

# Daily Current Affairs

## 27 June 2025

### Docking Of Dragon Spacecraft

- India celebrated the historic docking of the **Dragon Spacecraft carrying Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla** to International Space Station. Indian Space Research Organisation congratulated Axiom Space, NASA, and SpaceX as the **Axiom 4 mission spacecraft carrying Group Captain Shukla** successfully docked with the ISS at 4:15 PM IST yesterday, marking a significant achievement in global space exploration.



- ISRO mentioned that a team led by the Secretary**, Department of Space and Chairman, ISRO, V Narayanan, witnessed the historic moment in the Mission Control Room at **NASA's Johnson Space Centre in Houston**. Lauding the milestone, **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said the mission** reflects the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Vishwabandhu Bharat, ideals envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

## India's 1st Maritime Sector NBFC

- Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, inaugurated **India's first Non-Banking Financial Company-NBFC** in the maritime sector, **Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited-SMFCL**.
- Minister said that the **registration of Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited** as an NBFC is a major milestone in India's maritime journey. He said that SMFCL will **bridge crucial financing gaps and offer sector-specific financial solutions**, empowering ports, MSMEs, startups, and institutions. He added that this move is in perfect alignment with the **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**, and making the country a leading global maritime power and Viksit Bharat.



- During the event, **Mr. Sonowal launched the SAGAR SETU platform** to boost operational efficiency and ease of doing business. He also released a standardised Scale of Rates template for Major Port Authorities to ensure uniform port tariffs.
- Additionally, he **unveiled the Gateway to Green report**, outlining a roadmap for ports to transition to green hydrogen hubs. The Ministry signed an MoU with CDAC to establish a Digital Centre of Excellence, promoting digital transformation in the maritime sector.

## Operation Chakra-V

- In continuation of the ongoing efforts to **combat cybercrime and Digital Arrest Scams**, CBI has launched nationwide searches at 42 locations in five states in connection with **Mule Bank accounts being used in Cyber frauds**.
- The drive was **launched across five States** – Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh under operation Chakra-5. The enquiry revealed that more than seven hundred branches of various banks across the country have **opened around 8.5 lakh mule accounts**.



- The agency said that these accounts were opened either without proper **KYC norms or an initial risk assessment**. During the searches, several incriminating documents and digital evidence, mobile phones, Bank Account Opening Documents, Transactions Details, and KYC documents have been seized.
- **CBI has arrested nine accused which including middlemen**, agents, account holders, and bank correspondents, for their involvement in the operation and facilitation of opening of mule bank accounts.

## Salkhan Fossil Park

- **Salkhan Fossil Park**, located in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh, has recently been included in **UNESCO's Tentative List for World Heritage Sites**. This recognition marks milestone for the region. The park is known for its ancient fossils, some **dating back 1.4 billion years**. Its inclusion in the tentative list enhances Uttar Pradesh's profile in geological and paleontological tourism.



- **Salkhan Fossil Park is home to stromatolites**, which are layered sedimentary structures formed by ancient cyanobacteria. These microorganisms played important role in the Earth's early biosphere.
- The stromatolites found here are older than many well-known sites, such as **Shark Bay in Australia**.



- This makes Salkhan an invaluable site for understanding early life on Earth. Geological surveys in the **Salkhan region began in the 1930s**. The park was officially **opened in 2002 after a workshop led by Canadian scientists**. **Renowned geologist H. J. Hoffman** praised the clarity of the fossils. This initial research laid the groundwork for future studies and the park's eventual **nomination to UNESCO**. The Uttar Pradesh government has made investments in the park.



- **An allocation of INR 1.5 crores has been approved** for visitor amenities. This includes nature trails, security measures, and interpretive centres. The collaboration with the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences has been very important in documenting the site scientifically. The park is strategically positioned to enhance eco-tourism in Uttar Pradesh.
- **The preparation of a detailed dossier for UNESCO's permanent** World Heritage status is underway. This dossier will be submitted to the Government of India, with hopes of achieving full recognition within two years.



- The principal secretary of tourism has emphasised the importance of this **recognition for boosting international acclaim and tourism** in the state. Scientific studies conducted by the **Birbal Sahni Institute have confirmed the presence of ancient stromatolites** and algae fossils. These findings provide critical vital information about the Earth's early ecosystems. The research supports the park's significance as a site for palaeontological studies and its candidacy for UNESCO status.

## Nano Fertiliser Plant In Brazil

- **India's agricultural innovation footprint globally**, the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) is establishing its first overseas nano fertiliser manufacturing plant in Brazil. This strategic move, in partnership with Brazilian **company NANO FERT**, aims to tap into the growing demand for sustainable and efficient crop nutrition solutions.

- The **plant, with an annual capacity of 4.5 million litres**, will cater to crops like corn, soybean, and sugarcane, widely cultivated in South America.
- The initiative marks a historic milestone for India's agricultural sector, as IFFCO ventures into **international production of nano fertilisers**—a revolutionary product designed to enhance crop yields while reducing chemical fertiliser usage. With field trials showing promising results and increasing global demand, the Brazil plant is expected to solidify IFFCO's position in the international agri-input market.



पूर्णतः सहकारी स्वामित्व  
Wholly owned by Cooperatives

- **Joint venture** (7:3 ratio) between IFFCO Nanoventions (India) and NANO FERT (Brazil).
- **Annual capacity:** 4.5 million litres of nano fertilisers.
- **Location:** Curitiba, Parana Province, Brazil.
- **Trial production:** Expected to begin by end of 2025.
- Nano fertilisers to help increase yields and cut fertiliser use.





- **Background and Context**

- IFFCO launched nano urea in India in 2021.
- Over 0.5 million bottles have been exported to 40+ countries.
- Nano urea and nano DAP (Di-Ammonium Phosphate) are cost-effective and efficient alternatives to conventional fertilisers.
- Nano Urea: ₹240 per 500ml bottle.
- Nano DAP: ₹600 per 500ml bottle.
- Nano fertilisers are being researched and promoted as a way to:
- Reduce environmental damage from chemical fertilisers.



- Improve nutrient uptake by plants.
- Enhance soil health and crop productivity.
- Significance for Brazil
- Brazil is a global agricultural powerhouse.
- Field trials showed,
- 10% yield increase in corn and soybean.
- 7% increase in sugarcane productivity.
- 20%+ reduction in usage of conventional urea and DAP.
- Strategic Importance
- Cuts export costs and enhances local availability.
- Strengthens Indo-Brazil agri-tech cooperation.
- Expands India's global leadership in sustainable farming inputs.

## Banakacherla Reservoir Controversy

- **Banakacherla reservoir project** has ignited a fierce political debate between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Telangana's Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has challenged former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao to a public debate regarding the implications of this project.

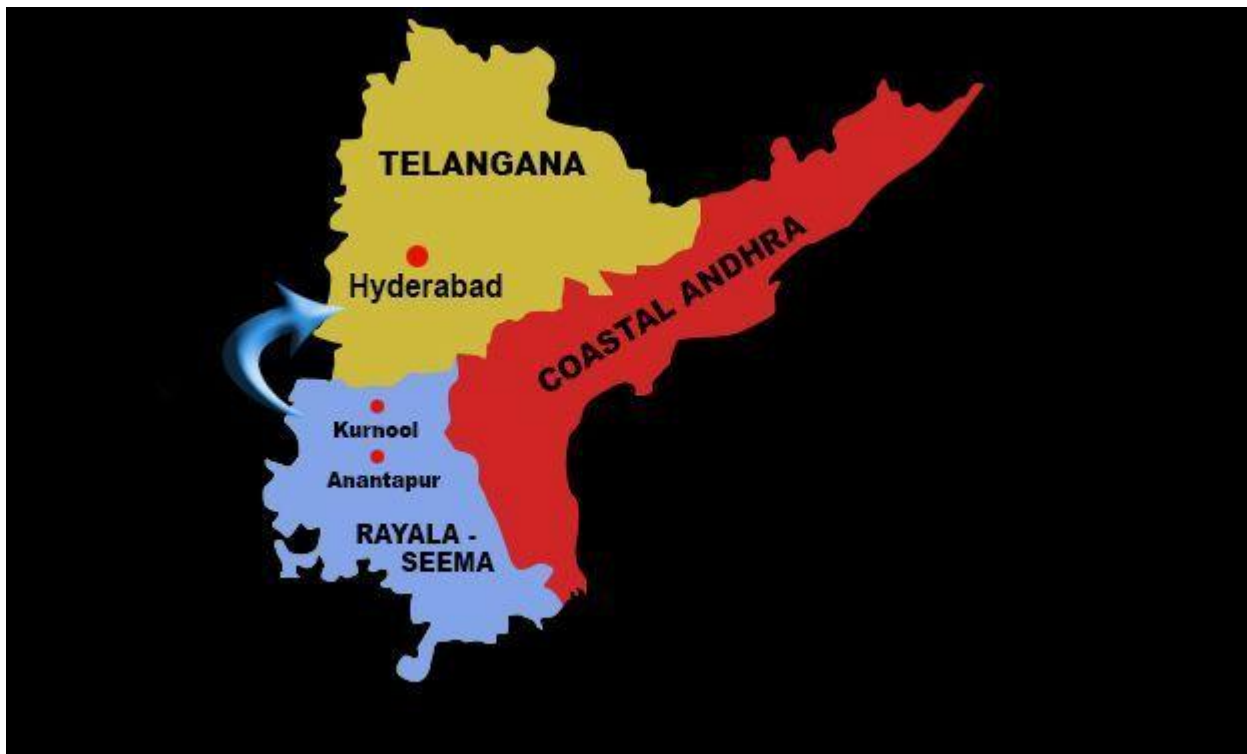


- The project aims to address **drought conditions in Andhra Pradesh's Rayalaseema region** but raises concerns for Telangana regarding water rights and resource management. The **Banakacherla reservoir project** is designed to transform the drought-prone Rayalaseema region into fertile land. It involves enhancing the capacity of the Polavaram Right Main Canal and the Thatipudi Lift Irrigation Scheme.





- The project proposes to **link the Godavari River with the Krishna River**. Water will be lifted from Bollapalli in Guntur district to the Banakacherla reservoir through a series of lift stations and tunnels. **Telangana officials argue that the Banakacherla project violates** the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act of 2014. They claim it has not received necessary approvals from the **Krishna River Management Board and the Godavari River Management Board**.
- Telangana is concerned that diverting **Godavari waters undermines** its water security and threatens existing water projects. The project is politically charged. **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu** promotes it as a solution for Rayalaseema's water crisis. This region is crucial for the Telugu Desam Party, which seeks to regain influence there.



- Conversely, Telangana views the project as a continuation of **historical injustices regarding water distribution**, stemming from its separation from Andhra Pradesh in 2014. Water-sharing has long been a contentious issue between the two states. During the agitation for Telangana's statehood, claims were made that **water resources were disproportionately** allocated to Andhra Pradesh.
- The Banakacherla project revives these grievances, as it is perceived as an attempt to divert resources away from Telangana once again. The **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act of 2014 established** guidelines for water distribution between the two states. **Telangana argues that the Banakacherla**

**project contravenes** these guidelines. The **Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal** has not clarified the extent of surplus water, raising questions about the legality of the project.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Salkhan Fossil Park Located In**

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Mizoram
- C. Haryana
- D. Himachal Pradesh

**ANSWER: A**

**2. IFFCO Is Establishing Its First Overseas Nano Fertiliser Manufacturing Plant In**

- A. Japan
- B. Brazil
- C. Sudan
- D. Nigeria

**ANSWER: B**

**3. Banakacherla Reservoir Controversy Is Related To**

- A. Gujarat
- B. Telangana
- C. Sikkim
- D. Haryana

**ANSWER: B**

**4. In Which Year Is India Scheduled To Launch Its First Nationwide Household Income Survey**

- A. 2027
- B. 2028
- C. 2026
- D. 2030

**ANSWER: C**

**5. Which Country Recently Appointed Its First Civilian Defence Minister In 64 Years**

- A. South Korea
- B. Japan
- C. Taiwan
- D. Vietnam

**ANSWER: A**

**6. Digital Payment Intelligence Platform Is An Initiative Of Which Institution**

- A. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

**ANSWER: A**

**7. Ministry Of Panchayati Raj Launched The Training Of Trainers (Tot) Programme Under The Banner Of Which National Initiative**

- A. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- B. Make in India
- C. Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
- D. Skill India Mission

**ANSWER: C**

**8. Sabka Vishwas (Legacy Dispute Resolution) Scheme (SVLDRS) Was Introduced In Which Union Budget**

- A. Union Budget 2017
- B. Union Budget 2018
- C. Union Budget 2019
- D. Union Budget 2021

**ANSWER: C**

**9. Price Support Scheme (PSS) Is Part Of Which Umbrella Scheme**

- A. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)
- B. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)
- C. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)
- D. Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)

**ANSWER: D**



**10. International Emergency Economic Powers Act Is Associated With Which Country**

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

**ANSWER: C**

**11. Perito Moreno Glacier, is located in which country**

- A. Argentina
- B. Chile
- C. Ecuador
- D. Peru

**ANSWER: A**

**12. Kawal Tiger Reserve Is Located In Which State**

- A. Odisha
- B. Karnataka
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Telangana

**ANSWER: D**

**13. Luis Montenegro Appointed As The Prime Minister Of Which Country**

- A. Portugal
- B. Spain
- C. New Zealand
- D. Ireland

**ANSWER: A**

**14. World Refugee Day Is Observed On Which Day Every Year**

- A. 18 June
- B. 19 June
- C. 20 June
- D. 21 June

**ANSWER: C**

**15. Which Indian State Recently Secured Global Recognition For Organizing A “Floating Yoga” Event**

- A. Kerala
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Karnataka
- D. Andhra Pradesh

**ANSWER: D**

**16. State Of Climate In Asia 2024 Report Was Released By Which Organization**

- A. World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- B. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- C. World Bank
- D. Greenpeace

**ANSWER: A**

**17. Which Two Countries Are The Co-hosts Of The Fourth UN Ocean Conference In 2028**

- A. China and Colombia
- B. South Korea and Chile
- C. New Zealand and Peru
- D. India and Brazil

**ANSWER: B**

**18. Who Became The First Indian Wicketkeeper To Score Centuries In Both Innings Of A Test Match**

- A. KL Rahul
- B. Rishabh Pant
- C. Jitesh Sharma
- D. Mahendra Singh Dhoni

**ANSWER: B**

**19. Which National Digital Platform Is Being Integrated With The Rare Donor Registry To Improve Access To Rare Blood Types In India**

- A. