

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

> 13 SEPTEMBER 2025

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. MoTA Launches 'Adi Sanskriti' Digital Platform for Tribal Artforms at Bharat Mandapam.



In September 2025, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), Government of India, launched the beta version of Adi Sanskriti during the National Conference on Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. It is a digital learning platform dedicated to tribal art, culture, and sustainable livelihoods.

- The platform was officially launched by the Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Shri Durgadas Uikey, with the vision of building the world's first Digital Tribal University to preserve and promote tribal culture, livelihoods, and crafts globally.

- Adi Sanskriti integrates three major segments – Adi Vishwavidyalaya (Digital Tribal Art Academy offering 45 immersive courses), Adi Sampada (a socio-cultural repository with over 5,000 curated documents on tribal heritage), and Adi Haat (an online marketplace currently linked with TRIFED).

- The initiative is developed in partnership with State Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) across 12 states, ensuring grassroots participation,

research, and documentation of tribal traditions.

Key Points:-

(i) In its first phase, TRIs from states including Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh have contributed to cultural mapping and digital documentation.

(ii) The platform supports the Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan, a national movement for decentralized tribal leadership, aiming to empower 20 lakh changemakers across India, with 1 lakh villages included in skill-based capacity building and entrepreneurship initiatives.

(iii) In August 2025, MoTA also announced Adi Vaani, India's first AI-powered translator for tribal languages, laying the groundwork for bridging linguistic gaps and preserving endangered dialects.

2. Union Home Minister Inaugurates Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Program at 5 Airports.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller

Program (FTI-TTP) at Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram, Trichy, Calicut, and Amritsar airports via video conferencing. The program enhances international passenger mobility with quicker, smoother, and secure immigration clearance.

- The FTI-TTP is designed to provide faster and hassle-free immigration for Indian nationals and Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) passengers arriving from abroad. It works on e-gates (automated border gates), minimizing human intervention and strengthening both convenience and national security.

- This program was first launched in Delhi Airport in 2023, and has now expanded to 13 airports nationwide, including the five inaugurated by Amit Shah in September 2025. The expansion aims to cover all major international airports in India in a phased manner.

- So far, 3 lakh passengers have registered on the FTI-TTP portal, showing increasing adoption of automated immigration solutions among Indian and foreign travellers.

Key Points:-

(i) Amit Shah highlighted that the number of Indian passengers going abroad has grown significantly. In 2014, 3.54 crore Indians travelled abroad, which increased by 73% to 6.12 crore in 2024, demonstrating India's rising global mobility.

(ii) The number of foreign travellers coming to India has also increased. In 2014, 1.53 crore foreign passengers visited India, which rose to 2 crore in 2024, reflecting India's growing global attractiveness.

(iii) By combining technology-driven efficiency with enhanced border security, the FTI-TTP strengthens India's international

travel infrastructure, boosts tourism and trade, and aligns with India's vision of Digital Governance and Smart Border Management.

3. CCEA Approves Doubling of Bhagalpur–Dumka–Rampurhat Railway Line and Construction of Mokama–Munger Section of Buxar–Bhagalpur HSR Corridor.



On 10 September 2025, the Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved key infrastructure projects including railway doubling and a new high-speed corridor section to enhance connectivity in Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.

- The CCEA approved doubling of the 177 km Bhagalpur–Dumka–Rampurhat single railway line spanning Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal, with a total outlay of ₹3,169 crores.

- The multi-tracking project will cover 5 districts, impacting 441 villages and around 2.87 lakh people. It will also connect aspirational districts like Banka, Godda, and Dumka, and provide direct connectivity to destinations such as Deoghar.

- The upgraded line will decongest busy routes, enhance freight movement of coal, cement, fertilizers, and bricks, and improve operational efficiency, aligning with the government's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat.'

