

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

> 05-06 SEPTEMBER 2025

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Union Cabinet Approves ₹1,500 Crore Incentive Scheme to Boost Recycling of Critical Minerals Under NCMM.



In September 2025, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved a ₹1,500 crore incentive scheme aimed at enhancing India's recycling capacity for extracting and producing critical minerals from secondary sources.

- This initiative, launched under the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM), focuses on strengthening domestic capacity, sustainability, and supply chain resilience.
- The newly approved scheme will be implemented for a period of six years, starting from the Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26) to FY31. This long-term structure ensures sustained support for recycling industries, aligning with India's goals for self-reliance in critical mineral supply and a circular economy.
- The scope of eligible feedstock under the scheme includes electronic waste (e-waste), Lithium-ion Battery (LIB) scrap, and other high-value categories such as catalytic converters from end-of-life vehicles. These materials are rich in critical minerals like lithium, cobalt,

nickel, and rare earth elements, essential for clean energy and digital technologies.

Key Points:-

- The beneficiaries of this scheme will include both established recyclers and new entrants, with a special emphasis on start-ups working in the recycling and mineral extraction ecosystem. By encouraging participation from diverse players, the scheme aims to boost innovation and expand the recycling industry.
- To ensure inclusivity, one-third (33.33%) of the total budget outlay has been earmarked for smaller entities. This provision guarantees that small-scale recyclers and emerging enterprises can equally benefit, thereby creating a balanced and competitive recycling sector in India.
- This incentive scheme under the NCMM reflects India's strategic focus on sustainable resource utilization and reducing dependency on imported critical minerals, which are vital for sectors like renewable energy, electronics, and electric mobility.

2. PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates Bihar Rajya Jeevika Nidhi Saakh Sahkari Sangh Limited (BRJNSSSL) to Empower Rural Women Entrepreneurs.



In September 2025, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the Bihar Rajya Jeevika Nidhi Saakh Sahkari Sangh Limited (BRJNSSSL), a new cooperative financial initiative aimed at empowering rural women entrepreneurs. During the launch, PM Modi initiated operations by transferring ₹105 crore into Jeevika Nidhi's bank account to mark the beginning of the institution's activities.

- The Jeevika programme, launched in 2007 with financial support from the World Bank (WB), has grown into Bihar's largest women-focused livelihood initiative, supporting women from economically weaker households.
- The Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project (BRLP), popularly called Jeevika, is implemented by the Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (BRLPS), an autonomous body under the Department of Rural Development, Government of Bihar.
- Over the years, Jeevika's Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have fostered entrepreneurship among rural women, but many still relied heavily on microfinance institutions (MFIs) charging high interest rates between 18% to 24%. To reduce this dependency and ensure affordable access to larger loans, the state introduced the Jeevika Nidhi initiative as an alternative credit system.

Key Points:-

- (i) The Bihar Rajya Jeevika Nidhi Saakh Sahkari Sangh Limited (BRJNSSSL) has been designed to expand financial inclusion across the state. Its primary objective is to provide affordable credit to registered cluster-level federations of Jeevika, which will form the core members of the cooperative. This effort aligns with the state's mission of enabling sustainable, women-led entrepreneurship and financial self-reliance.
- (ii) The Bihar government has sanctioned a total of ₹1,000 crore for BRJNSSSL, providing a strong financial foundation for its activities. This significant allocation ensures robust liquidity support and outreach capacity, benefitting thousands of Jeevika Didis across Bihar. The cooperative is expected to play a key role in reducing rural women's financial dependence on private lenders and expanding the scale of community enterprises.
- (iii) To strengthen efficiency, BRJNSSSL will function entirely through a digitised platform, ensuring quick and transparent fund transfers directly into the bank accounts of Jeevika Didis. To operationalise this, 12,000 community cadres are being trained and equipped with tablets to deliver seamless financial services. The initiative marks a milestone in Bihar's women-centric development approach, aiming to transform rural entrepreneurship and community-led enterprise growth.

3. PM Modi and Singapore PM Wong Virtually Inaugurate Phase II of PSA Mumbai Terminal at JN Port.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong virtually inaugurated Phase II of the PSA-operated Bharat Mumbai Container Terminal (BMCT) at Jawaharlal Nehru Port on September 4, 2025. The expansion marks a monumental leap in India's maritime infrastructure.

- Phase II of the BMCT doubles the terminal's handling capacity from 2.4 million to 4.8 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), making it India's largest standalone container terminal.
- Developed under a public-private partnership with PSA International, Singapore has made what is considered its largest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India, totaling about USD 1.3 billion (approximately SGD 1.7 billion).
- The upgraded terminal spans 200 hectares, featuring a continuous 2,000-meter quay, and is equipped with high-tech port handling infrastructure including 24 quay cranes, 72 rubber-tyred gantry cranes, rail-mounted gantry cranes, and deep-draft berths capable of accommodating mega vessels of up to 18,000 TEUs.

Key Points:-

- (i) Designed as a 100% renewable energy terminal, BMCT Phase II also aligns with India's green and sustainable development

goals. It integrates dedicated Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC)-compliant rail links, with six tracks connecting JN Port to over 63 Inland Container Depots (ICDs), dramatically improving multimodal logistics connectivity.

(ii) Senior officials at the event included Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shantanu Thakur, PSA India Managing Director Gobu Selliaya, and JNPA Chairman Unmesh Sharad Wagh. They underscored how this expansion cements Maharashtra's position as a national maritime powerhouse and accelerates India's trade competitiveness on the global stage.

4. APEDA Launches BHARATI Initiative to Boost Agri-Food Exports and Support Startups.



In September 2025, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Department of Commerce (DoC), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), launched the 'BHARATI' initiative to strengthen India's agri-food export ecosystem and nurture agri-tech innovation.

- The initiative, titled Bharat's Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Enablement (BHARATI), was unveiled during the Food & Beverages Sector Stakeholders Meeting in New Delhi.
- The meeting was chaired by Union Minister Piyush Goyal, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), who emphasized the need for technology-driven innovation to position India as a global leader in agricultural exports.
- BHARATI has been designed to support 100 agri-food and agri-tech startups, encouraging innovation in farming practices, food processing, and value-added agricultural products. These startups will receive incubation, mentoring, and financial guidance to enhance India's competitiveness in the international market.

Key Points:-

- (i) The initiative aligns with APEDA's long-term export strategy, which aims to achieve USD 50 billion worth of agri-food exports by 2030 for its scheduled products. The program particularly focuses on building resilient supply chains to withstand global market fluctuations and promote sustainability in agriculture.
- (ii) BHARATI will prioritize high-value segments such as Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged products, organic foods, superfoods, novel processed agri-foods, livestock-based products, and AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, and Homoeopathy) products. This will diversify India's export basket while enhancing global recognition of indigenous products.
- (iii) The first pilot cohort of the initiative, launched in September 2025, will provide incubation support to startups engaged in

high-value agri-food production and technology-driven services. By doing so, APEDA aims to create a strong platform for young entrepreneurs, strengthen India's export ecosystem, and drive innovation in the agriculture sector.

5. AQLI 2025 Report: Air Pollution Reduces India's Average Life Expectancy by 3.5 Years, Delhi-NCR Worst Hit.



A recent Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) 2025 report by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC) reveals that air pollution is now India's most critical health threat, reducing the average life expectancy by 3.5 years. This stark finding highlights the urgent need for effective clean-air policies.

- The AQLI analysis, using 2023 particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) data, shows that all 1.4 billion Indians breathe air above the World Health Organization (WHO) safe limit of 5 µg/m³, and particulate levels exceed India's own standard of 40 µg/m³ for nearly half the population, leading to widespread health risks.
- The Northern Plains emerge as the world's most polluted region, with around 544 million people—38.9% of India's population—exposed

to dangerously poor air quality, resulting in the steepest regional losses in life expectancy.

Key Points:-

(i) Residents of the Delhi-NCR region are disproportionately affected, with life expectancy reduced by up to 8.2 years compared to meeting WHO air standards; even under India's national threshold, their life expectancy still drops by 4.74 years, underscoring the severity of pollution in the capital.

(ii) When compared to other major threats, air pollution's impact far outweighs them: it cuts life expectancy nearly twice as much as childhood and maternal malnutrition (1.6 years), more than triple that of tobacco use (1.5 years), and more than five times that of unsafe water and sanitation (~8.4 months).

(iii) Despite India's ongoing National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) and other efforts, pollution levels rose by 2.8% in 2023, marking South Asia as the most polluted region globally. The report calls for urgent, ambitious measures to reverse the trend and restore public health.

In a landmark reform, the GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, has streamlined India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) structure by cutting the four existing tax slabs (5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%) to just two—5% and 18%. This change, aimed at boosting consumer spending and easing the burden on the middle class, will come into effect on September 22, 2025.

- The GST overhaul involves scrapping the 12% and 28% slabs, consolidating multiple rates into the 5% ("lower" or "merit") and 18% ("standard") bands. A higher 40% slab shall continue to apply to sin and luxury goods, such as tobacco, sugary drinks, high-end vehicles, and yachts. The reforms are intended as a "people's reform" and will benefit a wide range of goods—especially those consumed by the common man.

- The tax revision is expected to reduce prices on essentials like food, daily staples, medicines, personal care, consumer durables, and renewable energy equipment. Sectors like FMCG, footwear, groceries, quick-service restaurants (QSRs), and consumer electronics are poised to see demand buoyed due to improved affordability.

- The reform has already boosted investor sentiment—India's stock markets rallied in response, with auto, consumer goods, and mid-cap segments gaining ground. Analysts estimate the simplification could add 100–120 basis points (approx. 1–1.2%) to India's GDP within the next few quarters.

Key Points:-

(i) The GST cuts are positioned as an early festive boost ahead of Diwali, offering budget relief to households and streamlining

6. GST Council Reduces Tax Slabs to Two (5% & 18%), Effective from September 22, 2025.



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

A Significant Step Towards Building the Aatmanirbhar Bharat

NEXT-GEN GST: The 2 Slab Revolution

Simplified Compliances & Enhanced Global Competitiveness

Benefits to the Businesses

- Two Rate Structure**
 - More than 99% of goods & services under GST regime are now either exempt or fall under:
 - 5% GST Slab
 - 18% GST Slab
 - This will simplify classification and will significantly reduce litigations
- Registration**
 - Automatic registration within 3 working days for applicants:
 - Identified by the system based on data analysis
 - Who determines that he would not pass Input Tax Credit exceeding ₹2.5 Lakh per month and opts for the Scheme
 - This will benefit around 96% of new applicants
- Refund**
 - Sanction of Provisional Refunds by proper officer, through system based risk evaluation for:
 - Zero Rated Supplies
 - Supplies with Inverted Duty Structure
 - This will ease cash flow constraints and boost India's economy

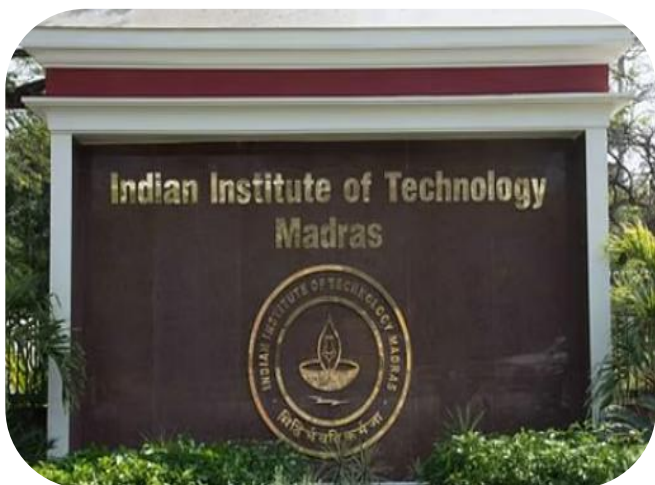
For the complete list of revised rates & other GST changes, please scan →

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compliance. Industry bodies like the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have welcomed the reform, noting that it reduces litigation and promotes ease of doing business.

(ii) While this move will result in temporary revenue loss—estimated at ₹48,000 crore—Finance Ministry officials affirm it remains fiscally sustainable. The government has promised measures such as simplifying refunds and MSME compliance to maintain revenue flows and minimize long-term impact.

7. IIT Madras Tops NIRF 2025 Rankings for Seventh Consecutive Year and Leading in Engineering and SDG Categories.



In a remarkable achievement, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has secured the top position in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025 for the seventh consecutive year. This distinction underscores IIT Madras's unwavering commitment to excellence in education, research, and innovation.

- IIT Madras has maintained its position as the number one institution in the NIRF Overall category since 2019, reflecting its sustained performance across various parameters,

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including Teaching, Learning & Resources (TLR), Research and Professional Practices (RPC), Graduation Outcomes (GO), Outreach & Inclusivity (OI), and Perception.

- Beyond the Overall category, IIT Madras has excelled in specialized domains. It ranked first in the Engineering category, leading institutions such as IIT Bombay and IIT Delhi. Additionally, IIT Madras topped the newly introduced Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) category, highlighting its commitment to environmental and social responsibility.

- While IIT Madras secured the second position in the Research category, it continues to be a hub for groundbreaking research. The institution's focus on high-quality publications, intellectual property creation, and global collaborations has solidified its reputation in the academic community.

Key Points:-

(i) IIT Madras's emphasis on innovation is evident through its state-of-the-art facilities and support for entrepreneurial ventures. The institution's innovation ecosystem fosters creativity and practical problem-solving, contributing to its top rankings in the Innovation category.

(ii) The consistent top rankings of IIT Madras in the NIRF 2025 reinforce its status as a premier institution in India. Looking ahead, IIT Madras aims to further enhance its global presence by focusing on interdisciplinary research, international partnerships, and sustainable development initiatives.

8. Dharmendra Pradhan & Annapurna Devi Launch Guidelines for Co-location of Anganwadi Centres with Schools in New Delhi.



On September 3, 2025, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Education (MoE), and Union Minister Annapurna Devi, Ministry of Women & Child Development (MoWCD), recently launched the Guidelines for Co-location of Anganwadi Centres with Schools at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The framework was prepared by the Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSE&L), MoE, in collaboration with MoWCD, aiming to strengthen early childhood care and foundational education.

- The primary goal of the newly launched guidelines is to ensure school readiness among children by providing a seamless transition from Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) to Grade 1 in primary schools. The guidelines emphasize creating stimulating and joyful learning environments that support both educational preparedness and holistic development in children aged 3–6 years.
- The guidelines were jointly developed by the Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSE&L) under MoE and the Ministry of Women & Child Development (MoWCD). This collaboration bridges education and child development efforts, ensuring that the co-location policy is comprehensive, inclusive, and

aligned with national education and child welfare goals.

- Two distinct models have been proposed for the co-location of AWCs with schools. The first model, Physical Co-location, involves integrating AWCs directly within school premises where infrastructure permits. The second model, Mapping to Nearby Schools, allows AWCs in areas lacking adequate facilities to be linked to the nearest available school for effective transition.

Key Points:-

- The guidelines integrate existing flagship initiatives from both ministries. The NIPUN Bharat Mission (National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy) of MoE is combined with Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi, an initiative of MoWCD. This integration ensures that children benefit from both foundational literacy and numeracy skills along with improved nutrition and early learning opportunities.
- By promoting early linkage between AWCs and schools, the guidelines enhance school preparedness, reduce dropouts at the primary level, and foster inclusive growth. Co-location will also enable better coordination between Anganwadi workers and school teachers, thereby ensuring continuity in pedagogy, improved monitoring, and efficient utilization of resources.
- The initiative aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasizes early childhood care and foundational literacy as critical components of learning outcomes. With this launch, the government seeks to build strong foundations for future learning while simultaneously addressing nutritional,

health, and developmental needs of children through a holistic framework.

9. India Develops 1st Indigenous Water-Soluble Fertilizer Technology After 7 Years of Research.



In September 2025, India achieved a major breakthrough by developing its first indigenous water-soluble fertilizer technology. This innovation, achieved after 7 years of rigorous research, marks a crucial shift from import dependency to export capability in specialty fertilizers, with commercial production expected to reach farmers within two years.

- The technology is being hailed as a landmark under the Make in India initiative, as it has been developed entirely with Indian raw materials and Indian-designed plants. Supported by the Ministry of Mines (MoM), it represents the country's self-reliance in the production of high-value agricultural inputs.
- The development was spearheaded by Rajib Chakraborty, President of the Soluble Fertilizer Industry Association (SFIA). His leadership, along with the combined efforts of Indian researchers and industry stakeholders, played a crucial role in achieving this indigenous milestone.

Key Points:-

- Currently, nearly 80% of India's specialty fertilizer demand is met through imports, primarily from China. With the launch of this indigenous water-soluble fertilizer technology, India is expected to drastically cut its reliance on Chinese imports and move towards self-sufficiency.
- The new technology not only reduces dependency but also opens avenues for India to emerge as an exporter of specialty fertilizers. By shifting from an import-driven to an export-dominant nation, India can significantly strengthen its position in the global agricultural input market.
- The fertilizer technology has been designed as a zero-effluent, emission-free project, aligning with India's focus on sustainable agriculture. Its eco-friendly features make it suitable for large-scale adoption while ensuring minimal environmental impact.

10. NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub Releases 4th Future Front Insights on "2D Materials."



On 4 September 2025, NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub (FTH) launched the 4th edition of its Future Front Quarterly Insights titled

“Introduction to 2D Materials” in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, highlighting India’s opportunity in next-generation semiconductor innovation.

- The report was released under the leadership of B. V. R. Subrahmanyam, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog, who stressed that India must achieve technological sovereignty in semiconductors by investing early in 2D materials, which are 200 times stronger than steel and more conductive than copper.

- Debjani Ghosh, Chief Architect of Frontier Tech Hub, emphasized that global tech leadership now depends on controlling supply chains, standards, and alliances, and India must seize 2D materials to shape the semiconductor landscape rather than follow others.

- Professor Mayank Shrivastava of IISc Bengaluru warned that dependence on licensed semiconductor technology creates vulnerability, and India must develop indigenous intellectual property (IP) through large-scale 2D material applications.

Key Points:-

(i) The report noted that countries like the USA, China, and South Korea are already advancing in 2D semiconductors, while India is at an early stage, focusing mainly on synthesis. A national program is needed to transition towards wafer-level innovation and manufacturing.

(ii) The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) and Department of Science and Technology (DST) have begun calling for R&D proposals, signaling the first institutional push for India’s 2D materials ecosystem, which promises energy savings, IP ownership, and strategic independence in

future semiconductor technologies.

INTERNATIONAL

1. Nepal Bans 26 Unregistered Social Media Platforms to Enforce Digital Accountability.



On September 4, 2025, the Government of Nepal, under Communications Minister Prithvi Subba Gurung, ordered the blockade of 26 social media platforms that failed to register with the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology and establish local liaison offices. This decisive action aims to strengthen regulation while raising concerns over free expression.

- Nepali officials, following a Supreme Court directive and a Council of Ministers decision from August 25, instructed the Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA) to deactivate access to platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and X, among others.

- Compliance requirements included designating local contacts, grievance redressal personnel, and self-regulation frameworks. Platforms that complied, like TikTok, Viber, WeTalk, Nimbuzz, and Poppo Live, were exempt from the ban.

- As the deactivation has begun, telecom operators and Internet Service Providers report inconsistencies in service disruption, with some platforms inaccessible in certain regions. The Internet Service Providers Association of Nepal (ISPAN), guided by technical directives, is managing the multi-day shutdown process.

Key Points:-

(i) The decision has faced notable backlash. Civil society groups, media, and political parties—including both ruling coalition members and opposition figures—have voiced concerns over potential overreach. Critics argue the ban undermines digital freedoms, impacts e-commerce, and restricts communication, especially for Nepalis abroad.

(ii) The government maintains that the bans are temporary and platforms can resume services once they register and comply with local regulations. Minister Gurung emphasized that registering and complying would lead to immediate reinstatement.

(iii) A meeting involving Minister Gurung, officials from the ministry, NTA, telecom operators, and ISPs confirmed that the platforms had ignored multiple registration notices. The move, they argue, is essential for enhancing content accountability, curbing fake identities, and countering the spread of misinformation in Nepal's rapidly digitalizing society.



A recent World Health Organization (WHO) report reveals that in 2021, an estimated 727,000 people died by suicide worldwide—accounting for more than 1% of total global deaths. The report underscores an urgent need for action, particularly to protect young people, for whom suicide remains a leading cause of death.

- The WHO's "Suicide Worldwide in 2021: Global Health Estimates" fact sheet highlights that suicide was the third leading cause of death among individuals aged 15–29, placing it among the most pressing public health concerns for young audiences globally.

- Low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) bore the brunt of the suicide burden, accounting for nearly 73% of all suicide deaths in 2021. This disparity signals a pressing need for enhanced mental health infrastructure and services in resource-constrained settings.

- While there has been a modest decline in the global age-standardized suicide rate, from 9.0 per 100,000 in 2019 to 8.9 in 2021, progress remains insufficient. At this pace, meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3.4.2—intending a one-third reduction in suicide mortality by 2030—is in jeopardy. Current trends suggest only about a 12% reduction by that deadline.

2. WHO Report 2021: Suicide Accounts for Over 1 in 100 Global Deaths with 7.27 Lakh Cases.

Key Points:-

(i) WHO emphasizes that for each suicide death, there are approximately 20 suicide attempts, illustrating the widespread emotional distress affecting families and communities worldwide. Devora Kestel, interim head of WHO's Mental Health and Noncommunicable Diseases division, voiced deep concern over this growing crisis.

(ii) Recognizing these trends, WHO calls for urgent, multisectoral action—particularly focused on young people, who remain disproportionately affected. This includes improving mental health services, fostering community awareness, and preventing risk factors for vulnerable youth.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. UPI Crosses 20 Billion Monthly Transactions for the First Time in August 2025.



In September 2025, the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance (MoF), along with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), announced that India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) recorded over 20 billion monthly transactions for the very first time in August 2025.

- UPI registered 20.01 billion monthly transactions in August 2025, marking a significant leap in India's digital payments adoption.

- The total value of UPI transactions touched Rs 24.85 lakh crore, highlighting strong growth in both retail and large-scale digital payments.

Key Points:-

(i) Compared to August 2024, UPI transactions saw a 34% rise in volume (from 14.9 billion to 20.01 billion) and a 21% increase in value (from Rs 20.60 lakh crore to Rs 24.85 lakh crore).

(ii) On average, the platform processed 645 million transactions per day, with a daily settlement value of about Rs 80,177 crore.

(iii) The achievement was officially declared by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance (MoF), and NPCI, reinforcing UPI's role as the backbone of India's digital financial ecosystem.

2. FIEO Signs MoU with BRISKPE to Boost Secure and Efficient Cross-Border Payments for Indian Exporters.



On September 3, 2025, the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) signed a

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with fintech company BRISKPE to facilitate faster, compliant, and secure cross-border payments for Indian exporters, promoting awareness of digital trade solutions.

- The MoU was signed by Dr. Ajay Sahai, Director General (DG) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of FIEO, and Indunath Chaudhary, Co-Founder & Chief Operating Officer (COO) of BRISKPE. The event took place at Niryat Bhawan, New Delhi, in the presence of Pratik Navale, Nodal Officer, FIEO.
- The partnership aims to facilitate faster, secure, and compliant cross-border payments for Indian exporters, ensuring seamless financial transactions in international trade.
- The collaboration intends to raise awareness among exporters, particularly Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), about the growing significance of digital payment solutions in international trade.

Key Points:-

- Under the MoU, BRISKPE will engage with FIEO members through knowledge sessions and outreach initiatives, sharing insights on technology-driven, compliant cross-border payment mechanisms.
- The initiative will familiarize exporters with simplified international collection methods, including Business to Business (B2B), Consumer to Business (C2B), and Business to Consumer (B2C) models, enhancing efficiency in global trade operations.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1. Mukesh Ambani Announces AI Subsidiary and JioPC at Reliance Industries 48th AGM in Mumbai.



On August 20, 2025, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) conducted its 48th Annual General Meeting (AGM) virtually from Mumbai, Maharashtra, under the chairmanship of Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD). The session focused heavily on artificial intelligence (AI), new product launches, and strategic global partnerships.

- Reliance Intelligence Private Limited, a newly launched AI subsidiary of RIL, was formally introduced by Mukesh Ambani. This entity is tasked with creating India-centric, enterprise-level AI infrastructure, with a vision of strengthening sovereign capabilities across industries.
- To scale its AI initiatives, Reliance Intelligence entered into a strategic agreement with Google. Together, they will build a dedicated Google Cloud region in Jamnagar, Gujarat, leveraging Reliance's clean energy ecosystem and Jio's digital network for seamless connectivity.
- Another significant collaboration announced was with Meta Platforms, Inc. (formerly

Facebook). The two companies formed a Joint Venture (JV) worth Rs.855 crore (approximately USD 100 million), structured with Reliance holding 70% equity and Meta 30%. This JV will deploy Meta's open-source Llama AI models to deliver large-scale enterprise-grade AI solutions.

Key Points:-

(i) The AGM also featured the unveiling of JioPC, an artificial intelligence-powered personal computing solution. JioPC transforms a regular television or display screen into a cloud-driven computer, enabling users to access powerful AI tools without purchasing traditional desktops or laptops.

(ii) Powered by a Jio set-top box, keyboard, and mouse, JioPC is fully hosted on Jio's cloud platform. Applications, storage, and processing power are delivered virtually, making it a scalable option for individuals and enterprises. The subscription-based pay-as-you-go pricing model allows users to access computing resources by paying a monthly fee, making high-end AI-driven computing more affordable.

(iii) These announcements highlight Reliance's ambition to position itself as a leader in AI-driven digital infrastructure while expanding affordable access to advanced computing for millions in India.

2. DPIIT Partners with ICICI Bank & Pfizer to Strengthen Startup and Healthcare Innovation Ecosystem.



On September 4, 2025, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), entered into two significant partnerships—one with ICICI Bank to support product-based startups and another with Pfizer Limited, the Indian subsidiary of Pfizer Inc., to boost India's healthcare innovation ecosystem through funding, incubation, and mentorship.

- The collaboration between DPIIT and ICICI Bank is designed to accelerate the growth of product-based startups in India. The initiative focuses on providing structured mentorship, access to accelerators, and business development support to strengthen startup operations and refine innovative products.

- Under the partnership, ICICI Bank will design and implement the Startup Engagement Programme. This program will be hosted on the Startup India portal, ensuring a structured platform for continuous startup-bank engagement, resource access, and scaling opportunities for early-stage entrepreneurs.

- In collaboration with Pfizer Limited, DPIIT will support healthcare-focused startups through the Pfizer INDovation Program. This initiative aligns with India's growing focus on healthcare technology, fostering indigenous innovation in

pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, and medical devices.

Key Points:-

(i) As part of the Pfizer INDovation Program, selected DPIIT-recognized startups will receive financial grants of up to ₹60 lakh each. These grants are aimed at addressing sectoral challenges in healthcare and accelerating the commercialization of breakthrough solutions.

(ii) The program also includes an 18-month incubation track managed by Social Alpha, a prominent incubator. This phase will provide startups with mentorship, networking, and market-access opportunities, ensuring comprehensive support for scaling innovative healthcare solutions in India.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. RBI Approves Reappointment of Rama Subramaniam Gandhi as Non-Executive Chairman of Yes Bank.



In September 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently approved the reappointment of Rama Subramaniam Gandhi as the non-executive Chairman of Yes Bank Limited. His tenure will be effective from September 20, 2025, and run until May

13, 2027, with remuneration sanctioned by the RBI.

- Rama Subramaniam Gandhi was recently reappointed as the non-executive Chairman of Yes Bank, following his initial appointment as Part-time Chairman in September 2022 for a three-year term. The RBI's approval formalizes his continued leadership at the private sector bank.

- As non-executive Chairman, Gandhi will provide strategic guidance and oversight to Yes Bank, ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements and supporting governance practices while not being involved in day-to-day operational management.

Key Points:-

(i) R. Gandhi has extensive experience with the RBI, having served as Deputy Governor from 2014 to 2017. During his tenure, he was instrumental in shaping policies across banking regulation, financial stability, and credit management.

(ii) Apart from RBI, Gandhi served on deputation to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for three years. He also held the position of Director at the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT), Hyderabad, contributing to research and development in banking technology.

(iii) With over 37 years in banking, Gandhi has held multiple key positions across the financial sector. His extensive expertise in banking governance, risk management, and financial regulation positions him as a valuable asset for Yes Bank during its ongoing growth and consolidation phase.

SPORTS

1. Amit Mishra, Veteran Indian Leg-Spinner and 3-Time IPL Hat-Trick Record Holder, Retires from International Cricket After 22-Year Career.



On September 4, 2025, veteran Indian leg-spinner Amit Mishra recently announced his retirement from all forms of international cricket, concluding a career that lasted over two decades and featured significant contributions across formats and in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

- Amit Mishra represented India in 22 Test matches, claiming 76 wickets with his best bowling performance of 5/71. His Test career began in 2008 against Australia, where he quickly established himself as a skillful leg-spinner with the ability to trouble top-order batsmen.

- In One Day Internationals (ODIs), Mishra played 36 matches and took 64 wickets, recording a best of 6/48. He also represented India in 10 Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is), where he secured 16 wickets with best figures of 3/24. His international white-ball career included consistent match-winning performances.

Key Points:-

(i) Amit Mishra had a celebrated IPL career, playing for franchises like Delhi Daredevils (now Delhi Capitals), Deccan Chargers, Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), and Lucknow Super Giants (LSG). Across 162 matches, he claimed 174 wickets, making him the 8th highest wicket-taker in IPL history. Notably, he remains the only bowler in IPL history to have taken three hat-tricks.

(ii) Mishra made his ODI debut in 2003 against South Africa, his Test debut in 2008 against Australia, and his T20I debut in 2010 against Zimbabwe. His long span across formats demonstrated his adaptability and persistence in Indian cricket.

(iii) Among his career highlights, Amit Mishra was part of the Indian team that lifted the 2013 ICC Champions Trophy. His achievements across formats, combined with his IPL legacy, solidify his place as one of India's most successful leg-spinners.

App and Web Portal

1. India Launches First Vulture Knowledge Portal 'The Vulture Network' in Assam on International Vulture Awareness Day 2025.



On September 2, 2025, coinciding with International Vulture Awareness Day, India unveiled its very first Vulture Knowledge

Portal—The Vulture Network—from Assam. This pioneering initiative offers a consolidated digital platform for research, awareness, and citizen-driven conservation of Indian vulture species.

- The portal, developed through a collaborative effort by We Foundation India and the Department of Zoology, Gauhati University, serves as a comprehensive cloud-based knowledge ecosystem. It offers scientific insights, freely downloadable awareness materials, and digital tools designed to support researchers, conservationists, students, and local communities.

- Support for the initiative comes from key organisations such as the Assam Bird Monitoring Network, LASA Foundation, Suraksha Samitee, and dedicated conservationists—who together pooled expertise and resources to bring The Vulture Network to life.

Key Points:-

(i) At the launch event, esteemed dignitaries including Dr. Prasanta K. Saikia (Retired Professor and former Head, Zoology, Gauhati University), Prof. Dandadhar Sarma (current Head, Zoology Dept.), Rohini Ballav Saikia (Deputy Conservator of Forest), Dr. Narayan Sarma (Assistant Professor, Cotton University), and Dr. Oinam Sunanda Devi (Scientific Officer, Assam State Biodiversity Board) emphasized the portal's pivotal role in uniting conservation efforts across India.

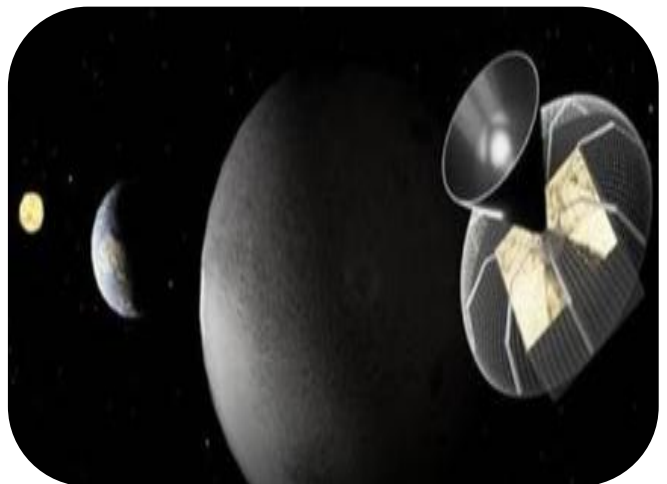
(ii) Experts at the launch also raised concerns over ongoing threats to India's vulture populations—from carcass poisoning and the veterinary use of diclofenac to habitat loss and social misconceptions—highlighting the serious decline of critically endangered species like the Slender-billed Vulture, with only about 800 mature

individuals remaining.

(iii) Speakers further underscored the need for grassroots participation, urging integration of citizen science into vulture conservation. Strategies included awareness campaigns on safe practices, monitoring initiatives, and educational outreach to strengthen the bond between communities and vulture protection efforts.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. RRI Develops 'PRATUSH' Radiometer to Detect Cosmic Dawn Hydrogen Signals.



In September 2025, the Raman Research Institute (RRI), under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science & Technology (MoS&T), recently developed 'PRATUSH' (Probing ReionizAtion of the Universe using Signal from Hydrogen), a compact radiometer designed to detect the faint 21-centimeter hydrogen signal from the Cosmic Dawn, marking a significant step in studying the early universe.

- PRATUSH is a space payload and compact radiometer specifically designed to study the early universe. Its primary purpose is to detect radio signals emitted by hydrogen atoms during the Cosmic Dawn, providing insights into the

formation of the first stars and galaxies. This mission aims to advance our understanding of cosmic evolution and the universe's infancy.

- The radiometer was developed by the Raman Research Institute (RRI), leveraging its extensive expertise in astrophysics and space instrumentation. PRATUSH is compact, minimizing weight, power consumption, and operational complexity, making it suitable for deployment in lunar orbit for optimal observations.

Key Points:-

(i) PRATUSH employs a Single-Board Computer (SBC)-based digital receiver built on Raspberry Pi technology, along with a Field-Programmable Gate Array (FPGA) chip. This setup processes streams of cosmic radio data with high precision, allowing the detection of extremely faint signals down to just a few millikelvins (mK), demonstrating its exceptional sensitivity.

(ii) The mission is planned to operate specifically on the Moon's far side to take advantage of a radio-quiet environment. This strategic positioning minimizes interference from Earth-based radio signals and ensures accurate measurement of the 21-cm hydrogen line, which is critical for studying the Cosmic Dawn.

(iii) Performance tests on a reference signal over 352 hours have confirmed PRATUSH's ability to detect extremely faint cosmic signals. This development represents a major technological achievement for Indian astrophysics, offering a new tool for understanding the early universe and contributing to global research on cosmic evolution.

Static GK

Bihar	Chief minister: Nitish Kumar	Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan
Assam	Chief minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma	Governor: Lakshman Acharya
Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)	Chairman : Abhishek Dev	Headquarters: New Delhi
Nepal	Capital: Kathmandu	Currency: Nepalese Rupee
Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC)	Director : Michael Greenstone	Headquarters : Chicago, the United States of America(USA)
Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)	Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) : Mukesh Ambani	Headquarter : Mumbai
WHO	Deputy Director General : Michael Ryan	Headquarters : Geneva, Switzerland

RBI	Governor : Sanjay Malhotra	Headquarter : Mumbai
Ministry of Education (MoE)	Minister : Dharmendra Pradhan	Headquarters: New Delhi
ICICI Bank	CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi	Headquarters: Mumbai