

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

> 18 SEPTEMBER 2025

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. PM Narendra Modi Inaugurated Projects Worth ₹18,530 Crore During Assam Visit on September 13–14, 2025.



Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi visited Assam from September 13–14, 2025, as part of his five-state tour, where he inaugurated and laid foundation stones for key infrastructure and industrial projects worth over ₹18,530 crore across multiple districts.

- PM Narendra Modi attended a special centenary event in Guwahati to mark the 100th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika.
- On this occasion, he released a ₹100 commemorative coin, a postage stamp, and a biography titled “Bharat Ratna Bhupen Hazarika” authored by Anuradha Sarma Borpujari.
- In Darrang district, he inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of three major health and infrastructure projects valued at around ₹6,500 crore. These include the ₹570 crore Darrang Medical College and Hospital with a GNM School and B.Sc. Nursing College, the ₹4,530 crore 118.5 km Guwahati Ring Road, and the ₹1,200 crore Narengi–Kuruwa 6-lane Bridge.

Key Points:-

(i) In Golaghat, PM Modi inaugurated India’s first bamboo-based bio-refinery, the Assam Bioethanol Plant, with an investment of ₹5,000 crore. He also laid the foundation stone for a ₹7,230 crore Polypropylene Plant at the Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL).

(ii) The projects launched in Assam aim to boost healthcare, connectivity, and industrial capacity, while reinforcing India’s commitment to sustainable bio-energy and regional development.

(iii) This visit followed PM Modi’s earlier stops in Manipur and Mizoram as part of his wider five-state tour to accelerate infrastructure and cultural projects in the North Eastern Region (NER).

2. Amit Shah Inaugurates ₹825 Crore Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on September 14, 2025.



On September 14, 2025, Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Ministry of Cooperation, inaugurated the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex at Naranpura in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), were also present at the ceremony.

- The Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, worth ₹825 crore, is India's largest and most modern sports facility, developed jointly by the Government of India and the Government of Gujarat.

- The project aims to position Ahmedabad as India's sports capital in line with India's vision to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games (CWG) and the 2036 Summer Olympics.

- Spread over 1.19 lakh square metres, the complex is equipped with green energy and sustainable infrastructure, including a 275-kilowatt (kW) solar power plant and a 60 kilolitre per day (KLD) sewage treatment plant.

Key Points:-

(i) The facility offers advanced amenities such as an Aquatics Stadium, Indoor Multi-Sports Arena, Centres of Excellence (CoE) for professional training, and a Community Sports Centre. It can accommodate 300 athletes and 8 coaches, and also features a Fit India Zone and an Outdoor Sports Zone.

(ii) For multi-sport facilities, the complex has two large halls designed to host 18 different sports including badminton, basketball, volleyball, kabaddi, wrestling, and taekwondo. It also includes international-standard courts for lawn tennis, basketball, and volleyball.

3. MSDE Notifies Hike in Apprenticeship Stipends to Rs. 6,800–12,300 under Amended Apprenticeship Rules 1992.



In September 2025, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) announced amendments to the Apprenticeship Rules, 1992, revising the monthly stipend range for apprentices to Rs. 6,800–12,300, up from the earlier Rs. 5,000–9,000. The hike applies to both NAPS and NATS.

- The revision follows the 38th Central Apprenticeship Council (CAC) meeting chaired by Jayant Chaudhary, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for MSDE, which approved key amendments to enhance youth participation and industry engagement.

- The revised stipend will benefit apprentices enrolled under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) and National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS), ensuring better financial support and encouraging wider adoption of apprenticeship programs.

Key Points:-

(i) Eligible establishments are mandated to engage 2.5%–15% of their workforce as apprentices, with a minimum of 5%. Vacant apprenticeship seats may be reallocated upon approval, and a one-year cooling-off period is now required between successive

apprenticeship stints unless ended prematurely.

(ii) The reforms also introduced new categories such as degree apprenticeships and remote apprenticeships, expanded coverage of industries under the National Industrial Classification (NIC) 2008, and mandated inclusivity for persons with benchmark disabilities to make the apprenticeship ecosystem more comprehensive.

