



# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**> 30 AUGUST 2025**



## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

### 1. Union Minister Jitendra Singh Launches India's First National Biofoundry Network & BioE3 Challenge.



Union Minister of Science and Technology Jitendra Singh launched India's first National Biofoundry Network and Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment (BioE3) Challenge for Youth on August 27, 2025, at the National Media Centre in New Delhi. The initiative aims to strengthen biotechnology as a major pillar of India's economic growth.

- India's first National Biofoundry Network is a strategic initiative under the BioE3 Policy, marking one year of its adoption. The launch demonstrates the Government of India's (GoI) commitment to expand biotechnology innovation across multiple sectors, from healthcare to agriculture.

- The National Biofoundry Network includes six premier institutions: the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), Biotechnology Research Innovation Council–National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (BRIC-NABI), Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology (IPFT), National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), and the

Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer (ACTREC) of Tata Memorial Centre.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The BioE3 Challenge for Youth was also launched with the theme "Design Microbes, Molecules & More". The challenge is open to school students (classes 6–12), undergraduate and postgraduate students, researchers, startups, and Indian citizens. Participants are tasked with designing safe-by-design bio-solutions addressing health, agriculture, environment, and industry needs.

(ii) The BioE3 Challenge will be held annually, beginning in October 2025. Each month, top 100 winners will be awarded a cash prize of ₹1.5 lakh along with recognition and mentorship from leading bio-innovation experts.

(iii) Additionally, 100 best teams will be shortlisted for further support, with funding of up to ₹25 lakh provided through the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC). The funding will help accelerate the development of proof-of-concept biotech solutions and their transition into scalable products.

### 2. Cabinet Approved on August 27 2025 PM SVANidhi Extended till 2030 and Bid Cleared for 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad.





On August 27, 2025, the Union Cabinet of India, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved several key proposals aimed at bolstering urban livelihoods and enhancing India's global profile in sports. These decisions mark important steps in empowering informal sector entrepreneurs and ramping up sports diplomacy.

- The Cabinet approved the restructuring and extension of the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme. Originally scheduled to conclude on December 31, 2024, the lending period has been extended until March 31, 2030. The revamped scheme features a financial outlay of ₹7,332 crore and includes the introduction of a new credit card facility to improve access to credit for street vendors, further strengthening their economic resilience.

- The Union Cabinet approved the formal submission of India's bid to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games, with Ahmedabad proposed as the host city. The decision includes sanctioning the signing of the Host Collaboration Agreement and committing to financial support (grant-in-aid) for the Gujarat government if the bid is successful.

- Ahmedabad was singled out as the "ideal" venue due to its world-class stadiums, cutting-

edge training facilities, and a passionate sporting culture. The city's infrastructure—including the Narendra Modi Stadium and recent hosting of the 2023 ICC Cricket World Cup Final—reinforces its suitability to stage such a global sporting event.

#### Key Points:-

- Alongside domestic approvals, the government also responded to external economic pressures—India decided to counter former U.S. President Trump's proposed 50% tariffs. This move reflects a broader strategic posture on trade diplomacy amid mounting global tensions.
- The extension of the PM SVANidhi scheme reinforces the government's commitment to promoting self-reliance (AtmaNirbhar Bharat) among street vendors—an essential pillar in India's informal economic sector. By offering tailored credit access, the scheme helps stabilize and formalize urban livelihoods.
- The bid to host the Commonwealth Games underscores India's growing ambitions to boost its soft power through sports diplomacy. If successful, the event is expected to catalyze infrastructure upgrades, generate employment, and elevate Ahmedabad's global profile in sports and tourism.

### 3. C-DOT Celebrated 42nd Foundation Day in Delhi, Marking 41 Years of Establishment.



The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier Telecom Research & Development centre under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, celebrated its 42nd Foundation Day on August 25, 2025, at its campus in New Delhi. Established in 1984, C-DOT has played a key role in India's telecom innovations.

- C-DOT's 42nd Foundation Day celebrations were inaugurated by Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, Minister of State, Ministry of Communications & Rural Development, along with Dr. Neeraj Mittal, Secretary (Telecom), DoT, who attended as Guest of Honour. The event highlighted C-DOT's legacy in driving India's telecom advancements.

- During the event, C-DOT showcased its achievements, including the development of an indigenous 4G core for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based solutions, and advanced systems that successfully disconnected 5 crore fraudulent SIMs.

- These innovations demonstrated C-DOT's contributions to securing India's digital ecosystem.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The foundation day also focused on future technologies such as 6G, cybersecurity, and quantum communication research. C-DOT highlighted its ongoing R&D efforts aimed at strengthening India's telecom infrastructure and positioning the country as a global leader in digital communication.

(ii) As part of the celebrations, 10 women-led startups in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector were awarded grants under the National Initiative for Development and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI). This initiative promotes innovation and supports Atmanirbhar Bharat by empowering women entrepreneurs in technology.

(iii) The event underlined 41 years of C-DOT's journey, from its establishment in 1984 to becoming a backbone of India's telecom development. With its achievements in 4G, AI, and future 6G technologies, C-DOT reaffirmed its vision of driving innovation and digital self-reliance.

#### 4. Delhi CM Rekha Gupta Relaunches 'U-Special' Bus Service for College Students.



On August 28, 2025, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta inaugurated the revamped 'U-

Special' bus service, aiming to provide safe, eco-friendly, and student-friendly transportation for college students. The service, featuring 25 electric buses, connects 67 colleges, including Delhi University, JNU, and IIT Delhi, operating across 25 routes.

- The 'U-Special' bus service has been relaunched to cater to the commuting needs of college students in Delhi. The 25 electric buses will operate on 25 routes, connecting major educational institutions such as Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi. These routes are designed to align with college timings, ensuring convenient travel for students.

- The newly introduced buses are equipped with air-conditioning, LED lighting, and music systems to enhance the comfort and experience of students during their commute. Additionally, the buses are fitted with CCTV cameras and panic buttons to ensure the safety and security of passengers.

- In line with Delhi's commitment to reducing pollution and promoting sustainable transportation, the 'U-Special' buses are electric, contributing to a decrease in carbon emissions. This initiative aims to encourage students to opt for public transport, thereby reducing the number of private vehicles on the road and improving air quality in the city.

#### Key Points:-

(i) To make the commute more enjoyable, the buses feature live radio channels that students can access via QR codes. This platform not only provides entertainment but also disseminates important government messages and social campaigns, keeping students informed and engaged during their journey.

(ii) Chief Minister Rekha Gupta emphasized the government's dedication to improving education and infrastructure. During the inauguration, she highlighted the transformation of the Social Centre School into a modern academic block with 21 classrooms. She also proposed a mentorship program where university students would visit nearby government schools to mentor and motivate schoolchildren, aiming to make government schools the first choice for parents.

(iii) The government plans to gradually increase the number of 'U-Special' buses in response to student demand and peak-hour requirements. This expansion will ensure that more students have access to safe and convenient transportation options, further promoting the use of public transport and contributing to a cleaner and more sustainable environment in Delhi.

## INTERNATIONAL

**1. Fijian Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka Paid First Official Visit to India from August 24 to 26 2025.**



Fiji's Prime Minister Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka undertook his first-ever official visit to India from August 24 to 26, 2025, at the



invitation of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The 3-day visit focused on strengthening bilateral ties in security, trade, health, and technology.

- The Fijian delegation was led by PM Rabuka, accompanied by his spouse Sulueti Rabuka and senior ministers including Ratu Antonio Lalabalavu, Minister of Health and Medical Services of Fiji, along with other top government officials.

- The primary aim of the visit was to enhance India-Fiji cooperation in areas such as maritime security, healthcare, digital technology, mobility, education, defence collaboration, trade and capacity-building initiatives.

- PM Narendra Modi and PM Sitiveni Rabuka held a high-level bilateral meeting at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, reaffirming the shared vision of 'Zero Tolerance to Terrorism' and discussing ways to deepen strategic engagement between the two nations.

#### Key Points:-

(i) A total of 9 Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) and bilateral agreements were exchanged across diverse sectors, including agriculture, education, healthcare, defence, mobility and skill development, marking a significant step forward in India-Fiji relations.

(ii) During his India visit, PM Rabuka also delivered the 54th Sapru House Lecture organised by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) in New Delhi, where he presented his vision of an 'Ocean of Peace' for the Pacific region.

(iii) The concept of 'Ocean of Peace' outlined by Rabuka emphasized building a peaceful, stable, secure, and sustainable future for the Pacific nations, reinforcing

India's role as a trusted partner in advancing regional security and prosperity.

## BANKING & FINANCE

### 1. Punjab National Bank (PNB) Opens Its First Startup-Centric Branch in New Delhi.



Punjab National Bank (PNB) has recently launched its first startup-focused branch at Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi, to strengthen the Startup India initiative and provide dedicated financial and advisory support for emerging businesses.

- The new startup-centric branch was inaugurated in the presence of Arvind Kumar, Director General of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), and Ashok Chandra, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of PNB, highlighting the collaboration between banking and technology sectors.

- The objective of this initiative is to provide tailored financial services for startups, including specialized banking products, advisory support, and access to government schemes.

- This aligns with the Government of India's Startup India Mission, which focuses on fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.

#### Key Points:-

(i) During the launch, PNB signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with STPI to strengthen cooperation. Under this MoU, STPI will curate and support a list of incubated, onboarded, or graduated startups to collaborate with PNB for financial products and services.

(ii) This startup-focused branch is expected to play a critical role in building a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem by offering a one-stop solution for startups, ensuring ease of access to capital, business advisory, and government-backed schemes that accelerate growth and sustainability.

## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

**1. According to the Ernst & Young (EY) report, India is projected to become the world's second-largest economy in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) terms by 2038.**



In August 2025, Ernst & Young (EY) released its August 2025 edition of EY Economy Watch, highlighting that India is set to become the world's second-largest economy in terms of Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) by 2038, with its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimated at USD 34.2 trillion. The projections are based on International

Monetary Fund (IMF) growth estimates for the years 2028–2030.

- The EY report stated that India's GDP in PPP terms is expected to reach USD 20.7 trillion by 2030, positioning it as the third-largest economy after China (USD 42.2 trillion) and the United States of America (USA). With continued momentum, India is forecasted to surpass the USA in PPP terms by 2038, becoming the second-largest global economy.

- India's robust growth trajectory is attributed to strong fundamentals such as youthful demographics with a median age of just 28.8 years in 2025, high domestic demand, and the world's second-highest savings rate.

- In addition, a sustainable fiscal framework with government debt-to-GDP ratio under manageable levels further strengthens long-term prospects.

### Key Points:-

(i) The report highlighted that while the USA maintains economic strength, it faces slower long-term growth and debt levels exceeding 120% of GDP. Meanwhile, advanced economies like Germany and Japan struggle with ageing populations, high median ages, and significant dependence on global trade, limiting their future growth potential.

(ii) According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the average projected growth rate for India during 2028–2030 is 6.5%, significantly outpacing the USA's 2.1% over the same period. This growth differential underpins India's potential to climb to the second position in global PPP rankings by 2038.

(iii) EY emphasized that if both India and the USA sustain their projected growth rates beyond 2030, India will overtake the USA in

PPP GDP rankings within the following decade. This projection reinforces India's role as a key driver of global economic expansion in the 21st century.

## MOUs and Agreement

### 1. India and Bhutan Sign Landmark MoU to Boost Agricultural Cooperation and Rural Development.



On August 29, 2025, India and Bhutan formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Thimphu to bolster collaboration in agriculture and allied sectors. The agreement was signed by Devesh Chaturvedi, Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, and Thinley Namgyel, Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Royal Government of Bhutan. This initiative underscores the shared commitment of both nations to sustainable agriculture, food security, and rural development.

- The MoU outlines a comprehensive framework for cooperation across various domains, including agricultural research and innovation, livestock health and production, post-harvest management, value chain development, and capacity building through the exchange of knowledge and expertise.

- This strategic partnership aims to enhance the agricultural productivity and resilience of both countries, fostering mutual growth and prosperity.

### Key Points:-

(i) Following the signing ceremony, the inaugural session of the Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG) was convened. The JTWG is tasked with implementing the MoU's provisions, focusing on priority areas such as agricultural marketing, cooperatives, food processing, seed sector development, research and technology collaboration, and capacity building initiatives. The establishment of the JTWG signifies a structured approach to translating the MoU's objectives into actionable plans.

(ii) This agreement builds upon the longstanding bilateral ties between India and Bhutan, reflecting their shared vision for advancing rural prosperity and sustainable farming practices. It also aligns with the broader goals of regional cooperation and development, reinforcing the strategic partnership between the two nations.

(iii) The MoU's implementation is expected to yield significant benefits, including improved agricultural productivity, enhanced food security, and strengthened economic ties between India and Bhutan. Through this collaboration, both countries aim to create a more resilient and sustainable agricultural landscape, contributing to the well-being of their farming communities and the broader regional economy.

## APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

### 1. Jammu & Kashmir Bank Appoints Veteran Banker S. Krishnan as New Non-Executive Chairman.





In a landmark board decision on August 25, 2025, Jammu & Kashmir Bank (J&K Bank) approved the appointment of Sankarasubramanian Krishnan (S. Krishnan) as its new Non-Executive Part-Time Chairman, subject to approval by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). His tenure will extend until March 26, 2028, reflecting a commitment to governance and seasoned leadership.

- The board of J&K Bank, headquartered in Srinagar, approved S. Krishnan's appointment on August 25, 2025. He has been named Non-Executive Part-Time Chairman, and his term will last until March 26, 2028, aligning with his first term as an Independent Director.

- Krishnan currently serves as an Independent Director on J&K Bank's board. His chairmanship will officially take effect once Regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank of India is granted.

#### Key Points:-

(i) With a forty-year-plus career in banking, Krishnan began in 1983 at Indian Bank. Over time, he specialized in corporate credit, risk management, and human resources (HR). He served in key leadership roles including Executive Director at Syndicate Bank and Canara Bank, Managing Director

& CEO (MD-CEO) at Punjab & Sind Bank, and later at Tamilnad Mercantile Bank.

(ii) An accomplished Postgraduate in Commerce and a qualified Cost Accountant, Krishnan is credited with spearheading significant transformation and digital initiatives.

(iii) Under his leadership, institutions such as Punjab & Sind Bank recorded record profits, while at Tamilnad Mercantile Bank he facilitated stock exchange listing and digital upgrades.

## 2. Former RBI Governor Dr. Urjit Patel Appointed Executive Director of IMF for Three-Year Term.



The Government of India has approved the appointment of Dr. Urjit Ravindra Patel, ex-Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as the Executive Director (ED) for India at the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This approval grants him a three-year term to represent India at the multilateral financial institution.

- Dr. Urjit Patel's appointment as IMF's Executive Director was cleared by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) and comes with a tenure of three years, effective from when he assumes charge. He

replaces Dr. Krishnamurthy Subramanian in the role.

- As Executive Director, Dr. Patel will represent India at the IMF Executive Board, playing a crucial role in policy deliberations and decisions that influence global economic strategy.
- Dr. Patel served as the 24th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India from September 2016 to December 2018. He is widely recognized for his work in introducing inflation-targeting frameworks and instituting banking reforms.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) The appointment marks a significant return for Dr. Patel to the institution where he began his career as an economist at the IMF. This full-circle progression underscores his extensive background in both domestic and international financial institutions.
- (ii) His appointment is seen as a testament to India's growing clout in global economic governance. Dr. Patel's experience bolsters India's representation in international financial policymaking during an era of global economic turbulence.
- (iii) Dr. Patel succeeds Dr. Krishnamurthy Subramanian, whose tenure was cut short amid controversy and disagreement with IMF protocols earlier in 2025, leaving the position open.

### 3. Akash Tripathi Appointed as New Managing Director of Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) Limited.



In August 2025, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the appointment of Akash Tripathi as the new Managing Director (MD) of Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

- Akash Tripathi, a 1998-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, succeeds Santosh Kumar Sarangi, Secretary of MNRE, who was holding the additional charge of SECI following the exit of RP Gupta. Santosh Kumar Sarangi will continue in his role as Chairman of SECI.

- The key mandate for Akash Tripathi as MD of SECI will be to lead India's renewable energy expansion and ensure the achievement of India's ambitious target of 500 Gigawatt (GW) of renewable energy capacity by 2030. His leadership will be crucial for accelerating investments and projects in the solar and clean energy sector.

- Before this appointment, Akash Tripathi served as an Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Power, where he contributed to critical policy planning and implementation. His prior experience gives him a strong foundation to drive SECI's renewable energy initiatives.

### Key Points:-

- (i) Throughout his career, Akash Tripathi has held several key leadership roles, including MD and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Digital India Corporation (DIC), CEO of India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), and CEO of MyGov.in.
- (ii) These roles highlight his expertise in digital governance, semiconductor development, and citizen engagement, which will add value to SECI's mission of promoting renewable energy.
- (iii) This appointment is expected to further strengthen SECI's role in enhancing India's renewable energy landscape, aligning with the government's long-term energy transition and sustainability goals.

## SPORTS

### 1. FIDE World Cup 2025 to be Hosted in Goa from October 30 to November 27, 2025.



The International Chess Federation (FIDE) has officially announced Goa, India, as the host city for the FIDE World Cup 2025, which will be held from October 30 to November 27, 2025. The event will feature 206 top players competing for a USD 2 million prize fund and

three qualifying spots for the 2026 Candidates Tournament.

- The FIDE World Cup 2025 will be a biennial knockout chess tournament, serving as a key qualifying event for the Candidates Tournament that decides the challenger for the World Chess Championship. This makes the Goa edition highly significant for global chess.
- The tournament format will be eight-round knockout, where each match consists of two classical games, followed by tie-breakers in rapid, blitz, or Armageddon if required. This ensures intense and competitive gameplay throughout the championship.
- Participation will see players seeded 51–206 competing in the first round, while the top 50 seeds automatically enter the second round. This structure ensures balanced competition and wider global representation across over 90 countries.

### Key Points:-

- (i) The significance of the event lies in its direct qualification spots for the 2026 Candidates Tournament. The top three finishers in Goa will secure their place, boosting competitive chess and promoting the sport further, especially in India.
- (ii) India is expected to have at least 21 players competing, including legends like Viswanathan Anand, reigning World Champion Gukesh Dommaraju, Praggnanandhaa R, Arjun Erigaisi, and several other Olympiad stars like Vidit Gujrathi, Nihal Sarin, Raja Rithvik R, and Aravindh Chithambaram. This makes Goa's hosting a milestone moment for Indian chess.
- (iii) The USD 2 million prize fund further elevates the tournament's prestige, placing it



among the richest and most competitive chess tournaments worldwide, with Goa emerging as a new global hub for international chess events.

## SUMMITS & CONFERENCE / COMMITTEES & MEETINGS

### 1. Sanjay Seth Inaugurates MILMEDICON-2025 in New Delhi to Strengthen Military Medicine and Trauma Care.



On August 28, 2025, Shri Sanjay Seth, the Union Minister of State for Defence, inaugurated MILMEDICON-2025 at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi. Organized by the Directorate General of Medical Services (Army), this international conference focused on physical and mental trauma in military settings. The event brought together experts to discuss innovations and challenges in military medicine.

- The conference also commemorated the centenary of the Military Nursing Service, highlighting the role of women in combat and leadership roles.

- The two-day conference, held on August 28–29, 2025, was part of the Ministry of Defence's "Year of Reforms." It aimed to strengthen

international cooperation and enhance trauma care capabilities in military operational settings.

- The event featured discussions on advanced combat trauma care, the integration of artificial intelligence in military healthcare, and innovative trends in emergency and battlefield medical response.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Representatives from over 15 foreign countries participated in panel discussions, poster presentations, and a scientific gallery exhibition. This international participation underscored the global commitment to advancing military medicine. Senior dignitaries from the Indian Armed Forces, international military medical delegations, civilian healthcare experts, and academia also took part in the deliberations.

(ii) In his inaugural address, Shri Sanjay Seth emphasized India's determination to advance military medicine through global collaboration, cutting-edge research, and respect for the legacy of service. He described the conference as both a tribute to the sacrifices of India's soldiers and a step toward future-ready healthcare solutions.

(iii) MILMEDICON-2025 served as a strategic initiative to foster collaboration, innovation, and global knowledge exchange in the field of military medicine. The conference's focus on trauma care and medical innovation aimed to enhance the preparedness and resilience of military personnel in challenging environments.

## App and Web Portal

### 1. Ministry of Minority Affairs Launches UMEED Portal Module to Provide Maintenance Support

for Widows, Divorced Women, and Orphans from Waqf-alal-Aulad Properties.



On August 27, 2025, the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India, introduced a dedicated module on the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development (UMEED) Portal. This initiative enables widows, divorced women, and orphans to apply for maintenance support from Waqf-alal-Aulad properties, aligning with the provisions of the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development Rules, 2025.

- The UMEED Portal operates under the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development Act, 1995, and is governed by the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development Rules, 2025. These rules permit eligible individuals to apply for maintenance from dormant family waqfs (waqf-alal-aulad) by providing proof of identity and residence, with payments processed electronically.

- The newly launched module facilitates Aadhaar-based authentication for beneficiaries, ensuring secure and accurate identification. The application and approval processes are managed online by respective State/Union Territory Waqf

Boards, promoting efficiency and reducing administrative delays.

- To ensure timely and transparent disbursement of maintenance support, the UMEED Portal employs a Direct Benefit Transfer system. This mechanism allows funds to be transferred directly to the beneficiaries' bank accounts, minimizing intermediaries and enhancing accountability.

#### Key Points:-

(i) This initiative aims to uplift marginalized sections of society by providing them with financial assistance derived from Waqf properties. By digitizing the application process, the Ministry ensures that the charitable objectives of Waqf properties are fulfilled effectively and equitably.

(ii) Following the launch of the UMEED Portal on June 6, 2025, the Ministry has been actively engaging with States and Union Territories to ensure the effective implementation of this platform. As per the mandate, details of all registered Waqf properties across India are to be mandatorily uploaded within six months.

(iii) The introduction of this module is part of a broader effort to modernize Waqf property management in India. By enhancing transparency, accountability, and public participation, the UMEED Portal represents a significant step toward reforming the administration of Waqf assets, ensuring they serve their intended charitable purposes.

#### IMPORTANT DAYS

1. UN Declares 27 August as 'World Lake Day' to Promote Sustainable Management of Lakes.

## UN DECLARES 27 AUGUST AS 'WORLD LAKE DAY' TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LAKES



In December 2024, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution—A/RES/79/142—designating 27 August as World Lake Day, to be observed annually. The first official observance will take place in 2025, aiming to raise awareness of the importance of lakes and drive global action for their conservation and sustainable management.

- The inaugural World Lake Day will be observed on 27 August 2025, marking UN recognition of lakes' critical ecological roles. The chosen date coincides with the first World Lake Conference, held on 27 August 1984, in Shiga Prefecture, Japan—home to Lake Biwa, the country's largest freshwater lake.

- The initiative was proposed during the 2023 UN Water Conference and later introduced to the General Assembly, supported by over 50 governments led by Indonesia. The resolution underscores the need for urgent global action to address lake degradation due to pollution, overuse, and climate change.

### Key Points:-

(i) World Lake Day aims to raise public awareness about lakes' ecological and economic value—spanning fresh water, biodiversity, flood regulation, carbon

storage, and recreation. It also emphasizes their role in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6, focused on water-related ecosystems.

(ii) The UN invites all member states, UN agencies, civil society, academia, and the private sector to engage in educational and conservation activities. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is tasked with facilitating the observance.

(iii) Lakes hold over 90% of the world's surface freshwater and are vital for human subsistence. However, they face severe threats from pollution, biodiversity loss, climate-induced evaporation, and eutrophication. Without coordinated action, the condition of lake ecosystems may decline precipitously.

## 2. International Day Against Nuclear Tests Observed on 29 August 2025.



On 29 August 2025, the world commemorates the International Day Against Nuclear Tests, a United Nations observance aimed at raising awareness about the devastating effects of nuclear weapon test explosions and promoting efforts towards a nuclear-weapon-free world.



- The International Day Against Nuclear Tests was established by the United Nations General Assembly on 2 December 2009 through Resolution 64/35. The date, 29 August, was chosen to honor the closure of the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site in Kazakhstan on 29 August 1991.

- This site had been one of the largest nuclear test grounds in the world, where over 450 nuclear tests were conducted between 1949 and 1989, causing significant environmental and health issues for the local population.

- The observance on 29 August serves as a reminder of the catastrophic consequences of nuclear testing. It highlights the need for global efforts to prevent further nuclear weapon test explosions and to promote the cessation of nuclear tests as a means to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world. The day underscores the importance of international cooperation in addressing the challenges posed by nuclear weapons.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Each year, the International Day Against Nuclear Tests is marked by various events and activities worldwide. These include educational programs, public discussions, and media campaigns aimed at raising awareness about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions and the need for their cessation.

(ii) Despite the establishment of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) in 1996, which aims to ban all nuclear explosions for both civilian and military purposes, the treaty has not yet entered into force due to the lack of ratification by all required states.

(iii) The International Day Against Nuclear

Tests serves as a call to action for all nations to sign and ratify the CTBT, to uphold their commitments to nuclear disarmament, and to work collaboratively towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

### 3. India Celebrated National Sports Day 2025 on August 29.



On August 29, 2025, India commemorates National Sports Day, honoring the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand. This day underscores the nation's commitment to promoting sports and fitness, with a nationwide movement encouraging citizens to dedicate at least one hour daily to physical activity.

- National Sports Day was first observed in 2012 to honor Major Dhyan Chand, born on August 29, 1905, in Allahabad (now Prayagraj). Renowned for his exceptional skills and contributions to Indian hockey, Dhyan Chand's legacy continues to inspire athletes across the country.

- The day serves as a tribute to Major Dhyan Chand's unparalleled achievements in hockey, including three Olympic gold medals. It also aims to raise awareness about the importance of sports and physical fitness in daily life,

encouraging individuals to engage in regular physical activities.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) Across India, various events are organized to mark National Sports Day. These include sports competitions, fitness challenges, and awareness campaigns. In Patna, for instance, a three-day sports extravaganza features activities like running, yoga, quizzes, and traditional games, culminating in a city-wide cycling rally.
- (ii) The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has launched a nationwide sports and fitness movement from August 29 to 31, under the theme 'Ek Ghanta, Khel ke Maidan Main.'
- (iii) This initiative encourages citizens to commit to at least one hour of physical activity daily, promoting a healthier and more active lifestyle across the nation.

## DEFENCE

### 1. Indian Navy Commissions Advanced Stealth Frigates INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri at Visakhapatnam.



The Indian Navy commissioned two state-of-the-art stealth frigates, INS Udaygiri (Yard

12652) and INS Himgiri (Yard 3022), at the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP). The event was presided over by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, marking the first-ever simultaneous commissioning of two warships built at different shipyards.

- The commissioning of INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri represents a landmark moment in India's naval history, as it is the first instance where two advanced stealth frigates have been inducted simultaneously from two different shipyards. This demonstrates India's increasing self-reliance in warship construction under Atmanirbhar Bharat.

- Both vessels are part of the Project 17A (Shivalik-class) frigates, an advanced series of stealth-guided missile frigates designed to enhance the Navy's operational reach. Project 17A follows the success of Project 17, with improved stealth features, automation, and weapon systems.

- The newly commissioned ships are named after earlier versions of INS Udaygiri (F35), which served from 1976 to 2007, and INS Himgiri (F34), which was in service from 1974 to 2005. The revival of these names symbolizes continuity of naval heritage and tradition.

#### Key Points:-

- (i) INS Udaygiri was constructed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai, and is the second ship under Project 17A built by MDL. On the other hand, INS Himgiri was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, and is the third ship in the Project 17A series by GRSE.
- (ii) Both frigates were designed in-house by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau (WDB). They represent the 100th and 101st

warships developed by WDB, highlighting 50 years of indigenous warship design and development capabilities in India.

(iii) These stealth frigates are equipped with advanced weaponry and sensors, making them among the most sophisticated platforms in the Navy. Inducted into the Eastern Naval Fleet, they will significantly enhance India's maritime capabilities in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), ensuring security of sea lanes and national interests.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### 1. Israel's Elbit Systems Launches Advanced JUPITER Space Camera on NAOS Satellite via SpaceX Falcon 9.



