



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

> 08 SEPTEMBER 2025

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. 56th GST Council Meeting Held in New Delhi, Chaired by FM Nirmala Sitharaman.



The 56th Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council meeting, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Finance (MoF), was held from September 2–3, 2025 at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi. The council introduced landmark GST reforms to simplify taxation, boost Ease of Doing Business (EoDB), and reduce burden on households.

- The GST Council approved the implementation of a two-slab tax structure of 5% and 18%, replacing the earlier complex four-slab system of 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%. This new structure will come into effect from September 22, 2025, and is expected to streamline compliance and improve transparency in the taxation regime.
- To address luxury consumption and health concerns, the council also introduced a special demerit rate of 40% on items such as tobacco and tobacco-related products, along with select luxury goods. These demerit items will remain outside the standard slab reforms and will be notified separately by the Ministry of Finance (MoF).

Key Points:-

(i) A major highlight of the meeting was the reduction of GST rates in the food and household sector. Essentials such as Ultra-High Temperature (UHT) milk, pre-packaged and labelled paneer or chena, and all varieties of Indian breads will now attract a 0% tax, a sharp reduction from the earlier 5–18%, directly benefiting consumers.

(ii) The education sector has also been given relief through zero tax on core study materials like notebooks, pencils, and sharpeners, previously taxed at 12%. Other learning accessories such as geometry boxes, trays, and school cartons will now attract only 5% GST, making education-related products more affordable.

(iii) In the medical sector, the GST Council has reduced rates on 33 life-saving drugs such as Agalsidase Beta, Imiglucerase, and Atezolizumab, along with key diagnostic kits, from 12% to 0%. This move is expected to provide direct relief to patients and healthcare providers, ensuring accessibility of critical medical supplies at reduced costs.

2. MOCAF&PD Introduces Voluntary Digital HUID-Based Hallmarking for Silver Jewellery and Articles from September 2025.



The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MOCAF&PD) has introduced voluntary hallmarking for silver jewellery and articles with a digital Hallmarking Unique Identification (HUID) system, effective from 1 September 2025. This reform is designed to ensure purity verification, quality assurance, and enhanced consumer protection.

- The objective of the new hallmarking initiative is to safeguard consumer rights, build transparency in silver transactions, and prevent malpractices in the silver jewellery market. It also brings silver hallmarking norms in closer alignment with gold hallmarking standards, creating a uniform benchmark for the jewellery sector.

- The HUID-based hallmarking system comprises three essential components: the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) standard mark with the word "SILVER," a purity grade, and a 6-digit alphanumeric HUID code. Together, these ensure complete traceability of each silver article from registration to sale.

Key Points:-

(i) Under the revised IS 2112:2025 standard, silver articles will now be certified under seven purity grades—800, 835, 925, 958, 970, 990, and 999.

(ii) This replaces the earlier IS 2112:2014 standard, with the newly introduced 958 and 999 grades designed to better align with the hallmarking benchmarks already used for gold jewellery.

(iii) Consumers stand to benefit significantly from this reform, as the BIS Care mobile application allows them to trace and verify silver jewellery by checking article type, purity, hallmarking date, details of the

Assaying and Hallmarking Centre (AHC), and jeweller registration. This strengthens protection against adulteration and fraud in the jewellery market.

INTERNATIONAL

1. India Joins HealthAI Global Regulatory Network (GRN) to Champion Safe AI in Healthcare.



On 4 September 2025, India officially joined the HealthAI Global Regulatory Network (GRN)—a pioneering platform for global oversight of AI in healthcare. The signing took place in New Delhi, involving key stakeholders from the Indian Council of Medical Research – National Institute for Research in Digital Health and Data Science (ICMR-NIRDHDS), IndiaAI (India Artificial Intelligence Program), and HealthAI (Global Agency for Responsible Artificial Intelligence in Health).

- At the ceremonial signing in New Delhi, Dr Sanghamitra Pati, Additional Director General of ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research), and Dr Mona Duggal, Director of NIRDHDS (National Institute for Research in Digital Health and Data Science), represented India's scientific leadership. They were joined by Smt Kavita Bhatia, Chief Operating Officer of IndiaAI – India

Artificial Intelligence Program (an initiative under the MeitY and Dr Ricardo Baptista Leite, CEO of HealthAI – Global Agency for Responsible AI in Health, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

- By becoming a founding pioneer country in the Global Regulatory Network (GRN), India commits to co-developing international protocols to ensure Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in healthcare are safe, ethical, and effective. This collaboration places India alongside existing members like the United Kingdom (UK) and Singapore, reinforcing India's leadership in global AI governance for health.

