

# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**> 27 AUGUST 2025**

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

### 1. President Murmu Assents to Online Gaming Act, 2025 and Money Games Banned.



On August 22, 2025, President Droupadi Murmu granted her assent to the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025, which had been swiftly passed by both Houses of Parliament just the day before. The Act aims to prohibit real-money online games while promoting e-sports and social gaming under regulatory oversight.

- In a landmark move, the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 marks India's decisive step to curb the harms associated with unregulated online money gaming. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 20, 2025, and remarkably passed the Rajya Sabha the very next day — reflecting a fast-tracked legislative push.
- At the heart of the Act lies the unequivocal ban on online money games—platforms where users stake money, credits, or tokens for potential monetary gain, regardless of whether outcomes are based on skill or chance. Advertising, financial facilitation, or promotion of such games is also outlawed.
- Crucially, the new law does not penalize players; rather, accountability is placed firmly on

service providers, advertisers, and financial facilitators who support such gaming platforms. Non-compliance carries penalties of up to three years' imprisonment and ₹1 crore in fines, with advertising crimes attracting up to two years and ₹50 lakh, and repeat offences leading to up to five years and ₹2 crore in fines.

#### Key Points:-

- To ensure robust enforcement and future governance, the Act enables the central government to constitute an Online Gaming Authority (or vest these powers in an existing body). This authority will have powers to classify games, manage registration of permissible "e-sports" or "online social games," and usher in regulatory oversight.
- With the President's assent formalizing the Bill as an Act, relevant rules and enforcement mechanisms are now being drafted by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The MeitY Secretary, S. Krishnan, has confirmed that the law will take effect following official notification, and parts of it may come into force prior to rule-making where possible.
- Finally, this legislation reflects a dual approach: shielding citizens—particularly youth and families—from financial distress and exploitation while fostering a regulated environment for e-sports and social gaming. This is expected to bolster jobs, innovation, and India's standing in the digital creative economy.

### 2. India Launches First-Ever National Guidelines for Animal Blood Banks and Transfusion.





In August 2025, India's Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAH&D), unveiled the nation's first comprehensive guidelines—establishing standard procedures and infrastructure for veterinary blood transfusion services.

- India's livestock sector comprises over 537 million animals, while companion animals number more than 125 million—together contributing approximately 5.5 percent to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and over 30 percent to agricultural GDP—making the recently launched veterinary transfusion guidelines a vital boon to food security and rural livelihoods.

- The meticulously crafted “Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Blood Transfusion and Blood Banks for Animals in India” fill a longstanding void in veterinary care. Before this, blood transfusions were carried out in emergencies without standard donor screening, blood typing, or storage protocols.

- Under this framework, blood typing and cross-matching are now mandatory to avoid transfusion reactions. The guidelines also specify donor eligibility—covering criteria such as health, vaccination status, age, weight, and disease screening—and emphasize voluntary,

non-remunerated donations backed by informed consent and a Donor Rights Charter.

#### Key Points:-

(i) To improve infrastructure and coordination, the guidelines propose the creation of state-regulated veterinary blood banks with biosafety-compliant facilities. They also envision a National Veterinary Blood Bank Network (N-VBBN) that includes digital registries, real-time inventory tracking, and an emergency helpline.

(ii) Education and capacity building are central to the framework: transfusion medicine modules will be incorporated into undergraduate (BVSc & AH), postgraduate, and Continuing Veterinary Education (CVE) curricula. Additionally, training for practitioners will ensure widespread adoption of safe practices nationwide.

(iii) The guidelines also pave the way for future innovations—encouraging mobile collection units for remote areas, cryopreservation techniques for rare blood types, and mobile applications to match donors and recipients in real time—strengthening both emergency preparedness and long-term veterinary care infrastructure.

### 3. Nepal Joins India-Led International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) for Global Big Cat Conservation.

## Nepal Recently Joins India-Led International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) for Global Big Cat Conservation



In August 2025, Nepal officially became a member of the India-led International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) by signing the framework agreement. This major step enhances transboundary cooperation in big cat conservation, with India spearheading efforts to protect seven big cat species through international collaboration.

- Nepal's entry into the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) increases the membership strength to 13 nations, which now includes India, Armenia, Bhutan, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Guinea, Liberia, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Somalia, Suriname, and Nepal. This expansion underscores growing global recognition of the urgent need to safeguard endangered big cats across multiple continents.

- The IBCA was originally launched on April 09, 2023, by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi during the "Commemorating 50 Years of Project Tiger" event in Mysuru, Karnataka. The alliance was envisioned as a platform to bring together tiger-range and non-range countries under one umbrella for the conservation of seven major species—tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar, and puma.

- According to data, Nepal has successfully raised its tiger population from just 121 in 2009 to 355 in 2022, reflecting one of the most

remarkable success stories in South Asia's conservation efforts. This achievement places Nepal among the global leaders in big cat conservation and complements India's own strides under Project Tiger.

### Key Points:-

(i) In February 2024, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the formal establishment of the IBCA with its headquarters in New Delhi, India. The Cabinet also cleared a budgetary support of ₹150 crore for five years (2023-24 to 2028-29) to strengthen IBCA operations and promote international projects in wildlife conservation.

(ii) The nodal agency for IBCA has been designated as the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), functioning under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). NTCA is tasked with coordination, scientific guidance, and policy alignment to enable countries to exchange best practices for managing and conserving big cat populations across landscapes.

(iii) A significant milestone for IBCA was achieved on January 23, 2025, when the Treaty-Based Agreement was formally signed in New Delhi. This event brought together countries like Armenia, Bhutan, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Guatemala, Liberia, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Somalia, and Suriname along with India, strengthening the alliance's legal foundation and long-term commitment to global wildlife protection.

**4. Amit Shah Inaugurates All India Speakers' Conference on 100th Anniversary of Vitthalbhai Patel as First Indian Speaker.**



On August 24, 2025, Union Minister of Home Affairs (MHA) Amit Shah, along with the Ministry of Cooperation (MoC), inaugurated the two-day All India Speakers' Conference at the Delhi Legislative Assembly, New Delhi, to mark the 100th anniversary of Vitthalbhai Patel becoming the first elected Indian President (Speaker) of the Central Legislative Assembly.

- Vitthalbhai Patel, elder brother of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, was born on September 27, 1873, in Karamsad, Gujarat, and emerged as a freedom fighter and reformist.
- He initially worked with the Indian National Congress (INC), advocating for political reforms, self-governance, and legislative representation for Indians under colonial rule.
- In 1925, Vitthalbhai Patel made history by becoming the first Indian to be elected as the President (Speaker) of the Central Legislative Assembly, defeating British civil servant Frederick Whyte. His leadership marked a turning point in India's struggle for parliamentary self-representation.

### Key Points:-

- (i) Union Minister Amit Shah also inaugurated an exhibition under the theme "Veer Vitthalbhai Patel Gaurav Katha" at the

Delhi Assembly premises. This exhibition showcased Patel's journey and contributions to India's freedom movement and legislative reforms.

(ii) As part of the commemoration, a special postage stamp was released featuring Vitthalbhai Patel's portrait and the Central Legislative Assembly building. The stamp was issued jointly by the India Post and the Ministry of Communications (MoC).

(iii) Additionally, two flip books were launched during the event — one on the life and contributions of Vitthalbhai Patel and another on the Delhi Vidhan Sabha's transformative history across decades. These initiatives aimed to highlight Patel's legacy and strengthen awareness of India's democratic journey.

## INTERNATIONAL

### 1. Oman Targets One Million Indian Tourists Annually to Bolster Tourism and Economic Diversification.



Oman has recently announced a bold target to attract one million Indian tourists annually, up from about 700,000 in 2024, as part of its broader tourism expansion and economic diversification strategy under Vision 2040.