Key Points:-

- The CCEA also approved construction of an 82.4 km 4-lane Greenfield access-controlled Mokama–Munger section of the Buxar–Bhagalpur High-Speed Road Corridor in Bihar, under the Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM), with a cost of ₹4,447.38 crores.
- The corridor is designed for a speed of up to 100 km/h and will connect major regional hubs like Mokama, Barahiya, Lakhisarai, and Jamalpur, significantly reducing travel time by 1–1.5 hours.
- The project will boost Eastern India's economy by improving access to industrial clusters and supporting faster movement of goods and services. It strengthens the Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti – National Master Plan (PM Gati Shakti – NMP) by integrating transport infrastructure.

4. MoRTH Collaborates with Zomato and Uber for Road Safety Awareness Under Sadak Suraksha Abhiyan 2025.



सत्यमेव जयते

MoRTH

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has partnered with Zomato and Uber in September 2025 to promote road safety across India. The initiative, led by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, marks the third year of the Government of India's 'Sadak Suraksha Abhiyan' campaign.

- The tie-up was unveiled during a road safety event held in New Delhi, jointly organized by Zomato and Uber, where Union Minister Nitin Gadkari highlighted the importance of public-private partnerships in curbing road accidents.
- The initiative aims to reduce India's road accidents and related deaths by 50% by 2030, aligning with national and global safety targets.
- Zomato will spread road safety messages through its delivery partner app and food delivery platform, integrating safety tips into daily interactions with users and delivery personnel.

Key Points:-

- Uber will conduct driver training programs, promote safety awareness among riders, and share road safety tips through its app, ensuring safety practices are reinforced across its ecosystem.
- The collaboration supports Sadak

Suraksha Abhiyan 2025, launched in 2023, which carries the theme “Parwaah Karenge, Surakshit Rahenge” (Care for Others, Stay Safe), with Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan featured in awareness campaigns.

(iii) According to MoRTH's 2023 data, India recorded a 4.2% rise in road accidents, crossing 4.8 lakh cases, with an alarming rate of 20 fatalities per hour, underscoring the urgency of this initiative.

5. IIM Ahmedabad Opens First-Ever Overseas Campus in Dubai, Inaugurated by Dubai Crown Prince.



The Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA), India's premier business school, has inaugurated its first overseas campus in Dubai, marking a significant milestone in India's education globalization.

- H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Deputy Prime Minister, inaugurated the campus in presence of Union Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.

- The Dubai campus is IIMA's first-ever international campus, aligned with Prime

Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of making India a global hub of education.

- Shri Dharmendra Pradhan emphasized that Dubai provides the ideal launchpad for the ethos “Indian in spirit, global in outlook,” enhancing India-UAE educational collaboration.

Key Points:-

(i) Senior dignitaries present included Shri Sunjay Sudhir (Ambassador of India to UAE), Shri Satish Sivan (Consul General of India in Dubai), Shri Pankaj Patel (Chairman, IIMA Board), and Prof. Bharat Bhaskar (Director, IIMA).

(ii) From the UAE side, ministers including H.E. Mohammad bin Abdullah Al Gergawi (Minister of Cabinet Affairs), H.E. Reem Al Hashimy (Minister of State for International Cooperation), and H.E. Sarah bint Yousef Al Amiri (Minister of Education) attended.

(iii) Shri Pradhan also announced the setting up of 12 Atal Tinkering Labs in CBSE schools across GCC countries, promoting STEM innovation and entrepreneurship among students.

6. ACME Group and Japan's IHI Corporation Form JV for India's Largest Green Ammonia Project in Odisha.



In September 2025, ACME Group signed a Joint Venture (JV) with Japan's IHI Corporation (Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries Corporation) to set up India's largest Green Ammonia project at Gopalpur, Odisha, strengthening bilateral cooperation in clean energy.

- IHI Corporation will hold a 30% stake in the JV company ACME Clean Energy Private Limited, while ACME Group will retain 70%.
- The plant will produce 0.4 million tonnes (MT) of green ammonia annually, making it India's largest facility of its kind.

Key Points:-

- The project is expected to be commissioned by 2029–30. Production will be exported mainly to Japan for power and chemical sector consumption.
- The project is projected to cut 0.8 MT of CO₂ emissions annually, supporting India's National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) and Japan's decarbonisation targets, while also creating jobs and boosting Odisha as a green energy hub.

7. Namo Bharat Becomes India's Fastest Train, Connecting Delhi to Meerut in Under 60 Minutes.



In September 2025, the Namo Bharat train on the Delhi-Meerut RRTS hit a top speed of 160 km/h on its operational stretch, making it India's fastest train while covering the Delhi-Meerut distance in less than an hour.

- Operates at 160 km/h over the 55-km section from New Ashok Nagar (Delhi) to Meerut South.
- The full corridor is 82.15 km long and includes 16 stations from Sarai Kale Khan in Delhi to Modipuram in Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points:-

- The system is designed so that, even with stops, the Delhi-Meerut journey will be under one hour once fully operational.
- The six-car train-sets are built by Alstom at its Savli factory (Gujarat), featuring aerodynamic design, and are equipped with ATP, ATC, and ATO systems.
- Trains run at 15-minute intervals; distance between stations varies from 5–8 km, enabling max speed between longer stretches.

INTERNATIONAL

1. 44th RATS SCO Council Meeting Held in Kyrgyz Republic and India Condemns Pahalgam Terror Attack.



The 44th meeting of the Council of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held at Cholpon Ata, Kyrgyz Republic, where member states strongly condemned the recent Pahalgam terror attack.

- The session took place at Cholpon Ata in Kyrgyz Republic, under the Chairmanship of Kyrgyzstan.
- The RATS Council condemned the Pahalgam terror attack, endorsing its inclusion in the Tianjin Declaration adopted during the SCO Council of Heads of State on 1st September 2025.

Key Points:-

(i) India was represented by Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA) T.V. Ravichandran, who led the Indian delegation and emphasized that the sponsors, organisers, and financiers of the Pahalgam terror attack must be held accountable.

(ii) He urged SCO members to reject double

standards and fight terrorism in all forms and manifestations without discrimination.

(iii) Prime Minister Narendra Modi had attended the SCO Heads of State summit in Tianjin, China, where the declaration against terrorism was adopted.

2. India Participated in 9th Edition of Zapad 2025 Military Exercise in Russia and Belarus.



India took part in the 9th edition of the Zapad 2025 military exercise, a joint Russian-Belarusian drill, held from September 10–16, 2025, at the Mulino Training Ground in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, and Belarusian training grounds. The exercise aims to strengthen defence cooperation and foster India-Russia ties.

- The exercise aimed to strengthen cooperation among armies, provide a platform for exchange of tactics, procedures, and promote counter-terrorism coordination.
- Over 22 countries joined, including India, Bangladesh, Iran, Niger, Tajikistan, Burkina Faso, and others. Observer nations included Cambodia, China, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Pakistan, North Korea, and UAE.

- The previous edition of Zapad was held in 2021 across Russia and Belarus, continuing its historical role in simulating large-scale defensive and offensive operations.

Key Points:-

- (i) Zapad (meaning "West") is a large-scale military exercise series conducted since 1977 by the Soviet Union and later Russia, usually held every four years. The 2025 edition was hosted jointly by Russia and Belarus.
- (ii) India participated with 65 personnel, including 57 from the Indian Army, 7 from the Indian Air Force (IAF), and 1 from the Indian Navy. The contingent was led by a battalion of the Kumaon Regiment.
- (iii) The 2025 drills, conducted in Belarus (September 12–16), tested defensive readiness against USA-led weapons systems, including advanced Oreshnik missiles. The focus remained on open/urban terrain operations, counter-terrorism, interoperability, and integration of emerging technologies.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. World Bank Approves USD 212.64 Million Loan for SHORE Project in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.



In September 2025, the World Bank (WB) Board of Executive Directors approved a loan of USD 212.64 million under the Strengthening Coastal Resilience and the Economy (SHORE) Project to enhance coastal management in Tamil Nadu (TN) and Karnataka.

- The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), part of WB, provided the loan with a 23-year tenure, including a 6.5-year grace period.
- Includes training for 100,000 individuals (70,000 in sustainable tourism), conservation of 30,000 hectares of seascapes, grey/green infrastructure, and plastic waste management.
- TN was the first Indian state to ban single-use plastic in 2019, with India's coastline spanning 11,000 km across nine states and two Union Territories, highly vulnerable to climate risks.

Key Points:-

- (i) The approval is part of the larger USD 850 million SHORE program, with USD 212.64 million allocated for Phase 1 to address India's coastal challenges.
- (ii) Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company (TNGCC) and Karnataka Eco Restoration Society (KERS) will implement the project with coordination through State Project

Management Units (SPMUs).

(iii) The project directly benefits 100,000 people, with 120,000 more impacted through plastic reduction and conservation initiatives.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1. Air India and Air Astana Sign Codeshare Agreement to Boost India-Central Asia Connectivity.



On September 10, 2025, Air India and Kazakhstan's national carrier Air Astana signed a codeshare agreement. Air India's 'AI' code will now appear on Air Astana flights including Almaty–New Delhi and Almaty–Mumbai routes.

- The codeshare agreement applies to Almaty–New Delhi and Almaty–Mumbai flights operated by Air Astana.

- Passengers can book a single ticket and enjoy baggage through check-in across Air India and Air Astana flights.

- The agreement allows easier connections to Central Asian cities such as Astana, Bishkek, Tashkent, and Dushanbe.

Key Points:-

(i) Established in 1932, Air India operates

flights to around 92 destinations worldwide.

(ii) Founded in 2001, Air Astana is Kazakhstan's national airline operating both domestic and international flights.

(iii) The partnership strengthens India's connectivity with Central Asia and supports travel, trade, and diplomatic ties.

MOUs and Agreement

1. India and Mexico Sign MoU to Boost Bilateral Trade at FICCI LEADS 2025.



In September 2025, India and Mexico signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen bilateral trade and investments. The announcement was made by Francisco Cervantes Diaz, President of Mexico's Business Coordinating Council (BCC), during the FICCI LEADS 2025 event in New Delhi.

- The agreement focuses on leveraging complementarities between India and Mexico, exploring cooperation in automobiles, aerospace, agriculture, and medical devices.

- The MoU targets an investment of nearly USD 1200 million to accelerate trade flows between the two countries.

Key Points:-

(i) In 2024, India–Mexico trade reached USD 11.711 million, highlighting growing economic engagement.

(ii) Around 200 Indian companies have invested USD 72 million in Mexico across various sectors.

(iii) Mexico's proximity to the USA and Canada, under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) framework, positions it as a bridge for Indian businesses into North America.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. Jonas Gahr Støre Secures 2nd Consecutive Term as Prime Minister of Norway.



In September 2025, Jonas Gahr Støre, leader of Norway's ruling Labour Party, won a 2nd consecutive term as Prime Minister following the parliamentary elections held on September 8, 2025.

- Jonas Gahr Støre began as a special adviser and director-general in the PM's Office from 1989 to 1997 and joined the Labour Party in 1995.

- He served as Chief of Staff under Norway's first female PM, Gro Harlem Brundtland, at the

World Health Organisation (WHO) from 1998 to 2000.

- He was Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2005 to 2012 and later served as Minister of Health and Care Services until 2013, gaining extensive governance experience.

Key Points:-

(i) The Labour Party won 28.2% of votes and secured 53 out of 169 seats, retaining power with support from four left-wing parties.

(ii) Sylvi Listhaug of the Anti-Immigration Progress Party came second with nearly 24% votes and 48 seats, while former PM Erna Solberg of the Conservative Party finished third with 14.6% votes.

(iii) Jonas Gahr Støre will serve his second consecutive term as Norway's Prime Minister, continuing Labour Party governance since October 2021.

AWARDS

1. Former PM Dr. Manmohan Singh Posthumously Conferred PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for Economics.



On September 10, 2025, former Prime Minister and renowned economist Dr.

Manmohan Singh was posthumously awarded the PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for Economics. His wife, Gursharan Kaur, received the award on his behalf at a ceremony in New Delhi, Delhi.

- Dr. Manmohan Singh held important economic positions. He was Chief Economic Adviser from 1972 to 1976, Secretary of the Ministry of Finance from 1976 to 1980, and the 15th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India from 1982 to 1985.
- He served as Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission from 1985 to 1987. He was also Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister from 1990 to 1991.
- As Finance Minister from 1991 to 1996 under PM P.V. Narasimha Rao, he introduced landmark economic reforms. These reforms focused on Liberalization, Privatization, and Globalization, transforming India's economy.

Key Points:-

- The award was created to commemorate former Prime Minister Pamulaparti Venkata (P.V.) Narasimha Rao. He served as PM from 1991 to 1996 and is remembered as the "Father of Indian Economic Reforms".
- The award recognises individuals for their outstanding contributions to economic transformation and nation-building in India.
- Dr. Singh is remembered as a pioneering economist and reformist who played a key role in India's economic liberalization and modernization.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. HAL Signs Technology Transfer Agreement with ISRO, IN-SPACe, and NSIL for Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV).



In September 2025, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed a Technology Transfer Agreement (TTA) with the ISRO, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), and NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) in Bengaluru, Karnataka, to manufacture and operate the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), boosting opportunities for MSMEs and start-ups.

- The SSLV is a three-stage launch vehicle developed by ISRO, designed to carry satellites weighing up to 500 kilograms (kg) into Low Earth Orbit (LEO). It is cost-effective, flexible, and caters to the increasing domestic and international demand for small satellite launches.
- The agreement was signed by Jayakrishnan S, CEO, HAL Bangalore Complex; A. Rajarajan, Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)/ISRO; M. Mohan, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), NSIL; and Rajeev Jyoti, Director (Technical), IN-SPACe. The ceremony was attended by Dr. V. Narayanan, Secretary, Department of Space (DoS) & Chairman, ISRO; Dr. Pawan Kumar Goenka, Chairman, IN-SPACe;

and Dr. D. K. Sunil, CMD, HAL, along with senior officials.

- The TTA aims to enable HAL to evolve from being a component supplier to a full-fledged launch service provider, supporting India's vision of a self-reliant and robust space ecosystem while facilitating private sector participation.

Key Points:-

(i) HAL has received a non-exclusive, non-transferable license for SSLV technology. The agreement covers design, manufacturing, quality control, integration, launch operations, and post-flight analysis, ensuring end-to-end capabilities for small satellite launches.

(ii) HAL will undergo a two-year technology absorption phase with ISRO's technical support and training, followed by a ten-year production period, enabling the company to independently operate SSLV missions in the future.

(iii) This agreement marks the 100th Technology Transfer facilitated by IN-SPACe, reflecting India's strategic push to involve Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and start-ups in space technology and address the growing global demand for small satellite launch solutions.

2. ISRO Achieves Nine World Records and Plans More with Human Moon Landing by 2040.



ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan highlighted India's remarkable achievements in space exploration, including Chandrayaan and Mars missions, while announcing plans to secure 8–10 additional world records in the coming years, reinforcing India's position in global space technology.

- India has secured nine major world records in space exploration so far. Notable milestones include the Mars Orbiter Mission (2014), which made India the first nation to reach Mars on its maiden attempt, and Chandrayaan-3 (2023), which marked India as the first country to land near the lunar South Pole.

- In 2017, ISRO's PSLV-C37 mission created history by launching 104 satellites in a single mission, setting a global benchmark in satellite deployment. Chandrayaan-2 (2019) deployed the world's best orbiter camera around the Moon, enhancing India's lunar research capabilities.

- Between 2014 and 2017, India set three global records in cryogenic stage development, including the fastest maiden flight of LVM3 with a cryogenic stage in just 28 months, compared to 37–108 months by other nations.

Key Points:-

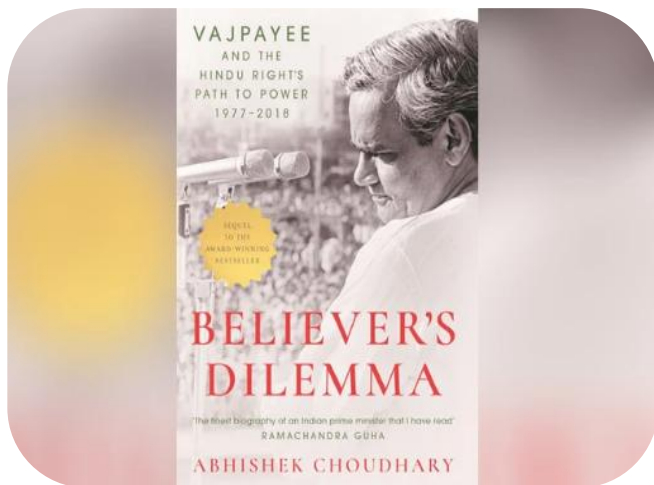
(i) ISRO's cost-sensitive approach has

significantly reduced launch expenses, enabling India to launch over 4,000 rockets and 133 satellites. These efforts contribute to national security, economic growth, and the expansion of space entrepreneurship.

(ii) Looking ahead, ISRO aims to achieve 8–10 additional world records in space technology and targets landing a human on the Moon by 2040, marking a major step in India's ambition to become a developed nation.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

1. New Biography “Believer's Dilemma” Chronicles Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Political Journey.



In September 2025, a new biography titled “Believer's Dilemma: Vajpayee and the Hindu Right's Path to Power (1977-2018)”, authored by Abhishek Choudhary, was released. The book was published by Picador India and traces former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's political and ideological journey.

● The book is the second part of a two-volume biography of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, covering the years 1977 to 2018. The first volume, Vajpayee: The Ascent of the Hindu Right (1924-1977), was published in 2022.

● The biography traces Vajpayee's evolution from a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) propagandist to a moderate leader who played a crucial role in bringing the Hindu Right into mainstream Indian politics.

Key Points:-

(i) The book explores his leadership roles in the Janata Coalition, the formation and growth of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and his strategies in coalition management during his tenure as Prime Minister (1996, 1998-2004).

(ii) It discusses major events associated with Vajpayee, including the Babri Masjid demolition and India's nuclear tests, highlighting his approach to balancing political ideology and governance.

(iii) The biography examines Vajpayee's contributions to India's foreign policy, economic reforms, and his efforts to modernize the nation while managing diverse political and social challenges.

Static GK

Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)	Minister : Durga Das Uikey	Headquarter : New Delhi
Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)	Minister : Nitin Gadkari	Headquarters: New Delhi
ISRO	Chairman : Dr. V. Narayanan	Headquarters: Bengaluru
Kyrgyz	Capital: Bishkek	Currency: Kyrgystani Som
Belarus	President : Alexander Grigoryevich Lukashenko	Capital : Minsk
World Bank	President: Ajay Banga	Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
P.V. Narasimha Rao Memorial Foundation (PVNMF)	President : K Ramachandra	Headquarters : Hyderabad, Telangana
Norway	Prime minister: Jonas Gahr Støre	Capital: Oslo