



# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**28 & 29 AUGUST 2025**

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

### 1. India Signs Letter of Intent with UN's World Food Programme to Combat Global Hunger.



In August 2025, the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MoCAF&PD), signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with the United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP) in New Delhi. The collaboration focuses on addressing global hunger, fortifying rice supply, and supporting food security through India's humanitarian initiatives.

- The agreement was signed in the presence of key dignitaries including Ashutosh Agnihotri, Chairman and Managing Director of the Food Corporation of India (FCI); Samir Wanmali, WFP Regional Director for Asia and Pacific; Carl Skau, WFP Deputy Executive Director; Bishow Parajuli, WFP Country Director for India; and senior officials from DFPD such as Sanjeev Chopra, Secretary. Their participation underlined India's commitment to the philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," which means the world is one family.

- The Letter of Intent foresees India supplying up to 200,000 metric tonnes (MT) of fortified rice over the next five years. This fortified rice will be rolled out across nutrition-linked

government programmes such as the Public Distribution System (PDS), Mid-Day Meal Scheme, and Poshan Abhiyaan, supporting both domestic and international hunger mitigation efforts.

- This LoI builds upon discussions held earlier in February 2025 during the WFP Executive Board meeting in Rome, Italy. It reflects India's transition from being a food-deficit nation to a global supplier of humanitarian food aid. Over the years, India has played an increasing role in international cooperation on food distribution, particularly during crisis situations.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The ongoing cooperation with WFP includes initiatives like the deployment of Grain ATMs under the Annapurta scheme, automated teller machines (ATMs) for food grains to ensure easier access for communities, smart warehousing systems, and the introduction of mobile storage units (Rospan). Additionally, the Jan Poshan Kendras (JPKs) are being promoted as centres to disseminate community-based nutrition awareness and fortified food.

(ii) India, along with Brazil and South Africa, has been recognised for strong food security models and diplomatic influence. Backed by the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 and the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), India is working with the World Food Programme (WFP) to set up a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in nutrition and food systems.

### 2. Ministry of Finance Introduces One-Time Switch from Unified Pension Scheme to National Pension System.





## वित्त मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF FINANCE

In August 2025, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) announced a one-time, one-way switch facility for central government employees, enabling them to migrate from the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) to the National Pension System (NPS). The option will remain available until September 30, 2025.

- The newly announced switch facility allows central government employees enrolled under the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) to shift to the National Pension System (NPS). This move aligns with the government's efforts to provide greater flexibility in retirement planning and encourage long-term corpus building through the NPS framework.
- As per the guidelines, the option can be exercised by employees either within one year prior to their date of superannuation or up to three months before their deemed date of retirement in case of voluntary retirement.
- This provision ensures that employees nearing retirement still get a final opportunity to reassess their pension choices.

### Key Points:-

- (i) A crucial condition is that once employees opt for the switch, they will permanently forfeit their rights under the UPS, including

any assured payout benefits. The decision is irreversible, and employees cannot revert to the UPS after opting for NPS, highlighting the one-time and binding nature of this facility.

(ii) Upon making the switch, the exit and withdrawal provisions under the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Exit & Withdrawal Regulations, 2015, will automatically apply. This will regulate the manner in which employees can access their retirement funds and annuities under the NPS framework.

(iii) The Government of India (GOI) has also clarified that a 4% differential contribution, calculated in line with the default investment pattern, will be credited into the employee's NPS corpus at the time of exit. This ensures that government support continues even after migration to the NPS.

### 3. Union Minister J. P. Nadda Inaugurates Medical Colleges and Launches Multiple Health Welfare Initiatives in Madhya Pradesh.



During his two-day visit to Madhya Pradesh, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Jagat Prakash (J. P.) Nadda inaugurated two government medical colleges and launched several health welfare programmes. The

events took place in Jabalpur and Sheopur-Singrauli, underlining the Centre's push for enhanced medical infrastructure and inclusive healthcare delivery.

- In Sheopur and Singrauli, two new Government Medical Colleges were inaugurated under the leadership of the Union Minister J. P. Nadda. The colleges will serve underserved and tribal regions of the state, expanding access to healthcare education and services. This is a significant step toward addressing medical professional shortages and strengthening primary healthcare outreach.

- At the inauguration event in Jabalpur's Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Cultural Information Center, Nadda presided over the ceremony alongside Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla (in charge of Public Health & Medical Education), and MLA Hemant Khandelwal. Agreements were also signed to establish four additional medical colleges on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) basis. These institutional expansions align with the government's aim to make medical education geographically accessible and cost-effective.

- J. P. Nadda also announced several health welfare programmes: distribution of 8 lakh "Vay Vandana" PVC Cards for senior citizen healthcare access, launch of the "Ayushman Sakhi" Smart Chatbot to guide citizens through government health schemes, recognition of the "Swasthya Yakrit Mission" reaching its target of 1 crore liver health screenings under the Healthy Liver initiative, and launch of "Asha Samvaad", a communication platform to connect frontline ASHA workers with the Ministry. Maternal and Child Health initiatives were enhanced with new informational material and the Mother and Child Protection (MCP) Card.

#### Key Points:-

(i) In his address, Union Minister Nadda emphasised a holistic vision for health, focused on preventive, curative, rehabilitative, geriatric, and promotive measures. He highlighted institutional delivery rates reaching 89%, and a decline in Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) from 130 to 93 per 1 lakh live births, underscoring improvements in maternal and child healthcare outcomes.

(ii) The opening of these medical colleges and the layered interventions under the Ayushman Bharat umbrella—India's flagship health scheme also noted as the world's largest publicly funded health coverage programme—reflect a continuing effort to ensure universal health coverage.

(iii) Together, these developments attest to India's evolving healthcare landscape. By robustly expanding medical education infrastructure in Madhya Pradesh and launching citizen-focused digital and physical welfare initiatives, the government is reinforcing its commitment to accessible, equitable, and effective primary and advanced healthcare services for all.

#### 4. OpenAI Launches "India-First" Learning Accelerator with IIT Madras and Distributes 5 Lakh Free ChatGPT Licenses.



In August 2025, OpenAI unveiled its Learning Accelerator in India—its first such initiative—featuring a ₹4.5 crore (USD 500,000) research grant to Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras), and the free distribution of 500,000 ChatGPT licenses to students and educators nationwide, aimed at promoting AI-powered learning.

- In partnership with IIT Madras, OpenAI committed USD 500,000 (approximately ₹4.5 crore) to support long-term educational research on how artificial intelligence (AI) can enhance learning outcomes and foster innovative teaching methods. The collaboration aligns with insights from cognitive neuroscience, with all findings intended to be made publicly available and feed into future AI application design.

- Under the Learning Accelerator, OpenAI will distribute half a million ChatGPT licenses free of charge over the next six months. These licenses will be made accessible through partnerships with the Ministry of Education (MoE), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), and Association for Reinventing School Education (ARISE), covering government schools and AICTE-regulated technical institutions.

- As part of the initiative, training modules will be rolled out to promote responsible AI usage

among students and educators. The Learning Accelerator seeks to integrate AI into classroom methodologies, assessments, and curriculum adoption, particularly for CBSE and IIT entrance preparation. The program also plans to support educational inclusion by enabling AI tools that run on basic smartphones and support 11 Indian languages.

#### Key Points:-

(i) OpenAI has appointed Raghav Gupta, an INSEAD-trained executive and former Managing Director (India & Asia-Pacific) at Coursera, as its Head of Education (India & Asia-Pacific). He will lead the Learning Accelerator, coordinating strategic partnerships, AI training, and access to educational tools across schools, universities, and research institutions.

(ii) According to Leah Belsky, Vice President of Education at OpenAI, over 50% of ChatGPT users in India are under 24, using the platform extensively for studying. She stressed that “ChatGPT’s Study Mode” is tailored for the Indian curriculum and will eventually support local languages, underscoring India’s role as a “lighthouse” in OpenAI’s global education strategy.

(iii) This Learning Accelerator represents one of OpenAI’s most substantial investments in India’s education ecosystem to date. The launch builds on India’s growing influence in AI and precedes the establishment of OpenAI’s first Indian office in New Delhi, with global CEO Sam Altman expected to visit soon.

#### 5. NHAI Launches ‘Project Aarohan’ to Support Education of Toll Plaza Employees’ Children.





The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), has recently launched Project Aarohan to provide financial assistance and equal educational opportunities to the children of toll plaza employees, focusing on students from economically weaker sections across India.