4. Unemployment Rate in India Falls Again in August 2025 Under PLFS, Hits 5.1%.



In August 2025, the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), reported that India's overall Unemployment Rate (UR) for persons aged 15 and above dropped to 5.1%, marking the second consecutive month of decline since June.

- The overall UR was 5.6% in June 2025, declined to 5.2% in July, and further to 5.1% in August under the Current Weekly Status (CWS) method, showing consistent improvement in the labour market.

- Among males aged 15+, the UR in August dropped to 5.0%, the lowest in five months; urban male unemployment fell from 6.6% in July to 5.9% in August, and rural male UR declined to about 4.5%.

- The Worker Population Ratio (WPR) for females rose to 32.0% in August 2025, up from 30.2% in June and 31.6% in July, indicating increased proportions of women finding work or engaging in economic activity.

Key Points:-

(i) Overall WPR (persons aged 15+) improved to 52.2% in August, up from 51.2% in June, showing more people are working or capable of working.

(ii) Female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) saw consecutive monthly rises, reaching 33.7% in August 2025, up from 32.0% in June, with increases in both rural (from ~ 35.2% in June to ~ 37.4%) and urban areas (from ~ 25.2% to ~ 26.1%) during the same period.

(iii) The sample size for August's PLFS survey was 376,839 persons, of which 215,895 were rural and 160,944 urban respondents. The survey's modified methodology (effective since January 2025) provides monthly CWS-based estimates of key labour indicators: UR, LFPR, WPR.

5. Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin Launches 'Anbu Karangal' Scheme for Orphaned and Single-Parent Children.



On 15 September 2025, Tamil Nadu (TN) Chief Minister (CM) Muthuvel Karunanidhi (M.K.) Stalin launched the 'Anbu Karangal' (Hands of Love) scheme in Chennai, TN. The scheme offers Rs. 2,000 monthly financial aid to orphaned children and those with a single parent lacking guardian support until they complete schooling or turn 18.

- The Anbu Karangal scheme aims to reduce school dropouts among vulnerable children by ensuring access to education, skill development, and livelihood support under the 'Thayumanavar' programme for families in extreme poverty.

- The scheme extends higher education support for beneficiaries completing Class 12, enabling them to pursue college education or skill development opportunities with state assistance.

Key Points:-

(i) In its first phase, the scheme covers 6,082 children across Tamil Nadu, ensuring targeted relief and inclusion of disadvantaged children in mainstream education.

(ii) A mobile application developed by the TN e-Governance Agency was launched to facilitate applications, monitoring, and

grievance redressal, enhancing transparency and accessibility.

(iii) Additionally, 1,340 students who lost both parents and secured admission to higher education institutions received laptops. The scheme also complements other TN welfare initiatives like the CM's Breakfast Scheme, Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai Scheme, and financial assistance for persons with disabilities and transgender persons.

INTERNATIONAL

1. India's 7 Sites Added to UNESCO's Tentative World Heritage List 2025, Total Rises to 69.



In September 2025, the Permanent Delegation of India to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) announced the inclusion of 7 new Indian sites in the Tentative List of UNESCO's World Heritage Convention under the 'Natural Category'. With this, India's total entries have risen to 69 sites, strengthening its cultural and natural heritage representation globally.

- The first newly added site is the Deccan Traps at Panchgani and Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra, which represents unique volcanic

rock formations of international geological value.

- The second site is the Geological Heritage of St. Mary's Island Cluster in Udupi, Karnataka, known for its hexagonal basaltic rock formations dating back millions of years.
- The third inclusion is the Meghalaya Age Caves in East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya, a significant speleological site showcasing biodiversity, paleoclimatic records, and underground ecosystems.

Key Points:-

- The fourth is the Naga Hill Ophiolite in Kiphire, Nagaland, which provides insights into earth's tectonic history, being part of ancient oceanic crust and mantle sequences.
- The fifth group includes three distinct natural sites: Natural Heritage of Erra Matti Dibbalu (Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh), Tirumala Hills (Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh), and Varkala (Kerala), representing coastal red sand dunes, sacred biodiversity-rich landscapes, and unique cliff formations respectively.
- As per UNESCO rules, any site aspiring for World Heritage List (WHL) status must first be on the Tentative List. India's distribution now stands at 49 Cultural sites, 3 Mixed sites, and 17 Natural sites.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. RBI Issued 'Regulation of Payment Aggregators Directions, 2025'.



In September 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued the 'Reserve Bank of India (Regulation of Payment Aggregators) Directions, 2025', providing regulatory guidelines for Payment Aggregators (PAs) and recommending baseline technology standards for Payment Gateways (PGs).

- The Directions apply to all bank and non-bank entities undertaking the business of PAs. Non-bank PAs must obtain RBI authorization under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
- Entities seeking to operate as PAs must be incorporated in India and maintain a minimum net worth of ₹15 crore (cr) at the time of application, which should increase to ₹25 cr by the end of the third financial year (FY).

Key Points:-

- PAs must be professionally managed and meet the 'fit and proper' criteria for promoters and directors. Any acquisition or change in management must be reported to RBI within 15 days.
- Non-bank PAs are required to maintain merchant funds in separate escrow accounts with Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs). RBI also urged PGs to adopt recommended security standards to strengthen the digital payment infrastructure.

2. Kotak811 Surges to 3rd Spot in Global Banking App Downloads.



Kotak Mahindra Bank's digital platform, Kotak811, has emerged as one of the fastest-growing banking apps globally, ranking 3rd in worldwide downloads during H1 2025, reflecting India's growing footprint in mobile-first banking.

- **Kotak811 ranked 3rd globally in banking app downloads during the first half (H1) of 2025, surpassing SBI's Yono app, according to insights from Sensor Tower.**
- **The app recorded over 16 million downloads with a 250% Year-on-Year (YoY) growth, making it the fastest-growing banking app worldwide despite earlier RBI restrictions.**

Key Points:-

- (i) Kotak811 is designed as a full-service digital banking platform, offering services such as zero-balance accounts, payments, investments, and credit products, catering to a wide range of financial needs in a mobile-first environment.
- (ii) The app currently serves 2.6 crore KYC-compliant users, highlighting its strong adoption in India's regulated financial

ecosystem and the trust it has garnered among retail customers.

(iii) While Brazil's NuBank and the UK's Revolut held the top two positions in global banking app downloads, Kotak811's rapid growth underscores the rise of mobile-first banking in India and the country's competitive presence in the global digital finance landscape.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1. Godrej Aerospace Signed 5-Year Deal with Safran Aircraft Engines to Manufacture LEAP Engine Components.



On September 12, 2025, Godrej Aerospace, part of the Godrej Enterprises Group, signed a five-year agreement with Safran Aircraft Engines, France, to manufacture titanium-based critical components for LEAP aircraft engines developed by CFM International, a joint venture between General Electric (GE) Aerospace and Safran.

- **The LEAP engine powers next-generation narrow-body aircraft such as Airbus A320neo and Boeing 737 MAX, with Indian airlines having placed orders for over 2,000 engines.**

Key Points:-

(i) Under the agreement, Godrej Aerospace will produce complex ventilation assemblies made of titanium, involving advanced machining, high-precision welding, and non-destructive testing to meet international civil aviation standards.

(ii) The deal highlights Godrej's growing role in aerospace manufacturing, positioning India as a reliable global partner in supplying high-value aircraft engine components to Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs).

(iii) This collaboration strengthens India's footprint in the global aerospace supply chain and boosts the 'Make in India' vision by integrating advanced aviation technologies into domestic manufacturing.

MOUs and Agreement

1. Startup India and CarDekho Group Signed MoU to Boost Startup Ecosystem Across Mobility, Fintech & Emerging Tech Sectors.



On 15 September 2025, Startup India, under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CarDekho Group in New Delhi. The agreement aims to accelerate India's startup

ecosystem, particularly in mobility, fintech, insurtech, and emerging technology sectors.

