

Daily Current Affairs

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NASA Astronauts Return To Earth

- **Astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore** of NASA returned to Earth early this morning aboard a **SpaceX Crew Dragon Spacecraft**. Their SpaceX capsule parachuted into the **Gulf of Mexico**. A splashdown occurred off the coast of **Tallahassee in the Florida Panhandle**, ending the nine-month ordeal of the two astronauts.



- The astronauts concluded their **trip with SpaceX's Crew-9, a routine International Space Station, ISS staff rotation mission**, alongside **NASA's Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov**.
- **Wilmore and Williams** were on the International Space Station since June of last year, following the maiden crewed mission of the Boeing Starliner spacecraft, which encountered technical issues that rendered it unsuitable for their return journey.
- The two astronauts **ended up spending 286 days in space – 278 days** longer than anticipated. Four Crew-10 astronauts arrived at the ISS on Sunday, taking over duties at the space station.

AI Kosh

- **Lok Sabha and India AI Mission** signed an MoU in New Delhi in the presence of **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla** and Union Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. Later speaking to the media, Mr Vaishnaw said, a data set called the AI Kosh will be created, which will enable the translation of extensive debates in the Lok Sabha into any language.



- He said this will provide a facility for researchers, Members of Parliament and academia to access the **detailed debates of the Parliament** in any language for research purposes. The Minister said this agreement aims to utilize AI technology to create an extensive AI-based linguistic repository.

First Temple Dedicated To Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

- In a historic tribute to the **legendary Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated the state's first-ever temple dedicated to the Maratha king. The inauguration took place in **Bhiwandi, Thane, on the occasion of Shivaji Maharaj's birth anniversary**.
- The temple stands as a **symbol of his heroism, valour, and enduring legacy, offering a sacred place** for devotees to honour his contributions to India's history. The newly inaugurated Shivaji Maharaj Temple is a first-of-its-kind structure in **Maharashtra, dedicated solely to the revered Maratha ruler**.



- Designed to reflect the architectural grandeur of Maratha forts, this temple embodies Shivaji Maharaj's military precision, bravery, and strategic genius. Speaking at the event, CM Devendra Fadnavis announced that the temple would soon be designated as a pilgrimage site, emphasizing its cultural and spiritual significance.
- He further stated that the temple was built because Shivaji Maharaj fought **battles for God, country, and religion, shaping the identity of Hindus in India.** Designed by architect Vijaykumar Patil, the **temple spans 2,500 square feet** and is enclosed within a 5,000-square-foot fort-like boundary wall. This boundary includes bastions, surveillance pathways, and a grand entrance gate, resembling the military fortifications built by Shivaji Maharaj.

Chandrayaan- 5 Mission Approved

- India's space ambitions have reached new heights with the approval of the **Chandrayaan-5 mission**, announced by **ISRO Chairman V Narayanan** on March 16, 2025. This mission will be executed in collaboration with Japan and aims to conduct an advanced study of the Moon's surface. Unlike Chandrayaan-3, which carried the **25 kg rover 'Pragyan'**, Chandrayaan-5 will deploy a **heavier 250 kg rover**, enhancing India's lunar exploration capabilities.

Mission	Year	Key Achievement	Status
Chandrayaan-1	2008	Discovered water molecules on the Moon	Successful
Chandrayaan-2	2019	Orbiter successful, lander crashed	Partial Success
Chandrayaan-3	2023	First successful soft landing on Moon's south pole	Successful
Chandrayaan-4	2027 (expected)	Lunar soil sample collection and return to Earth	Upcoming
Chandrayaan-5	2028 (expected)	Advanced surface study with a 250 kg rover	Upcoming

ADB Launches “Frontier Seed”

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has launched the **Frontier Seed (Pacific)** program to support local businesses, strengthen capital markets, and promote sustainable economic growth in the Pacific region.



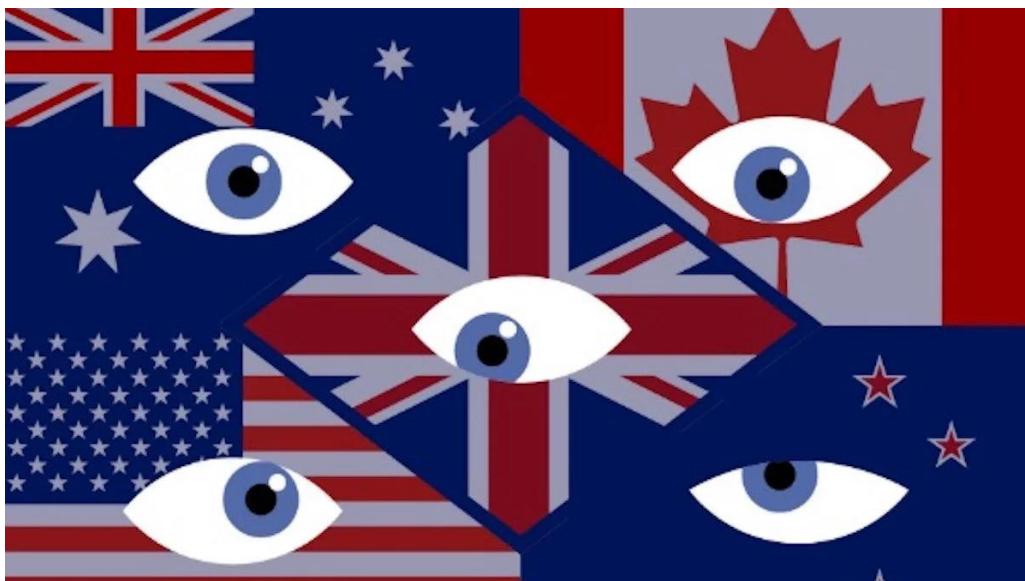
- The initiative focuses on developing local industries and fostering inclusive and resilient economies. Under this program, **ADB has signed \$200,000 technical assistance agreements** with SeaPAC Pte Ltd, a prawn production company, and Kahuto Pacific, an aerial mapping firm, to help advance their respective industries.



- The program is backed by **multiple international partners**, including the Ocean Resilience and Coastal Adaptation (ORCA) Trust Fund, the Nordic Development Fund, and the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). **With an initial commitment of \$4 million**, the initiative is expected to attract investors, create jobs, and enhance economic resilience in the region.

Five Eyes Intelligence Alliance

- **Five Eyes intelligence alliance** is facing unprecedented challenges. Formed during World War II, it includes the **United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand**.



- Recent shifts in US foreign policy under Donald Trump have disrupted long-held assumptions about the alliance. This situation has raised concerns about the future of intelligence sharing and collaboration among these nations. The Five Eyes originated from wartime cooperation.
- **In 1946, the US and UK** established a bilateral agreement for intelligence sharing. This agreement expanded to include **Canada in 1948** and **Australia and New Zealand in 1956**.



- The alliance **focused on Signals Intelligence**, monitoring enemy communications. During the Cold War, it was vital for tracking Soviet activities. **After 9/11, the alliance** broadened its scope to counterterrorism and cybersecurity.
- Presently, the focus has shifted towards China and its influence. The Five Eyes have intensified their collaboration in response to global threats. They have warned about the risks posed by companies like Huawei.
- **In 2018, intelligence chiefs cautioned that Huawei's involvement** in 5G networks could compromise security. The alliance has also strengthened military ties in the Indo-Pacific region. **The AUKUS pact**, involving nuclear-powered submarines, marks a new chapter in military cooperation.

PB-SHABD

- Prasar Bharati's Shared Audio-Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination (PB-SHABD), a 24/7 news hub, has completed one year since its launch in March 2024. The platform provides **over 1,000 daily stories** in more than 50 categories, delivering high-quality news content without logos in text, video, picture, and audio formats.



- It is supported by an extensive network of **over 1,500 reporters**, correspondents, and stringers, ensuring comprehensive coverage from across India. To further support media organisations, especially smaller ones, Prasar Bharati has announced that access to **PB-SHABD will remain free until March 2026**.



- This initiative is aimed at helping media outlets by providing them with ready-to-use, logo-free content, saving time and resources. **PB-SHABD offers content**

across a wide range of news categories, such as agriculture, technology, foreign affairs, political developments, and more. The stories are uploaded in all major Indian languages, sourced from **Prasar Bharati's Regional News Units (RNUs)** and headquarters.

Khelo India Para Games 2025

- **Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Dr Mansukh Mandaviya** unveiled the mascot, logo and anthem of the upcoming **Khelo India Para Games-KIPG 2025** in New Delhi. More than one thousand two hundred para-athletes will compete in **six disciplines in the KIPG-2025** which includes para archery, para-athletics, para-badminton, para powerlifting, para shooting and para table tennis.



- The event also featured the unveiling of the mascot, 'Ujjwala'. The Khelo India **Para Games 2025 logo features a stylish** athlete in orange, green and blue, representing dynamism, movement, and inclusivity with a forward motion signifying progress. **The bold blue/white 'Khelo India' and 'Para Games 2025'** in the logo conveys strength, complemented by orange highlights.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What does PB-SHABD Stand For

- A. Prasar Bharati – Shared Hub for Audio-Visual Broadcast and Distribution
- B. Prasar Bharati – Shared Audio-Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination
- C. Public Broadcasting – Shared Audio-Visual Database
- D. Prasar Bharati – Strategic Hub for Audio-Visual Broadcasting

ANSWER: B

2. What Is The Theme Of Raisina Dialogue 2025

- A. Global Unity and Progress
- B. Economic Growth and Sustainability
- C. Kālachakra — People, Peace, and Planet
- D. Future of Democracy

ANSWER: C

3. Who Inaugurated First Edition Of The Fit India Carnival In Delhi

- A. Narendra Modi
- B. Rajnath Singh
- C. Mansukh Mandaviya
- D. Anurag Thakur

ANSWER: C

4. Who Appointed As The CEO Of The Anusandhan National Research Foundation

- A. Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman
- B. Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar
- C. Dr. K. Sivan
- D. Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy

ANSWER: A

5. Where Is 2nd Edition Of The Kabaddi World Cup 2025 Being Held

- A. India
- B. Pakistan
- C. Malaysia
- D. England

ANSWER: D

6. Who Was The Captain Of The Winning Team, India Masters In International Masters League T20

- A. Virender Sehwag
- B. Rahul Dravid
- C. Sourav Ganguly
- D. Sachin Tendulkar

ANSWER: D

7. Ramakanta Rath, Who Recently Passed Away, Was A Renowned Poet In Which Language

- A. Odia
- B. Hindi
- C. Marathi
- D. Tamil

ANSWER: A

8. Where Was The First Ordnance Factory In India Established

- A. Chennai
- B. Mumbai
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Kolkata

ANSWER: D

9. Low- Level Transportable Radar, LLTR Is Jointly Developed By Which Organizations

- A. ISRO & Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- B. DRDO & Bharat Electronics Limited
- C. Bharat Dynamics Limited & Ministry of Defence
- D. ISRO and Bharat Electronics Limited

ANSWER: B

10. APAAR ID, Is Part Of Which Initiative

- A. One Nation, One Student ID
- B. National Digital University
- C. Digital India Mission
- D. One Nation, One Health Card

ANSWER: A

11. What Is The Name Of River Formed By The Confluence Of The Sankh And South Koel Rivers In Odisha

- A. Baitarani river
- B. Brahmani river
- C. Rushikulya river
- D. Indravati river

ANSWER: B

12. Pilibhit Tiger Reserve Is Located In Which State

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Gujarat
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER:D

13. Which Country Topped Medal Tally In World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025

- A. China
- B. Thailand
- C. India
- D. Indonesia

ANSWER: C

14. Which Country Became The Top Contributor Of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Into Dubai In 2024

- A. India
- B. United States
- C. United Kingdom
- D. France

ANSWER: A

15. Who Became The First Indian To Receive The Ramsar Award For 'Wetland Wise Use'

- A. Vandana Shiva
- B. Sunita Narain
- C. Jayshree Vencatesan
- D. Indira Gandhi

ANSWER: C

16. Which Company Launched The 'Shakti' All-women Branches On Women's Day

- A. HDFC Bank
- B. IIFL Finance
- C. Bajaj FinServ
- D. ICICI Bank

ANSWER: B

17. Which Airport Won The Prestigious ASQ Award For Best Airport In Asia-Pacific For The Seventh Consecutive Year

- A. Hong Kong International Airport
- B. Singapore Changi Airport
- C. Incheon International Airport
- D. Delhi International Airport

ANSWER: D

18. What Is Milestone Achieved By PM Surya Ghar Scheme As Of 10th March 2025

- A. 10 Lakh
- B. 5 Lakh
- C. 15 Lakh
- D. 1 Lakh

ANSWER: A

19. What Is India's Rank On The Global Innovation Index 2024

- A. 12
- B. 39
- C. 2
- D. 11

ANSWER: B

20. Who Was The Last Independent Nawab Of Bengal

- A. Siraj ud Daula
- B. Mir Kasim
- C. Mir Jafar
- D. Shujaud daula

ANSWER: A