In August 2025, Israeli defence company Elbit Systems Limited successfully launched its advanced JUPITER space camera aboard the National Advanced Optical System (NAOS) satellite. The launch took place from Vandenberg Space Force Base, California, USA, using a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. This milestone boosts Earth observation capabilities with high-resolution, multispectral imaging for military, environmental, and scientific applications.

- The NAOS satellite, manufactured by OHB Italia S.p.A., is operated under Luxembourg's LUXEOSys (Luxembourg Earth Observation System) program. It is specifically designed for dual-use purposes, serving both governmental and military needs, and operates in a 450 km sun-synchronous orbit with a planned mission life of seven years.

- The JUPITER camera, developed by Elbit Systems, integrates expertise in Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition & Reconnaissance (ISTAR) and Electronic Warfare (EW).

- It is regarded as one of the world's most advanced spaceborne optical cameras, offering unmatched precision in Earth observation technology.

#### Key Points:-

(i) In terms of imaging design, the camera features a large aperture, lightweight structure, and continuous long-image strip capture, enabling high-efficiency wide-area coverage. Its multispectral imaging capabilities include Panchromatic (black-and-white imaging with fine spatial detail), RGB (Red, Green, Blue true-color imaging), and Near-Infrared (NIR channel) for analyzing vegetation health, water content, and material properties.

(ii) The system supports AI-based image processing, making it compatible with ground station platforms for defence, civilian, and research applications. Elbit Systems has also developed algorithms for automated change detection, object classification, and fusion of multispectral imagery, enhancing situational awareness.

(iii) Globally, the NAOS-JUPITER integration strengthens strategic collaborations across



civil, defence, and security domains. Its applications range from border surveillance, arms treaty verification, and troop monitoring to disaster relief, environmental crisis management, and climate change studies. It will also support organizations such as NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) and international research institutions with high-resolution Earth data.

## 2. Google Launches 'Nano Banana' – Advanced AI Photo-Editing Tool in Gemini App.



In August 2025, Google officially unveiled Nano Banana, a powerful new AI-backed photo editing feature integrated into its Gemini app (also known as Gemini 2.5 Flash Image). Available to both free and premium users, Nano Banana offers realistic, multi-step image edits while preserving the identity of people, pets, and objects.

- Google confirmed that the viral Nano Banana tool is part of the Gemini app, accessible on both web and mobile to free and paid users, enhancing the app's visual editing capabilities.

### Key Points:-

(i) Nano Banana stands out for its superior ability to maintain consistency across edits—ensuring people, pets, and objects

retain likeness despite changes in style, setting, or appearance. It also supports multi-turn editing, seamless image blending, and style mixing functions.

(ii) Leveraging advanced DeepMind technologies, Nano Banana allows precise, iterative scene and subject modifications without damaging the original image context or fidelity. This includes features such as style mixing, layered scene alterations, and highly realistic transformations.

(iii) While the tool signifies a leap in image editing tech, concerns have been raised about potential misuse, especially in generating deepfakes and misleading content—issues not unique to Google but pivotal across generative AI development.

## Static GK

<b>C-DOT</b>	Director : Dr Pankaj Kumar Dalela	Headquarters: New Delhi
<b>Fiji</b>	Prime Minister (PM) : Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka	Capital : Suva
<b>Jammu &amp; Kashmir Bank</b>	Non-Executive Part-Time Chairman : Sankarasubramanian Krishnan (S. Krishnan)	Headquarters: Srinagar
<b>International Monetary Fund (IMF)</b>	Managing Director (MD) : Kristalina Georgieva	Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
<b>Indian Navy (IN)</b>	Chief of Naval Staff (CONS) : Admiral Dinesh Kumar (DK) Tripathi	Headquarters: New Delhi
<b>SpaceX</b>	CEO: Elon Musk	Headquarters: Hawthorne, California, United States
<b>Goa</b>	Chief minister: Pramod Sawant	Governor: Ashok Gajapathi Raju

<b>Bhutan</b>	Capital: Thimphu	Official language: Dzongkha
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