- Under the agreement, ICMR-NIRDHDS and IndiaAI will work with HealthAI and international counterparts to exchange safety protocols, monitor AI performance in clinical settings, and assist in formulating a global directory of registered AI health tools. This aims to improve transparency, patient safety, and cross-border regulatory alignment.

Key Points:-

(i) This move aligns with India's broader National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence, designed to build a skilled AI workforce, foster public-service AI applications, nurture AI startups, and ensure ethical deployment. As Smt Kavita Bhatia (COO, IndiaAI) highlighted, this GRN partnership supports India's vision of promoting safe, trusted, and widely adopted AI in healthcare.

(ii) Through GRN membership, India will gain access to technical support, stakeholder engagement, and expert insights to refine domestic regulatory frameworks for AI in healthcare. This platform will guide India in developing best practices for AI governance, balancing

innovation with patient safety, ethical standards, and data privacy safeguards.

(iii) India's participation solidifies its global role in setting norms for responsible AI in health, enabling the safe adoption of AI-powered solutions across its vast healthcare ecosystem serving nearly 1.46 billion people (2025 estimate). The collaboration underscores India's commitment to equitable, efficient, and transparent digital healthcare transformation.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. NPCI Raises UPI Transaction Limits up to Rs 10 Lakh for Select Categories, Effective September 15, 2025.



In September 2025, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) announced significant revisions to Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transaction limits, enhancing digital payment flexibility. The move is aimed at easing high-value merchant payments, aligning with tax payments, and strengthening India's digital payment ecosystem.

- NPCI has increased the UPI transaction limit for categories related to tax payments to Rs 5 lakh per transaction, expanding the scope of

digital adoption for government-linked services. This higher ceiling is designed to simplify compliance and enable faster settlement of tax dues via UPI.

- For 12 other specified categories, including education fees, healthcare payments, insurance premiums, and investments, NPCI has enhanced both the per-transaction limit and the daily aggregate limit to Rs 10 lakh. This ensures that businesses and individuals can conduct large-value digital transactions seamlessly across regulated merchant categories.
- The revised norms will take effect from September 15, 2025, and all banks, UPI apps, and Payment Service Providers (PSPs) are mandated to adopt the upgraded infrastructure. This rollout will support merchants with verified registrations and encourage broader acceptance of digital payment solutions across the formal economy.

Key Points:-

- NPCI has clarified that the higher transaction ceilings apply strictly to Person-to-Merchant (P2M) payments with verified merchants. However, Person-to-Person (P2P) transfers will continue to have the existing cap of Rs 1 lakh per day, ensuring risk control in peer-to-peer remittances.
- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), established in 2008 under the Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007, operates as an umbrella organisation for retail payments.
- It was promoted by the RBI and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), and has been the driving force behind innovations such as UPI, RuPay, Bharat BillPay, FASTag, and AePS (Aadhaar Enabled

Payment System).

2. Axis Bank Launches 3rd Edition of Sparsh Week 2025 with Axis Max Life–IPPB Partnership to Boost Customer Experience and Insurance Reach.



On 1 September 2025, Axis Bank Limited launched the 3rd edition of its flagship initiative Sparsh Week, held from 1 to 5 September 2025, across 5,868 branches in 40 cities under the theme “Raise the Bar.” The programme aims to enhance customer experience, strengthen employee engagement, and expand leadership visibility while introducing new customer-centric offerings.

- Sparsh Week 2025 brought together more than 1 lakh Axis Bank employees across India under four guiding principles—Own the Brand, Own the Customer, Act with Speed, and Zero Pendency. The initiative reflects the bank’s commitment to operational excellence and building deeper connections with its customer base.
- The programme was led by Amitabh Chaudhry, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Axis Bank, who along with over 40 senior leaders, personally visited

teams and customers across 40 cities. These visits included mentorship sessions designed to reinforce the bank's cultural values and encourage frontline engagement.

- Axis Bank used the week to promote several financial products, including home loans starting at 7.6% interest rates, tailored to Credit Information Bureau (India) Limited (CIBIL) profiles. The bank also offered promotional benefits on gold loans, current accounts, Axis Direct Demat accounts, foreign exchange (FOREX), lockers, family banking, and health insurance products.

Key Points:-

(i) A key highlight of Sparsh Week 2025 was the announcement of an insurance distribution partnership between Axis Max Life Insurance Limited (formerly Max Life Insurance) and the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB). This strategic collaboration aims to expand life insurance penetration, particularly in semi-urban and rural regions of India.

(ii) Through this partnership, life insurance products will be distributed via 650 IPPB branches and more than 1,64,000 post office access points nationwide. This makes it one of the most expansive outreach models, leveraging the wide postal network to deliver financial protection to underserved communities.

(iii) Products introduced under this collaboration include the Smart Wealth Advantage Guarantee Plan (SWAG), the Smart Vibe Plan, and traditional term insurance offerings, focusing on Tier 3 and Tier 4 cities. This move aligns with the government's financial inclusion vision and Axis Bank's goal of providing affordable, accessible, and scalable insurance solutions

across India.

3. Sohan Lal Commodity Management (SLCM) Collaborates with IDBI Bank and Punjab & Sind Bank to Provide Unified Collateral Management Services.

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On 3 September 2025, Sohan Lal Commodity Management Limited (SLCM), India's largest post-harvest logistics and agri-solutions company, announced strategic partnerships with IDBI Bank and Punjab & Sind Bank to provide unified collateral management services across India. This collaboration aims to enhance transparency, efficiency, and scalability in agricultural financing, benefiting farmers and stakeholders nationwide.

- This partnership marks a significant milestone as it is Punjab & Sind Bank's first-ever tie-up for collateral management services. With this strategic collaboration, SLCM expands its strong portfolio to 27 banking partners across India and Myanmar, underscoring its credibility and extensive reach in the agri-finance ecosystem by opening access to a broader base of clients, traders, diversified geographies, and varied asset portfolios.

● Sandeep Sabharwal, Group CEO of SLCM, emphasized that the partnerships with leading banking institutions, including IDBI Bank and Punjab & Sind Bank, reflect the growing trust in SLCM's scientific and industry-proven collateral management and warehousing services. By combining technology-driven storage and risk management solutions with the financial strength of these banks, SLCM aims to ensure secure, transparent, and scalable agri-financing.

Key Points:-

(i) As of August 31, 2025, SLCM's extensive network covers 22 states across India, having managed over 20,742 warehouses and 96 cold storage facilities to date, offering post-harvest solutions for more than 1,274 commodity variants. Through this partnership, farmers dealing in commodities such as cotton, pulses, maize, spices, and other staples will gain access to comprehensive financing and collateral management services.

(ii) SLCM has demonstrated remarkable growth in its warehousing business, generating storage receipts worth ₹88,219 crore to date. Over the past five years alone, the business has recorded a 257% surge, contributing ₹68,907 crore of this total. This trajectory highlights the growing trust of the market in the company's services and its strengthened capability to manage larger and higher-value transactions.

(iii) For these partnerships, SLCM will leverage its patented and industry-proven technology platform 'Agri Reach', which enables real-time monitoring of agri-commodities and ensures efficient, transparent, and secure storage. Agri Reach has significantly reduced post-harvest losses from the industry average of 10% to just 0.5%, as acknowledged by a FICCI

report, thereby directly benefiting millions of farmers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and agri-businesses across the supply chain.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1. According to RBI Report : India's Current Account Deficit Slips to USD 2.4 Billion in Q1 FY26.

According to RBI
Report : India's
Current Account
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2.4 Billion in Q1 FY26



In a significant shift, India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) narrowed to USD 2.4 billion—about 0.2% of GDP—during the April–June quarter of FY 2025–26, reversing from the previous quarter's surplus and marking a substantial improvement from last year's deficit, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 1 September 2025.

● The RBI data highlights that India's CAD turned positive in the previous quarter (Q4 FY25) with a USD 13.5 billion surplus (1.3% of GDP), making this return to deficit noteworthy. Despite this, the magnitude of the deficit in Q1 FY26 remains muted, especially compared to the USD 8.6 billion deficit (0.9% of GDP) in Q1 of FY25, indicating resilience in India's external sector performance.

- A key driver behind this moderation in CAD was a strong rise in services exports, which climbed to USD 47.9 billion, up from USD 39.7 billion in Q1 FY25.

Key Points:-

- (i) These gains were complemented by a surge in personal remittances, which reached USD 33.2 billion, compared to USD 28.6 billion a year ago—helping cushion the impact of a broader trade deficit.
- (ii) However, India's merchandise trade deficit worsened, expanding to USD 68.5 billion, from USD 63.8 billion in the corresponding period last year. This growing gap underscores rising import pressures in key sectors such as electronics and machinery, which offset some of the benefits from rising services and remittances.
- (iii) Looking ahead, analysts anticipate that the CAD may widen further to around 1.2% of GDP over FY26, driven by continued trade tensions, U.S. tariff pressures, and volatility in foreign investment flows. This could exert downward pressure on the rupee, with estimated near-term exchange rates potentially ranging between ₹87.50 to ₹89 per U.S. dollar.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. Mohammad Siraj Appointed as Brand Ambassador of Skechers USA Inc.



On September 3, 2025, Skechers USA Inc., a global leader in athletic footwear and apparel, signed Indian cricketer Mohammad Siraj as its brand ambassador to strengthen its expansion into Indian cricket and boost its presence in the country's growing sportswear market.

- **Mohammad Siraj's appointment marks Skechers' growing interest in cricket as part of its strategy to connect with India's massive fan base. Under this partnership, Siraj will sport Skechers cricket sneakers during matches and feature prominently in the company's national and digital marketing campaigns.**
- **He joins a line-up of sports and entertainment figures already associated with Skechers, including Indian cricketers Jasprit Bumrah, Ishan Kishan, and Yastika Bhatia.**
- **The company has also partnered with Bollywood celebrities like Kriti Sanon, Kartik Aaryan, Ananya Panday, and Indian football captain Sunil Chhetri, expanding its ambassador base to multiple audiences.**

Key Points:-

- (i) Mohammad Siraj, who debuted for India in Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is) in 2017, One Day Internationals (ODIs) in 2019, and Test cricket in 2020, has grown into one of

India's leading fast bowlers.

(ii) Notably, in August 2025, during the India-England Test series, he surpassed Jasprit Bumrah's tally of 104 wickets to become India's most successful pacer in away Test matches.

(iii) In parallel to Skechers' announcement, another significant development took place in Indian sports branding as Skyscanner, a leading global travel search engine, appointed Suryakumar Yadav, popularly known as 'SKY', as its first-ever brand ambassador in India, reflecting the rising influence of Indian cricketers in global marketing strategies.

2. AMFI Elects Sundeep Sikka as Chairman and Vishal Kapoor as Vice Chairman During 30th AGM to Strengthen Mutual Fund Industry Leadership.



In September 2025, the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) elected Sundeep Sikka, CEO of Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited (NAM India), as its Chairman and Vishal Kapoor, CEO of Bandhan Asset Management Company (AMC), as Vice Chairman, effective immediately during its 30th Annual General Meeting (AGM).

• Sundeep Sikka succeeded Navneet Munot, Managing Director (MD) and CEO of HDFC AMC, as Chairman of AMFI, while Vishal Kapoor succeeded Anthony Heredia, MD and CEO of Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund (MF), as Vice Chairman.

• Sundeep Sikka joined NAM India in 2003 and became CEO in 2009, making him one of the youngest leaders in the Indian asset management sector. He has previously served as AMFI Chairman from 2013 to 2015 and has been a Board member since 2009.

Key Points:-

(i) Vishal Kapoor has nearly 30 years of experience in financial services. He has been serving as the Chairman of the AMFI ARN (Association of Registered Mutual Fund Distributors) Committee since 2020 and brings extensive leadership experience from top financial institutions.

(ii) Prior to his current role, Vishal Kapoor held key positions such as MD & Head of Wealth Management at Standard Chartered Bank (SCB), and leadership roles with American Express and ITC Threadneedle AMC in India and the USA. He has also actively participated in regulatory and industry working groups.

(iii) The new leadership at AMFI aims to strengthen the mutual fund sector in India, promote investor awareness, and enhance governance in the asset management industry. Their appointments reflect continuity as well as renewed strategic focus for AMFI in fostering sustainable growth.

3. Alia Bhatt Becomes the Third Indian Actor to Represent Levi's® Globally as New Brand Ambassador.



In September 2025, American denim brand Levi's® appointed acclaimed Indian actor and National Film Award winner, Alia Bhatt, as its new global brand ambassador, marking a significant milestone in her international brand endorsements.

- With this appointment, Alia Bhatt became only the third Indian actor to represent Levi's® globally, following Bollywood actress and entrepreneur Deepika Padukone (2021) and singer-actor Diljit Dosanjh (March 2025).
- Apart from Levi's®, Alia Bhatt serves as the Global Brand Ambassador for other prestigious luxury brands, including French cosmetics brand L'Oreal Paris (since September 2024) and Italian fashion brand Gucci (since May 2023).

Key Points:-

- Alia Bhatt is a leading figure in the Hindi film industry (Bollywood), known for her versatile acting skills and critically acclaimed performances, which have earned her multiple Filmfare Awards and the National Film Award for Best Actress in 2023.
- She is the founder of Ed-a-Mamma, a sustainable children's clothing brand, reflecting her commitment to sustainability and fashion entrepreneurship.
- Alia Bhatt was recognized in TIME

magazine's 100 Most Influential People list of 2024, further highlighting her global influence and prominence both in entertainment and brand representation.

App and Web Portal

1. India Launches Unified RERA Portal in New Delhi to Enhance Real Estate Transparency.



On September 4, 2025, Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) inaugurated the Unified Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) Portal—rera.mohua.gov.in—during the 5th meeting of the Central Advisory Council (CAC) in New Delhi, marking a major stride in increasing transparency and accountability in India's real estate sector.

- The Unified RERA Portal introduces a centralized, nationwide digital platform that aggregates real estate project data from all States and Union Territories, enabling real-time access for homebuyers and regulators alike. Its aim is to foster informed decision-making and strengthen the enforcement of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA).
- Manohar Lal Khattar emphasized the portal's significance: it builds upon eight years of RERA's

transformative impact by empowering homebuyers, ensuring timely project delivery, and reinforcing discipline in the sector.

- During the CAC meeting, MoHUA officials urged all States and UTs to implement RERA “in letter and spirit” to safeguard citizen interests.

Key Points:-

- The session was attended by key MoHUA officials including Tokhan Sahu, Minister of State (MoHUA), Kuldip Narayan, Joint Secretary (Housing), Srinivas Katikithala, Secretary (Housing & Urban Affairs), and various State RERA chairpersons. These stakeholders pushed for a robust national database of RERA-registered projects to help policymakers track trends, monitor compliance, and revive stalled ventures.
- To date, RERA has made staggering progress: 35 States and UTs have established RERA authorities, 29 have appellate tribunals, and 27 have appointed adjudicating officers.
- The unified portal will now aggregate data from over 1,51,113 registered projects and 1,06,545 agents, and consolidate information on 1,47,383 resolved homebuyer complaints—laying the groundwork for stronger regulatory coordination and consumer protection.

2. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Inaugurates TDK's Lithium-ion Battery Manufacturing Plant in Haryana.



On September 2025, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) inaugurated TDK Corporation's Advanced Technologies Lithium-ion (Li-ion) Battery Manufacturing Plant in Sohna, Haryana. The project, established under the Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) Scheme, involves an investment of ₹3,000 crore to boost India's self-reliance in energy storage.

- The newly inaugurated Lithium-ion Battery Manufacturing Plant has a production capacity of 20 crore battery packs per year, which will cover nearly 40% of India's annual demand of around 50 crore packs, significantly reducing reliance on imports.
- The facility is designed to produce advanced Lithium-ion batteries that will be supplied to sectors including mobile phones, wearables, hearables, and laptops, strengthening India's domestic electronics ecosystem and aligning with the Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) vision.

Key Points:-

- With an investment of ₹3,000 crore, the project has been developed under the Government of India's Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) Scheme,

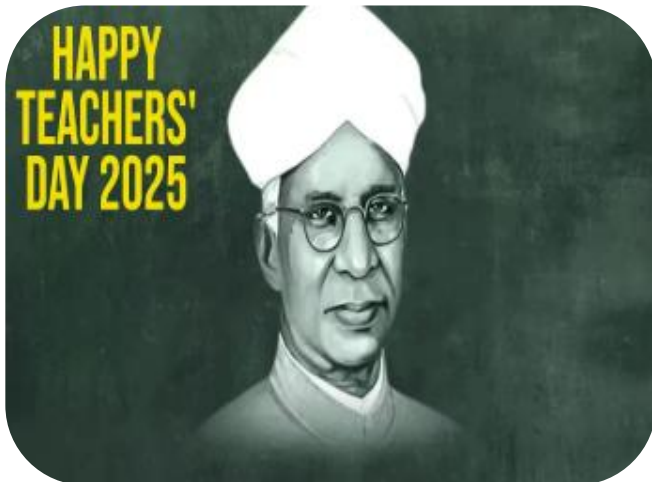
which aims to promote localized production of key electronic components and reduce the trade deficit in electronics.

(ii) The plant will also create substantial economic opportunities by generating direct employment for over 5,000 people, with additional indirect employment across supply chains and logistics, strengthening the industrial base of Haryana.

(iii) In addition to job creation, skill training programs will be provided in collaboration with the AT Bawal Plant to upskill workers in battery technology and electronics manufacturing, ensuring a skilled workforce to sustain long-term growth in the energy storage sector.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. India Observed National Teachers' Day 2025 on 5th September.



National Teachers' Day is observed annually on 5th September across India to honor the invaluable role of teachers in education and society. The day also marks the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, India's 1st Vice President and 2nd President.

- Teachers' Day in India is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli

Radhakrishnan. In 1962, when he became the 2nd President of India, his students sought to celebrate his birthday, but he suggested that the day be observed as Teachers' Day instead.

- The first National Teachers' Day was celebrated on 5th September 1962, and since then it has become an annual tradition to honor the contribution of teachers nationwide.

Key Points:-

(i) On 5th September 2025, President Droupadi Murmu conferred the National Teachers' Awards (NTA) 2025 to 81 teachers across India at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

(ii) Each National Teachers' Award comprises a Silver Medal, a Certificate of Merit (CoM), and a cash prize of Rs. 50,000, recognizing excellence and dedication in the field of education.

(iii) To mark the occasion, renowned sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik created a special sand sculpture at Puri Beach, Odisha, paying tribute to Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and symbolizing the nation's respect for teachers.

2. United Nations Observed International Day of Charity on 5th September 2025.



The United Nations (UN) observes the International Day of Charity every year on 5th September to emphasize the importance of charitable work and humanitarian service in addressing social and economic challenges worldwide. The day also commemorates the death anniversary of Mother Teresa in 1997.

- In December 2012, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution A/RES/67/105, officially designating September 5 as the International Day of Charity. The initiative aimed to create global awareness about charity as a universal value and practice.

- The International Day of Charity was celebrated for the first time worldwide on 5th September 2013. Since then, it has been observed annually across nations, bringing together NGOs, civil societies, and individuals to promote humanitarian efforts.

- The date was chosen to honor the anniversary of the passing of Mother Teresa, who died on 5th September 1997 at the age of 87 in Kolkata, West Bengal. She is remembered globally as a symbol of selfless service and compassion.

Key Points:-

(i) According to United Nations estimates, global charitable donations amount to nearly USD 2.7 trillion annually, highlighting the scale and importance of philanthropic efforts in reducing poverty, supporting education, and tackling humanitarian crises.

(ii) Born in 1910 in Uskup, Ottoman Empire (now Skopje, North Macedonia), Mother Teresa came to India in 1928. She became an Indian citizen in 1948 and founded the Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata in 1950, dedicating her life to the service of the poor and destitute.

(iii) Mother Teresa received several

prestigious awards including the Ramon Magsaysay Award (1962), the Templeton Prize (1973), the Nobel Peace Prize (1979), and India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna (1980). In 2016, Pope Francis canonized her as Saint Teresa of Calcutta. She also authored books such as Best Gift is Love, My Life for the Poor, and Heart of Joy.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Israel Successfully Launched Spy Satellite "Ofek-19" into Orbit.



In September 2025, Israel launched its advanced spy satellite "Ofek-19" into orbit using a Shavit rocket from Palmachim Airbase, south of Tel Aviv. The launch marks a significant step in strengthening Israel's surveillance and intelligence capabilities across the Middle East.

- Ofek-19 was developed under Israel's defense space program and led by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) through its Systems, Missiles, and Space (SMS) Group, specifically the SPACE Division. It highlights Israel's growing expertise in space-based intelligence systems.

- The project was developed in partnership with several defense firms: ELTA Group, which

manufactured the payload; IAI's MLM Division, which developed the launcher; Tomer Ltd., which built the rocket engines; and Rafael Advanced Defense Systems (ADS), which contributed to propulsion and systems integration.

- The Ofek-19 satellite operates in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) at an altitude of around 500 kilometers. It is capable of capturing high-resolution images covering areas up to 15 square kilometers, with object detection accuracy as small as 50 centimeters.

Key Points:-

- Ofek-19 is equipped with a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) observation system that enables high-quality imaging and data collection in all weather conditions, including night and cloud-covered environments, ensuring uninterrupted surveillance capacity.
- The satellite will significantly enhance Israel's surveillance, reconnaissance, and defense preparedness across the Middle East. Its real-time intelligence collection plays a crucial role in monitoring regional threats and strengthening national security.
- Ofek-19 follows a series of earlier successful Israeli satellites, including Ofek-16 launched in July 2020 and Ofek-13 launched in March 2023. Each generation has introduced improved imaging and intelligence-gathering capabilities, making Ofek-19 the most advanced in the series.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

1. Arundhati Roy Launches Her Memoir 'Mother Mary Comes to Me' in Kerala.



In September 2025, celebrated Indian author and activist Arundhati Roy launched her first memoir titled "Mother Mary Comes to Me" at an event held in the Mother Mary Hall of St. Teresa's College, Kochi, Kerala. The event was jointly organized by Penguin Random House India and DC Books.

- The memoir has been published by Penguin Random House India in collaboration with Hamish Hamilton, highlighting the author's literary journey into personal storytelling.
- The book narrates the life and legacy of Arundhati Roy's mother, Mary Roy, known for her brilliance, independence, and pathbreaking fight against patriarchal laws through the landmark Mary Roy vs. State of Kerala case in 1986.

Key Points:-

- Arundhati Roy's debut novel *The God of Small Things* (1997) won the Booker Prize, becoming an international bestseller. Her second novel *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* (2017) was longlisted for the Booker Prize.
- Beyond her novels, Roy has written significant works such as *The Algebra of Infinite Justice*, *War Talk*, *Listening to Grasshoppers*, and *Azadi*, all reflecting her

strong voice in literature and activism.

(iii) Roy has been honored globally, receiving the Sydney Peace Prize in 2004 and the Norman Mailer Prize for Distinguished Writing in 2011, further cementing her influence as a writer and activist.

OBITUARY

1. Renowned Italian Fashion Designer Giorgio Armani Passed Away at 91.



In September 2025, Giorgio Armani, the legendary Italian fashion designer and billionaire known for redefining modern elegance and global style, passed away at the age of 91 in Milan, Italy. Fondly called "Re Giorgio" or "King Giorgio," he was one of the most influential icons of the fashion world.

- Giorgio Armani was born on July 11, 1934, in Piacenza, a small town in northern Italy, and rose to become one of the world's most celebrated designers.
- In 1975, he co-founded the luxury fashion brand "Armani" in Milan with his partner Sergio Galeotti. The brand soon became synonymous with sophistication and contemporary style.

- Armani expanded his company beyond fashion into beauty, fragrance, music, sports, and luxury hotels, turning it into a global empire generating over EUR 2 billion annually.

Key Points:-

- (i) In 2002, Armani was appointed Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Refugees for his humanitarian efforts during the Afghan refugee crisis, raising awareness and funds for displaced communities.
- (ii) Armani earned the title "Re Giorgio" (King Giorgio) for revolutionizing fashion with modern elegance, influencing both Hollywood and global style for decades.
- (iii) His illustrious career was marked by prestigious accolades, including the Neiman Marcus Award for Distinguished Service in Fashion (1979), CFDA Best International Designer (1983), and CFDA Lifetime Achievement Award (Menswear) (1987).

Static GK

HealthAI	Chief Executive Officer(CEO) : Ricardo Baptista Leite	Headquarters : Geneva, Switzerland
Haryana	Chief minister: Nayab Singh Saini	Governor: Ashim Kumar Ghosh
National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)	MD & CEO : Dilip Asbe	Headquarter : Mumbai
Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)	Established : 1995	Headquarter : Mumbai
Israel	Prime Minister (PM): Benjamin Netanyahu	Capital: Jerusalem
Axis Bank	MD & CEO : Amitabh Chaudhry	Headquarter : Mumbai
Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)	Director General (DG): Pramod Kumar Tiwari	Headquarters: New Delhi