- The project was formally announced by Santosh Kumar Yadav, Chairman of NHAI, who emphasized that Project Aarohan reflects the authority's social commitment towards supporting toll plaza employees and their families.

- He highlighted that the initiative is designed to nurture the academic talent of youth, enabling them to contribute to India's long-term growth and development.

- As per the plan, Project Aarohan will cover 500 students ranging from Class 11 to the final year of graduation. Each selected student will be awarded an annual scholarship of ₹12,000 for the academic year 2025–26, aimed at reducing financial burdens and ensuring continuity in education.

#### Key Points:-

(i) In addition to undergraduate support, the project will also extend scholarships to

students pursuing postgraduate or higher studies. Around 50 meritorious students will receive ₹50,000 each annually to pursue advanced education, with the objective of encouraging them to achieve academic excellence and professional success.

(ii) To ensure transparency and inclusivity, the scholarship application process will be conducted through a dedicated online portal, where students will be required to upload their academic records, income proof, caste certificate, and identity proof. This digital process ensures accessibility, reduces paperwork, and streamlines the entire selection mechanism for beneficiaries.

(iii) By introducing Project Aarohan, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has taken a significant step towards employee welfare, bridging educational inequalities, and empowering the children of toll plaza workers to build brighter futures.

#### 6. PM Modi Launches Maruti Suzuki's First Made-in-India BEV 'e-VITARA' and Inaugurates Localized Hybrid Battery Electrode Production in Gujarat.



On August 26, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off production of Maruti Suzuki's first Battery Electric Vehicle

(BEV), the e-VITARA, at Hansalpur, Gujarat. The fully made-in-India SUV is set for export to over 100 countries. Concurrently, a lithium-ion battery production facility commenced operations to strengthen the domestic clean energy manufacturing ecosystem.

- At the Hansalpur plant in Gujarat, PM Modi inaugurated the e-VITARA, Maruti Suzuki's first global electric vehicle (EV). This B-segment Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV)—built entirely in India—is destined for export to over 100 countries, including advanced markets like Europe and Japan.

- The launch included the initiation of indigenous production of hybrid battery electrodes at the TDS lithium-ion battery plant, a joint venture between Toshiba, Denso, and Suzuki. With this, over 80% of battery value will now be created domestically, supporting "Make in India" and reducing import dependency.

#### Key Points:-

(i) With the e-VITARA and battery facilities in place, India is positioned as Suzuki's global EV manufacturing hub. The Hansalpur plant, equipped with rail adjacency and multimodal connectivity, now supports large-scale BEV production for global markets.

(ii) Suzuki Motor has committed approximately USD 8 billion (~₹70,000 crore) investment into India's automotive and EV ecosystem over the next 5–6 years. The Hansalpur facility has a projected annual capacity of one million units, reinforcing manufacturing scale for the e-VITARA.

(iii) The event was part of PM Modi's wider efforts to drive sustainable transport solutions and strengthen India–Japan cooperation. He underlined themes of "Make

in India, Make for the World," highlighting India's growing role in clean mobility and green innovation.

## INTERNATIONAL

### 1. Russia to Recruit 1 Million Indian Workers by 2025 to Tackle Industrial Labour Shortages in Sverdlovsk and Other Regions.



Amid a deepening workforce crisis, Russia is preparing to bring in up to one million skilled Indian professionals by the end of 2025. The move, driven by a critical labour deficit, particularly targets industrial hubs like Sverdlovsk and is being facilitated through pilot agreements and expanded worker quotas.

- The Ural Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by Andrey Besedin, has revealed plans to invite up to 1 million Indian specialists—primarily to the Sverdlovsk region, known for heavy machinery, metallurgy, and tank manufacturing factories such as Uralmash and UralVagonZavod—which are grappling with labour shortages exacerbated by the conflict in Ukraine and declining birth rates.

- The Indian Ambassador to Russia, Vinay Kumar, confirmed a surge in consular demand as more Indian workers seek employment

opportunities. He highlighted that Russian companies in machinery and electronics sectors are actively recruiting Indians within the bounds of Russian laws and quotas.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Despite these announcements, Russia's Labor Ministry has officially denied any plan to recruit 1 million Indian workers, clarifying that foreign labour intake is regulated by predetermined quotas—totaling approximately 234,900 for all foreign workers in 2025, including 71,817 specifically earmarked for Indian nationals. In the Sverdlovsk region, the current quota stands at just 4,343.

(ii) Russia's labour shortages are mounting rapidly. The Ministry of Labour forecasts a 3.1 million worker deficit by 2030. In response, the federal government is considering a 1.5-fold increase in the foreign worker quota for 2025 to ease the immediate strain while longer-term demographic challenges continue.

(iii) To support incoming workers, India is establishing an Indian consulate in Yekaterinburg, which will streamline consular services, visa processing, and worker assistance. Additionally, proposals are being considered to set up vocational training centres in India to equip potential migrants with language proficiency and technical skills aligned with Russian industrial requirements.

## BANKING & FINANCE

### 1. TATA AIA Life Insurance Launches 'Health SIP Plan' and 'Health Buddy' App to Strengthen Health-Linked Insurance and Digital Wellness Services.

### TATA AIA Life Insurance Launches 'Health SIP Plan' and 'Health Buddy' App to Strengthen Health-Linked Insurance and Digital Wellness Services



In August 2025, TATA AIA Life Insurance Company Limited, a joint venture of Tata Sons Private Limited and AIA Group Limited (AIA), introduced two major offerings in the health and insurance segment—the Health Systematic Investment Plan (Health SIP) and the Health Buddy Application. These initiatives aim to combine financial security with accessible healthcare support for policyholders across India.

- The Health SIP Plan is a first-of-its-kind Non-Participating Unit-Linked Health Insurance Plan designed to provide long-term fund value by eliminating premium allocation charges. It also includes a maturity booster, ensuring policyholders benefit from financial protection while simultaneously building a health safety net.

- One of the key features of the Health SIP is that it allows tax-free withdrawals from the sixth policy year to meet health-related expenses. Additionally, it covers critical illnesses with a maximum premium lock-in period of 30 years, ensuring long-term protection for families.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The Health SIP is available in two distinct variants: Health SIP Plus, which provides



additional coverage against accidental total and permanent disability, and Health SIP Plus Pro, which covers terminal illness with an added term booster benefit for enhanced protection. This dual structure offers flexibility based on customer needs.

(ii) Alongside the insurance offering, TATA AIA also launched the Health Buddy App, a 24×7 virtual wellness and health companion service. This application provides access to preventive healthcare check-ups, women's healthcare support, dental consultations, and virtual services across more than 24 medical specialties, making it a comprehensive digital health platform.

(iii) With the combined launch of Health SIP and Health Buddy, TATA AIA Life Insurance has positioned itself as an innovator in health-linked financial solutions, bridging insurance and technology to provide both protection and continuous health assistance to its customers.

Communications, achieved a net profit of ₹134 crore, signaling robust growth. The bank's management has now proposed lifting its long-standing hiring freeze to support expansion in staff and services.

- For FY 2024–25, IPPB recorded a net profit of ₹134 crore, a remarkable turnaround from prior years. This achievement underscores its operational resilience and efficiency as a government-run payments bank.

- IPPB serves 120 million customers, with total deposits reaching ₹20,000 crore. This scale reflects its success in leveraging the extensive postal network to penetrate underserved rural and urban markets.

- The bank's operating margin surged—from around 3.4% in FY 2023 to approximately 12.5% in FY 2025—demonstrating enhanced revenue efficiency and tighter cost management.

#### Key Points:-

(i) IPPB has made a formal request to the government to lift its hiring freeze, in place since 2020. The bank estimates it needs around 1,000 personnel across field operations and corporate roles to meet growing service demands.

(iii) Expanding its mandate beyond payments, IPPB is deepening rural credit access through partnerships with HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, Aditya Birla Capital Finance, and Aadhar Housing Finance. It is offering various small-ticket digital loans covering agriculture, gold, personal, and Kisan Credit Card needs.

## 2. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) Posts ₹134 Crore Profit in FY 2025 and Seeks to End Hiring Freeze.



In the fiscal year 2024–25, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), operating under the Department of Posts and the Ministry of

## APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

### 1. IRSE Officer S.C. Jain Appointed as CMD of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) with Additional Charge.



In August 2025, the Ministry of Railways (MoR) approved the appointment of S.C. Jain, a senior Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE) officer, as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). He will officially assume charge on September 1, 2025, after the retirement of Pradeep Gaur on August 31, 2025.

- S.C. Jain belongs to the 1988 batch of the Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE) and brings over 28 years of professional experience in railway projects.
- His expertise spans across infrastructure development, project execution, and efficient project management, making him a suitable leader for RVNL's ambitious growth plans.
- At present, Jain is serving as the Advisor (Land & Amenities) in the Ministry of Railways. In his advisory role, he has contributed to key railway projects related to land management, amenities development, and operational improvements across the national railway network.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), a Navratna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Railways, was established in 2003. It plays a pivotal role in the implementation of rail infrastructure projects across India, with focus areas including line doubling, electrification, metro projects, and major construction works.

(ii) The leadership transition from outgoing CMD Pradeep Gaur, who superannuated on August 31, 2025, to incoming CMD S.C. Jain ensures continuity in RVNL's ongoing projects. Under Jain's leadership, RVNL is expected to accelerate its execution pace and strengthen its role in expanding India's railway infrastructure.

(iii) This appointment reflects the Ministry of Railways' strategy to place experienced IRSE officers at the helm of its major PSUs, reinforcing technical expertise and managerial capacity to deliver large-scale projects effectively.

### 2. Mirabai Chanu Clinches Gold at 2025 Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships.



Indian weightlifting sensation Mirabai Chanu made a spectacular return to international competition by winning the gold medal in the women's 48 kg category at the 2025

Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in Ahmedabad. This victory not only marked her comeback after a year-long hiatus but also set new benchmarks in the sport.

- Competing in the newly introduced 48 kg weight class, Mirabai Chanu lifted a total of 193 kg—84 kg in the snatch and 109 kg in the clean and jerk. Her performance shattered the existing Commonwealth Championship records in all three categories: snatch, clean and jerk, and total lift .

- This championship marked Mirabai's first appearance since the 2024 Paris Olympics, where she narrowly missed a medal. Her return to the podium in Ahmedabad was a testament to her resilience and dedication to the sport .

#### Key Points:-

(i) By winning the gold medal, Mirabai secured a direct qualification for the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. This achievement underscores her continued dominance in the sport and sets the stage for her future endeavors on the international stage .

(ii) Mirabai's victory has been widely celebrated, with accolades pouring in from various quarters. Her performance has not only brought pride to India but also inspired aspiring athletes worldwide. The support from her family and fans has been a significant motivator in her journey back to the top.

(iii) With the World Championships scheduled for October, Mirabai's gold medal at the Commonwealth Championships serves as a strong foundation for her preparations. Her performance in Ahmedabad has instilled confidence in her abilities, and she is poised to continue her

pursuit of excellence in the sport.

## SPORTS

### 1. Inaugural Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025 Held at Dal Lake, Srinagar



The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS), Government of India, successfully organised the first-ever Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) 2025 at Dal Lake, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, from 21st to 23rd August 2025. The 3-day mega sporting event was hosted under the Khelo India Mission to promote water-based sports and boost youth participation in aquatic disciplines.

- The inaugural edition of KIWSF 2025 brought together more than 500 athletes representing 28 States and Union Territories (UTs) of India. The festival featured medal events in rowing, canoeing, and kayaking, where 24 medals were at stake.

- Alongside, culturally enriching demonstration events like Shikara Race, Dragon Boat Race, and Water Skiing were also conducted to highlight the fusion of sport and Kashmiri tradition.

- The festival's branding was built around the theme of agility and heritage. The official



mascot was the Himalayan Kingfisher, symbolising speed, energy, and precision. The logo, designed around a traditional Kashmiri Shikara gliding on Dal Lake, reflected both the natural beauty and cultural significance of Kashmir as a sports destination.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Madhya Pradesh (MP) emerged as the overall champion of the inaugural edition, securing the top position in the medal tally with 10 gold, 3 silver, and 5 bronze medals, totalling 18. Odisha and Kerala followed as the second and third-best performing states. MP dominated the kayaking and canoeing events, sweeping all four gold medals on Day 2 and maintaining supremacy until the closing day.

