

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

> 02 SEPTEMBER 2025

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. George Kurian Launches 'Matsya Shakti' to Empower Minority Fishermen in Kerala.



In August 2025, Union Minister of State (MoS) George Kurian, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAH&D), and Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA), launched the “Matsya Shakti” project in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The year-long initiative aims to empower minority fisherman communities through training, skill development, and entrepreneurship support.

- The project is being implemented under the Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) scheme, ensuring livelihood enhancement and sustainable fisheries practices for marginalized groups.

- The project’s implementation involves a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research – Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI). ICAR-CMFRI’s Vizhinjam Regional Centre in Kerala will carry out the scheme at the ground level.

Key Points:-

(i) A structured one-year training programme will train 690 candidates from minority

communities. The programme will focus on building domain knowledge, entrepreneurship, and fisheries-related skills, thereby boosting employability and self-reliance.

(ii) Out of the 690 selected participants, 270 will be trained in non-traditional fisheries-based skills, including 90 in Fish Hatchery Production and 180 in Basics of Cage Culture Fish Farming. This diversification aims to strengthen modern aquaculture practices in Kerala.

(iii) Additionally, 420 women candidates will undergo leadership and entrepreneurship programmes, enabling them to establish and manage enterprises. All trainees will receive stipends during the training period, ensuring financial support and inclusivity.

2. IIT Hyderabad Partners with Indian Army's SDD to Launch 'VIGRAHA' Centre of Excellence.



On August 30, 2025, the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) entered into a strategic collaboration with the Indian Army's Simulator Development Division (SDD) to establish the Centre of Excellence (CoE) named 'VIGRAHA'—an acronym for Virtual, Intelligent, Ground-breaking Research in AR/VR & High-tech Applications.

- This initiative aims to advance research in augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, drones, and unmanned systems, thereby fostering innovation in defense technologies.

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in the presence of IITH Director Prof. B.S. Murty and senior officials from SDD, including Brigadier A.K. Chaturvedi, Colonel Hari Om Ahlawat, and Lieutenant Colonel Anupam Porwal. Leading the initiative at IITH are Prof. G. Narahari Sastry and Dr. Shiva Ji, who will serve as the principal investigators for the CoE.

Key Points:-

(i) The establishment of 'VIGRAHA' underscores the growing synergy between academic institutions and defense agencies in India. By integrating cutting-edge technologies into defense applications, this collaboration aims to enhance the capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces and contribute to the nation's self-reliance in defense technology.

(ii) 'VIGRAHA' will facilitate joint academic programs, research and development projects, training and certification in emerging technologies, internships for students, and shared access to advanced facilities. This collaborative effort is expected to produce innovative solutions that address the evolving challenges in defense and strategic sectors.

(iii) This partnership aligns with India's broader defense modernization goals and reflects a commitment to fostering innovation through academia-defense collaborations. The CoE is poised to become a hub for pioneering research and development in defense technologies, contributing significantly to the nation's

defense capabilities.

3. India Inaugurates First Mobile Tempered Glass Factory in Noida.



On August 30, 2025, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, inaugurated India's first-ever mobile tempered glass manufacturing facility in Noida, established by Optiemus Infracom in collaboration with U.S. materials technology leader Corning Incorporated—a landmark move in the nation's electronics self-reliance journey.

- This factory represents a significant milestone under India's Make in India initiative, as it enables indigenous production of essential mobile device components—specifically tempered glass for screens—empowering domestic supply chains previously dependent on imports.

- The facility was initially set up with an investment of ₹70 crore, offering an annual production capacity of 2.5 crore units, and generating direct employment for over 600 people.

- A second phase, involving an additional ₹800 crore, will boost capacity to 20 crore units per

annum, aimed at both domestic and global markets.

Key Points:-

(i) Under the alliance, tempered glass is produced under the globally recognized label “Engineered by Corning”, with Optiemus launching RhinoTech, the first Made-in-India premium screen protector brand using Corning glass. RhinoTech offers enhanced features such as anti-microbial protection, a fog-mark for authenticity, and a one-year unlimited replacement policy.

(ii) This development helps reduce India’s dependence on low-quality imports, addressing a domestic market worth ₹20,000 crore and estimated demand of 400 million units in 2025. To boost product reliability, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) introduced the world’s first standard for “Chemically Tempered Glass Screen Protectors,” ensuring quality, uniformity, and consumer safety.

(iii) At the inauguration, Minister Vaishnav emphasized India’s ambition to manufacture every essential mobile component—from chips to cover glasses—moving towards full electronics manufacturing autonomy. The tempered glass facility is a cornerstone in expanding Indian electronics manufacturing from ₹11.5 lakh crore output and ₹3 lakh crore in exports over the past decade, with broader implications for economic growth and global competitiveness.

4. India Launches Adi Vaani: Country’s First AI-Powered Translator for Tribal Languages.



On August 31, 2025, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs unveiled the beta version of Adi Vaani—India’s pioneering Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered translation tool for tribal languages—designed to bridge communication gaps, preserve endangered dialects, and support inclusive education, digital literacy, and governance in tribal communities.

- **Adi Vaani** was developed under the Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh initiative by a consortium of premier institutions including IIT Delhi, BITS Pilani, IIIT Hyderabad, and IIIT Naya Raipur, alongside Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) in Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Meghalaya—a unique collaboration combining AI expertise with community-driven linguistic knowledge.

- The beta application is currently available on the Google Play Store, with an iOS version on the way. It enables real-time text and speech translation between Hindi/English and tribal languages, starting with Santali (Odisha), Bhili (Madhya Pradesh), Mundari (Jharkhand), and Gondi (Chhattisgarh). Plans are underway to add more languages in future versions.

Key Points:-

(i) **Adi Vaani** supports text-to-speech

conversion and allows users—including tribal students and educators—to translate Hindi or English educational content (such as NCERT textbooks) into their native tongues. It also features culturally relevant content like folklore, oral traditions, government scheme information, and health advisories (e.g., around sickle cell anemia), making it a powerful tool for learning and communication.

(ii) The initiative aligns with key national programs like Digital India, Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan, Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, and PM Janman. It also reinforces constitutional mandates (Articles 29 and 350A) for preserving cultural and linguistic diversity while promoting inclusive empowerment for tribal populations.

(iii) In a broader roadmap for tribal development, the Ministry has emphasized ramping up Adi Vaani alongside Adi Sanskriti—a portal for art, traditions, and cultural preservation—integrating state-level documentation of low-resource languages, governance communication, and educational outreach in tribal areas through an inter-ministerial, technology-driven strategy.



On August 29, 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of ₹44.70 lakh on Bandhan Bank for deficiencies in statutory and regulatory compliance. The penalty underscores the RBI's commitment to ensuring adherence to regulatory norms within the banking sector.

- The penalty follows a statutory inspection conducted by the RBI to assess Bandhan Bank's financial position as of March 31, 2024. The inspection revealed that the bank had paid commissions to certain employees and made manual interventions in account data without proper audit trails, leading to deficiencies in compliance with regulatory norms.

- The RBI emphasized that the penalty was imposed based on deficiencies in statutory and regulatory compliance and was not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers. This highlights the RBI's role in maintaining the integrity of the banking system through stringent regulatory oversight.

Key Points:-

(i) In response to the RBI's findings, Bandhan Bank was advised to show cause as to why a penalty should not be imposed for its failure to comply with the RBI's

BANKING & FINANCE

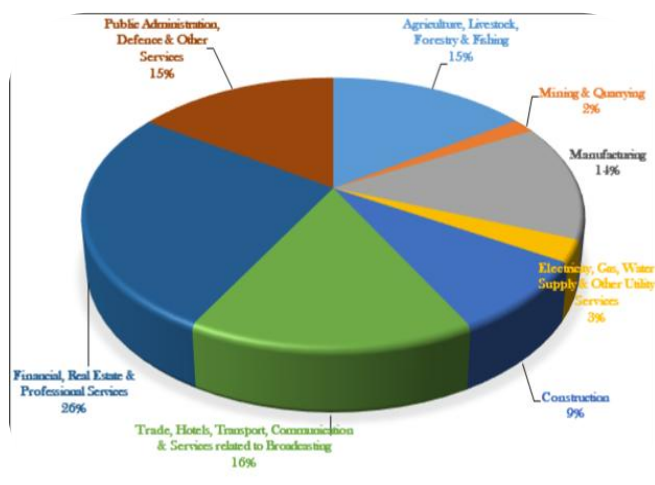
1. RBI Levies ₹44.70 Lakh Penalty on Bandhan Bank for Regulatory Non-Compliance.

directions. The bank's management is expected to take corrective actions to address the identified deficiencies and strengthen its compliance framework.

(ii) This penalty serves as a reminder to other financial institutions about the importance of adhering to regulatory norms and maintaining robust compliance mechanisms. The RBI's proactive approach in imposing penalties underscores its commitment to ensuring the stability and integrity of the Indian banking system.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1. NSO Reports India's GDP Grows 7.8% in Q1 FY26, Highest in 5 Quarters, Surpassing RBI Projections.



In a highly anticipated release on August 29, 2025, the National Statistical Office (NSO), under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, revealed that India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by an impressive 7.8% in Q1 of FY 2025-26, marking the fastest quarterly expansion in five quarters.

● According to NSO data, India's real GDP in Q1 FY26 (April–June 2025) stood at approximately ₹47.89 lakh crore, up from ₹44.42 lakh crore in

Q1 FY25, while nominal GDP (GDP at current prices) rose to ₹86.05 lakh crore versus ₹79.08 lakh crore a year earlier. This robust expansion is noted as the strongest quarterly performance over the past five quarters.

● The growth momentum was broad-based, with agriculture and allied sectors posting a real GVA (Gross Value Added) growth of 3.7%, manufacturing rising 7.7%, and construction growing 7.6% over the same period last year. Services and other segments also contributed significantly, reinforcing the economy's diverse expansion drivers.

Key Points:-

(i) The NSO's 7.8% growth rate exceeded both the Reserve Bank of India's earlier projection of 6.5% and most private-sector expectations of around 6.7%, delivering a stronger-than-anticipated start to the fiscal year. Policy analysts attribute this upside surprise to lower-than-expected deflation, front-loaded government expenditures, and buoyant domestic demand.

(ii) Despite the upbeat figures, economists caution that the growth may not be sustainable. Concerns include the potential negative impact of looming U.S. tariffs on exports, possible slowdown in corporate earnings, and muted investor sentiment, with several pointing out that nominal GDP growth has lagged behind real GDP, affecting profitability and revenue projections.

(iii) Meanwhile, the Finance Ministry described the overall economic outlook as "steady as she goes," citing strong domestic demand, healthy rural growth (aided by a favorable monsoon), and controlled inflation as supporting factors. Still, export headwinds, sluggish credit growth, and

global uncertainties were flagged as areas requiring strategic policy attention for ensuring continued momentum.

2. Tata Steel Injects ₹3,100 Crore into Singapore Subsidiary TSHPL to Reinforce Global Operations.



On August 26, 2025, Tata Steel Limited subscribed to new equity shares in its wholly owned Singapore subsidiary, T Steel Holdings Pte. Ltd. (TSHPL), acquiring a stake worth approximately ₹3,104 crore (USD 355 million), marking its fourth capital infusion into the unit this financial year.

- The steel major acquired a total of 353,23,38,309 equity shares, each with a face value of USD 0.1005, in its Singapore-based subsidiary, T Steel Holdings Pte. Ltd. (TSHPL), amounting to USD 355 million (₹3,104.03 crore), as disclosed in its filing to the stock exchanges.
- This strategic capital infusion is part of a larger plan approved in May 2025, under which Tata Steel aims to channel up to USD 2.5 billion into TSHPL during FY 2025–26 in multiple tranches.
- Notably, this infusion marks the fourth investment in 2025, following earlier fund transfers of ₹10,727 crore in February, ₹1,562.54

crore in June, and ₹1,073.63 crore in July, all made at the same per-share face value, underscoring Tata Steel's sustained overseas expansion strategy.

Key Points:-

- The latest equity subscription keeps TSHPL firmly as a wholly owned foreign subsidiary, reinforcing Tata Steel's global footprint amid escalating geopolitical trade tensions and possible tariff actions.
- In tandem with this investment, Tata Steel reported robust financials for Q1 FY26, with a consolidated net profit of ₹2,007 crore—more than double the ₹918.6 crore recorded in the same quarter last year—and revenue of ₹53,178 crore, a slight decline of 2.9% from the previous year, highlighting operational resilience.

MOUs and Agreement

1. Department of Posts Signs MoU with MapmyIndia to Enhance DIGIPIN Services.



In a major stride for India's digital infrastructure, the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, and MapmyIndia–Mappls have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to integrate the Digital Postal Index Number

(DIGIPIN) with Mappls' geospatial platforms. The agreement, signed in New Delhi on August 29, 2025, marks a significant step toward deploying Address-as-a-Service (AaaS) across the country.

- On August 29, 2025 in New Delhi, the Department of Posts (DoP), under the Ministry of Communications, formalized a strategic partnership with MapmyIndia–Mappls—a leading Indian geospatial and digital mapping firm.

- The MoU was presided over by Shri Harpreet Singh, Member (Operations), Department of Posts, and Rakesh Verma, Co-founder and Chairman & Managing Director of MapmyIndia–Mappls, setting the stage for a nationwide rollout of DIGIPIN integration in geospatial services.

- This collaboration grants MapmyIndia access to India Post's cutting-edge base maps and geospatial datasets for integration into the "Know Your DIGIPIN" application and its flagship Mappls App. Citizens will now be able to generate precise DIGIPIN codes tied to their exact geographic location, and seamlessly search or navigate using those codes via Mappls.

Key Points:-

(i) DIGIPIN, or Digital Postal Index Number, is a unique, 10-character, alphanumeric geo-coded address identifier generated within 3.8 m × 3.8 m (grid-based) cells across India. It is crafted by the Department of Posts in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad, the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), and ISRO, offering precise location mapping and forming the backbone of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) vision.

(ii) India Post embeds MapmyIndia's

advanced Map APIs into its systems, while MapmyIndia integrates DIGIPIN generation into its Mappls App, layered with its own Mappls Pin system for enhanced detail—such as apartment, floor, and landmark information. This dual-pin framework significantly improves last-mile service delivery, logistics, emergency response, fintech accuracy, and urban planning.

(iii) This initiative reinforces India's ambition for a sovereign, geospatially empowered digital ecosystem—aligning with the Digital India and Atmanirbhar Bharat missions. It empowers citizens, businesses, and government agencies by providing universally accessible, privacy-centred, and interoperable digital addresses, effectively bridging the physical-digital divide.

2. IHMCL and ICICI Bank Ink Pact to Implement India's First Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) Tolling System at Choryasi, Gujarat.



Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL), a subsidiary of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), signed an agreement with ICICI Bank in August 2025 to launch India's first Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) tolling system. The pilot project

will be implemented at Choryasi Fee Plaza on National Highway-48 (NH-48) in Gujarat.

- The agreement between IHMCL and ICICI Bank aims to revolutionize toll collection by introducing a barrier-free electronic system. The Choryasi Fee Plaza in Gujarat will serve as India's first pilot location, reducing delays caused by manual toll collection and enabling uninterrupted vehicle movement on NH-48.

- This MLFF system uses advanced technologies such as FASTag Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras, and Vehicle Registration Number (VRN) reading to process toll transactions digitally. The integration of these technologies ensures accuracy in toll collection while minimizing human intervention.

- Along with Choryasi Fee Plaza in Gujarat, a similar pilot is planned at Gharaunda Fee Plaza on NH-44 in Haryana. This expansion reflects the government's strategy to gradually scale MLFF systems nationwide, making India's highway network more efficient and aligned with global tolling standards.

Key Points:-

(i) One of the key benefits of MLFF tolling is the elimination of the need for vehicles to stop at toll booths. This feature reduces congestion, lowers travel time, decreases fuel consumption, and helps cut vehicular emissions, contributing to both economic and environmental efficiency.

(ii) The MLFF system is also designed to support multiple digital payment modes, ensuring user convenience and faster processing. By leveraging contactless toll collection, it aligns with the broader goals of Digital India and promotes greater transparency and accountability in highway

operations.

(iii) Scalability is another major feature of this project. IHMCL and NHAI plan to use the Choryasi and Gharaunda pilots as benchmarks for future nationwide rollouts. Once successful, the model will be replicated across India's national highways, transforming toll management and improving road transport infrastructure.

3. KELTRON Signs MoU with Zimbabwe to Supply Products and Services.



On August 29, 2025, the Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation (KELTRON), a Public Sector Enterprise (PSE) owned by the Government of Kerala, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Zimbabwe to provide its products and services. The agreement was formalized at an event held in Kochi, Kerala.

- The MoU was signed by P Rajeeve, Minister of Industries, Kerala, and Rajesh Kumar Indukant Modi, Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce, Zimbabwe. The initial supply under this agreement will include 3,000 Coconics laptops manufactured by KELTRON.

- The agreement emphasizes expanding cooperation beyond laptops into areas such as

traffic lights, solar energy systems, and other KELTRON-manufactured products for the Zimbabwean market. This expansion aligns with Kerala's strategy of promoting its electronics sector in the global arena.

Key Points:-

- (i) In addition to product supply, the agreement also focuses on capacity building, including the establishment of a Skill Development Centre, a Knowledge-Sharing Centre, and an Assembly Unit in Zimbabwe.
- (ii) These initiatives are expected to promote local employment, enhance technological skills, and support production.
- (iii) This MoU signifies Kerala's growing role in strengthening international industrial partnerships while boosting India–Africa cooperation in the fields of technology, manufacturing, and skill development.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. Thailand's Cabinet Appoints Phumtham Wechayachai as Acting Prime Minister Amid Political Upheaval.



In a transitional move on July 3, 2025, Thailand's Cabinet named Deputy Prime

Minister and Interior Minister Phumtham Wechayachai as Acting Prime Minister following a Constitutional Court ruling that suspended Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra for ethical violations. The decision ensures governance continuity amidst escalating political instability.

- The appointment occurred during a special Cabinet meeting held at Government House, Bangkok, where Minister to the Prime Minister's Office Chusak Sirinil announced Phumtham's designation. Dr. Prommin Lertsuridej was simultaneously appointed as Secretary-General to the Prime Minister, and the Cabinet laid out a clear caretaker framework to maintain stability without overstepping its mandate.

- Phumtham Wechayachai, aged 71, is a veteran politician from the Pheu Thai Party with previous roles as Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Commerce in the Srettha and Paetongtarn governments, and Interior and Defence Minister. Known as "Big Comrade," he first served briefly as Acting Prime Minister in August 2024.

Key Points:-

- (i) The Constitutional Court's decision came in late August 2025, when a 6-3 ruling officially removed Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra for breaching ethical norms by referring to Cambodian leader Hun Sen as "uncle" in a leaked phone call amid border tensions.
- (ii) Although the Cabinet now serves in a caretaker capacity, Phumtham was vested with full Prime Ministerial authority—including committee leadership and administrative control. However, new long-term policies were deferred until a new government is formed. The Secretariat of the House of Representatives has

scheduled a parliamentary session for September 3–5, 2025, when MPs will vote to elect a permanent Prime Minister.

(iii) This leadership shift deepens Thailand's political uncertainty. It coincides with evolving party dynamics—Pheu Thai and rival Bhumjaithai are vying for alliances, while the major People's Party holds the balance of power with its demand for a referendum to amend the constitution and dissolve Parliament within four months as conditions for support.

SPORTS

1. India Dominates 2025 SAFF U-17 Women's Championship in Bhutan and Seals Title with Commanding Win.



In a spectacular display on August 29, 2025, at Thimphu's Changlimithang Stadium, India's U-17 women's football team clinched the SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) U-17 Women's Championship 2025 title by defeating Nepal 5-0, securing an unassailable lead and marking their third triumph in the tournament's history.

● India began their campaign with a crushing 7-0 victory over Nepal on August 20, underlining their dominance early in the tournament; this

emphatic win, featuring braces from Abhista Basnett, Nira Chanu Longjam, Anushka Kumari, and a strike from captain Julan Nongmaithem, set the stage for a flawless performance across the group stages.

● The championship, held in Bhutan from August 20 to 31, 2025, featured four teams—India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and hosts Bhutan—competing in a double round-robin format at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu; India topped the table with 15 points from five matches, ensuring the title with a game to spare.

Key Points:-

(i) India's title-sealing match was a 5-0 triumph over Nepal on August 29, where the team led 3-0 at half-time; goals from Pearl Fernandes (2), Divyani Linda (2), and Nira Chanu Longjam ensured victory despite Bangladesh's 1-1 draw with Bhutan, which meant India's point total remained unbeatable.

(ii) This marking their third championship win in this age group, India's success bookended 53 goals scored across 12 matches in the tournament, with Anushka Kumari emerging as the top scorer (8 goals) and Abhista Basnett named the Most Valuable Player, adding individual accolades to the collective triumph.

(iii) India now turns its focus to the final round-robin fixtures, where they will face Bangladesh on August 31; having secured the championship already, the Young Tigresses will aim to finish the tournament undefeated and without conceding a single goal.

2. ICC and Google Forge Landmark Partnership to Elevate Fan Engagement in Women's Cricket.



On August 29, 2025, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced a landmark partnership with Google—designating it as their second global women's-only partner—to harness Google's advanced technology and expand fan accessibility, just ahead of two major tournaments: the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 and the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026.

- In a formal media release from the ICC, the collaboration was revealed to leverage several of Google's products—Android, Google Gemini, Google Pay, and Google Pixel—to create a seamless, interactive ecosystem across mobile and digital platforms that encourages fans to stay close to key match moments, players, and stories through the entire journey of discovery and celebration.

- ICC Chairman Jay Shah hailed the alliance as a milestone for women's cricket, stating that “by harnessing Google's world-class innovation, we will be able to create more engaging experiences for fans and bring the sport closer to people everywhere,” and emphasizing the aim to inspire future generations to view cricket as a sport where they belong.

Key Points:-

(i) From Google's end, Shekar Khosla, Vice President (VP), Marketing, Google India, highlighted the role of technology in forging community and shared passion, saying that this initiative isn't limited to a single event but is about building lasting, meaningful engagement, making the sport accessible and helping fans feel deeply connected to what they love.

(ii) This collaboration dovetails with ICC's broader strategy to grow the women's game—building on their earlier announcement of Unilever as their first global women's partner—and comes weeks ahead of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 (hosted in India and Sri Lanka from September 30 to November 2) and the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 (England, June–July), signaling an acceleration in visibility and fan immersion across digital and physical channels.

3. Satwik–Chirag Secure Redemption Bronze at 2025 BWF World Championships in Paris.



In a stirring display of resilience, Indian men's doubles duo Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty clinched a bronze medal at the 2025 BWF World Championships held at

Paris's Adidas Arena. Their journey, defined by redemption from past setbacks, extended India's medal-winning streak and reignited their pursuit of top honors.

- **Satwik and Chirag overcame their longstanding nemesis, the Malaysian pairing of Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik, in straight sets—21-12, 21-19—in just 43 minutes during the quarterfinals. This victory was especially cathartic, as it erased the memories of their Olympic defeat in the same Paris venue.**

- **The semifinal saw Satwik–Chirag fall to China's Chen Boyang and Liu Yi in a tightly fought match, 19-21, 21-18, 12-21. Despite the loss, the Indians held their heads high, demonstrating skill and grit in front of a global audience at the Adidas Arena.**

- **Their bronze guarantees that India's impressive streak of winning at least one medal at every World Championships since 2011 remains intact. This consistent trajectory highlights India's growing dominance and depth in world badminton.**

Key Points:-

(i) Coach Tan Kim Her lauded the duo for their deeply commendable performance, recognizing the bronze as a proud moment. However, he candidly pinpointed fitness as the key area for improvement, stressing that enhanced endurance could elevate them into the finals in future tournaments.

(ii) This achievement marks Satwik–Chirag's second World Championship bronze, following their 2022 success in Tokyo. Their campaign in Paris reignites hopes for a gold, as they continue to build momentum, refine strategies, and aim higher in elite badminton circles.

AWARDS

1. Educate Girls Makes History as First Indian Non-Profit to Win 2025 Ramon Magsaysay Award.



India's non-profit Educate Girls, founded in 2007 by Safeena Husain, has become the first Indian organization to be honored with the 2025 Ramon Magsaysay Award, widely regarded as Asia's Nobel Prize. It has reached over 2 million out-of-school girls and delivered remedial education to more than 2.4 million children, transforming rural education across 30,000+ villages.

- **In 2025, Educate Girls set a milestone by becoming the first Indian non-profit to receive the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award, an accolade established in 1957 to honor courageous leadership and service across Asia. The formal presentation of the award will take place on 7 November 2025 at the Metropolitan Theatre in Manila, Philippines.**

- **Founded in 2007 by Safeena Husain, Educate Girls began with pilot work in Pali district, Rajasthan. Since then, the organization has expanded into over 30,000 villages, mobilizing more than 2 million girls back into school and providing remedial learning support to over 2.4 million children. It also operates across several**

Indian states, including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar.

- Educate Girls leverages a powerful grassroots model anchored by over 23,000 'Team Balika' volunteers who work within communities to identify out-of-school girls and bring them into government schools using existing infrastructure. Two flagship initiatives underscore its impact: the Vidya program, enrolling girls up to age 14, and Pragati, which offers a second-chance education for adolescents and young women aged 15–29 to boost employability.

Key Points:-

- (i) Safeena Husain, the founder of Educate Girls, has been pivotal in the organization's success. Her leadership and innovation have earned the NGO global recognition and placed India's girls' education movement in the spotlight.
- (ii) Educate Girls now stands alongside a lineage of renowned Ramon Magsaysay laureates, from Satyajit Ray and Kiran Bedi to the Dalai Lama and Mother Teresa.
- (iii) Building on its success, Educate Girls aims to reach 10 million learners in the next decade, aligning with national educational imperatives and leveraging partnerships with government and communities. Its transformative model emphasizes sustainable behavior change and gender equality, reinforcing education as both a human right and a powerful tool for social justice.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held a bilateral meeting on 31st August 2025 during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Tianjin, China. The meeting focused on restoring ties after Galwan tensions, covering connectivity, border stability, economic cooperation, and multilateral engagement.

- The 25th SCO Heads of State Summit was hosted by China on 31st August–1st September 2025 at Tianjin's Meijiang Convention Center. The summit, chaired by President Xi Jinping, gathered leaders from India, Russia, Pakistan, and Central Asian nations, highlighting SCO's growing role in Eurasian cooperation.

- India and China agreed to restart direct commercial flights from September 2025, suspended since 2020, and reopen border trade routes through Lipulekh (Uttarakhand), Shipki La (Himachal Pradesh), and Nathu La (Sikkim). They also announced the revival of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra in 2026, boosting cultural diplomacy.

- Both sides agreed on new institutional mechanisms to manage the Line of Actual Control (LAC), including commander-level talks and working groups on rivers and connectivity. India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and

SUMMITS & CONFERENCE / COMMITTEES & MEETINGS

1. PM Modi and Xi Jinping Met at SCO Summit 2025 in Tianjin to Reset India–China Ties.

China's Defence Minister Dong Jun will oversee coordination through their respective ministries.

Key Points:-

- (i) PM Modi stressed reducing India's trade deficit with China and exploring cooperation in electric vehicles, green energy, and rare earth trade. President Xi proposed a SCO Development Bank and new financial systems to aid Global South nations, marking a shift in multilateral strategies.
- (ii) The meeting underscored that India and China are "partners, not rivals," aiming to prevent disputes from affecting wider cooperation.
- (iii) The adoption of the Tianjin Declaration and the SCO Development Strategy 2035 signaled a broader diplomatic recalibration, reshaping India–China–U.S. dynamics and strengthening Asia's multilateral framework.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. United Nations Observed 5th International Day for People of African Descent on August 31, 2025.

**UNITED NATIONS OBSERVED
5TH INTERNATIONAL DAY
FOR
PEOPLE OF
AFRICAN DESCENT
AUGUST 31, 2025**

The United Nations (UN) observed the 5th International Day for People of African Descent on 31st August 2025. The day

recognizes the contributions of the African diaspora globally while combating racism, racial discrimination, and all forms of intolerance against people of African descent.

- **The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted resolution A/RES/75/170 on 16th December 2020, designating 31st August every year as the International Day for People of African Descent. The resolution was championed by Costa Rica, a Central American nation, to highlight equality, justice, and inclusion.**

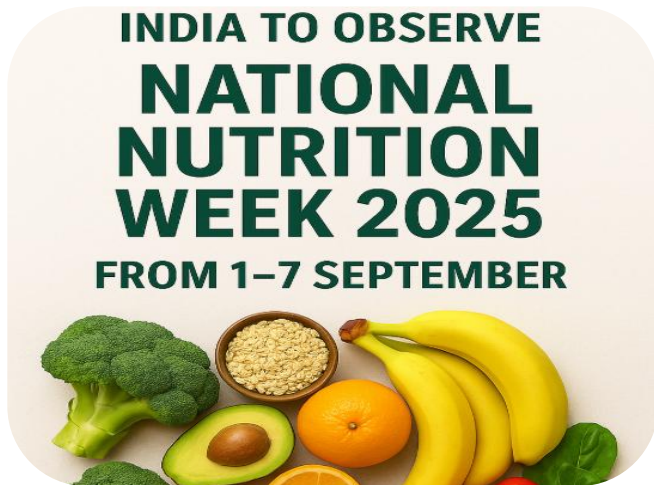
- **The first observance took place on 31st August 2021, marking the conclusion of the centennial of the 1st International Convention of the Negro Peoples of the World held in 1920 by the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA). This historic connection gives the day deep symbolic and cultural significance.**

Key Points:-

- (i) The 5th observance in 2025 is significant as it coincides with the beginning of the Second International Decade for People of African Descent (2025–2034), proclaimed by the UNGA in December 2024 under the theme "People of African Descent: Recognition, Justice, and Development." This builds on the first decade (2015–2024).
- (ii) On 2nd August 2021, the UNGA adopted resolution A/RES/75/314 to establish the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent. This forum plays a vital role in improving safety, livelihoods, and quality of life for people of African descent worldwide through advocacy, consultation, and UN system cooperation.
- (iii) The observance reaffirms the UN's commitment to fighting systemic racism and promoting the rights of people of African

descent, acknowledging their immense cultural, political, economic, and social contributions to global development and human progress.

2. India to Observe National Nutrition Week 2025 from 1–7 September.



India will observe National Nutrition Week 2025 from 1–7 September, coordinated by the Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) under the Ministry of Women & Child Development (MoWCD). The week focuses on spreading awareness about healthy dietary practices, addressing malnutrition, and aligning with government flagship schemes like POSHAN Abhiyaan.

- **National Nutrition Week was first celebrated in 1982 by the Government of India, inspired by a similar campaign started in 1973 by the American Dietetic Association. Its main objective was to address the rising malnutrition crisis in India, especially among children and mothers, and to build a healthier, more productive population.**

- **The initiative is led by the Ministry of Women & Child Development in collaboration with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW). It is also linked with nutrition-based government**

programmes like the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, and the National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan) launched in 2018.

Key Points:-

(i) The theme for this year is “Eat Right for a Better Life”, which emphasizes balanced diets, avoiding processed foods, and including locally available, nutrient-rich foods. The focus is on promoting sustainable and affordable eating habits across rural and urban India to fight both undernutrition and lifestyle diseases.

(ii) During the week, schools, colleges, and community centres organise poster-making, essay competitions, workshops by nutritionists, “Healthy Tiffin Days,” and health camps. These events are designed to educate children, parents, and local communities, ensuring that awareness translates into real lifestyle changes in both rural and urban households.

(iii) National Nutrition Week plays a strategic role in strengthening India’s fight against malnutrition, which continues to affect over 35% of children under five years according to NFHS-5 (National Family Health Survey). By aligning awareness campaigns with policy initiatives, the government seeks to build long-term resilience and improve public health outcomes nationwide.

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Thailand	Capital: Bangkok	Currency: Thai Baht
South Asian Football Federation (SAFF)	President: Kazi Salahuddin	Headquarters: Dhaka, Bangladesh
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