

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

> 01 SEPTEMBER 2025

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. MoSPI Releases Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2023-24: Tamil Nadu Tops in Factories and Employment, Maharashtra Leads in GVA.



The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) results for the period April 2023 to March 2024, referred to as ASI 2023-24. The survey highlights India's industrial performance with Tamil Nadu emerging as the top state in terms of factories and employment.

- The fieldwork for the ASI 2023-24 was conducted between October 2024 and June 2025, covering a wide span of manufacturing units across the country.
- The survey provides insights on employment, capital investment, gross value addition, and industrial outputs, making it a crucial reference for industrial policy.
- Tamil Nadu was identified as the leading state both in terms of the number of factories and total persons employed in the manufacturing sector. Out of 2.60 lakh factories across India, Tamil Nadu accounted for 15.43% of the share, followed by Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh.

Key Points:-

(i) The fixed capital in industries registered substantial growth, rising from ₹41,21,79,458 crore in FY23 to ₹46,24,09,035 crore in FY24. The invested capital also increased significantly, reaching ₹68,01,32,999 crore compared to ₹61,39,21,255 crore in the previous year, reflecting robust industrial expansion.

(ii) Employment levels recorded a strong rise, with total employment growing from 1,84,94,962 persons in FY23 to 1,95,89,131 persons in FY24. The ASI further reported that more than 57 lakh jobs have been added in the sector between 2014-15 and 2023-24, underlining manufacturing as a key employment driver.

(iii) In terms of Gross Value Added (GVA), the sector posted an 11.89% growth in FY24 over FY23. Maharashtra led in GVA contribution, followed by Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. Key industries driving growth were Basic Metals, Motor Vehicles, Chemical and Pharmaceutical Products, and Food Products, with Gujarat topping in output value and fixed capital, while Tamil Nadu dominated workforce and factory numbers.

2. PMJDY Completes 11 Years: 56.16 Crore Accounts Opened with ₹2.68 Lakh Crore Deposits.



On August 28, 2025, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) celebrated its 11th anniversary, marking a significant milestone in India's journey towards financial inclusion. Launched on August 28, 2014, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, PMJDY aimed to provide universal access to banking facilities, particularly for underserved populations. As of August 13, 2025, the scheme has successfully opened 56.16 crore accounts, with a total deposit balance of ₹2.68 lakh crore, underscoring its transformative impact on the financial landscape.

- The Ministry of Finance, under the leadership of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, has been instrumental in the implementation and expansion of PMJDY. In her statement, Minister Sitharaman emphasized that financial inclusion is a key driver of economic growth and development.

- She highlighted that universal access to bank accounts enables the poor and marginalized to participate fully in the formal economy, thereby contributing to inclusive growth.

- A notable achievement of PMJDY is its focus on women and rural populations. Approximately 56% of the account holders are women, and 67% of the accounts are located in rural and semi-urban areas. This demographic outreach reflects

the government's commitment to ensuring that the benefits of financial inclusion reach the most underserved sections of society.

Key Points:-

(i) The scheme has also facilitated the issuance of over 38 crore RuPay debit cards, each offering a ₹2 lakh accident insurance cover. These cards have been pivotal in promoting digital transactions and enhancing the security of financial transactions for account holders.

(ii) PMJDY has played a crucial role in the success of India's Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system. By providing a platform for direct crediting of welfare benefits into beneficiaries' accounts, the scheme has reduced leakage, minimized corruption, and ensured that subsidies reach the intended recipients promptly.

(iii) As PMJDY enters its 12th year, it continues to fortify India's JAM (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile) trinity, enhancing governance efficiency and creating a robust financial safety net for citizens. The scheme's success underscores India's commitment to inclusive growth, ensuring no citizen is left behind as the country progresses towards a \$5-trillion economy.

3. Startup Policy Forum Launches 'IndiaAI in Action' Podcast in Partnership with IndiaAI Mission to Spotlight AI Innovators.