(ii) A major highlight of KIWSF 2025 was the performance of Mohsin Ali, a 17-year-old local Shikarawalla from Dal Lake. He created history by clinching the very first gold medal of the festival in the 1000m Men's Kayaking race, clocking 4 minutes and 12.41 seconds. His victory not only marked a personal milestone but also showcased the talent emerging from grassroots sporting communities of Kashmir.

(iii) Looking ahead, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has announced that the Khelo India Water Sports Festival will be expanded into a comprehensive Khelo India Water Games from 2026.

## 2. Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Unveils Hockey Men's Asia Cup 2025 Trophy in Rajgir, Bihar.



The Hockey Men's Asia Cup 2025 trophy was recently unveiled by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, ahead of the tournament scheduled from August 29 to September 7, 2025, at the newly built Rajgir Hockey Stadium in Bihar. This marks the state's first major international hockey event.

- The tournament will feature eight top Asian teams divided into two pools, with India, led by Captain Harmanpreet Singh, in Pool A alongside Japan, China, and Kazakhstan. India's first match is against China on August 29, and the final will take place on September 7.

- This edition serves as a qualifier for the 2026 FIH (International Hockey Federation) Men's Hockey World Cup in the Netherlands and Belgium. The winner qualifies directly, while other top teams enter next year's qualifiers.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The Rajgir Hockey Stadium, located within Bihar Sports University, has been developed to international standards, showcasing Bihar's commitment to world-class sports infrastructure and promoting the state as a venue for global events.

(ii) The tournament is organised by Hockey India in collaboration with the Asian Hockey

Federation and Bihar State Government. This joint effort aims to promote hockey, enhance athlete exposure, and boost tourism in the region.

(iii) Preparations include training camps for the Indian team and squad finalisation by other participating nations. The event is expected to attract media coverage, sponsorship, and fan engagement, strengthening hockey's profile in Asia.

### 3. India Shines at World Youth Archery Championships 2025 with 8 Medals.



At the World Youth Archery Championships 2025 held in Winnipeg, Canada, from August 17 to August 27, India showcased exceptional talent by securing a total of eight medals: four gold, two silver, and two bronze. This achievement underscores India's growing prominence in the global archery arena.

- The championships featured 570 archers from 63 countries, competing in various categories. India's standout performances included Chikitha Taniparthi's historic gold in the Under-21 women's compound category, marking India's first-ever gold in this event.

- Additionally, Sharvari Shende clinched gold in the Under-18 women's recurve, becoming only the third Indian woman to achieve this feat.

- In team events, the Indian men's Under-18 and Under-21 compound teams secured gold medals, defeating the United States and Germany, respectively. The Under-18 mixed compound team added a silver medal to India's tally, showcasing the depth of talent in the country.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Prithika Pradeep contributed to India's success by winning silver in both the Under-18 women's compound individual and team events. Her consistent performances highlighted the strength of India's youth archery program.

(ii) The championships also served as a platform for emerging talents to gain international exposure. Athletes like Prithika Pradeep and Sharvari Shende demonstrated resilience and skill, setting the stage for future successes in global competitions.

(iii) Overall, India's performance at the World Youth Archery Championships 2025 reflects the country's commitment to nurturing young talent and its potential to excel in international archery events.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

1. Ayurveda Day to Be Celebrated on 23rd September.

# AYURVEDA DAY

TO BE CELEBRATED ANNUALLY  
ON 23RD SEPTEMBER



In a significant move to enhance global recognition and consistency, the Government of India has officially designated 23rd September as Ayurveda Day, to be observed annually. This decision, formalized through a Gazette Notification dated 23rd March 2025, marks a shift from the previous practice of aligning the day with Dhanteras, which follows a variable lunar calendar.

- The inaugural Ayurveda Day was celebrated on 28th October 2016, coinciding with Dhanteras, the birth anniversary of Lord Dhanvantari, the divine physician in Hindu mythology.
- This occasion aimed to promote Ayurveda as a scientific, evidence-based, and holistic system of medicine, emphasizing its role in preventive healthcare and wellness.
- The primary motivation behind fixing 23rd September as Ayurveda Day is to ensure consistency and facilitate better planning of national and international events. The earlier practice of observing the day on Dhanteras posed challenges due to its fluctuating date, which varied each year based on the lunar calendar. A fixed date allows for more organized and widespread celebrations.

## Key Points:-

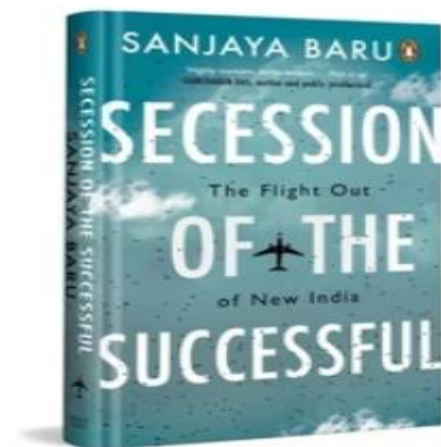
(i) The chosen date coincides with the autumnal equinox, a day when day and night are nearly equal. This astronomical event symbolizes balance in nature, aligning with the Ayurvedic philosophy that emphasizes equilibrium among the mind, body, and spirit. Celebrating Ayurveda Day on this date underscores the essence of Ayurveda—living in balance with nature.

(ii) By establishing a fixed date, the Government of India aims to enhance the global visibility of Ayurveda and promote its principles of holistic well-being on a universal scale.

(iii) The Ministry of AYUSH encourages individuals, health professionals, academic bodies, and international partners to embrace the newly designated date and actively participate in Ayurveda Day celebrations on 23rd September each year.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

1. Sanjay Baru's Book "Secession of the Successful: The Flight Out of New India" Officially Released.



The book "Secession of the Successful: The Flight Out of New India", authored by political commentator and policy analyst Sanjay Baru, has been recently released by Penguin



Viking India. It delves into the growing trend of Indians choosing to permanently settle abroad, highlighting the mindset and motivations of what Baru terms as “Non-Returning Indians.”

- In the book, Baru identifies a fourth wave of migration in India, distinct from previous waves, which is driven by wealth, power, and privilege rather than necessity. This wave reflects the choices of affluent Indians who seek new opportunities, safety, and global exposure.

- Baru highlights citizenship renunciation statistics, revealing that over 2.25 lakh Indians renounced their citizenship in 2022 and 2.16 lakh in 2023. Cumulatively, from 2011 to 2023, nearly 1.9 million Indians have given up their Indian citizenship, signaling a significant shift in migration trends.

- The author categorises Indian migrants into four groups: Fugitives from the law, First-generation wealthy individuals who feel politically vulnerable, Persons seeking to de-risk or diversify from uncertain governance, and those pursuing an improved quality of life abroad. Each category reflects distinct motivations and socio-economic backgrounds.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Baru’s work also explores the psychological and social factors influencing these “Non-Returning Indians,” examining how political uncertainty, governance challenges, and personal aspirations contribute to the decision to permanently leave India.

(ii) The book provides insights into policy implications, urging policymakers to understand the consequences of this talent and wealth migration. Baru argues that the outflow of highly skilled and affluent Indians

could impact India’s economic growth, innovation ecosystem, and global positioning.

(iii) Finally, “Secession of the Successful” encourages a broader debate on migration, governance, and citizen engagement, highlighting the complex interplay between individual choices and systemic factors that drive permanent migration in contemporary India.

## Static GK

<b>World Food Programme (WFP)</b>	Executive Director (ED) : Cindy McCain	Headquarters : Rome, Italy
<b>Ministry of Finance (MoF)</b>	Union Minister : Nirmala Sitharaman	Headquarters: New Delhi
<b>Madhya Pradesh (MP)</b>	Chief Minister (CM) : Dr. Mohan Yadav	Governor : Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
<b>OpenAI</b>	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) : Sam Altman	Headquarters : California, the United States of America (USA)
<b>National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)</b>	Chairman: Santosh Kumar Yadav (IAS)	Headquarters: Sector-10, Dwarka, Delhi
<b>Russia</b>	Capital: Moscow	Prime minister: Mikhail Mishustin
<b>Gujarat</b>	Chief minister: Bhupendra Patel	Governor: Acharya Devvrat
<b>India Post Payments Bank Limited</b>	Secretary : Vineet Pandey	Headquarters: New Delhi

<b>(IPPB)</b>		
<b>Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS)</b>	Cabinet Minister : Mansukh Mandaviya	Headquarters: New Delhi
<b>Bihar</b>	Chief minister: Nitish Kumar	Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan