

# Daily Current Affairs

## 15 March 2025

### ISRO Completes De-docking Of SpaDex Satellites

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has successfully completed the undocking of two satellites, part of the **Space Docking Experiment (SpaDEx)** mission, marking a significant milestone in India's space exploration journey.



- Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh has congratulated ISRO for its successful **demonstration of the undocking experiment** as part of the SpaDEx mission. In his post on the social media site X, the minister said it will pave the way for the smooth conduct of **ambitious future missions**, including the Bharatiya Antriksh Station, Chandrayaan-4, and Gaganyaan.

### ISRO Earns \$143 Million From Foreign Satellite Launch

- ISRO has generated nearly **143 million US dollars** in foreign exchange revenue through satellite launches. The **Department of Space said that** ISRO launched a total of **393 foreign satellites and 3 Indian customer satellites** on a commercial basis over the past decade.



- **Between January 2015 and December 2024**, these satellites were successfully launched aboard ISRO's PSLV, LVM3, and SSLV launch vehicles. ISRO's impressive track record includes launching satellites for **34 countries**, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Singapore, and several other developed nations.



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## Fight Against Bigotry

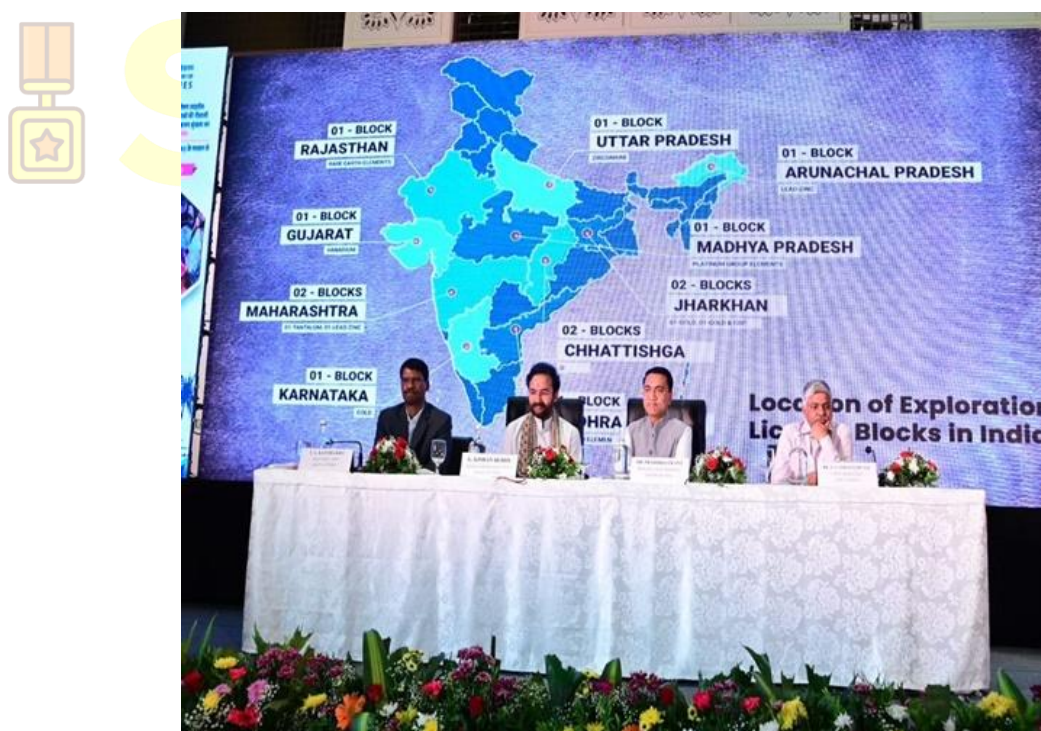
- **India has called for a more inclusive fight against bigotry that takes on** religiophobia, targeting hatred of all religions. Expressing concern over violence against places of worship and religions, **India's Permanent Representative P Harish** said that India strongly believes that the path to meaningful progress in fighting bigotry lies in **acknowledging that religiophobia** in its various forms threatens the fabric of our diverse, global society.



- He said this at a **General Assembly commemoration** of the International Day to Combat Islamophobia. He said virtually every major faith has a home in India, which is the birthplace of four world religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism.
- Mr Harish said that **fostering a world free from religious discrimination**, hatred and violence has been a way of life for India since time immemorial. He underlined that all countries must commit to equal treatment of all their citizens and not practice policies that promote religious discrimination.

## First Exploration Licence Auction For Critical Minerals

- In a move to boost **India's mining sector**, the **Ministry of Mines**, in collaboration with the Government of Goa, has launched India's first-ever auction of Exploration Licences. Union Minister for Coal and Mines, **G. Kishan Reddy**, and **Goa's Chief Minister**, Dr. Pramod Sawant, unveiled the initiative at a landmark event in Goa.



- The auction will **focus on 13 Exploration Licence blocks**, covering critical minerals such as Rare Earth Elements, Zinc, Copper, and Diamond. This transparent, online bidding process aims to accelerate systematic exploration and reduce India's dependence on mineral imports.
- The event also **featured the inauguration of the AI Hackathon 2025**, which will explore mineral targeting through artificial intelligence. In a move to encourage

private sector involvement, three private exploration agencies were awarded certificates during the event.

## 1 Billion Dollar Fund For Creators' Economy

- Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has announced a **1 billion-dollar fund for the creator's economy** as part of the World Audio-Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025.
- The event to be held in **Mumbai from May 1 to 4**, will give creators community a platform to create high value content. Mr. Vaishnaw was speaking at a high-level session on WAVES 2025 organised in New Delhi.



- The session, organised by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, sought to engage the **international community ahead of the WAVES 2025**. Mr. Vaishnaw also informed that the **first Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT)** will be established near Film City in **Goregaon, Mumbai**.
- External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar said WAVES** will serve as a pivotal platform for fostering discussions, collaboration, and innovation in the media and entertainment industry. He noted that the **event will unite industry leaders**, stakeholders, and innovators to explore opportunities, address challenges, and shape the future of the sector.

## SpaceX & NASA

- **SpaceX and NASA have launched a mission** to bring back US astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore from the International Space Station (ISS), where they have been stranded for nine months.
- The lift-off took place last night with a **Falcon 9 rocket** carrying a Dragon spacecraft on the **Crew-10 mission**. The mission also launched **four crew members to the ISS**: NASA astronauts Anne McClain and Nichole Ayers, JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) astronaut Takuya Onishi, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Kirill Peskov to the International Space Station.



- **Crew-10 is the 10th crew rotation mission** under SpaceX's human space transportation system and the 11th flight with a crew aboard to the ISS station through NASA's Commercial Crew Program, including the Demo-2 test flight. Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore have been stranded on the ISS for nine months after reaching there in June last year.
- They were supposed to stay there for about a week. **As test pilots for 'Boeing's new Starliner capsule**. Wilmore and Williams expected to be gone just a week or so when they launched from Cape Canaveral on June 5. A series of helium leaks and thruster failures marred their trip to the space station, setting off months of investigation by NASA and Boeing on how best to proceed.

## China, Russia, Iran Push For Nuclear Talks

- **China, Russia and Iran have called** for an end to US sanctions on Iran and restart of nuclear talks. Representatives of the **three nations who met in Beijing** emphasized the necessity of terminating, what they called, “all unlawful unilateral sanctions”.



- In a joint statement, the three countries reiterated that political and diplomatic engagement and dialogue based on the principle of mutual respect remains the only viable and practical option for resolving the issue.
- **China’s Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu** read a joint statement, flanked by Russia’s Deputy Foreign Minister Ryabkov Sergey Alexeevich and Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi. The talks are the latest attempt to broach the matter and come **after U.S. President Donald Trump** wrote to Iran’s supreme leader in an attempt to jumpstart talks.

## ‘UN80 Initiative’

- **UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** has announced a new initiative aimed at improving efficiencies at the 80-year-old world organisation and making it more cost-effective.



- The **‘UN80 Initiative’** will come up with proposals in areas of rapidly identifying efficiencies and improvements in the way the UN works. It will also review the implementation of all mandates given to the UN by member states, which have significantly increased in recent years.
- While announcing the **initiative in New York, Mr. Guterres** said that the world is facing challenges on every front. He also voiced concern over shrinking resources and liquidity crisis amid an environment of uncertainty and unpredictability.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. ISRO Earns \_\_\_\_ Million From Foreign Satellite Launch

- A. \$243
- B. \$100
- C. \$143
- D. \$400

**ANSWER: C**

2. First Exploration Licence Auction For Critical Minerals Signed With

- A. Jharkhand
- B. Odisha
- C. Goa
- D. Kerala

**ANSWER: C**

3. How Much Billion Dollar Fund For Creators' Economy

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4

**ANSWER: A**

4. According To The 2024 World Air Quality Report, What Is The Rank Of India For Air Pollution

- A. First
- B. Second
- C. Third
- D. Fifth

**ANSWER: D**

5. The Kuki Tribe Is Primary Found In Which Region Of India

- A. Northeastern India
- B. South India
- C. Western Ghats
- D. Ladakh

**ANSWER: A**



**6. Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary Is Located In Which State**

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Gujarat
- D. Kerala

**ANSWER: B**

**7. Which Ministry Launched Pratibimb Module, A Geographic Information System based Software**

- A. Ministry of Electronics and IT
- B. Ministry of Defence
- C. Ministry of Home Affairs
- D. Ministry of Communications

**ANSWER: C**

**8. Fuego Volcano, Is Located In Which Country**

- A. Ethiopia
- B. Indonesia
- C. Malaysia
- D. Guatemala

**ANSWER: D**

**9. Subhadra Yojana, Related To Which State In India**

- A. Kerala
- B. Odisha
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Andhra Pradesh

**ANSWER: B**

**10. Majhi Ladki Behan Yojana, Is Related To Which State**

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Assam

**ANSWER: A**

**11. Recently Which Indian Naval Ship Arrived In Port Louis, Mauritius**

- A. INS Vikramaditya
- B. INS Viraat
- C. INS Imphal
- D. INS Kolkata

**ANSWER: C**

**12. What Is Name Of Initiative Undertaken By The Department Of Posts For A Standardized, Geo-coded Addressing System**

- A. Digital Postal Code
- B. Smart Address Locator
- C. Digital Address Code
- D. e-Address System

**ANSWER: C**

**13. Which Film Has Won The Best Picture Award At IIFA 2025**

- A. Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3
- B. Kill
- C. Laapataa Ladies
- D. Article 370

**ANSWER: C**

**14. In Which Year Was CISF Established**

- A. 1956
- B. 1969
- C. 1984
- D. 1992

**ANSWER: B**

**15. In Which Country Did A 500-kg Metal Object Crash, Raising Concerns About Space Debris**

- A. Brazil
- B. India
- C. Russia
- D. Kenya

**ANSWER: D**

**16. Where Is World's Largest Iceberg, Colossal A23a, Currently Stuck**

- A. Georgia Island
- B. Antarctica
- C. Iceland
- D. Greenland

**ANSWER: A**

**17. When Is The Next Occurrence Of The Planetary Parade Expected**

- A. 2030
- B. 2040
- C. 2050
- D. 2060

**ANSWER: B**

**18. In Which Year Was The Dramatic Performances Act Enacted By The British To Clamp Down On Indian Nationalist Sentiment**

- A. 1857
- B. 1861
- C. 1876
- D. 1881

**ANSWER: C**

**19. Who has been appointed as Canada's new Liberal Party leader and Prime Minister, replacing Justin Trudeau**

- A. Mark Carney
- B. Chrystia Freeland
- C. Karina Gould
- D. Frank Baylis

**ANSWER: A**

**20. Who Composed Buddhacharita**

- A. Asvaghosha
- B. Vasumitra
- C. Nagarjuna
- D. Charaka

**ANSWER: A**