embassy in New Delhi. This highlights the growing Indo-German cooperation in the field of energy transition and power reforms.

- The loan secured by PFC will specifically be channelled towards projects identified under the Government of India's (GoI) Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), which was launched in 2021 with an overall outlay of ₹3,03,758 crore.

- RDSS aims to improve the operational efficiency and financial sustainability of India's power distribution companies (DISCOMs) through infrastructure modernization and reduction of aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses.

Key Points:-

(i) This partnership is significant for India as it not only provides a strong financial push to the government's flagship RDSS programme but also enhances bilateral energy collaboration between India and Germany. Germany has been a key partner in India's energy transition journey, particularly in supporting renewable energy growth and energy efficiency programmes.

(ii) Funding from this EUR 150 million loan is expected to accelerate the implementation of smart meters, strengthen distribution infrastructure, and reduce power supply disruptions. This will ultimately contribute to the long-term goal of ensuring affordable, reliable, and sustainable electricity access across India.

(iii) The agreement reflects PFC's role as India's leading power sector financier and its growing international partnerships. With this loan, PFC continues to mobilize global financial resources to support domestic power reforms, aligned with India's commitment to energy transition and reduction of carbon emissions under its Nationally Determined Contributions

(NDCs).

2. L&T Finance Partners with Google Pay to Offer Personal Loans, Enhancing Digital Credit Access.



In August 2025, L&T Finance, a leading non-banking financial company (NBFC) in India, entered into a strategic alliance with Google Pay to offer personal loan products to eligible users via the digital payments platform, with the objective of boosting financial inclusion, convenience, and credit access.

- The collaboration between L&T Finance and Google Pay aligns with the NBFC's product diversification strategy, aiming to make personal credit seamless, swift, and accessible through digital touchpoints. This partnership leverages Google Pay's extensive user base and app interface to deliver loans efficiently.

Key Points:-

(i) By integrating loan services with Google Pay, the initiative is set to advance digital financial inclusion in India. Eligible users can apply for personal loans without visiting physical branches, thus empowering consumers to meet financial needs responsibly using a familiar app interface.

(ii) Through this partnership, borrowers

benefit from a fast, digital-first experience: pre-approved offers can be accessed directly in the app, personal information is pre-filled, and paperwork is minimal, enhancing convenience and reducing friction in loan origination.

(iii) The collaboration signals a broader shift where NBFCs increasingly use fintech platforms to broaden reach and reduce acquisition costs. With L&T Finance joining hands with Google Pay, the model underscores emerging synergies in scaling digital credit in underserved segments.

3. JICA Invests USD 40 Million in Aavishkaar Capital's Global Supply Chain Support Fund to Boost SMEs in Asia and Africa.



On August 22, 2025, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) announced an investment of USD 40 million in the Global Supply Chain Support Fund, managed by Aavishkaar Capital, with the objective of strengthening Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) operating in supply chains across Asia and Africa.

- The JICA funding aims to provide strong support for Aavishkaar Capital's expansion into emerging markets of Asia and Africa, enabling SMEs to scale operations, access new markets,

and enhance participation in global supply networks.

- This step is aligned with JICA's broader mission to promote sustainable development and inclusive economic growth through private sector collaboration.
- The fund will primarily focus on SMEs engaged in critical industries such as agriculture, food processing, and manufacturing, which play a central role in global trade and supply chain sustainability. By providing capital and technical assistance, the initiative is designed to foster innovation, increase competitiveness, and promote environmentally and socially responsible practices among SMEs.

Key Points:-

- (i) One of the key objectives of this investment is to build supply chain resilience by extending financial support to SMEs that generate social, environmental, and impact-driven outcomes. This approach ensures that businesses not only grow economically but also contribute to equitable development and climate-friendly business practices.
- (ii) This marks the eighth fund launched by Aavishkaar Capital, with the Global Supply Chain Support Fund established in collaboration with KfW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau – German Development Bank).
- (iii) The partnership reflects a strong international effort to mobilize impact capital for SMEs in developing regions, thereby strengthening economic linkages across Asia and Africa.

MOUs and Agreement

1. Odisha Tourism Dept Inked 3 MoUs with IIT-M, NIWS Goa & LBDFI to Boost Heritage, Adventure & Buddhist Tourism.



In August 2025, the Tourism Department of Odisha signed three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with premier Indian organisations to promote heritage conservation, adventure tourism, and Buddhist pilgrimage circuits across the state. The MoUs were signed with IIT Madras (IIT-M), the National Institute of Water Sports (NIWS), Goa, and the Light of Buddhадharma Foundation International (LBDFI).

- The MoU with IIT Madras focuses on advanced scientific techniques for structural audits and conservation of heritage monuments. This includes detailed documentation, material testing, geo-technical investigations, and preparation of project reports, ensuring scientific precision in the preservation of historic monuments.

- Another key feature of the IIT-M partnership is the emphasis on sustainable reuse plans and consultancy support for project management. These measures aim at long-term preservation of Odisha's historic sites, combining traditional

heritage with modern conservation technologies.

- The MoU with the National Institute of Water Sports (NIWS), Goa is designed to boost safety and standardization in adventure and water tourism. NIWS will provide technical guidance on safety protocols, conduct evaluations, and offer training programs for tourism operators and lifeguards, thereby raising the professional standards of Odisha's adventure tourism sector.

Key Points:-

- The collaboration with Light of Buddhадharma Foundation International (LBDFI), in association with the Odia Language, Literature & Culture Department, seeks to revive Odisha's rich Buddhist heritage.
- This MoU focuses on developing Buddhist pilgrimage circuits while integrating heritage promotion with religious tourism, positioning Odisha as a global destination for spiritual travelers.
- Through these three MoUs, Odisha aims to strengthen its position as a leading cultural and adventure tourism hub. By combining advanced scientific research, enhanced safety measures, and Buddhist heritage revival, the state is aligning tourism development with both economic growth and cultural preservation.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. RBI Appoints Indranil Bhattacharyya as Ex-Officio Member of Monetary Policy Committee.



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently announced the appointment of Indranil Bhattacharyya, Executive Director of RBI, as an ex-officio member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). The decision was taken during the 618th meeting of RBI's Central Board of Directors held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

- **Indranil Bhattacharyya succeeds Rajiv Ranjan, who has now been moved to lead the Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR). The MPC meeting was chaired by Sanjay Malhotra, the 25th Governor of RBI, and focused on reviewing economic conditions and monetary policy frameworks.**

- **The 618th Central Board of Directors meeting reviewed both global and domestic economic developments with particular emphasis on challenges arising from geopolitical tensions and financial market volatility. The meeting also assessed the functioning of Central Office Departments, Board Committees, and the Ombudsman Scheme, ensuring alignment with RBI's policy objectives.**

- **Key attendees at the meeting included RBI's Deputy Governors—M. Rajeshwar Rao, T. Rabi Sankar, Swaminathan J, and Dr. P. K. Mohanty. Government representation was provided by Nagaraj Mudaliar, Secretary of the Department**

of Financial Services (DFS), and Anuradha Thakur, Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA).

Key Points:-

(i) Prominent Board Members also attended, including Satish K. Marathe, Revathy Iyer, Sachin Chaturvedi, Anand Gopal Mahindra (Chairman, Mahindra Group), Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel (Chairman, Zydus Lifesciences Ltd.), and Dr. Ravindra H. Dholakia. Their participation highlighted the strong linkage between central banking policy and corporate-economic perspectives.

(ii) Indranil Bhattacharyya brings over 28 years of experience in central banking and has served more than two-thirds of his career in the Monetary Policy Department (MPD). He also worked as an Adviser in RBI's MPD and gained international exposure as an Economic Expert at Qatar Central Bank (QCB), Doha, for five years between 2009 and 2014.

(iii) The MPC, constituted under the RBI Act, 1934, consists of six members—three RBI nominees and three external experts. It is responsible for setting benchmark interest rates, shaping monetary policy, and supporting overall financial stability, making Bhattacharyya's appointment a key move for RBI's future strategy.

2. Ajay Singh Elected as BFI President for Third Consecutive Term Amid Delayed Elections and Legal Disputes.



Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of SpiceJet, has been recently re-elected as the President of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) for the third consecutive term. His re-election strengthens continuity in BFI's leadership and comes at a critical time when Indian boxing is preparing for upcoming global tournaments.

- **Ajay Singh's re-election took place in August 2025, during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Boxing Federation of India held in New Delhi. The elections were conducted under the supervision of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, ensuring transparency and compliance with the National Sports Development Code of India, 2011.**

- **This marks Singh's third tenure since he first assumed charge in 2016, followed by his re-election in 2020. Under his leadership, the BFI has expanded its international presence, including India hosting the AIBA (International Boxing Association) Women's World Boxing Championship in 2018 and the IBA (International Boxing Association) Men's World Championships bid process in 2023.**

- **The re-election is seen as significant because Singh has played a vital role in enhancing India's boxing infrastructure. He has facilitated the development of High-Performance Centres,**

improved grassroots training, and initiated international exposure tours for boxers in association with the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

Key Points:-

(i) Senior officials from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, along with representatives of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), attended the AGM

(ii) The BFI also announced plans to strengthen women's boxing and introduce advanced analytics and sports science methods to improve athlete performance in line with Olympic preparations.

(iii) Ajay Singh highlighted that the immediate focus of his next term will be on the 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan, and the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. He reiterated his commitment to securing more medals for India and expanding partnerships with global boxing federations, thereby positioning India as a rising power in world boxing.

SPORTS

1. 18th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) Held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.



The 18th edition of the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA), a global competition for secondary school students, was hosted in Mumbai, Maharashtra from August 11 to 21, 2025. This was the first time India hosted the event, marking a historic milestone with record participation.

- The event was organized by the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), which is a national centre of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai. The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India, supported the event through the Vigyan Pratibha Project of HBCSE, ensuring extensive participation and smooth execution.

- The 18th IOAA 2025 witnessed the largest-ever participation in its history, featuring over 300 students from 64 countries.

- With India hosting the event for the first time, the scale of representation and enthusiasm showcased the country's growing role in global scientific and academic initiatives.

Key Points:-

(i) India achieved remarkable success in this edition by securing 4 gold medals and 1 silver medal. Aarush Mishra from Bengaluru (Karnataka), Banibrata Majee from Delhi, Panini from Patna (Bihar), and Akshat Srivastava from Kolkata (West Bengal) each won gold medals, while Sumant Gupta from Gurugram (Haryana) earned a silver medal.

(ii) An important development during the IOAA Board Meeting was the suspension of Israel as a recognized national team for future editions. The representatives of 64 participating countries voted for this decision, mandating that Israeli students

may only compete as individuals without official national representation.

(iii) The successful hosting of IOAA 2025 in Mumbai not only highlighted India's scientific capabilities but also strengthened its position as a global leader in education and innovation. The victory of Indian students further reinforced the nation's academic excellence in astronomy and astrophysics.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. UN Observed International Day Commemorating Victims of Religion-Based Violence on 22 August.



The United Nations (UN) annually observes the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief on 22nd August.

- The day highlights the global commitment to condemn violence, extremism, and terrorism against individuals and communities targeted for their religion or belief.

- The year 2025 marks the 7th observance of this international day, with 22nd August serving as a reminder of the need for stronger protection of human rights and freedom of religion.

- The commemoration also urges governments and societies worldwide to ensure safety and dignity for all faith groups.

Key Points:-

- (i) The background of this observance traces back to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), which on 28th May 2019 adopted Resolution A/RES/73/296.
- (ii) This resolution officially designated 22nd August as the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief.
- (iii) The first International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief was held on 22nd August 2019. Since then, it has been marked annually to honour the memory of victims and reaffirm global solidarity in addressing acts of intolerance, discrimination, and violence motivated by religious hatred.

2. National Space Day 2025 was celebrated on 23 August.



National Space Day 2025 was celebrated on 23 August to commemorate the Chandrayaan-3's historic soft landing near the Moon's south pole in 2023. The day

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serves as a tribute to India's space triumphs and a catalyst to inspire scientific curiosity and innovation nationwide.

- National Space Day was officially declared by Prime Minister Narendra Modi following the Chandrayaan-3 mission's success on 23 August 2023, which made India the fourth country to land on the Moon and the first to reach the southern polar region.
- The theme for 2025, "Aryabhatta to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities," links India's astronomical heritage—starting with the legendary astronomer Aryabhatta—to its aspirations for human spaceflight via the Gaganyaan mission.
- This year's main event was organized at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, featuring panel discussions, exhibitions, and "Space on Wheels" mobile exhibitions, intended to popularize space science among youth across India.

Key Points:-

- (i) In Uttar Pradesh, over 14.8 million students across 1.32 lakh schools engaged in space-related activities, digital learning, exhibitions, and competitions aligned with NEP 2020 objectives.
- (ii) In Guwahati, events at planetariums showcased exhibits under the theme, "Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities." Science & Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh and ISRO scientists were present to steer public interest.
- (iii) Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded India's strides in semi-cryogenic engines and electric propulsion, expressing confidence in humanity's deeper foray into space. ISRO unveiled the model of Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), and Defense Minister Jitendra Singh highlighted

the use of space technology in strategic domains, underscoring its applications in national security.

OBITUARY

1. Srinivasan K. Swamy Re-Elected President of the Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI) for 2025–26.



On 14 August 2025, Srinivasan K. Swamy, Executive Group Chairman of R K Swamy Ltd, was re-elected as President of the Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI) for the year 2025–26—marking his fourth term in the role, with Jaideep Gandhi serving as Vice-President.

- Srinivasan Swamy’s recent election marks his return to AAAI’s helm after an 18-year hiatus. His earlier leadership spanned three consecutive terms from 2004 to 2007, shaping him as a seasoned and trusted industry veteran.

- The appointment took place at AAAI’s Annual General Body Meeting held on 14 August 2025. Alongside Swamy, Jaideep Gandhi was elected Vice-President. The new Board includes prominent figures from leading agencies like Leo Burnett, Madison Communications, Grey Worldwide, Havas Media, and more.

- A stalwart of India’s advertising and marketing communications sector, Swamy has previously held leadership roles in numerous national and international organizations—including the International Advertising Association (IAA), the Confederation of Asian Advertising Agencies Association, Advertising Standards Council of India, and the Audit Bureau of Circulations—highlighting his widespread influence and commitment.

Key Points:-

(i) Outgoing President Prasanth Kumar, who served from 2022–23 to 2024–25, welcomed Swamy’s return and expressed confidence that Swamy’s vast expertise would propel AAAI toward new milestones. Kumar will now serve as an ex-officio member of the AAAI Board.

(ii) Widely recognized with multiple awards, including AAAI’s Lifetime Achievement Award, Swamy has been instrumental in advancing industry standards, fostering collaboration, and championing advertising interests across India and internationally, reinforcing his legacy as a guiding force.

Static GK

Kerala	Chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan	Governor: Rajendra Arlekar
United States	Capital: Washington, D.C.	President: Donald Trump
United Nations (UN)	Secretary - General (SG) : António Guterres	Headquarters : New York
Odisha	Chief minister: Mohan Charan Majhi	Governor: Hari Babu Kambhampati
Assam	Chief minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma	Governor: Lakshman Acharya
Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC)	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) : Parminder Chopra	Headquarters: New Delhi
Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)	Minister : Durga Das Uikey	Headquarter : New Delhi
L&T Finance	CEO: Sudipta Roy	Headquarter : Mumbai
Japan International Cooperation	President: Shinichi Kitaoka	Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan

Agency (JICA)		
Russia	Capital: Moscow	Prime minister: Mikhail Mishustin
RBI	Governor : Sanjay Malhotra	Headquarter : Mumbai