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## NATIONAL

### **Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025: Key Provisions to Take Effect from Aug 1**

The Government of India (GoI) has notified that important provisions of the **Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025** will come into effect from August 01, 2025, aiming to reshape the landscape of Indian banking.

#### **Key Highlights:**

**Background:** The Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025 was first published on April 15, 2025, after receiving the President's approval.

**Objective:** The amended legislation aims to enhance bank governance, safeguard depositors and investors, improve audits at Public Sector Banks (PSB), and increase the tenure of directors (other than the chairperson and whole-time directors) in cooperative banks.

**Redefinition of Substantial Interest:** The threshold for "substantial interest" has been increased from Rs 5 lakh to **Rs 2 crore**, a limit that had remained unchanged since 1968.

**Director Tenure in Cooperative Banks:** The maximum tenure for directors in cooperative banks has been extended from 8 years to **10 years**, excluding the chairperson and whole-time director (WTD).

### **India's first-ever 'Grassland Bird Census' Conducted at Kaziranga National Park in Assam**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) released **India's first-ever Grassland Bird Census** at an official event held in Kaziranga (Assam).

- **Kaziranga National Park** (Assam) conducted the census from **March 18 to May 25, 2025**, using acoustic technology to identify and monitor various grassland bird species.

#### **Key Points:**

- **What:** India's first-ever "Grassland Bird Census"
- **Conducted by:** The Kaziranga National Park (Assam)
- **Released by:** MoEFCC
- **Survey Period:** March 18 to May 25, 2025
- **Result:** Recorded 43 grassland species
- **Key Findings:** Discovery of over 85 nests of Finn's Weaver, a rare and endangered bird species.

**About Grassland Bird Census:**

**Species Recorded:** The survey recorded around 43 grassland species, including 1 Critically Endangered, 2 Endangered, and 6 Vulnerable species, as per the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List across the Kaziranga National Park's three wildlife divisions.

**Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis Inaugurates India's first AI-powered Anganwadi Centre in Nagpur**

Maharashtra Chief Minister(CM) **Devendra Fadnavis** inaugurated India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered **Anganwadi centre** in Waddhamna village, Nagpur, Maharashtra.

- The centre was launched, under Mission Bal Bharari, to introduce advanced digital tools to strengthen early childhood education in rural areas.

**Key Points:**

- **What?** India's first AI-powered Anganwadi centre inaugurated
- **Where?** Nagpur, Maharashtra
- **Under:** Mission Bal Bharari
- **Inaugurated by:** CM Devendra Fadnavis
- **Funds Used:** Rs.9.5 lakh (Zilla Parishad CESS fund)
- **Features:** AI smart dashboards, Virtual Reality (VR) headsets, and interactive digital learning tools.
- **Purpose:** to introduce advanced digital tools to early childhood education in rural India.

**About AI-Powered Anganwadi Centres:**

**Overview:** Anganwadi centres act as childcare and preschool units for children aged between 0–6 years, to provide early childhood education in rural and underprivileged areas.

**Features:** The centre integrates technologies like AI smart dashboards, Virtual Reality (VR) headsets, and interactive digital learning tools, resources rare even in premium private kindergartens.

**PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates Kartavya Bhavan in New Delhi**

Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** inaugurates **Kartavya Bhavan-03** at Kartavya Path, in

New Delhi, Delhi. It is the first among the several upcoming Common Central Secretariat (CCS) buildings to streamline administrative processes and enable agile governance.

- This project is part of the Central Vista redevelopment project which also encompasses the construction of the new Parliament building and the Vice President's Enclave.

### About Kartavya Bhavan-3:

**Overview:** Kartavya Bhavan 3 or CCS-3 is an initiative that provides an administrative reform agenda by co-locating several ministries and departments into a centralised building.

**Structural Features:** It is an office complex building with total area of approximately **1.5 lakh** square metres(sq m) with **2** basement levels and **7** floor levels.

**House offices:** It hosts various relocated ministries and department offices including Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas(MoPNG), Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) of Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (MoPP&P) and Office of Principal Scientific Adviser(PSA).

### FIEO Releases Overview of States' Exports 2024-25: Gujarat Tops with Rs.9.83 Lakh Crore Exports in FY 25

The Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), released “**Overview of States' Exports 2024-25**”, an analysis based on the export data from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCIS), MoCI.

- **Gujarat** has remained the top exporter state of India in Financial Year 2024-25 (FY-25), with export shipments worth approximately **Rs.9.83 lakh crore** (USD 116.33 billion), accounting for 26.6% of the total exports by India.

### Key Points:

- **What?** Overview of States' Exports 2024-25 Analysis Released.
- **Released by :** Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO)
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI)
- **Top Exporter:** Gujarat with Rs.9.83 lakh crore , Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu (TN),
- **Jamnagar:** Highest contributor of Gujarat with 36.91% (Rs.3.63 lakh crore) of the total exports of Gujarat.

**Performance of the States:**

**Top performer:** Gujarat, the top exporter, has shown a slight decline in exports over the shipment worth USD 134.39 billion in FY24. The top 5 export destinations of Gujarat include the United States of America (USA), the Netherlands, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Singapore, and Australia.

**Top five exporting states in FY25:**

The top 5 states collectively contributed around 71% of India's total exports in FY25, amounting to approximately ₹27.07 lakh crore.

Rank	State	Export
1	Gujarat	Rs.9.83 lakh crore
2	Maharashtra	Rs 5.57 lakh crore
3	Tamil Nadu(TN)	Rs.4.40 lakh crores
4	Karnataka	Rs.3.85 lakh crores
5	Uttar Pradesh(UP)	Rs.1.86 lakh crores

**M.S Swaminathan's Biography 'The Man Who Fed India' Released to Commemorate his 100th Birth Anniversary**

A Biography titled “**The Man Who Fed India**” has been released to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan(**M.S. Swaminathan**), which is celebrated on August 7. The launch took place at the India International Centre, New Delhi, Delhi, on the occasion of his 100th birth anniversary, commemorating one of India's greatest champions of food security and the father of the Green Revolution.

**Key Points:**

- **What?** Release of the biography 'The Man Who Fed India'
- **Purpose:** To commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of M.S. Swaminathan
- **Written By:** Priyambada Jayakumar
- **Published By:** HarperCollins
- **He is called as:** Father of Green Revolution in India

**Focus:** The book humanizes M.S. Swaminathan by sharing rarely heard anecdotes, quotes, and moments from his early life, scientific career, policy roles, and personal philosophy.

**Green Revolution:** He is called the father of the Green Revolution. The book shares insights about his efforts towards introducing high-yield wheat and rice varieties that brought India to food self-sufficiency in the 1960s and 1970s.

**Evergreen Revolution:** He coined the "Evergreen Revolution", with the focus on sustainable, inclusive, and eco-friendly agriculture.

### India Nominates Ancient Buddhist Site 'Sarnath' to UNESCO for 2025-26 Cycle

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Ministry of Culture (MoC), Government of India (GOI), has nominated "Sarnath", an ancient Buddhist site for inscription on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List for the 2025-26 cycle.

- World Heritage Convention, 1972: Under the Convention, each State Party can nominate only one site per year for inscription on the World Heritage List. The nomination process takes approximately 1.5 years from the date of submission. The nomination process takes approximately 1.5 years from the date of submission.

### About Sarnath:

**Location:** Sarnath is situated at the confluence of the Rivers Ganga and Varuna in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

**Birth of Buddhism:** Gautama Buddha delivered his first religious speech (first sermon) in Sarnath, following the attainment of enlightenment at Bodh Gaya (Bihar), marking the birth of Buddhist community.

**Sacred site:** It is one of the four most sacred sites for Buddhist community, including Lumbini (Nepal), the birthplace of Buddha; Bodh Gaya, where Buddha attained enlightenment under a sacred Bodhi tree; Sarnath; and Kushinagar (UP), where he died.

### Former CJI D.Y. Chandrachud's Debut Book "Why the Constitution Matters"

Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud has authored his

debut book titled ‘Why the Constitution Matters’, to be published by Gurugram (Haryana) based Penguin Random House India (PRHI) by August 2025.

- The book offers a comprehensive view of the **relevance and transformative power** of the **Indian Constitution**, portraying it as the foundation of **democracy, justice, equality, and liberty**.

#### Key Points:

- **What?** Release of debut book “**Why the Constitution Matters**”
- **Author:** Justice DY Chandrachud (50th Chief Justice of India)
- **Publisher:** Penguin Random House India, Gurugram, Haryana
- **Objective:** Promote public engagement with India’s constitutional values

**About Justice Chandrachud:** He served as the **50th Chief Justice of India** from 9 November 2022 to 10 November 2024, drawing nearly 25 years of judicial experience to reflect on constitutional values.

**Core Themes:** Addresses the right to dissent, freedom of speech, privacy, gender equality, disability rights, and environmental justice, citing landmark judgments to show real-life constitutional impact.

#### PM Narendra Modi Virtually Flags Off India’s Longest Ajni-Pune Vande Bharat Express in Bengaluru, Karnataka

Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** virtually flagged off India’s longest running Vande Bharat Express between **Ajni** (Nagpur, Maharashtra) and **Pune** (Maharashtra), spanning approximately 881 Kilometre (Km), at the KSR Bengaluru Railway Station in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

- He also inaugurated Vande Bharat trains from Bengaluru to Belagavi (Karnataka) and from Mata Vaishno Devi Katra (Jammu and Kashmir, J&K) to Amritsar (Punjab)

#### Key Points:

- **What?** PM Narendra Modi virtually flagged off India’s longest Vande Bharat trains
- **Route:** From Ajni (Nagpur, Maharashtra) to Pune (Maharashtra)
- **Distance:** Approximately 881 Km





- **Other trains:** Bengaluru to Belagavi (Karnataka), Mata Vaishno Devi Katra (Jammu and Kashmir, J&K) to Amritsar (Punjab)
- **Halts:** 10 stations
- **Flats rating:** Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) 3-star rating

#### **Longest Vande Bharat train:**

**Duration:** The Vande Bharat train from Ajni to Pune covers 881 Km in a duration of 12 hours, marking the fastest train between Nagpur and Pune.

**Stops:** The train halts at **10** stations, including Wardha, Badnera, Akola, Shegaon, Bhusaval, Jalgaon, Manmad, Kopargaon, Ahmednagar, and the Daund Chord Line.

#### **Highlights of 79th Independence Day of India on August 15, 2025**

The Government of India (GoI) organised the **79th** Independence Day (I-Day) celebrations at the Red Fort in New Delhi, Delhi. Prime Minister (PM) of India **Narendra Modi** addressed the nation and delivered his **12th** consecutive Independence Day speech which lasted for **103 minute**, the longest by any PM in India's history.

- This year's Independence Day theme is centered on '**Naya Bharat**', signifying the GoI's vision of achieving 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

#### **Highlights of I-Day Celebrations :**

**Coordinating Service:** Indian Air Force (IAF) was the coordinating officer service for this year's national event, featured a ceremonial Guard of Honour, a 21-gun salute, and special flypast which carried the national flag and the Operation Sindoor flag.

**Key Announcements:** launch of PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY), Sudarshan Mission by 2035; National High-Powered Demography Mission; Introducing GST Reforms by October 2025; 'made-in-India' semiconductor chips will be available in Indian market by end of 2025, among others.

**Total Gallantry/Service Medals:** As per the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), a total of **1,090** personnel of Police, Fire, Home Guard and Civil Defence (HG&CD) and Correctional Services have been awarded Gallantry and Service Medals on the occasion of 79th Independence Day.

**Total Gallantry Awards:** On the occasion of Independence Day, President of India Droupadi Murmu approved **127 Gallantry Awards** and **40 distinguished service awards** to the Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) personnel.

**Tatrakshak Medal to ICG:** On the occasion of 79th Independence Day celebration, President of India Droupadi Murmu has approved **3 Tatrakshak Medal(TM)** (**Gallantry**) and **2 TM**

(**Meritorious Service**) to Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Personnel.

### **GoM accepts Centre's GST proposal, to recommend scrapping of 12%, 28% slabs**

The Group of Ministers (**GoM**) on Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate rationalisation, headed by **Samrat Choudhary**, Deputy Chief Minister(DyCM) of Bihar, accepted the Government of India(GoI)'s proposal to reduce the current four-slab structure to **two-slab structure** i.e. 5% and 18%.

- This represents a major milestone in the reform of the indirect tax system.

#### **Proposed GST Rate Rationalisation Framework:**

**Members of GoM:** The six member GoM includes Uttar Pradesh (UP) Finance Ministers (FM) Suresh Kumar Khanna, Rajasthan Health Minister (HM) Gajendra Singh, West Bengal (WB) FM Chandrima Bhattacharya, Karnataka Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, and Kerala FM K N Balagopal.

**Proposed Structure:** The existing four-rate GST structure of **5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%** is proposed to be replaced with a simplified two-rate system, **5%** for merit goods and **18%** for standard items.

- Under this reform, 99% of items currently taxed at 12% would be shifted to the 5%, while 90% of those under the 28% bracket would move to 18%.
- The panel proposed that 40% GST slab has been earmarked for sin and luxury goods under the new GST framework.

### **I-T Bill 2025 gets Presidential assent, new Act to be effective from April 1, 2026**

The President **Droupadi Murmu** has given approval to the Income-Tax Act (I-T Act), 2025 and the same was notified by the Ministry of Law and Justice (MoLJ) through a gazette notification.

#### **About Income-Tax Act (I-T Act), 2025:**

**Implementation :** The new law will come into effect from **April 01, 2026**.

- The new law will replace the decades old **I-T Act, 1961**, with a modern and simpler version to enhance ease of compliance.

**Key Features:** The new act does not impose any new tax rate and removes redundant provisions.

**Structure:** The number of sections reduced from 819 in I-T Act, 1961 to **536** and the number of

chapters from 47 to **23**.

**Modern Tools:** The total word count has been brought down from 5.12 lakh to 2.6 lakh.

- For the first time, the Act introduces 39 new tables and 40 new formulas for clarity and ease of reference.

**Major Change:** A major change in the I-T Act, 2025 is the renaming of the Assessment Year (AY) and Financial Year (FY) to '**Tax Year**', to avoid confusions.

### **President Murmu gives assent to Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill**

President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025, aiming to encourage electronic-sports (e-sports) and online social games while prohibiting harmful online money gaming services, advertisements, and financial transactions related to them.

#### **Key Highlights:**

**Timeline:** The bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on August 20, 2025 by **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, Minister of Railways (MoR), Information and Broadcasting and Electronics and Information Technology.

The Bill was passed by Lok Sabha without debate and passed by Rajya Sabha on August 21, 2025.

**Objective:** The objective of the Act is to protect individuals, especially youth and vulnerable populations, from the adverse social, economic, psychological and privacy-related impacts of such games.

**Types:** The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 divides online games into four types: e-sports, social games, educational games, and online money games.

**Offences and penalties:** Offering online money gaming services will be punishable with imprisonment for up to **three years**, a fine up to **Rs.1 crore**, or both.

- Advertising online money games will be punishable with imprisonment up to **two years**, a fine up to **Rs 50 lakh**, or both.

### **Sanjay Baru's Book "Secession of the Successful: The Flight Out of New India" Released**

The book, "**Secession of the Successful: The Flight Out of New India**", authored by political commentator and policy analyst **Sanjay Baru**, has been officially released. It was published by **Penguin Viking India**.

- It explores the change in mindset of Indians choosing to settle permanently abroad, terming them as "**Non-Returning Indians**".

#### **Key Points:**

- **What?** Sanjay Baru's new book Released
- **Name:** "Secession of the Successful: The Flight Out of New India"
- **Publisher:** Penguin Viking India
- **Wave Driver:** Wealth, Power, and Privilege

**About the book:**

**Migration:** In this book, Sanjay Baru identifies a fourth wave of migration, driven by wealth, power, and privilege.

**Categories:** The author describes the **four categories of migrants**, including Fugitives from the law, First-Generation wealthy people who feel politically vulnerable, Individuals who seek de-risking or diversification from uncertain governance, and those who desire better quality of life.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Australia's First Indigenous Rocket 'Eris' Launch Fails after 14 Seconds into Flight

Australia's first indigenously designed and built orbital rocket, "Eris", developed by Gilmour Space Technologies, was launched from the Bowen Orbital Spaceport in North Queensland, Australia. The rocket failed to achieve orbit and crashed 14 seconds after liftoff.

#### Key Points:

- **What?** Australian rocket 'Eris' crashed after lift off
- **Location:** Bowen Orbital Spaceport in North Queensland, Australia.
- **Developed by:** Gilmour Space Technologies
- **Type:** 23-metre, 3-stage small satellite launcher
- **Payload Capacity:** 215 kg to 305 kg
- **Propulsion:** Hybrid rocket engines

**Indigenous:** The 23-meter(m) (75-foot) rocket was an indigenously built launch vehicle designed to place small satellites into Low Earth Orbit (LEO), including sun-synchronous orbits.

#### Eris Specification:

**Payload Capability:** It is a three-stage launcher built to carry small satellites, with a payload capacity ranging from approximately **215 kilogram (kg)** to a maximum of 305 kg.

**Propulsion:** It uses hybrid rocket engines, combining solid fuel with liquid oxidizers, a safer and cost-effective technology.

**Mission Purpose:** Aimed at offering affordable, dedicated launch services for small satellites and enhancing Australia's space capabilities.

### IATA: Indian Emerged as World's 5th Biggest Aviation Market; Mumbai-Delhi among Busiest Airport Pairs

The International Air Transport Association (**IATA**), a global airline body representing approximately 350 carriers, released the latest edition of the World Airport Transport Statistics (WATS) for 2024. As per the report, India ranked as the world's 5th **largest** aviation market in 2024, handling **211 million** passengers, marking an 11.1% year-on-year(Y-o-Y) growth from 2023.

#### Key Highlights:

**Top 3 Countries in Aviation Market:** The United States of America (**USA**) continues to be the world's biggest aviation market with **876 million passengers** in 2024, driven by its domestic air travel network, marking **5.2%** Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y) growth rate.

- It is followed by China (741 million passengers) and the United Kingdom (UK) (261 million passengers) ranked at **2nd and 3rd** spots, respectively.

**Top Busiest Airport Pairs:** **Asia-Pacific** region topped among the world's busiest airports, with **Jeju-Seoul Gimpo(CJU-GMP)** in South Korea emerged as the most popular route globally, with **13.2 million** passengers flying between two airports in 2024.

- **Mumbai-Delhi** route ranked **7th** among the world's top 10 busiest airport pairs, carrying 5.9 million passengers in 2024.

**International Premium Class Travel:** The report revealed that international premium class travel including business and first class, has increased by **11.8%**, outpacing growth in global economy travel of 11.5%.

**Most Flown Aircrafts:** As per the report, The **Boeing 737** (all variants) topped usage in 2024 with 10 million flights and generated 2.4 trillion Available Seat Kilometers (ASKs), a key indicator used to measure airline capacity.

### **Global AI City Index 2025: Bengaluru ranked 26th; Singapore Topped**

The market research firm **Counterpoint Technology Market Research** released the “**Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) City Index 2025**”, in which Bengaluru(Karnataka) has secured the 26th rank in the index, emerging as India's top AI Research & Development (R&D) and data centre hub.

- **Singapore** secured the top position in the Global AI City Index 2025, followed by Seoul (South Korea) and Beijing (China).

### **Report highlights:**

**Other Top Cities:** **Dubai** (United Arab Emirates, UAE) and **San Francisco** (United States of America, USA) also featured among the top five in the Global AI City Index 2025.

**Fastest-Growing AI Cities:** Bengaluru (Karnataka, India), Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), Hangzhou (China), and São Paulo (Brazil) are among the fastest-growing AI cities globally.

**Industry front:** **Microsoft** emerged as the most active player in expanding AI infrastructure and initiatives. It extended its AI data center presence, launched training programs, and established innovation hubs.

### **Numbeo Safety Index Mid-2025: Mangalore Ranked as Safest City in India, Abu Dhabi Tops Globally**

Numbeo, a crowd-sourced global database, released Numbeo Safety Index Mid-2025 Rankings. As per the Index, Mangalore is ranked as the safest city in India and 49th globally with the score of 74.3. Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates, UAE) has topped the list with the score of 88.8.

• **Delhi** has been ranked as the most unsafe city in India, **316th** globally with the score of 41.  
**Category:** The responses are scaled from 0 to 100, which are categorized into different levels. It includes Very low (below 20), Low (20 -40), Moderate (40 – 60), High (60-80), and Very High (above 80).

**Features:** The index features 391 cities from across the world.

**Global:** The Middle East region has dominated the list with 5 cities ranked in top 5. Four cities of UAE and one city of Qatar has occupied the spots. Ras al-Khaimah of UAE has been ranked 6th with a score of 83.8.

- Other top 10 cities include Taipei (Taiwan) (7th rank) with a score of 83.4. Muscat (Oman) (8th) with a score of 81.2, The Hague (Den Haag) (Netherlands) (9th) (79.9), and Tampere (Finland) (10) (79.5).

**Indian Cities:** Other top 10 Indian cities include Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra) (6) (127th globally) with the score of 63.5, Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) (7) (148th globally) (61.3), Chennai (Tamil Nadu, TN) (8) (158th globally) (60.3), Pune (Maharashtra) (9th) (167th globally) (58.7), and Chandigarh (Punjab and Haryana) (10) (175th globally) (57.4).

### Nepal Officially Joined India-led International Big Cat Alliance

Nepal has officially joined the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) which is India-led international initiative to protect **7 species** of big cats, by signing the framework agreement.

- This new development will strengthen the international collaboration for big cat conservation.

#### Key Points:

- **What?** Joining of new Member of IBCA
- **New Member:** Nepal
- **Member Countries:** 13 including India
- **Nepal's Tiger Population:** from 121 (in 2009) to 355 (in 2022)
- **Launched:** April 09, 2023 by PM Narendra Modi
- **Aim:** To conserve 7 big cat species (Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma)
- **Nodal Agency:** NTCA under MoEFCC
- **IBCA Headquarters:** New Delhi, Delhi

**Total Members:** With the joining of Nepal, the total number of IBCA members reached to **13** (including **India**, Armenia, Bhutan, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Guinea, Liberia, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Somalia and Suriname).

- Nepal has successfully tripled its tiger population from just 121 (in 2009) to **355 (in 2022)**, the latest census carried out so far.

**About International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA):**

**Background:** The IBCA was launched by the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on April 09, 2023, during the event ‘Commemorating 50 years of Project Tiger’ held in Mysuru, Karnataka.

**Objective:** It is an international alliance of **95** range countries as well as non-range countries, mandated to conserve **7 big cat species**, namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma.



## DEFENCE

### 32nd edition of India–Singapore Naval Exercise SIMBEX Conducted in Singapore

The Indian Navy (IN) participated in the **32nd edition** of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (**SIMBEX-25**) conducted in **Singapore** to strengthen maritime cooperation between India and Singapore.

- The exercise strengthens operational interoperability between the IN and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).

#### Key Points:

- **What?** Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX-25)
- **Edition:** 32nd
- **Host country:** Singapore
- **Objective:** To enhance interoperability, maritime security, and strategic coordination
- **Participated INS:** INS Satpura, INS Delhi, INS Kiltan, and INS Shakti

#### About SIMBEX 2025:

##### Participating Ships:

- **IN Contingent:** Indian Naval Ship (INS) *Satpura*, *INS Delhi*, *INS Kiltan*, and *INS Shakti*
- **RSN Contingent:** RSN *Vigilant*, and RSN *Supreme*

**Harbour Phase:** The exercise commenced with the Harbour Phase, which includes Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEEs), professional interactions, and operational-level discussions.

**Origins:** Launched in 1994 as “Exercise Lion King,” SIMBEX is the longest-running bilateral naval exercise for India

### India, Philippines Conducted Joint Naval Exercises in South China Sea

The navies of **India** and the **Philippines** conducted their 1st bilateral ‘**Maritime Cooperative Activity (MCA)**’ exercises in the South China Sea or ‘West Philippine Sea (WPS)’, a term used by the Philippine government for the parts of the South China Sea within its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

#### Key Points:

- **Event:** Bilateral Maritime Cooperative Activity (MCA) exercise
- **Held Between:** India and the Philippines
- **Where?** South China Sea or West Philippine Sea (WPS)
- **INS Participated:** INS Mysore; INS Shakti and INS Kiltan.

#### About Maritime Cooperative Activity (MCA):

**Aim:** The exercise aimed at strengthening maritime interoperability and improving operational coordination between the Indian and Philippine navies.

**Naval Ships from India:** Indian Naval Ships (INS) that participated in these MCAs: guided missile destroyer **INS Mysore**; tanker **INS Shakti** and corvette **INS Kiltan**.

**Naval Ships from Philippines:** The Navy of Philippines deployed two frigates, BRP Miguel Malavar and BRP Jose Rizal.

**Background:** Since late 2023, the Philippines has been conducting MCAs with various countries' navies as part of its strategy to counter China's territorial claims in the South China Sea.

#### SLINEX-2025: Indian Navy-Sri Lanka Navy Maritime Exercise Held in Colombo

The **12th** edition of the annual Indian Navy (IN)–Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) bilateral maritime exercise 'Sri Lanka–India Exercise' (**SLINEX 2025**) was conducted in **Colombo**, Sri Lanka, from 14 to 18 August 2025.

- The exercise is being conducted in **two phases**: the **Harbour Phase** (from August 14 to 16) at Colombo, followed by the **Sea Phase** (from August 17 to 18) off the coast of Colombo.

#### About SLINEX 2025:

**Aim:** SLINEX 2025, hosted by the SLN, aims to deepen maritime cooperation, build mutual trust, and enhance tactical interoperability of the multi-faceted maritime operations between the two forces.

**Significance:** It represents the deep maritime engagement between India and Sri Lanka, supporting India's MAHASAGAR policy (Mutual And Holistic Advancement for Security And Growth Across Regions).

#### Participating Naval Assets:

- **IN:** Indian Naval Ship (INS) Jyoti (Fleet Tanker) and INS Rana (a Guided Missile Destroyer)
- **SLN:** SLN Ship SLNS Gajabahu and Vijayabahu (both Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessels (AOPV)) and SLNS Sayura (Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV))

### IN Commissioned Advanced Stealth Frigates 'INS Udaygiri' and 'INS Himgiri' at Visakhapatnam, AP

Indian Navy (IN) commissioned two state-of-the-art stealth frigates, 'Indian Naval Ship (INS) Udaygiri (Yard 12652)' and 'INS Himgiri (Yard 3022)', at Eastern Naval Command (ENC) in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

- The commissioning of these stealth frigates was presided by the Union Minister **Rajnath Singh**, Ministry of Defence (MoD). It also marked the 1st ever simultaneous commissioning of two warships constructed at different shipyards.

#### Key Features:

**Variant:** Both Udaygiri and Himgiri are variant vessels of the **Project 17 (Shivalik)** class frigates.

**Legacy of the Name:** Both newly commissioned vessels are named after previous versions of INS Udaygiri (F35) and INS Himgiri (F34) that served the nation from 1976 to 2007 and from 1974 to 2005, respectively.

**Constructed by:** INS Udaygiri, the 2nd ship from Project 17A stealth frigates, was constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (**MDL**).

- While, INS Himgiri, the 3rd ship of Project 17A ship and also the 1st ship of this series which was constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE).

### India Joins Multinational Military Drill 'Exercise Bright Star 2025' in Egypt

India has deployed more than **700** personnel from the Indian Armed Forces and Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff to participate in '**Exercise Bright Star 2025**', a multilateral exercise, which is scheduled to be held from August 28 to September 10, 2025, at the Mohamed Naguib Military Base in Matrouh Governorate, Egypt.

- The participation of Indian Armed Forces aligns with India's commitment to regional peace, stability, and security.

#### Key Points:

- **What?** India has joined a Multilateral Exercise
- **Exercise:** Exercise Bright Star 2025
- **Edition:** 19th
- **Where:** Egypt
- **Indian Contingents:** More than 700 personnel

**Background:**

**Exercise:** Exercise Bright Star is a biennial, multinational military exercise, held in Egypt. It is one of the largest and oldest military drills in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

- It is a tri-service exercise involving the Army, Navy, and Air Force of participating countries.

**Previous Edition:** The previous edition of the exercise was held in 2023 in Egypt.

**About Exercise Bright Star 2025:**

**Global Participation:** The 19th edition of the exercise will witness participation of 43 countries, with 13 countries deploying 7,900 troops, and 30 countries take part as observers.

## Appointments or Resign/Retired

### Myanmar Announced Formation of New Interim-Union Government Led by U Nyo Saw

The National Defence and Security Council (NDSC) of Myanmar, announced the formation of a new Interim-Union Government and National Security and Peace Commission, to oversee defence and manage the election.

- While, **U Nyo Saw** will lead the new interim-union government as 13th Prime Minister (PM) of Myanmar.
- As per military junta in Myanmar, **Senior General Min Aung Hlaing** will lead the National Security and Peace Commission.

#### Key Points:

- **What?** Myanmar formed new Interim-Union Government
- **Appointed:** U Nyo Saw as PM
- **NDSC formed:** new National Security and Peace Commission
- **Headed by:** Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

#### Other Key Announcements:

**End of State Emergency:** Following this announcement, Myanmar's military government officially ended the state of emergency imposed over 4 years ago, to hold national elections by year-end (December 2025).

**Acting President:** Despite the announcement, **General Min Aung Hlaing** will continue to serve as acting President and Chief of the Armed Forces of Myanmar.

- He has also issued a decree to dissolve the NDSC, which was formed in February 2021 during a military coup.

**Annulment of Transfer Power:** The NDSC has also decided to revoke the order of transferring sovereign powers to the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

#### Background:

**Military Coup:** In February 2021, Myanmar's military ousted the elected government led National League for Democracy (NLDC) leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, citing the widespread fraud in 2020 general elections.

**Declared State Emergency:** Myanmar's then-Acting President U Myint Swe declared the state of emergency for 1 year in February 2021, and transferred sovereign powers to the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

**About Myanmar:**

**Interim- Prime Minister (PM)-** U Nyo Saw

**Acting President-** Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

**Capital-** Naypyidaw

**Lt. General Pushpendra Singh Assumed Charge as New VCOAS; Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan as 47th VCNS**

Lieutenant (Lt.) **General Pushpendra Singh**, General Officer (GO) of the Parachute Regiment, has officially assumed charge as the new Vice-Chief of Army Staff (**VCOAS**). He succeeded **Lt. General NS Raja Subramani**, who superannuated on July 31, 2025.

- In addition to that, **Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan**, a gunnery and missile systems specialist, officially took charge as the **47th** Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (**VCNS**).
- He succeeded **Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan**, who assumed charge as the Flag Officer Commander-in-Chief (FoCinC) of the Western Naval Command (WNC), replacing Vice Admiral Sanjay J Singh.

**About Lt. General Pushpendra Singh:**

**Parachute Regiment:** In December 1987, the GO Singh was commissioned into 4th Battalion, The Parachute regiment (Special Forces).

**Key Operations:** During his extensive career spanning nearly 4 decades, he has served in some of the most demanding operations like: Operation PAWAN (Sri Lanka); Operation MEGHDOOT (Siachen); Operation ORCHID (North East); and several tenures as Operation RAKSHAK (Jammu & Kashmir, J&K).

**About Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan:**

**Commissioned:** Vice Admiral Vatsayan was commissioned into the Indian Navy (IN) on January 01, 1988.

**Previous Appointments:** Before taking over VCNS, Vatsayan has held various important operational, staff and training appointments, including at the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS), and Naval Headquarters (NHQ) in New Delhi.

- He also served as the Deputy Commandant of the National Defence Academy (NDA) and later, he was appointed as Chief of Staff (CoS), Eastern Naval Command (ENC) in December 2021. He took over as the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet in February 2020.

**Pratyay Amrit Appointed as New Chief Secretary of Bihar**

Pratyay Amrit, who is currently serving as the Development Commissioner of Bihar, was appointed as the new Chief Secretary(CS) of Bihar. He is scheduled to take office on September 1, 2025, succeeding **Amrit Lal Meena**, who will retire on August 31, 2025.

- He also currently holds the additional charge of Additional CS for Health and Disaster Management.

**Key Points:**

- **What?** IAS Pratyay Amrit appointed as the new Chief Secretary (CS) of Bihar
- **Effective from:** 1 September 2025
- **Predecessor:** Amrit Lal Meena
- **Batch/Cadre:** 1991 batch IAS officer from Bihar cadre

**About Pratyay Amrit:**

**Batch & Cadre:** He is a **1991-batch** Indian Administration Service (**IAS**) officer from Bihar cadre. He is the state's senior-most bureaucrat and has held several crucial administrative positions.

**Leadership in Power Sector:** In 2014, He served as the Chairman & Managing Director(**CMD**) of Bihar State Power Holding Company Limited (**BSPHC**).

- He successfully completed the 100% rural electrification of **39,073** villages in Bihar.

**Awards:** He was awarded the Prime Minister's (PM) Award for Excellence in Public Administration in 2011.

**Zomato Roped in Shah Rukh Khan as Brand Ambassador**

Zomato, online food delivery platform in India, announced that it has roped in Bollywood Actor and National Film Awardee for 2023, **Shah Rukh Khan** as its brand ambassador.

- Earlier, He was featured in Zomato's campaign '**Fuel Your Hustle**' along with renowned celebrities such as Singer and Music Composer A.R. Rehman; Indian Cricketer Jasprit Bumrah, and Olympic Medalist Mary Kom.

**Key Points:**

- **What?** Announcement of Zomato's Brand Ambassador

- **Who?** Bollywood Actor Shah Rukh Khan
- **Featured in Campaign:** Fuel Your Hustle
- **Purpose:** To emphasize hard work, consistency, and ambition, aligning with Zomato's vision to support people's journeys with great food.

#### About Shah Rukh Khan:

- Shah Rukh Khan, popularly known as the “King of Bollywood”, is one of India's most successful and influential film actors, producers, and entrepreneurs.
- He co-owns the IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders and has been honoured with the Padma Shri in 2005 for his contribution to Indian Cinema in the field of Arts.
- Known for his versatility, charisma, and exceptional acting skills, he has won numerous awards, including 14 Filmfare Awards.

#### Ajay Singh Elected as the President of the BFI for the Third Time

Ajay Singh, Managing Director(MD) of SpiceJet Airlines, was re-elected as President of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) for a third consecutive term. He secured 40 votes against Olympian Jasral Pradhan's 26 votes in the elections held in Gurugram, Haryana.

#### Key Points:

- **What?** Election of BFI President
- **Who?** Ajay Singh
- **Term:** Third consecutive term
- **Other Positions:** Pramod Kumar (Secretary General), and Pon Baskaran (Treasurer)

#### Other Appointments:

**Polls:** The polls were conducted under the supervision of Rajesh Tandon, Returning Officer Justice (Retired), and Fairuz Mohammed, Chairperson, BFI Interim Committee and Observer.

**Secretary General:** Pramod Kumar of Uttar Pradesh (UP) was elected as the new secretary general, defeating Digvijay Singh of Madhya Pradesh (MP), replacing Hemanta Kalita of Assam.

**Treasurer:** Pon Baskaran from Tamil Nadu(TN) was elected as the Treasurer defeating Anil Kumar Bohidar and R. Gopu.



**Former CRPF DG Anish Dayal Singh Appointed as Deputy NSA**

The Government of India (GoI) has appointed **Anish Dayal**, former Director General (DG) of paramilitary forces i.e. Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Indo-Tibetan Force (ITBP), as the new **Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA)**, effective August 24, 2025. He will report directly to NSA Ajit Doval.

**Key Points:**

- **What?** Appointment of new Deputy NSA
- **Who?** Anish Dayal
- **Key Responsibility:** To oversee internal affairs
- **Reports to:** NSA Ajit Doval
- **Past Roles:** 30 years in Intelligence Bureau (IB); DG of ITBP & CRPF

**About Anish Dayal:**

**Cadre & Batch:** Anish Dayal is a 1988-batch IPS officer from Manipur cadre, and he retired from service in December 2024.

**Current Role:** He is entrusted with the responsibility to handle **internal affairs** which includes security in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), the fight against Left-Wing Extremism(LWE), and insurgency in the Northeast.

**Past Roles:** He has an extensive experience of nearly 30 years in the Intelligence Bureau (IB), before leading ITBP and CRPF.

- He also monitored crucial deployments during the 2024 Lok Sabha (Lower House of the Parliament) general elections and the 1st assembly elections in J&K after its reorganization.

**Railway Board Chairman Satish Kumar Gets One-Year Tenure Extension**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved a **one-year extension** in the tenure of **Satish Kumar**, Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS) (Retired), as **Chairman** and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Indian Railway Board (IRB), under the Ministry of Railways (MoR), effective from **September 1, 2025**.

- He was the first individual from the Scheduled Castes (SC)/Dalit community to hold this position in the history of the IRB.

**Key Points:**

- **What?** Tenure extension of Satish Kumar by ACC

- **Role:** Chairman & CEO, Indian Railway Board
- **Effective from:** September 1, 2025
- **Significance:** First Chairman & CEO from SC

**About Satish Kumar:**

**Service:** A 1986 batch officer of the Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers (IRSME)

**Key Positions Held:**

- Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Lucknow Division, Uttar Pradesh (UP) (2017–2019)
- General Manager (GM), North Central Railway, Prayagraj (UP) (2022)
- Senior Deputy General Manager (SDGM) & Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO), North Western Railway (NWR), Jaipur (Rajasthan)
- Member (Traction & Rolling Stock), Railway Board

**Contributions :** His leadership has been marked by initiatives such as the **Fog Safe Device** for train safety and the implementation of Total Quality Management (**TQM**) to enhance operational efficiency and safety across Indian Railways

**Rajeev Shukla Appointed Interim BCCI President**

Rajeev Shukla, Vice-President (VP) of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) since 2020, assumed charge as the interim President of BCCI after Roger Binny stepped down upon reaching the age limit of 70 years as per BCCI rules. Binny turned 70 on July 19, 2025, leading to his resignation under the age-limit clause.

- Rajeev Shukla (65), who has been serving as the BCCI vice-president since 2020, will serve as interim president until the next BCCI elections, expected in September 2025.

**Key Points:**

- **What?** Appointment of Interim president of BCCI
- **Who?** Rajeev Shukla
- **Why?** Roger Binny resigned after turning 70 (age limit rule)
- **Shukla's Background:** Vice-President since 2020; MP from Chhattisgarh; former IPL Chairman (2011)
- **Next Steps:** Elections expected in September 2025
- **Age Rules:** Current cap 70 years; new rules allow 70-75 years with conditions

**Note:** Earlier, C.K. Khanna had served as acting BCCI president between 2017-2019 during the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators' tenure that governed the board for 33 months.

#### About Rajeev Shukla and Roger Binny:

**Rajeev Shukla:** Member of Parliament in Rajya Sabha from Chhattisgarh, he earlier chaired the Indian Premier League (IPL) in 2011.

**Roger Binny:** Former President of BCCI since 2022, replacing Sourav Ganguly. Binny also served as President of Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) and coached India's U-19 team that won the 2000 ICC U-19 Men's World Cup in Sri Lanka..

#### Justices Alok Aradhe, Vipul Pancholi Sworn in as Judges of Supreme Court of India

Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Vipul Manubhai Pancholi sworn in as the Judges of the Supreme Court (SC) of India by taking oath administered by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) **B.R. Gavai**.

- With their appointment, the SC now operates at its full sanctioned strength of **34 judges**, including the CJI.

#### Key Points:

- **What?** Appointment of Judges of Supreme Court
- **Appointees:** Justices Alok Aradhe and Vipul Manubhai Pancholi
- **Oath Administrator:** B.R. Gavai, CJI
- **Appointment:** Article 124 (2) of the Constitution of India
- **Who?** President Draupadi Murmu

#### Career Highlights:

**Constitution:** The judges of the SC are appointed by the President of India under **Article 124 (2)** of the Constitution of India.

**Justice Alok Aradhe:** He began his judicial career in the Madhya Pradesh(MP) High Court(HC) in 2009. He has served in various HC, including Jammu & Kashmir(J&K), Karnataka, Telangana, and Maharashtra.

- Currently, he was the Chief Justice of the Bombay HC before his elevation to the SC. His tenure in the SC will conclude on **April 13, 2029**.

**Vipul Manubhai :** He commenced his judicial career in the Gujarat HC in 2014. He was transferred to the Patna HC in July 2023 and became its Chief Justice in July 2025. His term in the Supreme Court is set to end on May 28, 2033

## Honours/Awards

### **RIL Ranked at 88th Spot in Fortune Global 500 List for 2025; Walmart topped the list for 12th Consecutive Year**

Fortune, an American global business magazine released the **71st** edition of 'Fortune Global 500 List for 2025'. As per the list, India's Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), led by Mukesh Ambani, saw marginal dip in its ranking from 86th (2024) to **88th (2025)**, with total revenue of **USD 114.12 billion**. Despite the decline in global ranking, RIL retained its highest ranking among Indian corporates featured in the list.

- Also, RIL featured on the list for the **22nd** consecutive year, the longest for any private sector company.

**Top 3 Companies: Walmart Inc.** (the United States of America, USA), the world's largest retailer company, with total revenue of **USD 680.98 billion** has topped the list as the largest company by revenue for the 12th consecutive year and the 20th time since 1995.

- American e-commerce company **Amazon.com, Inc** and Chinese state-owned electric utility, **State Grid Corporation of China**, have also retained their rankings i.e. **2nd** and **3rd** positions respectively.

**Cumulative Revenue:** The combined revenue generated by the companies featured on the list reached at **USD 41.7 trillion** in 2024 (1.8% increase compared to last year), accounts for more than 1/3rd (33.33%) of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

**Women CEOs:** This year, total 33 women Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) featured on the list, marking an increase of 6.6% (+5) compared to last year.

**Total Indian Companies:** This year, total 10 Indian companies featured on the list (same as in year 2024).

### **About Fortune Magazine:**

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- Anastasia Nyrkovskaya

**Headquarters-** New York City, the United States of America (USA)

**Established-** 1929

### **71st National Film Awards for the Year 2023: '12th Fail' Bags the Best Feature Film Award**

The Jury of the **71st** National Film Awards announced the list of winners of the National Award for the year **2023** at an event held at the National Media Centre in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The list of awardees was presented to Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB), and Minister of State (MoS) Dr. L. Murugan, MIB.

- The National Film Awards are presented by the National Film Development Corporation of India (NFDC), under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting(MIB).

### Highlights of the Awards:

**Best Actor:** The Best Actor award was shared by **Vikrant Massey** for the Hindi film “12th Fail” and **Shah Rukh Khan** for the Hindi film “Jawan”. The actors share the Rajat Kamal (Silver Lotus award) and the cash prize of Rs. 2 lakhs.

- This marks the first National Film Award for Shah Rukh Khan in his cinema career.

**Best Actress:** Actress **Rani Mukerji** has won the Best Actress award for the Hindi film Mrs. Chatterjee V/s Norway. She will be honoured with a silver lotus award and a cash prize of Rs. 2 lakhs.

**Best Feature Film:** The Hindi film “12th Fail”, directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra, bagged the Best Feature Film Award.

- The movie follows the journey of a boy from a small village, who fails in class 12 exams but refuses to give up on his dream of becoming a civil servant. The movie emphasizes resilience, honesty, and hard work, which made the boy achieve his goal.

**Best Non-Feature Film:** The Hindi film ‘**Flowering Man**’, directed by Soumyajit Ghosh Dastidar, was awarded the Best Non-Feature Film.

- The film portrays a deep human, poetic narrative, focusing on rural life, personal transformation, or environmental harmony.

**Best Popular Film:** The Hindi film ‘**Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani**’ has bagged two awards, including Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment and Best Choreography.

**Most Awards:** The Hindi film ‘**Sam Bahadur**’ won 3 awards, including Best Film Promoting National/ Social/Environmental Values, Best Costume Design, and Best Make-Up Artist.

**Best Director:** The Hindi film ‘Kerala Story’ won two awards, including Best Director for **Sudipto Sen** and Best Cinematography.

### About the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB):

**Union Minister** – Ashwini Vaishnaw (Rajya Sabha – Odisha)

**Minister of State (MoS)** – Dr. L. Murugan (Rajya Sabha – Madhya Pradesh, MP)

### PM Narendra Modi’s initiative ‘Pariksha Pe Charcha 2025’ creates a Guinness World Record

Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi’s flagship platform **Pariksha Pe Charcha** (PPC), organised by the Ministry of Education (**MoE**) in collaboration with MyGov, has been conferred with

the **Guinness World Record** on title the “Most people registered on a Citizen Engagement Platform in one month”

- This recognition marks the accomplishment of **3.53 crore** valid registrations in one month during the **8th** edition of the PPC program.
- It was formally conferred during the event held in New Delhi, Delhi in the presence of Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Education(MoE), Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Information and Broadcasting(MIB) and Nand Kumar, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MyGov.

#### **Key Points:**

- **Event:** Pariksha Pe Charcha(PPC) 2025
- **Edition:** 8th
- **Organised by:** MoE and MyGov platform
- **Recognised by:** Guinness World Records
- **Record Title:** Most people registered on a Citizen Engagement Platform in one month
- **Key Achievement:** 3.53 crore valid registrations on MyGov platform

#### **About Pariksha Pe Charcha 2025:**

**Overview:** It is an annual worldwide program where students, teachers, and parents can directly connect during exam time.

**Launch:** It was launched in **2018** as a national movement, under the MoE, to align with the goals of the NEP 2020, and to promote stress-free education to students.

#### **Fortune 100 Most Powerful People in Business List: Jensen Huang Topped, Mukesh Ambani Ranked 56<sup>th</sup>**

Fortune, an American global business magazine, released the **2nd** edition of the “Fortune 100 Most Powerful People in Business List”. Jensen Huang, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and President of NVIDIA, an American Technology company, has topped the list. **Mukesh Ambani**, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Reliance Industries Limited(RIL) has been ranked **56th** in the 2025 list.

- Indian Origin women, **Dr. Reshma Kewalramani**, CEO of Vertex Pharmaceuticals, ranked **62nd** on the list, marking her first appearance on the ranking.

#### **Highlights of Fortune 100 Most Powerful People in Business:**

**Top 10:** The top 10 ranks include Sundar Pichai, Ren Zhengfei, Founder and CEO of Huawei

Technologies (7), Sam Altman, CEO & Co-Founder of OpenAI (8), Jamie Dimon, Chairman & CEO of JPMorgan Chase (9), and Mary Barra, Chair & CEO of General Motors (10).

**Indian-Origin:** As per the list, four Indian origin business leaders have featured on the list, including Satya Nadella, Sundar Pichai, CEO of Alphabet (Rank 6), Neal Mohan, CEO of Youtube (83), and Dr. Reshma Kewalramani.

**Women:** The list includes 19 women, including Julie Sweet, Chairperson and CEO of Accenture (Rank 11), Jane Fraser, CEO of Citigroup (12), Lisa Su, Chairperson and CEO, AMD (14), and Ana Botin, Executive Chairman of Banco Santander (20).

### **Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport Bags International Architectural Award 2025**

Terminal 2 (T2) of the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (also known as Guwahati International Airport) in Guwahati (Assam) won the International Architectural Award 2025 in the Transport Category.

- The award is conferred by The Chicago Athenaeum: Museum Architecture and Design, in collaboration with The European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies, and Metropolitan Arts Press Limited.

#### **Key Points:**

- **What?** International Architectural Award 2025 was announced
- **Awardee:** Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (Terminal 2)
- **Airport Location:** Guwahati, Assam
- **Category:** Transport
- **Conferrer:** The Chicago Athenaeum: Museum Architecture and Design, The European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies, Metropolitan Arts Press Limited.

**Airport:** Guwahati International Airport, operated by Adani Airport Holdings Limited, connects the Northeast to the rest of India and other foreign destinations.

**Design:** The architectural design of T2 as a tribute to the Northeast India, has drawn inspiration from the resilience of bamboo and the grace of the foxtail orchid, symbolizing the cultural and natural heritage of Assam.

### **Rajasthan's Manika Vishwakarma Crowned Miss Universe India 2025**

Manika Vishwakarma from Sri Ganganagar(Rajasthan), was crowned Miss Universe India 2025 in a grand finale held in Jaipur, Rajasthan. She will represent India at the 74th Miss Universe pageant, scheduled for November 2025 at Thailand.

- The crown was passed on to Manika Vishwakarm by **Rhea Singha**, Miss Universe India 2024.

**Key Points:**

- **What?** Crowned **Miss Universe India 2025**
- **Who?** Manika Vishwakarma (Rajasthan)
- **Other Winners:** Tanya Sharma, Mehak Dhingra , Amishi Kaushik.
- **Successor:** Rhea Singha (Miss Universe India 2024).
- **Manika's Initiative:** Founder of Neuronova (neurodivergence awareness)
- **International Representation:** Represent India at **74th Miss Universe pageant** in Thailand, November 2025

**Key Details of the Event**

**Participants:** The finale featured **48 contestants** from states including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh(MP), Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Odisha, West Bengal(WB), Jammu and Kashmir(J&K), Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh(UP), Punjab, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and Delhi.

**Judges:** Panel included Miss Universe India owner Nikhil Anand, actress Urvashi Rautela (Miss Universe India 2015), and filmmaker Farhad Samji and Founder of Act Now Organisation Rajiv K Shrivastava, among others.

**About Manika Vishwakarma:**

**Education:** 22-year-old, Final-year Political Science and Economics student based in New Delhi, Delhi.

**Artistic Recognition:** She is a trained classical dancer and recognised by Lalit Kala Academy (New Delhi) and JJ School of Arts (Mumbai, Maharashtra) for her artistic talent

**Previous Achievement:** Winner of Miss Universe Rajasthan 2024

**TopBrand Union Releases TopBrand 2025 'Top 500 Global Brands List' : Microsoft Topped**

The TopBrand Union released the **4th** edition of its “**Top 500 Global Brands List**” during the 19th China Brand Festival held from August 7 to 11, 2025, in Shenzhen, China. As per the list, **Microsoft** has ranked first with a brand value of approximately **USD 1,062.5 billion**.

- The event, held under the theme “AI and Global Expansion”, brought together 10,000 guests to participate in parallel forums, the Brand Expo, and other events.

**Global Performance:**

**Top 5:** The brands from the United States of America (USA) have dominated the top 5 spots, by occupying all 5 spots. The brand, Apple, which claimed the top rank since the first edition has slipped to the third spot for the first time.



- **Microsoft**, which ranked 2nd place in the 2024 list, climbed to the first place in 2025. **NVIDIA** has shown significant progress by climbing 2 places from 4th in 2024 to 2nd in 2025.
- **Amazon** has slipped one spot to 4th place in 2025 compared to 3rd in 2024. Google has retained its 5th position.

### **PFA Award 2025: Liverpool's Mo Salah & Arsenal Star Mariona Caldentay Named Player of the Year for 2024-25**

Liverpool forward **Mohamed Salah** (Egypt) has been named as the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) **Player of the Year Award** for **2024-25**. Following this recognition, he has become the 1st ever player in the history of football as well as 1st Egyptian footballer to win this title for the **3rd** time (in 2018, 2022 and 2025).

- While, Arsenal midfielder **Mariona Caldentey** (Spain) has been named the **PFA Women's Player** of the Year Award for 2024-25.
- The official ceremony for PFA Awards for 2024-25 was held at the Manchester Opera House, the United Kingdom (UK).

### **Other Winners:**

**PFA Championship Player Award:** **James Trafford** (Manchester City) has become the 1st goalkeeper to be named the PFA Championship Player of the Year Award.

**PFA Merit Award:** **Sir Gareth Southgate** and **Emma Hayes OBE** named as the recipient of the PFA Merit Award for 2025.

**PFA Young Player Award:** Aston Villa midfielder **Morgan Rogers** won the PFA Men's Young Player of the Year title for 2025.

- While, Canadian forward **Olivia Smith** (from Arsenal) has been named PFA Women's Young Player of the Year Award.
- She transferred to Arsenal for GBP 1 million (British Pounds), becoming the first female footballer to surpass the GBP 1 million transfer milestone.

## Sports

### GM Magnus Carlsen claims the First Chess Esports World Cup title

The Current World No.1 Grandmaster(GM), **Magnus Carlsen**(Norway) of Team Liquid, claims the first-ever **Chess Esports World Cup**, organised by Esports World Cup Foundation (EWCF) at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

- He won the World Cup after defeating **GM Alireza Firouzja** (France) of Team Falcon in the Grand Final with a score of **2-0**.
- **GM Hikaru Nakamura** (United States of America,USA) of Team Falcons beats the Indian **GM Arjun Erigaisi** of Gen. G Esports to secure **third place** in the event.

### Key Points:

- **Event:** First Ever Chess Esports World Cup 2025
- **Venue:** Riyadh, Saudi Arabia(SA)
- **Winner:** GM Magnus Carlsen (Norway)
- **Organised by:** Esports World Cup Foundation (EWCF)
- **Total Prize pool:** USD 1.5 million (approx 12.5 crore)
- **Indian GMs position:** GM Argun Erigaisi(4th), GM Nihal Sarin(8th) in the event.

### About Chess Esports World Cup:

**Overview:** It is an abstract strategy chess game with **16** players from **13** teams taking part in this tournament.

- The Tournament has 12 players from the Champions Chess Tour(CCT) 2025 standings and 4 players from Last Chance Qualifiers.

**Background:** It was the first chess tournament at the Esports World Championships, with a **3-year** partnership with online gaming platform **Chess.com** until 2027.

**Other Indian Players:** Indian GM Nihal Sarin secured **8th place** with USD 90,000 in this event.

**Culb Champions:** Team Liquid is at the top of the EWC club championships with 2750 points.

Position	Player	Prize (USD)
1	Magnus Carlsen (Norway)	250,000
2	Alireza Firouzja (France)	190,000
4	Arjun Erigaisi (India)	115,000
8	Nihal Sarin (India)	90,000

#### About Esports World Cup Foundation (EWCF):

Chief Executive Officer(CEO)- Ralf Reichert

**Established**– 2023

**Headquarters**- Riyadh, Saudi Arabia(SA)

#### Neeraj Chopra Finishes Second in 2025 Diamond League Final

Two-time Indian Olympic medallist **Neeraj Chopra** finished **runner-up** with his best throw measuring **85.01 meters** (m) in the **Diamond League Final 2025** held in Zurich, Switzerland.

- Neeraj Chopra clinches 26th consecutive top-two finish in Overall

#### Key Points:

- **Event:** Diamond League Final 2025 (Zurich, Switzerland)
- **Winner:** Julian Weber (Germany); 91.57m (season world lead, personal best)
- **Runner-up:** Neeraj Chopra (India); 85.01 m
- **Weber vs Chopra in 2025:** Weber leads 3–1; overall record Chopra leads 15–5

#### Julian Weber's Maiden Trophy

**Winner: Julian Weber** (Germany) clinched his first Diamond League trophy with a personal best

throw of **91.57m**.

**Consistent:** Registered his third 90m-plus throw of 2025.

**Final Standings** – Diamond League Final 2025

Rank	Athlete	Best Throw
1	Julian Weber (Germany)	91.51 m
2	Neeraj Chopra (India)	85.01 m

### Head-to-Head: Weber vs. Chopra

**2025 Record:** Weber leads 3-1 against Chopra

- Weber outperformed in Doha Diamond League, Chorzów Memorial, and Zurich Final. Meanwhile, Chopra excelled in Paris Diamond League

**Overall Record:** Chopra ahead 15–5 since 2016.

### Upcoming Event:

World Athletics Championships in Tokyo (13–21 September 2025), where Chopra is the defending champion.

### India and England's Anderson–Tendulkar Trophy 2025 Ends in Draw

From 20 June to 4 August 2025, the Indian Cricket Team toured England to contest a five-match Test series, competing for the inaugural Anderson–Tendulkar Trophy, introduced in honour of James Anderson and Sachin Tendulkar. A **Pataudi Medal of Excellence** was also instituted for the winning captain.

- The series ended in a **2–2 draw**, with **India winning the final Test at The Oval by six runs** to level the series. This mirrored the previous Test tour outcome in 2021–22 on English.
- **Shubman Gill (India)** and **Harry Brook (England)** were jointly adjudged **Player of the Series** – the first such instance in Test history

### Major Records in the Series:

**Highest Run-Scorer:** Shubman Gill – **754 runs** with an average of 75.40,

- This also marks the highest aggregate by any visiting captain and surpassing records by Graham Gooch (752 runs) and Sunil Gavaskar (732).
- **Highest Team-Score:** India's series aggregate of **3,809 runs** set a team record for a five-match series.
- **Most 50+ Scores in India-England Series:** Ravindra Jadeja (Ind) – 6 half-centuries
- **Most 4-Wicket Hauls in England (Asian Bowler):** Mohammed Siraj (Ind) – 7 times
- **Nightwatchman Fifty:** Akash Deep (India) became the **third Indian** nightwatchman (after Syed Kirmani, Amit Mishra) to score a Test fifty.

### **Marc Marquez Won 2025 Austrian GP for the 1st time to Extend MotoGP Championship Lead**

6-time MotoGP champion **Marc Marquez** (Ducati Lenovo team), from Spain, won his career's 1st ever Austrian Grand Prix (GP) title '**MotoGP 2025 Austrian GP**' at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, Austria.

- Following this victory, he took a **142-point** lead over his brother **Álex Márquez** in the championship.

#### **Key Points:**

- **Event:** 2025 MotoGP Austrian GP
- **Venue:** Spielberg, Austria
- **Winner:** Spanish racer Marc Marquez (Ducati Lenovo team)
- **Significance:** 1000th premier class MotoGP race
- **Championship Lead:** Extended lead to 142 points over Álex Márquez

#### **About 2025 Austrian GP:**

**Significance:** This GP marked the **1,000th** premier class race in history. This was also Marquez's 6th consecutive GP victory.

**Other Notable Performances:** Spanish moto-rider **Fermin Aldeguer**, representing the Gresini Racing team finished at the **2nd** place.

- While, Italian rider **Marco Bezzecchi**, representing the Aprilia, has secured the 3rd position at the podium.

**Top 3 Positions of 2025 MotoGP Austrian GP:**

Rank	Drivers	Team	Nationality
1	Marc Marquez	Ducati Lenovo	Spain
2	Fermin Aldeguer	Gresini Racing	Spain
3	Marco Bezzecchi	Aprilia Racing	Italy

**Indian Cricketer Cheteshwar Pujara Announces Retirement from All Forms**

veteran Indian cricketer **Cheteshwar Arvind Pujara**, widely regarded as one of India's greatest Test specialists, announced his retirement from all formats of Indian cricket through social media.

- He represented India in **103 Test matches**, scoring 7,195 runs at an average of 43.60, with 19 centuries and 35 fifties.
- He also played **5 One-Day Internationals (ODIs)** for India.

**Key Points:**

- **What?** Cheteshwar Pujara retires all forms of Indian cricket
- **Stats:** Played 103 Test matches, scored 7,195 runs
- **Key Series:** 2018-19 Border-Gavaskar Trophy (Australia) – 521 runs
- **Awards:** ICC Emerging Cricketer of the Year 2013
- **Achievements:** Most balls faced by an Indian in an International Test innings – **525 balls**, Fourth-highest run-getter and first Indian to score three triple centuries in First-Class Cricket
- **Domestic Team:** Saurashtra (Gujarat); County: Sussex (England).

**About Cheteshwar Pujara:**

**Early Life and Domestic Career:** Born on 25th January 1988 in Rajkot, Gujarat, Pujara made his First-Class debut for Saurashtra in December 2005. He became the first Indian to score three triple centuries in First-Class cricket.

**Awards & Records:**

Notable Achievements & Awards include,

- **Emerging Cricketer of the Year 2013** by the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- Holds the record for **most balls faced** by an Indian in a Test innings – **525 balls**.
- Fourth-highest run-getter for India in First-Class cricket history (21301 runs)
- Pujara has 57.01 List A average highest among Indians and 2nd Overall

**Durand Cup 2025: NEUFC Retained Title by Defeating DHFC in Final Match Held in Kolkata, WB**

North East United Football Club (NEUFC) has retained the Durand Cup trophy by defeating Diamond Harbour FC (DHFC) by **6-1** in the final match of **134th edition of the Durand Cup 2025 tournament** held at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) in Kolkata, West Bengal (WB).

- The winning team, **NEUFC** won the trophy as well as monetary prize of **Rs.1.21 crore**, the highest champion's purse in the history of Asia's oldest football tournament, while, runner-up team received the cash prize of **Rs.60 lakh**.
- Also, losing semi-finalists and losing quarter-finalist won the cash prize of **Rs 25 lakh** and **Rs 15 lakh each**, respectively.

**Key Points:**

- **Event:** Durand Cup 2025 tournament
- **Edition:** 134th
- **Held at:** Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) in Kolkata, WB
- **Winner:** North East United Football Club (NEUFC)
- **Runner-Up:** Diamond Harbour FC (DHFC)
- **Champion Purse Prize:** Rs 1.21 crore
- **Golden Player:** Alaaeddine Ajaraie (NEUFC)

**About Durand Cup 2025:**

**Background:** Durand Cup 2025, the **134th** edition of the Durand Cup tournament, the

world's **3rd** oldest football cup tournament and the oldest in Asia was 1st held in 1888.

**Participants:** The tournament featured a total of 43 matches, with 24 teams were categorised into 6 different groups (Group A, B, C, D, E and F) of 4 sides each.

**Other winners:** Alaaeddine Ajaraie (NEUFC) won the Golden player (player of the tournament) award; Alaaeddine Ajaraie who scored 8 goals in the tournament, won the Golden Boot (highest scorer) award;

- While, Gurmeet Singh (NEUFC) won the Golden Glove (best goalkeeper) award.
- Each winner received a cash prize of Rs 3 lakh and brand new Mahindra XUV 3XO SUV.



## Obituary

### Former Jharkhand CM Shibu Soren Passed Away

Shibu Soren, former Chief Minister (CM) of Jharkhand and founding patron of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), **passed away** at the age of 81 in New Delhi, Delhi.

- He was born on 11 January 1944 in Nemra village, Bihar(now Jharkhand) and was a member of the Santal (Santhal) tribe.
- Shibu Soren was widely referred to as ‘ **Dishoom Guru**(Great Leader) or Guruji’ by the tribal communities of Jharkhand, reflecting their deep respect and admiration for him.

### Key Points:

- **What?** Former Jharkhand CM Shibu Soren passed away
- **Chief Minister(CM):** Jharkhand (2005, 2008–10)
- **Political Party:** Founding Patron of JMM
- **Legacy Title:** Dishoom Guru or Guruji
- **Parliamentary Tenure:** Lok Sabha MP (8 Time), Rajya Sabha MP (2 times)

### About Shibu Soren:

**Founder of Jharkhand Movement:** Shibu Soren, a prominent tribal leader and veteran politician, was a key figure in the movement that led to the creation of the state of Jharkhand in 2000.

**Political Career:** He entered politics in the early 1970s and co-founded the JMM in 1972, aiming to secure tribal rights and advocate for the creation of a separate Jharkhand state carved out of Bihar.

- He led the party for several decades before being designated as its “Founding Patron” in April 2025.

**CM of Jharkhand:** He served as the 3rd CM of Jharkhand, holding office three times—in 2005, 2008, and 2009.

### Former J&K Governor Satyapal Malik Passed Away

Satyapal Malik, former Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), passed away at the age of 79 in New Delhi, Delhi.

- He was born on 24th July 1946 in Hisawada village, Baghpat district, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

**Key Points:**

- **What?** Former Governor Satyapal Malik Passed Away
- **Governor:** Former Governor of Bihar, Odisha, J&K, Goa and Meghalaya
- **Parliamentary Tenure:** Lok Sabha MP (1989-1991) & Rajya Sabha MP (1980-1989)

**About Satya Pal Malik:**

**Early Parliamentary Career:** He served as a Member of Parliament (MP) in the Rajya Sabha from UP between **1980 and 1989**.

- He was elected as a Lok Sabha MP from Aligarh (UP) for the term 1989 to 1991.

**Governorship:** He was an Indian politician who served as the Governor of five Indian states:

- Served as the 27th Governor of Bihar from 2017-18.
- Held additional charge as the Governor of Odisha in 2018
- Served as the 10th Governor of J&K from 2018-19
- Served as the 18th Governor of Goa from 2019-20
- Served as the 19th Governor of Meghalaya from 2020-22

**Union Minister:** In 1990, he served as the Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism in the government led by Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

**Note:** Satya Pal Malik served as the last Governor of J&K before the abrogation of Article 370 and the reorganisation of the state on 5th August 2019; after his tenure, the Governor's post was abolished and G.C. Murmu became the first Lieutenant Governor.

**Indian Olympic Hockey Medalist Dr Vece Paes Passed Away**

Former Indian Hockey Player and Olympic Medalist, **Dr. Vece Paes**, passed away at the age of 80 in Kolkata, West Bengal (WB). He is the father of Leander Paes, former Indian Tennis Player.

**Key Points:**

- **What?** Former Indian Hockey player Dr. Vece Paes passed away
- **Where?** Kolkata, West Bengal (WB).

- **Medalist:** Bronze in 1971 Hockey World Cup, and 1972 Summer Olympics
- **President:** Indian Rugby Football Union from 1996 to 2002

**Debut:** Vece Paes was born on April 30, 1945, in Goa. He made his debut for the Indian hockey team at the Hamburg International Cup in 1966.

**Medals:** He received bronze medals at the 1971 Hockey World Cup held in Barcelona (Spain) and at the 1972 Summer Olympics held in Munich, West Germany.

**Roles:** He served as Doctor of Sports Medicine across Asian Cricket Council, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), and the Indian Davis Cup team.

- He also served as the President of the Indian Rugby Football Union from 1996 to 2002 and held leadership roles at the Calcutta Cricket and Football club.

### **Nagaland Governor La. Ganesan Passed Away at 80**

La. Ganesan, the Governor of Nagaland passed away at the age of 80 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN). He was born in 1945 in Thanjavur, TN.

- He served as the 21st Governor of Nagaland from February 2023 until his demise.

#### **Key Points:**

- **What?** La. Ganesan passed away
- **Profession:** Politician (BJP leader, Rajya Sabha MP, Governor)
- **Governor Posts:**
  - 21st Governor of Nagaland (Feb 2023 – Aug 2025)
  - Former Governor of Manipur and West Bengal.
- **Rajya Sabha MP:** From Madhya Pradesh (2016)
- **Literary Contribution:** Led Pottramarai (Golden Lotus)

#### **About La. Ganesan:**

**Early Life:** He began his professional journey as a Revenue Settlement Inspector in the TN Revenue Department

- However, in 1970, he resigned from his government position to become a full-time pracharak (campaigner) for the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), dedicating himself entirely to the organization's activities.

**Political Journey:** In 1991, he joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as organising secretary of the TN unit and later served as the party's national secretary and vice president.

- Between 2006 and 2009, he held the position of President of the BJP in TN.
- In 2016, he became a Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament (MP) from Madhya Pradesh (MP).

### **NRI Industrialist & Padma Bhushan Awardee Lord Swraj Paul Passed Away**

Lord Swraj Paul, a prominent Non-Resident Indian (NRI) industrialist, philanthropist, and member of the House of Lords in the United Kingdom (UK), passed away in London at the age of 94. He was born on 18th February 1931, Jalandhar (Punjab).

- In 1983, he was honoured with the **Padma Bhushan**, India's third-highest civilian award, in recognition of his significant contributions to social work.

### **About Lord Swraj Paul:**

**Profile:** He was an Indian-born British industrialist, philanthropist, and prominent public figure.

**Parliamentary Role (UK):** He was appointed as a Life Peer in 1996 and served actively in the House of Lords, contributing to committees on trade, education, and entrepreneurship.

- He served as a member of Panel 2000, an initiative to re-brand Britain.

**Philanthropy:** Founded the **Ambika Paul Foundation**, supporting global initiatives in child welfare, health, and education.

- He was also the founder of the UK based **Caparo Group of Industries**, a multinational steel and engineering company

### **Veteran CPI Leader and former MP Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy Passed Away**

Veteran Communist Party of India (CPI) leader **Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy** passed away at the age of 83 in Hyderabad, Telangana. He was born on 25 March 1942 in Kondravpally village of Mahbubnagar district of Hyderabad State (Present Telangana).

### **About Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy:**

**Early Leadership:** He actively engaged in student activism and was elected as the All India President of the All India Students' Federation (AISF) in 1970.

**Political Career:** He was elected the Member of Parliament (MP), representing the CPI from Nalgonda (Telangana), in 1998 and 2004.

## Important Days with theme

### World Wide Web Day 2025 – August 1

World Wide Web (WWW) Day is annually observed across the globe on **August 1** to celebrate the creation and impact of the WWW and recognise its role in connecting the world.

- The day highlights the web's transformative role in revolutionising communication, collaboration, and access to knowledge.

#### Theme:

**2025 Theme:** Empowering the Future: Building an Inclusive, Safe, and Open Web

**Focus:** It emphasises digital equity, internet transparency, privacy protection, and safe access for the development of Artificial Intelligence(AI), blockchain, Web3, and Internet of Things (IoT).

#### Background:

**Origin:** This day is drafted to highlight and honour the anniversary of the development of www by **Tim Berners-Lee**.

**Honour:** This day also celebrates the individuals who have contributed to the web's evolution into the current advanced and organised structure.

### Quit India Movement Day 2025– August 08

The Quit India Movement Day, also known as August Kranti Diwas, is annually observed across India on **August 08** to commemorate the anniversary of **Quit India Movement** launched on August 08, 1942, a historic movement in India's struggle for independence from British colonial rule, demanding immediate withdrawal of British forces from the country under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.

- August 08 2025 marks the **83rd** anniversary of the launch of Quit India Movement Day.

#### About Quit India Movement:

**Failure of Cripps Mission:** One of the key factors contributing to the launch of Quit India Movement was the result of the failure of the Cripps Mission in April 1942, which aimed to secure Indian cooperation during World War II (WW2).

**Quit India Resolution:** The resolution generally referred to as the 'Quit India' resolution was proposed by Pandit **Jawahar Lal Nehru** and was seconded by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

**Passing of Resolution:** The resolution was officially ratified at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) meeting held at Gowalia Tank, Bombay, British India( now Mumbai,

Maharashtra) on August 08, 1942.

**Bharat Chodo Andolan:** The movement started on August 09, 1942 following the British responded by arresting all the major leaders including Mahatma Gandhi.

### World Sanskrit Day 2025 – August 9

World Sanskrit Day, also known as International Sanskrit Day/Sanskrit Diwas/Vishva Samskrita Dinam, is annually observed across the globe on Shravana Purnima, the full moon day of the Hindu month of Shravana (Sawan) to promote Sanskrit, one of India's oldest languages.

- **World Sanskrit Day 2025** was observed on **August 9 2025**.
- World Sanskrit Day 2024 was observed on 19th August 2024 and World Sanskrit Day 2026 will be observed on 28 August 2026.
- **Sanskrit Week 2025** will be observed from **6 to 12 August 2025**.

### Background:

**Government Initiative:** In 1969, the Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India (GoI), directed that Sanskrit Diwas be celebrated at both central and state levels across India.

**1st Observance:** World Sanskrit Day was first celebrated in **1969** by GoI.

**Commemoration:** The day marks the birth anniversary of **Panini**, the renowned Sanskrit scholar and grammarian.

**Ancient Origin:** Sanskrit is among the world's oldest languages and is regarded as the “**Mother of All Languages**” as well as the “**Language of the Gods.**”

**Classical Status:** In **2005**, the GoI declared Sanskrit as a Classical Language of India and included it in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, which lists 22 languages.

### World Lion Day 2025 – August 10

World Lion Day is annually observed across the globe on 10th August to raise awareness about Lions (*Panthera Leo*), highlight their conservation challenges, and promote efforts to protect their important role in ecosystems and cultural heritage worldwide.

- This year, August 10, 2025, marks the 13th edition of this important conservation event.

### Background:

**Initiation:** World Lion Day was started by Big Cat Rescue (BCR), a wildlife sanctuary in Florida, USA, dedicated to lion conservation and co-founded by Dereck and Beverly Joubert.

**1st observance:** The first observance of World Lion Day took place in 2013.

**Partnership with National Geographic:** In 2009, Dereck and Beverly Joubert partnered with National Geographic to launch the Big Cat Initiative (BCI) for big cat conservation.

### Lion Population:

**Asiatic (Indian) Lion Status – 2025:** Population Growth increased from 674 (2020) to 891 (2025), a 32.2% rise in 5 years; over 70% growth in the last decade.

**African Lion Population:** A LionAid report from July 2025 provides more detailed regional estimates, suggesting about **13,014 lions** in eastern and southern Africa, plus around **342 lions** in western and central Africa—totaling roughly **13,356 African lions**.

### World Elephant Day 2025- August 12

World Elephant Day is an annual international campaign observed across the world on August 12 to raise awareness about the preservation and protection of Elephants (Elephantidae) known as the ‘Gentle Giants’ worldwide.

#### Theme:

**2025 Theme:** ‘Bringing the world together to help elephants’.

**Focus:** The theme emphasizes the importance of global unity and collective action to protect elephants worldwide.

#### Background:

**Conceptualized by:** The idea of celebrating World Elephant Day was conceptualized by Canadian filmmakers Patricia Sims and Michael Clarke of Canazwest Pictures and Sivaporn Dardarananda, Secretary General of the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation in Thailand in **2011**.

**First Observance:** The 1st World Elephant Day was observed by Patricia Sims and the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation on **August 12, 2012**.

#### 2025 Event:

**Event:** On August 12, 2025, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), in partnership with the Tamil Nadu (TN) Forest Department organised the 2025 World Elephant Celebration in **Coimbatore, TN**.

**Inaugurated by:** The event was inaugurated by the Union Minister **Bhupendra Yadav**, MoEF&CC.



### International Youth Day 2025 – August 12

The United Nations (UN's) International Youth Day (IYD) is annually observed across the globe on **12th August**, celebrates the role of young people and recognises their contributions to society. The day raises awareness about youth-related issues and promotes their active and equal participation in all areas of life.

- **Significance:** The 2025 IYD holds special significance as it marks **10 years** since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and coincides with the **30th** anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY).



- **2025 Theme:** The theme of IYD 2025 is “**Local Youth Actions for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Beyond.**”

**Background:**

**Origin:** In 1991, the idea for IYD was proposed during the 1st session of the UN System’s World Youth Forum in Vienna, Austria.

**Proclamation:** In 1998, the 1st session of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (WCMRY) adopted a resolution proclaiming 12 August as IYD.

**UNGA Endorsement:** In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at its 54th session endorsed the recommendation in its resolution A/RES/54/120 titled “**Policies and Programmes Involving Youth.**”

**First Observance:** The first-ever IYD was observed on 12 August 2000.

**World Photography Day 2025 – August 19**

World Photography Day, also known as World Photo Day, is annually observed across the globe on August 19 to celebrate the art, craft, science, and history of photography.

- The day is also observed as a tribute to the invention of the daguerreotype, the first practical photographic process, developed by **Louis Daguerre** in **1837**.

- **2025 Theme:** The 2025 theme of World Photography Day is “My Favourite Photo”

**About World Photography Day:**

**Photography:** It is an art of capturing light with a camera to create images with cameras, phones, and drones. The word ‘photography’ means ‘drawing with light’ and it was coined by the British scientist Sir John Herschel in 1839.

**Background:** The invention of Daguerreotype was officially announced by the French Academy of Sciences in 1839. The French government purchased the patent for the invention and declared it a “gift free to the world” on August 19, 2010.

- In **2009**, World Photography Day proposed it as an annual celebration to honour this pivotal moment in the history of photography.

**Inception:** World Photography Day was initially observed on **19th August 2010**.

**Week observance:** World Photography Week 2025 is a two-week global celebration of photography from **12th to 26th August 2025**.

**Sadbhavana Divas 2025 – August 20**

Sadbhavana Diwas or Harmony Day is observed on August 20 every year in India with the intention of promoting peace, unity, and harmony among the various religions and communities.

- The day also marks the **birth anniversary** of former Prime Minister(PM) **Rajiv Gandhi**.



- August 20, 2025 marks the 81st birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi.

**Background:**

**Observation:** Sadbhavana Diwas was first observed on **August 20, 1992**, in memory of Rajiv Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1991.

**Meaning:** The word 'Sadbhavana' translates to 'Goodwill and Bonafide' in English.

**Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award :** The Rajiv Gandhi National Communal Harmony Award is conferred for outstanding contribution towards communal harmony, national integration, and peace.

**National Space Day 2025 – August 23**

The National Space Day (**NSpD**) is observed across India on **23 August** to honor the historic success of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO's) Chandrayaan-3 Mission and the successful deployment of the 'Pragyan Rover'.

- On 23rd August **2023**, Chandrayaan-3 made a safe landing on the Moon's South Pole, deployed the Pragyan Rover, and made India the **4th country** to land on the Moon and the 1st to land near its South Pole.
- 23rd August 2025 marks the celebration of the 2nd NSpD.
- **2025 Theme:** "Aryabhatta to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities".

**Background:**

**Declaration :** In August 2023, the Government of India (GoI) announced that 23rd August would be observed every year as National Space Day (**NSpD**) to commemorate the success of the Chandrayaan-3 Mission.

- The declaration was made by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi during his meeting with the ISRO at the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking, and Command Network (ISTRAC) Mission Control Facility (MCF) in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

**First Observance:** NSpD was celebrated for the first time in 2024.

**2025 Events:**

**2025 celebrations:** The NSpD 2025 celebration was held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi (Delhi) and featured exhibitions, seminars, competitions, and educational outreach initiatives such as 'Space on Wheels' and 'ISRO Space Tutor'.

**National Space Meet 2.0:** As part of the celebrations,, ISRO organized the two-day National Space Meet 2.0 on the theme "Leveraging Space Technology and Applications for Viksit Bharat 2047" at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi from August 22-23, 2025.

**National Sports Day 2025 – August 29**

National Sports Day (NSD), also known as **Rashtriya Khel Divas**, is annually observed across

India on **29th August** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Major Dyan Chand Singh**, a legendary field hockey player in Indian sports, widely regarded as the ‘**Wizard of Hockey**’.

- 29th August 2025 marks the celebration of the 14th NSD.

**Background:**

**Declaration:** In 2012, the Government of India (GoI) announced that **29 August** would be observed annually as National Sports Day (**NSD**) to honor the birthday of Major Dhyan Chand.

**First Observation:** The **1st** National Sports Day was celebrated on 29 August **2012**.

**2025 Event (Jan Andolan 2025):**

The National Sports Day (**NSD**) **2025** celebrations, led by Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, MYAS, under the **Fit India Mission**, are being conducted as a **three-day**, nationwide sports and fitness movement from **August 29 to 31, 2025** under the theme ‘**Ek Ghanta, Khel ke Maidan Main**’.