STARTUP POLICY FORUM LAUNCHES

'IndiaAI in Action' PODCAST

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



**IndiaAI
INNOVATORS**



The Startup Policy Forum (SPF), in collaboration with the IndiaAI Mission, has unveiled IndiaAI in Action, a new podcast series that brings to life the stories of Indian startups leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) to solve real-world challenges and drive social and business transformation.

- The podcast launch precedes the AI Impact Summit, scheduled in New Delhi in February 2026, where global leaders, heads of state, and top technology executives will gather to shape the future of responsible AI deployment.
- Season One features prominent founders and co-founders: Harshil Mathur of Razorpay, Vivek Raghavan of Sarvam AI, Sanket Shah and Anshul Khandelwal of Invideo, and Alope Bajpai with Rajnish Kumar of ixigo.

Key Points:-

(i) The series captures the dynamic journeys of these entrepreneurs, highlighting how AI is being deployed across fintech, travel, healthcare, content creation, and enterprise solutions. Through candid storytelling, founders demonstrate how they are enhancing competitiveness and driving innovation amid India's evolving startup ecosystem.

(ii) This initiative is backed by the IndiaAI

Mission under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), and is powered by Vultr, the world's largest privately held cloud platform, supporting over 220,000 customers across 32 global data centers.

(iii) Shweta Rajpal Kohli, President & CEO of the Startup Policy Forum, stated that "IndiaAI in Action aims to inspire, educate, and energise AI innovation by spotlighting visionary founders and cutting-edge AI use cases," underscoring the rapid adoption of AI within India's startup ecosystem.

4. MoE Releases UDISE+ 2024-25 Report as India's Teacher Count Surpasses 1 Crore Milestone.



In August 2025, the Ministry of Education (MoE) released the latest findings of the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) for the academic year 2024-25. The report presented critical insights on India's school education, highlighting major achievements and challenges, including the historic milestone of crossing 1 crore teachers for the first time.

- The UDISE+ 2024-25 report revealed that India's total number of school teachers has surpassed 1,01,22,420, breaching the 1 crore

mark for the first time since the system's inception in 2018-19. This figure represents an increase from 98,07,600 teachers in 2023-24 and 94,83,294 in 2022-23, showing consistent year-on-year growth in the teaching workforce.

- A major highlight of the report was the improvement in the Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) across all educational levels compared to 2014-15. The PTR improved from 15 to 10 at the foundational level, from 18 to 13 at the preparatory stage, from 26 to 17 at the middle level, and from 31 to 21 at the secondary level, reflecting efforts to ensure more focused learning environments.

- Despite the increase in teachers, the report noted a decline in student enrolment. The total number of students enrolled from Class I to XII decreased by 11 lakh, falling from 24.8 crore in 2023-24 to 24.69 crore in 2024-25. This marks the lowest enrolment figure since UDISE+ data collection began in 2018-19, raising concerns about long-term participation in formal education.

Key Points:-

(i) On a positive note, the report highlighted a decline in dropout rates across all three major school levels—Preparatory, Middle, and Secondary. Compared to previous years (2022-23 and 2023-24), 2024-25 witnessed fewer students leaving the system prematurely, showing the impact of sustained government interventions like scholarships, mid-day meal schemes, and digital learning initiatives.

(ii) The data revealed an encouraging increase in Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), particularly at the Middle and Secondary levels. GER at the Middle level rose from 89.5% to 90.3%, while GER at the

Secondary level improved from 66.5% to 68.5% in 2024-25. These figures highlight progress in retaining students, especially in the transition from middle to higher grades.

(iii) Since its launch in 2018-19, UDISE+ has become the most comprehensive school education database in India, covering teacher strength, enrolment, infrastructure, and performance metrics. The 2024-25 edition stands out for achieving a historic teacher milestone while also identifying challenges such as declining enrolment, thereby guiding future education policies under the Ministry of Education.

5. MoP Releases 6th State Energy Efficiency Index 2024 Highlighting Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Assam as Top Performers.



In August 2025, the Ministry of Power (MoP) unveiled the sixth edition of the State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2024 to assess the progress of states and Union Territories (UTs) in improving energy efficiency during FY 2023-24. The index, jointly prepared by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and the Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE), was released by Akash Tripathi, Additional Secretary, MoP, and Director General, BEE.

- The SEEI 2024 evaluated the performance of 36 states and UTs across multiple indicators of energy efficiency, covering demand sectors such as buildings, industry, transport, agriculture, and cross-sector initiatives. The index has become a benchmark tool to compare how states implement energy efficiency measures in line with national climate commitments and sustainable growth goals.

- According to the index, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, and Tripura emerged among the leading performers in their respective groups. Maharashtra topped in Group 1 states, while Andhra Pradesh led in Group 2, Assam in Group 3, and Tripura in Group 4. This categorization was based on the states' total energy consumption, measured in Million Tonnes of Oil Equivalent (MTOe).

- The SEEI 2024 classified states into four categories based on performance scores: Front Runners (above 60%), Achievers (50–60%), Contenders (30–50%), and Aspirants (below 30%). This classification highlights where states currently stand and provides insights for targeted interventions to accelerate efficiency progress.

Key Points:-

(i) The report noted that the number of Front Runner states has decreased from seven to five in 2024. Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu retained their position in this top-performing category. Meanwhile, states such as Assam and Kerala improved their scores to be listed under the Achievers category.

(ii) Several other states, including Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Odisha, and Uttar Pradesh, were placed in the Contenders category, indicating moderate progress in

efficiency implementation.

(iii) The SEEI 2024 emphasizes the importance of sustained policy efforts, financing mechanisms, and capacity-building at the state level to achieve India's long-term target of reducing energy intensity by 2030 in line with its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

6. Bihar Cabinet Approves 'Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana' to Empower Women Through Self-Employment.



On 29 August 2025, the Bihar Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, approved the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana, a flagship program aimed at strengthening women's participation in the economy by supporting them with financial aid, skill development, and entrepreneurial opportunities across rural and urban areas.

- The scheme ensures that one woman from every family will be identified and encouraged to establish self-employment ventures. To begin, each selected beneficiary will receive a direct grant of ₹10,000, while additional support of up to ₹2 lakh will be provided after a six-month performance review, encouraging sustainability and growth.

- The Rural Development Department (RDD) will implement the program in villages, while the Urban Development and Housing Department (UDHD) will oversee activities in towns and cities.

- Beneficiary funds will be transferred through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism beginning September 2025, ensuring transparency and accountability in the disbursement process.

Key Points:-

(i) According to Chief Secretary Amrit Lal Meena, the program was designed after extensive discussions during the Mahila Samvad campaign, which engaged over 70,000 women's groups to assess needs at the grassroots.

(ii) The scheme reflects continuity in Bihar's women-centric initiatives such as 50% reservation in Panchayati Raj Institutions (2006), liquor prohibition law (2016), and bicycle and scholarship schemes for girl students. It also leverages the network of JEEViKA self-help groups, which currently connect 1.4 crore women through 11 lakh SHGs, giving the new scheme a ready social foundation.

(iii) By focusing on job creation within Bihar, the initiative seeks to reduce out-migration of youth and women for work. It not only boosts local entrepreneurship but also carries political weight ahead of the 2025 Bihar Assembly Elections, signaling the government's commitment to gender equity and inclusive development.

7. HCLTech, Pearson India, and MeitY Startup Hub Launch 'ARISE FOR YOU' Entrepreneurship Challenge.



On August 27, 2025, HCL Technologies Limited (HCLTech), in partnership with Pearson India and the MeitY Startup Hub (MSH) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), launched 'ARISE (Aspire.Rise.Inspire.Skill.Excel) FOR YOU', an innovation-driven entrepreneurship challenge. The initiative aims to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem for students and align with the Government of India's Viksit Bharat Mission.

- The programme is designed to encourage participation from students across the nation, with the final event scheduled for March 12–13, 2026. Winners will be awarded cash grants, mentorship, incubation support, and national media recognition.

- The challenge has attracted more than 150,000 students from over 3,000 campuses nationwide, making it one of the largest entrepreneurship initiatives in India. Participants will engage in multiple stages of competition, with the grand finale culminating in March 2026.

- Pearson India will deliver the Entrepreneurship & Small Business (ESB) Certification and provide structured learning content, while MeitY Startup Hub (MSH) will leverage its innovation ecosystem, including 62

regional hubs, to facilitate mentorship, incubation, and counselling opportunities for participants.

Key Points:-

- (i) The winning teams will be eligible for grants up to ₹10 lakhs, incubation support for their entrepreneurial ventures, and opportunities for national media coverage. These incentives are intended to empower young entrepreneurs to convert their ideas into sustainable business models.
- (ii) Institutions hosting participants stand to gain significantly, with national branding opportunities, chances to organize regional-level challenges, and improved National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings through the performance and achievements of their students in the competition.
- (iii) The initiative is directly aligned with the Viksit Bharat Mission, which envisions building a self-reliant, inclusive, and innovation-driven India. By fostering entrepreneurial skills among students, the programme contributes to long-term goals of sustainable development, innovation, and global competitiveness.

8. DAHD Unveils Revised National Action Plan to Combat Glanders Across India.



The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAHD), has released a Revised National Action Plan on Glanders, aimed at enhancing surveillance, response, and eradication of this fatal equine disease. Published in August 2025, the plan employs a robust One Health approach to safeguard both animal welfare and public health.

- The updated strategy expands disease surveillance and reporting protocols, making mandatory testing in endemic zones compulsory. The plan supports upgrading laboratory diagnostics, enforcing real-time field inspections, and establishing a digital reporting network across veterinary health systems.
- A streamlined rapid response and containment framework directs coordination between DAHD and state animal husbandry departments for swift isolation of affected equines, humane handling of positive cases, and precise containment actions to halt the spread.

Key Points:-

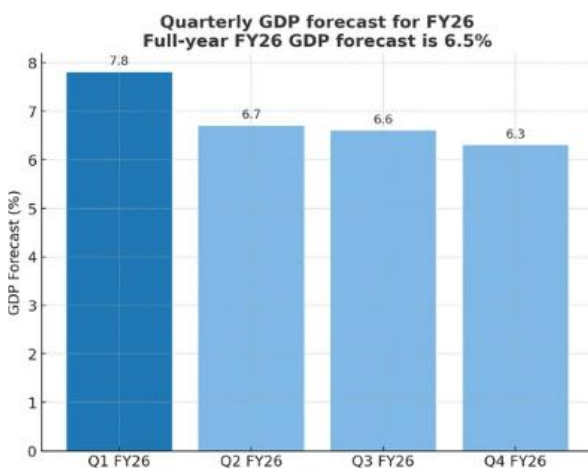
- (i) Capacity-building initiatives are integral to this plan, featuring comprehensive training for veterinarians and para-veterinary personnel. The program includes hands-on

workshops on disease identification, biosafety protocols, and accurate reporting procedures for frontline veterinary workers.

(ii) Community outreach and stakeholder engagement are key components, involving awareness campaigns tailored for equine owners, breeders, and traders. These efforts focus on early reporting, adoption of preventive measures, and fostering trust and cooperation at the grassroots level.

(iii) From a research and institutional standpoint, the ICAR–National Research Centre on Equines (NRCE), Hisar, plays a pivotal role by enhancing diagnostic capabilities, conducting epidemiological studies, and leading lab proficiency programs. All efforts align with the One Health framework, recognizing potential zoonotic risks and emphasizing cross-sectoral health strategies.

9. India Records 7.8% GDP Growth in Q1 FY26, Highest in Five Quarters Driven by Services & Manufacturing.



In the April–June quarter of 2025 (Q1 of FY26), India's economy recorded a remarkable 7.8% growth, outpacing the 6.5% from the same period last year and marking a five-quarter high. This strong performance

significantly exceeded pre-quarter forecasts, reflecting the resilience of the economy.

- India's services sector emerged as the leading contributor, with a 9.3% expansion driven by booming financial, real estate, professional services, and trade, hotels, transport & communication sub-sectors. The manufacturing sector also delivered a strong 7.7% growth, with 85% of incremental Gross Value Added (GVA) coming from these two sectors combined.

- Meanwhile, agriculture and allied activities contributed a steady 3.7%, and the overall industry sector grew by 6.3%, underscoring broad-based economic gains.

- On the expenditure front, consumer demand remained robust: private consumption grew by 7%, government spending rose by 7.4%, and gross capital formation (capex) increased by 7.8%, illustrating strong economic activity across households, public investment, and business investments.

Key Points:-

(i) This growth was registered despite external challenges such as heightened trade tensions. Notably, India's GDP expansion defied expectations amid the imposition of 50% tariffs by the U.S., showing the strength of domestic demand and economic fundamentals.

(ii) Government data from the National Statistics Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) confirmed Q1 FY26's GDP growth was 7.8%, firmly exceeding the 6.5% forecast by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and other institutional projections of 6.7%.

(iii) Economic analysts and industry chambers responded positively to the news. ASSOCHAM and FICCI highlighted the Q1

performance as evidence of India's resilience and a strong start to FY26, likely enhancing business sentiment. Meanwhile, policymakers used the data to reinforce India's narrative as a robust and growing economy—one that continues to build momentum despite global headwinds.

INTERNATIONAL

1. India Participates in Multilateral 'Exercise Bright Star 2025' in Egypt with Over 700 Personnel.



India has deployed more than 700 personnel from the Indian Armed Forces and Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) to participate in Exercise Bright Star 2025, a major multilateral defence drill being conducted from August 28 to September 10, 2025, at Mohamed Naguib Military Base in Matrouh Governorate, Egypt.

- The current edition of Exercise Bright Star is the 19th in the series and is recognized as one of the largest and longest-running multinational defence exercises in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. India's participation highlights its commitment to regional stability, security, and enhanced defence cooperation with global partners.

- Exercise Bright Star was initially launched in 1980 as a bilateral drill between the United States of America (USA) and Egypt, following the Camp David Accords of 1978. Over the years, it expanded into a multilateral format with the participation of countries such as France, United Kingdom (UK), Germany, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

- This year's edition will witness the participation of 43 nations, with 13 countries deploying around 7,900 troops, while nearly 30 countries will send military observers. The exercise will include tri-service components involving the Army, Navy, and Air Force, with training focused on joint planning, live-fire demonstrations, subject matter exchanges, and operational coordination.

Key Points:-

- (i) India's contingent for Bright Star 2025 includes personnel from the Indian Army (IA), Indian Navy (IN), and Indian Air Force (IAF), supported by the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff.
- (ii) The Indian side will conduct joint drills with partner nations, covering operational planning, short-duration missions, counter-terrorism strategies, and humanitarian assistance operations.
- (iii) In the previous edition held in 2023, India participated for the first time by deploying around 550 tri-service personnel. With the upgraded contingent size in 2025, India's role reflects its growing strategic engagement with partner countries and its aspiration to build stronger military-to-military ties within the multilateral defence framework.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. Jio Payments Bank Launches 'Savings Pro' for Higher Returns on Idle Deposits.



In August 2025, Jio Payments Bank Limited (JPBL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Jio Financial Services Limited (JFSL), introduced 'Savings Pro', India's first savings account that automatically invests idle balances in overnight Mutual Funds (MFs), helping depositors earn higher returns without extra effort.

- The launch was officially announced by Hitesh Sethia, Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of JFSL, during the company's Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2024–25. This marks a milestone in India's banking innovation by linking traditional deposits to overnight MFs.

- 'Savings Pro' was introduced to address the decline in savings account interest rates to nearly 2.5%, enabling customers to shift idle balances into overnight MFs that typically deliver returns between 4% and 6% per annum, significantly higher than conventional savings accounts.

Key Points:-

(i) The product has been designed with a deposit cap of ₹2 lakh per customer, as per

the payments bank regulations, making it most suitable for individuals seeking short-term surplus cash management and emergency fund parking, rather than long-term investments.

(ii) Under this mechanism, idle balances in customer accounts are automatically and seamlessly invested into overnight debt mutual funds, which invest in money market instruments maturing the next day. These funds are open-ended, low-risk, and require minimal intervention, ensuring safety with liquidity.

(iii) By offering this innovation, Jio Payments Bank aims to combine the liquidity of a savings account with the enhanced returns of mutual funds, giving customers a simple, automated way to optimize idle money without active financial management.

2. Unity Bank and BharatPe Launch India's First EMI-Driven RuPay Credit Card.



In August 2025, Unity Small Finance Bank Limited (Unity Bank) partnered with BharatPe to launch India's first Equated Monthly Instalment (EMI)-driven credit card, called the 'Unity Bank BharatPe Credit Card'. The card functions on the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) operated RuPay

network and is UPI-enabled, offering a transparent and inclusive access to credit.

- The Unity Bank BharatPe Credit Card introduces an auto-EMI conversion feature where any monthly unpaid spends above Rs. 1000 are automatically converted into EMIs, with flexible repayment options of up to 12 months. This mechanism is designed to help salaried as well as self-employed individuals manage their cash flows responsibly, while avoiding high-interest revolving debt traps.

- The card offers a zero-fee structure, eliminating joining charges, annual fees, or foreclosure penalties. This makes it one of the most affordable credit options in India, especially for individuals from middle-income groups who often avoid traditional credit cards due to hidden charges and penalty clauses.

- Eligibility criteria for the Unity Bank BharatPe Credit Card requires applicants to be between 21 and 65 years of age, with a minimum annual income of Rs. 2.5 lakh for salaried individuals and Rs. 5 lakh for self-employed individuals. This inclusive framework ensures both urban professionals and small business owners can benefit from structured and accessible credit.

Key Points:-

(i) As part of its benefits, the card provides flat 2% unlimited rewards on EMI-converted transactions, redeemable as Zillion Coins for vouchers, bill payments, or products worth up to Rs. 5,000.

(ii) Additionally, the card includes lifestyle privileges such as complimentary domestic and international lounge access, health check-ups, and seamless UPI integration for secure digital transactions.

(iii) Overall, the Unity Bank BharatPe Credit

Card represents a pioneering step in India's credit landscape by combining affordability, rewards, and digital-first features, ensuring responsible credit usage and financial empowerment.

3. SBI Card and Flipkart Launch Co-branded 'Flipkart SBI Credit Card' for Seamless Shopping.



In August 2025, SBI Card and Payment Services Limited, a leading Indian Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), in collaboration with Flipkart, one of India's largest e-commerce marketplaces, recently launched the 'Flipkart SBI Credit Card' in New Delhi. The launch aims to provide a seamless shopping experience with exclusive cashback benefits for Indian consumers.

- The Flipkart SBI Credit Card was officially launched in the presence of Challa Sreenivasulu (C.S.) Setty, Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI), and Ashwini Kumar, Managing Director (MD) of SBI, marking a significant step in strengthening digital payment solutions in India.

- The launch event highlighted the importance of partnerships between banks and e-commerce players to drive financial inclusion and customer convenience.

- This newly launched co-branded credit card is powered by both Mastercard and VISA platforms, making it widely accessible across domestic and international markets. Customers can easily apply digitally via the Flipkart mobile application, SBI Card SPRINT, or through the official card website 'SBICard.com', ensuring fast and user-friendly onboarding.

Key Points:-

- The Flipkart SBI Credit Card comes with curated cashback offers, including 7.5% cashback on purchases made on Myntra and 5% cashback on spends at Flipkart, Shopsy, and Cleartrip. These benefits are subject to a quarterly cashback limit of Rs. 4,000 for each category, allowing frequent online shoppers to maximize their savings.
- A unique feature of this co-branded card is the automatic cashback credit system. Under this facility, the entitled cashback is auto-credited to the customer's SBI account within two days of the statement generation, reducing the need for manual redemption and ensuring a seamless experience for users.
- Through this launch, SBI Card and Flipkart aim to capture India's growing digital payment ecosystem, particularly in the retail and travel segments. The collaboration is expected to empower consumers with greater financial flexibility and reward-driven shopping, while further strengthening SBI's position as one of the leading credit card issuers in India.

MOUs and Agreement

1. SIA-India and EIAPI Sign MoU to Boost Cooperation in Electronics, Space, and Satellite Technologies.



On August 28, 2025, the Satcom Industry Association-India (SIA-India) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Electronic Industry Association of the Philippines Inc. (EIAPI). The agreement aims to enhance cooperation in electronics, space, and satellite communication technologies, while also commemorating 75 years of diplomatic relations between India and the Philippines.

- The MoU primarily focuses on joint research, innovation, and product development in advanced technological areas. These include satellite communication hardware, embedded systems, Internet of Things (IoT) devices, and next-generation space electronics, strengthening India-Philippines technology collaboration.

- Through this agreement, both sides will work to establish a collaborative manufacturing ecosystem. This ecosystem will allow the Philippines to benefit from India's electronics manufacturing base, currently valued at USD 115 billion, and integrate into the global technology supply chain.

Key Points:-

- The MoU also carries significant strategic and diplomatic importance, as it marks the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations

between the two nations. It highlights the increasing relevance of science, technology, and innovation in bilateral cooperation.

(ii) Looking ahead, the partnership is expected to generate opportunities for startups, academia-industry partnerships, and workforce skill development in both countries.

(iii) By linking India's technological strength with the Philippines' growing innovation ecosystem, the agreement contributes to long-term economic growth and sustainable development.

SPORTS

1. Dharambir Nain, Preeti Pal Named India's Flag Bearers for World Para Athletics 2025.



In August 2025, the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) officially announced Paralympians Dharambir Nain and Preeti Pal as the flag bearers of the Indian contingent for the 12th World Para Athletics Championships 2025, scheduled to be held from 27 September to 5 October 2025 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi. This will be the first time India will host the prestigious championship.

● The announcement is significant as India will be represented by its largest-ever 73-member

contingent, competing against participants from over 107 countries in the tournament.

● Paralympian Dharambir Nain, who secured a gold medal in the Men's Club Throw F51 event at the Paris 2024 Paralympics, and Preeti Pal, who clinched bronze in both the 100m and 200m T35 events at the Paris 2024 Paralympics, were chosen as India's flag bearers. Their selection symbolizes India's rising dominance in para-athletics.

● The 12th World Para Athletics Championships 2025 will take place from 27 September to 5 October 2025 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi. The event is being organized under the leadership of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI), marking a historic milestone as India hosts the championship for the very first time.

Key Points:-

(i) India will field a 73-athlete strong contingent, its largest representation at any para-athletics championship. Globally, over 107 countries are expected to participate, making this the largest-ever edition of the World Para Athletics Championships.

(ii) Dharambir Nain's gold medal at Paris 2024 highlighted India's strength in field events, while Preeti Pal made history as the first Indian woman to win two track and field medals at a single Paralympics. Their achievements not only elevated India's medal tally but also inspired new athletes across the nation.

(iii) Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut has been appointed as the brand ambassador for the championship. This strategic move aims to increase public engagement and awareness about para-sports in India. Hosting the event further strengthens India's role in the global sports ecosystem and

showcases its commitment to inclusivity in athletics.

2. Neeraj Chopra Finishes Second at 2025 Diamond League Final.



In a thrilling conclusion to the 2025 Diamond League season, Indian javelin star Neeraj Chopra secured second place in Zurich with a clutch final throw of 85.01 m, while Germany's Julian Weber claimed gold with an outstanding 91.51 m performance.

- Neeraj Chopra had already qualified for the Diamond League Final held on August 27–28, 2025, in Zurich, thanks to his performances throughout the season—including notable participation in Doha and Paris Junior League meets.

- Neeraj Chopra's best performance came at his sixth and final attempt, where he hurled the javelin to 85.01 m, vaulting him into the second position. Before that, his initial throws stood at 84.35 m and 82.00 m, followed by three fouls.

Key Points:-

(i) Julian Weber of Germany dominated with a winning throw of 91.51 m, surpassing Chopra by over six meters and sealing the

Diamond League title with clear superiority.

(ii) Neeraj Chopra himself admitted that his timing and run-up were off, acknowledging technical lapses that affected his performance. Despite that, he remains optimistic, viewing this result as a learning opportunity ahead of the upcoming World Championships in Tokyo.

(iii) This marks Chopra's third second-place finish in four Diamond League finals: he previously won in 2022 and placed second in both 2023 and 2024, as well. His consistency underscores his elite status in global athletics.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. National Small Industry Day 2025 Observed on August 30.



India observed National Small Industry Day (NSID) 2025 on 30th August 2025 to honour the crucial contribution of Small-Scale Industries (SSIs) and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in driving economic growth, creating jobs, and promoting inclusive development across the nation.

- The origin of National Small Industry Day dates back to 30 August 2000, when then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee launched a

comprehensive policy package for SSIs during the 1st National Conference on Small-Scale Industries in New Delhi.

- To mark this policy initiative, the Government of India (GoI) officially designated 30th August as National Small Industry Day, beginning in 2001, making 2025 the 25th observance of the day.

Key Points:-

(i) The annual celebration highlights the role of MSMEs in India's economy, which account for nearly 30% of GDP, contribute around 48% of total exports, and employ over 11 crore people across rural and urban regions.

(ii) The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MoMSME) leads various programmes, seminars, and recognition events on NSID to support entrepreneurship, strengthen innovation, and promote skill development for small business growth.

(iii) Globally, the observance is also aligned with the United Nations (UN) MSME Day, celebrated annually on 27 June, reinforcing the role of small industries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

DEFENCE

1. India-Bangladesh Held 56th DG-Level Border Coordination Conference in Dhaka from 25-28 August 2025.



From 25 to 28 August 2025, India and Bangladesh convened the 56th DG-Level Border Coordination Conference in Dhaka, aiming to strengthen border management and security collaboration. The event brought together border chiefs along with officials from home, external affairs, and border agencies of both countries to address pressing bilateral concerns.

- The four-day conference took place at the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Headquarters in Pilkhana, Dhaka, and was graced by the leadership of BGB Director General Major General Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui and BSF Director General Daljit Singh Chawdhary, who headed their respective delegations. The Indian side comprised 11 members including senior officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), and the Indian High Commission in Dhaka, while the BGB invited delegates from multiple national agencies.

- These DG-level bilateral meetings, instituted in the mid-1970s, were made biannual in 1993 to foster continuous dialogue and stronger border cooperation. This edition follows the 55th conference held in New Delhi in February 2025.

- Key topics included the reduction of border killings, curbing illegal infiltration and unauthorized crossings, preventing drug, arms, and contraband smuggling, and tackling insurgent activity. Plans to prevent unauthorized construction within 150 yards of the border, conserve riverbanks and ensure fair water sharing also featured prominently.

Key Points:-

(i) Both sides recommitted to the implementation of the Integrated Border Management Plan, shared real-time intelligence, conducted joint patrols, and agreed on community outreach programs. A decision was taken to hold the next conference in New Delhi in March 2026.

(ii) Bangladesh expressed deep concern about the repeated incidences of violence, including shootings and injuries to Bangladeshi nationals by BSF personnel, which have heightened public tensions. India assured stricter enforcement of rules of engagement, increased night patrols, and collaborative efforts to eliminate such incidents.

(iii) Discussions extended beyond security to include contentious issues like anti-Bangladesh propaganda in the Indian media. Addressing these sensitivities alongside border concerns demonstrated a broader commitment to preserving bilateral balance amid political transitions in both countries.

Static GK

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