- Oman is aiming to elevate the number of Indian visitors to one million annually, building upon the roughly 700,000 Indian tourists it welcomed in 2024. This initiative underscores Oman's intent to tap into the strong cultural and economic bonds it shares with India.
- The Sultanate's tourism thrust emphasizes attracting high-value segments including luxury travel, destination weddings, Meetings-Incentives-Conferences-Exhibitions (MICE), and adventure tourism such as desert safaris, mountain treks, and cultural experiences.

### Key Points:-

- (i) Oman's Ministry of Heritage and Tourism is intensively promoting its offerings via the "Focus Oman" roadshow held in Jaipur and other Indian cities, using multi-channel campaigns that highlight Oman's landscapes, heritage, and visitor-friendly visa policies.
- (ii) A key enabler of this push is the enhanced flight connectivity between Oman (Muscat) and major Indian cities, coupled with simplified e-visa or visa-on-arrival policies for Indian nationals—making travel more convenient and seamless.
- (iii) This tourism drive dovetails with Oman's long-term development blueprint—Vision 2040—which aims to diversify the economy and prioritize sustainable tourism. Oman seeks to host around 11.7 million international tourists annually by 2040, with India playing a central role in achieving this milestone.

## 2. Akums Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited and Government of Zambia Form Joint Venture to Establish Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Facility by 2025.



In August 2025, India's leading Contract Development and Manufacturing Organisation (CDMO), Akums Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, signed a framework agreement with the Government of Zambia (GRZ) to set up a joint venture (JV) pharmaceutical manufacturing facility in Zambia. The facility will boost medicine supply for Zambia's health programs and regional exports.

- The new pharmaceutical project will be executed through a Joint Venture (JV) between Akums Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited and the Government of Zambia (GRZ). Akums will hold a majority stake of 51%, while the remaining 49% will be owned by Zambian state instrumentalities.

- As per the agreement, the JV company is scheduled to be incorporated by December 2025, with the new greenfield pharmaceutical facility expected to commence operations by 2028. This timeline aligns with Zambia's national health program objectives to enhance domestic drug production capacity.

- The proposed facility will focus on manufacturing a wide range of medicines including oral solids, liquid injectables, and beta-lactam products. These medicines will primarily support Zambia's healthcare requirements and

will also help in reducing dependency on imported drugs, ensuring affordable and accessible treatments.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Under the procurement arrangement, the Government of Zambia (GRZ) has committed to purchasing medicines worth a minimum aggregate value of USD 50 million (approximately Rs 425 crore) over the period 2026–2027. These medicines will be manufactured and supplied from Akums' facilities in India until the Zambian plant becomes operational.

(ii) Upon establishment, the facility will act as a pharmaceutical hub for Southern Africa. Medicines produced here will be exported to neighboring countries such as Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana, Malawi, Tanzania, and Mozambique, strengthening India's pharmaceutical footprint in the African continent.

(iii) This partnership highlights India's role as a global healthcare partner. The Akums-GRZ JV will not only create jobs in Zambia but also enhance healthcare infrastructure and reduce drug shortages. It signifies a model for international collaboration in pharmaceuticals between India and African nations.



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved the request of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to be reclassified from a promoter shareholder to a public shareholder in Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI Bank), marking a key step in the bank's privatization process.

- In August 2025, SEBI gave its nod for the reclassification move, which comes as a precondition for the privatization of IDBI Bank. As of June 2025, LIC held a 49% stake in IDBI Bank, making it one of the largest shareholders alongside the Government of India (GoI).

- The reclassification requires LIC to comply with strict SEBI conditions, including voting rights capped at 10%, no direct or indirect control over IDBI Bank, absence of board representation, and a compulsory reduction of its stake to 15% or less within two years.

#### Key Points:-

(i) SEBI has clearly stated that non-compliance by LIC with these conditions will lead to the automatic cancellation of the reclassification status, thereby impacting the ongoing privatization roadmap of IDBI Bank.

(ii) As part of the disinvestment plan, the Government of India and LIC together hold 94.72% stake in IDBI Bank, with GoI holding

## BANKING & FINANCE

### 1. SEBI Approves Reclassification of LIC as a Public Shareholder in IDBI Bank.

45.48% and LIC holding 49.24%. Both stakeholders have agreed to jointly divest 60.7% of their stake through a strategic sale.

(iii) The financial bidding process for IDBI Bank's privatization is scheduled to take place between October and December 2025, making this SEBI approval a critical milestone in India's broader banking sector reforms and disinvestment agenda.

## 2. Malaysia Launches Ryt Bank, World's First AI-Powered Bank.



In August 2025, Malaysia launched Ryt Bank, the world's first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered bank developed indigenously for local users. The initiative highlights Malaysia's rapid digital transformation and growing role in global fintech innovation.

- **Ryt Bank was developed by Malaysia's YTL in collaboration with Singapore's tech firm Sea Limited, marking a milestone partnership in the digital banking sector. The project emphasizes cross-border cooperation to strengthen Southeast Asia's fintech ecosystem.**

### Key Points:-

(i) The bank is supported by the Ryt AI application, which is multilingual and

currently available in Bahasa, Malaysia, and English, with Mandarin support expected by September 2025. This makes it the first multilingual AI-powered digital banking platform designed for diverse users.

(ii) Ryt AI functions as an always-on banking assistant tool, powered by ILMU, Malaysia's first indigenously developed Large Language Model (LLM), ensuring intelligent, automated, and user-friendly banking services. The new Ryt Bank is officially licensed by Bank Negara Malaysia, the country's central bank.

## 3. Japan's SMBC Receives RBI Approval to Acquire 25% Stake in Yes Bank.



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently granted approval to Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Inc. (SMFG), to acquire up to 24.99% paid-up capital and voting rights in Yes Bank Limited, one of India's leading private sector banks. This acquisition marks one of the largest cross-border investments in the Indian banking sector.

- **In May 2025, SMBC entered into a definitive agreement to purchase a 20% stake in Yes Bank**



through a secondary stake purchase valued at around ₹13,483 crore.

- This investment reflects SMBC's long-term commitment to expanding its presence in the Indian financial services sector and comes as one of the largest foreign direct investments in India's banking industry.
- The approved deal by RBI covers the acquisition of a total 24.99% stake, which includes 13.19% purchased directly from the SBI, the largest shareholder in Yes Bank. Additionally, the remaining 6.81% stake will be acquired collectively from seven other major financial institutions, including ICICI Bank Limited, HDFC Bank Limited, Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL), Axis Bank Limited, IDFC First Bank Limited, Federal Bank Limited, and Bandhan Bank Limited.

#### Key Points:-

- As per the Reserve Bank of India's clarification, the approval granted to SMBC will remain valid for one year. Importantly, the central bank has also specified that SMBC will not be classified as a promoter of Yes Bank, despite holding nearly one-fourth of its stake, which ensures compliance with Indian banking regulatory norms.
- The acquisition is subject to regulatory frameworks, including the Banking Regulation Act (BRA), 1949, the RBI's guidelines on acquisition of bank shares, and the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.
- This transaction not only strengthens capital inflows into India but also highlights growing global investor confidence in the Indian banking sector's stability and future growth potential.

## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

### 1. Fitch Ratings Reaffirms India's 'BBB-' Long-Term Rating with Stable Outlook.



On August 25, 2025, Fitch Ratings, one of the three largest global credit rating agencies, reaffirmed India's Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'BBB-' with a stable outlook. This rating reflects strong growth fundamentals but highlights risks from high government debt and U.S. tariff threats.

- Fitch Ratings, headquartered in New York and London, recently retained India's rating at 'BBB-', which is the lowest investment-grade rating under the International Credit Rating Scale.
- A 'BBB' rating indicates moderate credit risk with adequate repayment capacity, while the minus (-) sign shows the lowest level in that grade. Any downgrade below 'BBB-' would push India into speculative or "junk" status, raising borrowing costs and limiting foreign investments.
- The reaffirmation is supported by India's projected Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 6.5 percent for the fiscal year 2025-26 (FY26), significantly higher than the 'BBB' median of 2.5 percent. Growth is being driven by domestic demand, steady private consumption, and

public capital expenditure (CapEx) programs initiated by the MoF under Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Fitch underlined that India's diversified economy, service sector performance, and external financial stability are key strengths.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) However, risks have been highlighted from United States (U.S.) tariff measures, where duties up to 50 percent on certain Indian exports were announced, especially in relation to oil imports from Russia.
- (ii) While Fitch expects limited direct impact on GDP, it warned of negative consequences on trade flows and business sentiment. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), led by Union Minister Piyush Goyal, is working on mitigating these challenges through trade diversification.
- (iii) On the fiscal side, Fitch projected general government debt at 81.5 percent of GDP in FY26, coupled with high interest-to-revenue ratios. The government, however, has targeted a fiscal deficit reduction to 4.4 percent of GDP this year. Reform proposals, including GST rationalisation into two slabs (5 percent and 18 percent), were noted as steps towards strengthening fiscal sustainability. The agency concluded that while India's fundamentals are strong, sustained fiscal reforms will be essential for any future rating upgrade.

## 2. Former CRPF DG Anish Dayal Singh Appointed as Deputy NSA.



The Government of India (GoI) has appointed Anish Dayal Singh, former Director General (DG) of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), as the new Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA), effective from August 24, 2025. He will report directly to NSA Ajit Doval.

- Anish Dayal Singh, a 1988-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Manipur cadre, retired from active service in December 2024.
- He has now been entrusted with a crucial national role to assist in strengthening India's internal security framework. His extensive policing and intelligence background played a significant role in his selection for the position.
- In his new role as Deputy NSA, Singh will primarily focus on handling internal security matters. This includes overseeing security in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), combating Left-Wing Extremism (LWE), and managing insurgency-related challenges in the Northeast region. His vast experience in paramilitary leadership will aid in framing effective strategies for these sensitive areas.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) Before this appointment, Anish Dayal Singh served nearly three decades in the Intelligence Bureau (IB), where he dealt with

critical national security issues. Later, he went on to lead the ITBP and CRPF as Director General, gaining frontline operational experience in border and internal security management.

(ii) During his tenure as DG CRPF, Singh also monitored crucial deployments for the 2024 Lok Sabha (Lower House of Parliament) general elections and the first assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir after its reorganization. His ability to oversee complex security operations has made him a trusted officer for high-stake assignments.

(iii) With his appointment, Singh will work directly under NSA Ajit Doval, contributing to the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) in shaping India's internal security policies. His leadership is expected to reinforce India's preparedness against insurgency, terrorism, and emerging internal threats.

nations—appointed Dr. Rajiv Ranjan, a veteran central banker from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as its Vice-President (VP) and Chief Risk Officer (CRO) for a five-year term. This strategic elevation reflects his extensive expertise in macroeconomic policy and financial governance.

● **Dr. Rajiv Ranjan's elevation to the position of VP and CRO at the NDB underscores a pivotal strategic move for both India and the bank. It comes at a time when global financial tensions are escalating, notably between emerging economies and major Western powers, adding gravitas to his role in safeguarding the bank's risk frameworks.**

● **Dr. Ranjan joined the Reserve Bank of India in 1989 and has cultivated a profound career as a central banker. Since May 2022, he's served as an Executive Director and a member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), playing a pivotal role in shaping monetary and liquidity policy in India. Previously, he led the RBI's Monetary Policy Department and acted as Secretary to the MPC.**

#### Key Points:-

(i) Beyond his RBI tenure, Dr. Ranjan held assignments in the RBI's International Department and External Investments and Operations Department. From 2012 to 2015, he served as an Economic Policy Expert at the Central Bank of Oman. He also led the RBI's Department of Economic and Policy Research, fostering data-driven policy formulation.

(ii) Dr. Ranjan's extensive global exposure includes representing India and engaging with policy discussions at major international institutions such as the G20, International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, Bank for International Settlements (BIS), Financial

## APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

### 1. Dr. Rajiv Ranjan Appointed Vice-President and Chief Risk Officer at the New Development Bank (NDB).



On August 23, 2025, the Board of Governors of the New Development Bank (NDB)—a multilateral lender established by the BRICS



Stability Board (FSB), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and SAARC. His authorship of multiple economic publications and three co-authored books further enhances his scholarly credentials.

(iii) As Chief Risk Officer, Dr. Ranjan will oversee the NDB's risk management, strategic planning, policy formulation, partnerships, and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) functions. He will also spearhead the bank's engagement in global forums focused on climate change and developmental financing — reinforcing India's influence in the global south's multilateral financial system.

## SPORTS

### 1. Veteran Indian Test Star Cheteshwar Pujara Retires from All Forms of Indian Cricket.



On 24 August 2025, Cheteshwar Arvind Pujara, a stalwart of Indian Test cricket, announced his retirement from all forms of Indian cricket. At 37, the resilient right-handed top-order batter concluded a decorated career that spanned over a decade and left an enduring legacy defined by grit, patience, and classical technique.

● Pujara made his Test debut in October 2010 against Australia and played his final appearance in the 2023 World Test Championship final. Over 103 Test matches, he amassed 7,195 runs at an impressive average of 43.60, including 19 centuries and 35 half-centuries. He also featured in five One-Day Internationals (ODIs), though his true impact lay in the red-ball format.

● Beyond international play, Pujara's domestic record shines brightly. He scored over 21,301 runs in first-class cricket, including 66 centuries, cementing his status as a cornerstone of domestic cricket, particularly for Saurashtra. His unwavering focus and consistency made him one of India's most dependable first-class performers.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Following Cheteshwar Pujara's retirement, tributes poured in from the cricket fraternity. Legendary opener Sunil Gavaskar hailed him saying, "Take a bow Cheteshwar. You have made India proud," while Virat Kohli thanked him for making his role at No. 4 easier through his consistent presence at No. 3. Fans, fellow players, and commentators celebrated him as a "modern-day Test match warrior" and a true symbol of classical batting discipline, admired for his grit, patience, and unwavering commitment to Test cricket.

(ii) Pujara revealed that he had been considering retirement for only about a week before announcing it on 24 August 2025. While this chapter closes, he has expressed his desire to contribute to Indian cricket in "whatever manner" he can—possibly through mentorship, commentary, or developmental roles.

## 2. Mumbai Cricket Association Unveils Sunil Gavaskar Statue at Wankhede and Inaugurates MCA Sharad Pawar Cricket Museum.



On August 23, 2025, the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) inaugurated the MCA Sharad Pawar Cricket Museum at the Wankhede Stadium and honoured cricketing legend Sunil Gavaskar with a life-size statue at the museum's entrance, alongside one of veteran administrator Sharad Pawar—signifying a homage to both the sport's history and governance in Mumbai.

- The newly launched MCA Sharad Pawar Cricket Museum, spanning 8,000 square feet, opened its doors with grandeur. At its entrance, visitors are greeted by impressive life-size statues of Sunil Gavaskar and Sharad Pawar, symbolizing the city's cricketing excellence and administrative leadership.

- Sunil Gavaskar expressed deep gratitude, calling the honour “unique” and recounting that MCA had supported him since his early days. He said he was “at a loss for words” and emotionally tied the tribute to his journey in Mumbai cricket.

- Inside the museum, visitors encounter a blend of physical memorabilia, interactive exhibits, and advanced digital displays. The curated

sections pay homage to Mumbai's cricketing stars, women's achievements, World Cup successes, administrators, and member clubs, offering both nostalgic value and technological immersion.

### Key Points:-

(i) MCA President Ajinkya Naik described the museum as a heartfelt tribute to stalwarts like Sharad Pawar and Sunil Gavaskar. He praised Sharad Pawar's visionary leadership in elevating Mumbai cricket and administrative governance. Ashish Shelar, Maharashtra's Information Technology Minister, highlighted the museum's global potential, likening it to iconic cricket museums like Lord's.

(ii) The museum will open to the public starting September 22, 2025, with admission via online bookings. Its creation not only enriches Mumbai's sports infrastructure but also stands as a cultural locus, preserving cricket's rich heritage and inspiring future generations.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Water Week 2025 Observed from August 24 to 28, Focuses on Climate Action and Global Water Challenges.

## WORLD WATER WEEK 2025

Observed from August 24 to 28, Focuses on Climate Action and Global Water Challenges



World Water Week (WWW), the leading international conference addressing global water challenges, is observed annually in the last week of August. The 35th edition is being held from August 24 to 28, 2025, focusing on climate action, sustainability, sanitation, and equitable access to clean water.

- **The 2025 edition of World Water Week is centered around the theme “Water for Climate Action”, highlighting the crucial role of water in mitigating and adapting to climate change. It addresses the interconnected crises of climate change, environmental degradation, and biodiversity loss, while focusing on how water solutions can help build a sustainable and climate-resilient future.**

- **Organized annually by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), World Water Week has grown into the most prominent global event on water issues. It gathers policymakers, researchers, NGOs, and international organizations to deliberate on solutions related to clean water, sanitation, waste management, and integrated water resource management.**

- **The observance of World Water Week emphasizes the integration of the entire water cycle—from freshwater resources to oceans—ensuring ecosystem protection and sustainable practices. Special focus is placed on equity and climate justice, ensuring that vulnerable and marginalized communities worldwide are not left behind in the water and sanitation agenda.**

#### Key Points:-

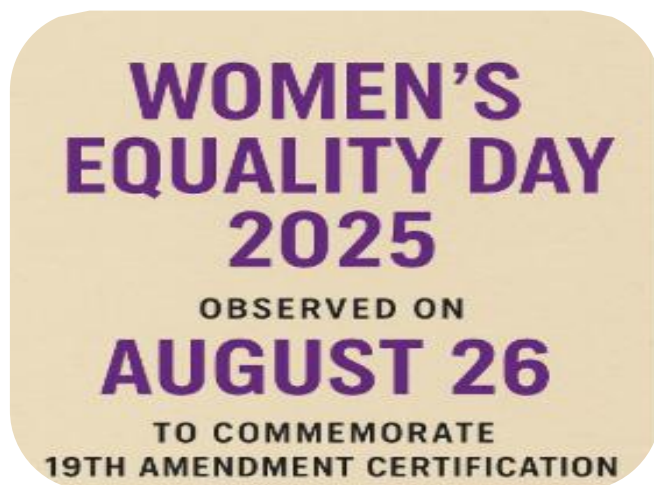
(i) The history of the event traces back to 1991, when Stockholm hosted the first Stockholm Water Symposium alongside a public festival celebrating clean waters. This inaugural symposium attracted leading

global water scientists and set the foundation for annual international collaboration on water-related issues.

(ii) In 2001, the Stockholm Water Symposium was officially renamed World Water Week in Stockholm, reinforcing its identity as a premium global platform for freshwater and sustainability discussions.

(iii) Since then, the event has become a hub for innovative policies, research-based practices, and international cooperation to address the water crisis on a global scale.

## 2. Women’s Equality Day 2025 Observed on August 26 to Commemorate 19th Amendment Certification.



Women’s Equality Day, observed annually on August 26, marks the certification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1920, which granted American women the right to vote. Established in the early 1970s, the day celebrates women’s suffrage milestones while underscoring ongoing efforts toward full gender equality.

- **The 19th Amendment, also known as the “Susan B. Anthony Amendment,” prohibits the denial of voting rights based on sex. Although ratification occurred earlier, it was officially**



certified on August 26, 1920, making women's suffrage a constitutional reality.

- In 1971, Congresswoman Bella Abzug (D-NY) introduced a joint resolution to designate August 26 annually as Women's Equality Day. This followed the nationwide Women's Strike for Equality in 1970, marking the 50th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. In 1972, President Richard Nixon issued the first "Women's Rights Day" proclamation, followed by the Congress passing the resolution in 1973. Since then, U.S. Presidents have proclaimed the observance annually.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The roots of Women's Equality Day trace back to the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848, which ignited the formal women's rights movement in the U.S. Spearheaded by activists like Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the suffrage movement evolved through decades of advocacy, culminating in legislative success with the 19th Amendment.

(ii) While Women's Equality Day honors historical victories, it also invites reflection on unfinished business. Issues such as the gender pay gap, underrepresentation in leadership, and intersectional inequalities persist. The day calls for renewed focus on gender justice, civic participation, and systemic reforms to ensure equality beyond the right to vote.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### 1. DRDO Successfully Conducts Maiden Flight Tests of Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS) off Odisha Coast.



In August 2025, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) achieved a major milestone by successfully conducting the maiden flight tests of the Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS) off the coast of Odisha. The tests validated India's multi-layered air defence capability against diverse aerial threats.

- The Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS) comprises a combination of advanced missile and futuristic weapon technologies. It includes the Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) for medium-range interception, the Advanced Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) for close-range engagement, and the Directed Energy Weapon (DEW) for futuristic interception capabilities.

- The QRSAM (Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile) was developed by DRDO in collaboration with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL). This medium-range missile system provides rapid-response interception of aerial threats, ensuring layered protection in the integrated air defence network.

- The VSHORADS (Very Short Range Air Defence System) was developed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad. It is designed for close-range defence and targets low-flying

aerial threats, offering a vital shield in protecting critical military and strategic assets.

**Key Points:-**

(i) The Directed Energy Weapon (DEW), developed by DRDO's Centre for High Energy Systems and Sciences (CHESS), marks a futuristic leap in India's defence capabilities. This high-power laser-based system provides advanced interception against modern aerial targets such as drones and other unmanned platforms.

(ii) The Centralised Command and Control Centre (CCC), developed by the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad, managed the coordinated operations of all weapon systems. The maiden test, validated at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha, engaged three different types of aerial targets including unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and multi-copter drones, with all targets successfully neutralised.

(iii) The successful test holds strategic significance as it strengthens India's air defence capability and supports the "Sudershan Chakra" mission, recently announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Independence Day 2025 (15 August 2025). This mission aims to establish India's robust multi-layered defence shield against evolving aerial threats.

**Static GK**

<b>Nepal</b>	Capital : Kathmandu	Prime Minister (PM) : Khadga Prasad (K.P.) Sharma Oli
<b>Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)</b>	Union Minister : Amit Shah	Headquarters: New Delhi
<b>Oman</b>	Capital: Muscat	Currency: Omani Rial
<b>SEBI</b>	Chairperson: Tuhin Kanta Pandey	Headquarter : Mumbai
<b>Malaysia</b>	Prime minister: Anwar Ibrahim	Official language: Malay
<b>Zambia</b>	Capital : Lusaka	President : Hakainde Hichilema
<b>Japan</b>	Prime minister: Shigeru Ishiba	Capital: Tokyo
<b>DRDO</b>	Chairman: Sameer V. Kamat	Headquarters: New Delhi
<b>New Development Bank (NDB)</b>	President: Dilma Rousseff	Headquarters: Shanghai, China