- The MoU was signed between Dr. Sumeet Jarangal, Director, DPIIT, and Amit Jain, Co-founder & CEO, CarDekho Group. The signing ceremony took place in New Delhi, strengthening the collaboration between the Government of India and private industry leaders.

- The partnership focuses on accelerating the growth of DPIIT-recognized startups by offering strategic mentorship, technology infrastructure, and enhanced market access. Startups will also benefit from funding opportunities, including co-investments via CarDekho's Girnar Vision Fund (GVF).

- Startups will gain direct access to CarDekho's comprehensive ecosystem platforms, which include CarDekho, InsuranceDekho, Rupyy, BikeDekho, ZigWheels, PowerDrift, Revv, CollegeDekho, and Crack-ED. This multi-platform network will provide startups with opportunities in auto-tech, finance, insurance, and digital education sectors.

Key Points:-

(i) As part of the MoU, innovation challenges will be organized under the Bharat Startup Grand Challenge to foster entrepreneurship and innovation. These challenges will encourage solutions in electric mobility, sustainable technologies, fintech, and automotive innovation.

(iii) These initiatives aim to enhance entrepreneurial and technical capabilities among startup founders and teams, ensuring long-term sustainability and competitiveness in the global market.

SPORTS

1. FIDE Grand Swiss 2025: Anish Giri and Vaishali Rameshbabu Clinch Titles in Uzbekistan.



The FIDE Grand Swiss 2025, held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan from September 3 to 15, 2025, concluded with Dutch GM Anish Giri winning the Open section and Indian GM Vaishali Rameshbabu securing the Women's section title for the second consecutive year. The tournament served as a qualification event for the 2026 Candidates Tournament.

- The event featured two categories—Open and Women's—played under the 11-round Swiss format with 116 players in the Open and 56 in the Women's section. Winners and runners-up from each section qualified for the 2026 Candidates Tournament, with a total prize pool of USD 850,000, including USD 230,000 for the Women's section.

- In the Open section, Anish Giri scored 8/11 points, remaining undefeated with 5 wins and 6 draws, earning USD 90,000. Germany's Matthias Blübaum, with 7.5/11 points, finished runner-up and secured qualification alongside Giri for the Candidates Tournament. France's Alireza Firouzja claimed third place with USD 62,000 in prize money.

- Anish Giri's victory was marked by a notable win over Hans Niemann of the USA. Additionally, 16-year-old Indian Abhimanyu Mishra became the youngest player to defeat reigning World Champion Gukesh D, making headlines with his historic achievement.

Key Points:-

(i) In the Women's section, Vaishali Rameshbabu scored 8/11 points, edging out Kateryna Lagno (Russia) on tiebreaks to claim the title and USD 40,000 prize.

(ii) Lagno earned USD 31,000 as runner-up, while Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kazakhstan) finished third with USD 25,000. Both Vaishali and Lagno qualified for the 2026 Women's Candidates Tournament.

(iii) Vaishali's win marked a historic achievement, as she became the first player to win consecutive Grand Swiss Women's titles (2023 and 2025). With this, she also became the third Indian woman in history to qualify for the Candidates Tournament.

2. China Defeated India to Win the Women's Hockey Asia Cup 2025 in Hangzhou.



The 11th edition of the Women's Hockey Asia Cup 2025 was held at the Gongshu Canal

Sports Park, Hangzhou, China, from September 5 to 14, 2025. Eight top Asian teams competed for the title and a direct berth at the 2026 FIH Women's World Cup.

- In the final on September 14, China defeated India 4-1, with Navneet Kaur being the lone scorer for India. With this victory, China secured their third Asia Cup title and direct qualification for the 2026 Women's Hockey World Cup.

- China became the seventh team to qualify for the 2026 World Cup, joining Belgium (host), Netherlands (host), USA, Germany, Argentina, and Spain. India, as runner-up, will have to attempt qualification through the upcoming World Cup Qualifiers.

- The World Cup Qualifiers will feature teams including Uruguay, Chile, Canada, Ireland, England, France, and Italy. The top seven teams from these qualifiers will earn their spot in the 2026 World Cup alongside the already qualified nations.

Key Points:-

(i) India's last World Cup appearance was in 2022, where they finished ninth, winning only one out of six matches. Their most recent miss came in 2014, which adds pressure for the upcoming qualifiers.

(ii) The Women's Hockey Asia Cup 2025 showcased competitive performances, but China's dominance highlighted their consistent regional supremacy, while India now focuses on regrouping for the World Cup qualifiers to secure their place in Belgium and the Netherlands in 2026.

3. Headline: Sarvesh Kushare Becomes First Indian High Jumper to Qualify for World Athletics Championships Final.



On September 14, 2025, Sarvesh Kushare made history by becoming the first Indian high jumper to reach the men's high jump final at the 20th edition of the World Athletics Championships held in Tokyo, Japan, showcasing India's growing presence in global athletics.

- Sarvesh Kushare cleared a height of 2.25 meters in the men's high jump qualification round at the Tokyo World Athletics Championships, finishing ninth overall and securing a spot among the top 12 athletes who advanced to the final.

- Sarvesh joined the Indian Army (IA) in 2016, which provided him access to professional training facilities, structured coaching, and opportunities to compete at national and international levels.

- He has a decorated career including a Gold Medal at the 2019 South Asian Games in Kathmandu, Nepal, a Silver Medal at the 2023 Asian Athletics Championships, and representing India at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Key Points:-

(i) Demonstrating consistent form, Sarvesh cleared 2.26 meters at both the India Open in Sangrur and the National Federation Senior Athletics Championships earlier in

2025, reflecting his readiness for world-level competitions.

(ii) Sarvesh Kushare's personal best in the men's high jump remains 2.27 meters, achieved in 2022, positioning him among India's top high jump athletes and signaling potential for further records on the global stage.

AWARDS

1. Baba Kalyani Conferred ASME Holley Medal for Engineering Excellence.



Industrialist Baba Kalyani has been awarded the prestigious Holley Medal by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) in recognition of his outstanding contributions to engineering and manufacturing, celebrating a career marked by innovation, technological advancement, and public benefit.

- The Holley Medal is one of ASME's top honours, established in 1924 in memory of Alexander Lyman Holley.

- It is awarded for "outstanding and unique act(s) of an engineering nature, accomplishing a noteworthy and timely public benefit by one or more individuals for a single achievement, provided the contributions are equal or comparable."

- Baba Kalyani, Chairman & Managing Director of Bharat Forge Ltd, has been recognised for his significant engineering and manufacturing achievements that have had wide-reaching public and economic benefits, underlining his role as a global innovator.

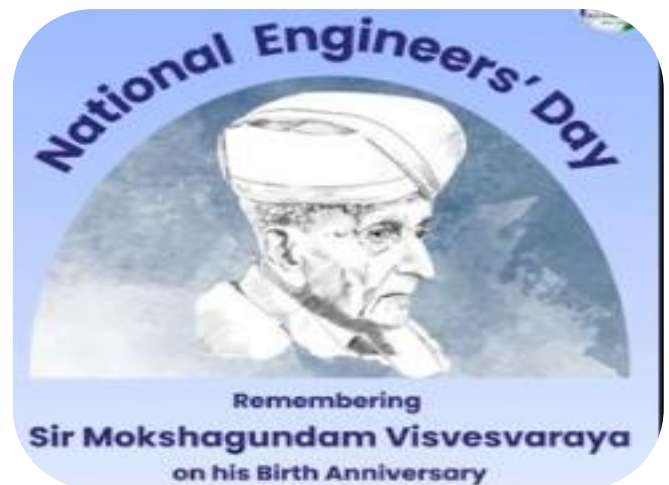
Key Points:-

(i) The award highlights Baba Kalyani's leadership in high-precision forging, advanced materials, and engineering systems, which have enhanced India's capabilities in global manufacturing supply chains.

(ii) By being honoured with the Holley Medal, Baba Kalyani joins an elite group of engineers and inventors worldwide who have delivered technological solutions of public importance and inspired advancements in engineering disciplines.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. India Celebrated National Engineer's Day on September 15.



National Engineer's Day is celebrated every year on September 15 in India to commemorate the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, who is remembered as India's first engineer for

his pioneering contributions to engineering, irrigation, and education.

- The Government of India declared in 1968 that the birth anniversary of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya would be observed as National Engineer's Day, with the first celebration held on September 15, 1968.

- Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya was born on 15th September 1861 in Muddenahalli, Karnataka, and went on to become one of India's most celebrated engineers and visionaries in infrastructure development.

- He served as the chief engineer of the Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) Dam in Mysuru, Karnataka, which at the time created Asia's largest reservoir and significantly boosted agriculture in the Mandya region.

Key Points:-

(i) Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya was instrumental in designing and developing crucial irrigation and water supply projects, including the Khadakwasla Dam in Pune, Maharashtra, showcasing his expertise in modern water management.

(ii) For his exceptional service to engineering and the nation, Sir Visvesvaraya was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1955 and was also conferred the title of Knight Commander of the British Indian Empire (KCIE), earning the honorific "Sir."

2. International Day of Democracy 2025 Observed on September 15.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY

15 SEPTEMBER 2025



The United Nations (UN) observed the 18th edition of the International Day of Democracy (IDD) on 15 September 2025 with the theme "From Voice to Action" to encourage governments to strengthen democratic values and promote active public participation.

- The International Day of Democracy was established by the United Nations (UN) in response to a request from the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), with the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopting resolution A/RES/62/7 on 8 November 2007. The day was first observed globally on 15 September 2008.

- The choice of 15 September is significant as it marks the anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy, adopted by IPU member parliaments during the 161st session held in Cairo, Egypt, on 15 September 1997.

Key Points:-

(i) The 2025 observance carried the theme "From Voice to Action", focusing on the role of citizens' voices, choices, and active participation in strengthening democracy, and underlining the importance of dialogue and shared decision-making.

(ii) To commemorate the day, the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)

organized a special event at the UN Headquarters in New York, United States of America (USA), highlighting challenges to civic space and the need to build trust in democratic processes.

(iii) Democracy, derived from the Greek terms demos (citizen) and kratos (power or rule), is founded on public participation and freedom of expression. Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) recognizes this right, underscoring democracy's legal and moral foundation.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Indian Navy Launched 'DSC A22 (Yard 327)', Third Diving Support Craft at Titagarh, West Bengal.



On 13 September 2025, the Indian Navy (IN) launched 'DSC A22 (Yard 327)', the third ship of the five-ship Diving Support Craft (DSC) project, built by M/s Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd. (TRSL) at Titagarh, Kolkata, West Bengal (WB).

- The launch was presided over by Vice Admiral Suraj Berry, Commander-in-Chief, and his wife Kangana Berry launched the ship.

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract with TRSL in February 2021 to construct

five DSCs. The first ship of this series, 'DSC A20', was launched on 31 August 2023.

Key Points:-

(i) 'DSC A22' has a catamaran hull design and a displacement of around 380 tons. It is equipped with state-of-the-art diving apparatus to carry out specialized diving operations in coastal waters.

(ii) The vessel has been designed and built in compliance with Indian Navy (IN) regulations and the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS). Hydrodynamic analysis was carried out at the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

(iii) This launch is part of the Government of India's 'Make in India' initiative, showcasing progress in indigenous shipbuilding and strengthening of India's maritime capabilities.

Static GK

Assam	Chief minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma	Governor: Lakshman Acharya
Gujarat	Capital: Gandhinagar	Chief minister: Bhupendra Patel
UNESCO	Deputy Director- General: Xing Qu	Headquarters: Paris, France
RBI	Governor : Sanjay Malhotra	Headquarter : Mumbai
China	Capital: Beijing	President: Xi Jinping
Inter- Parliamentary Union (IPU)	President : Dr. Tulia Ackson	Headquarters :Geneva, Switzerland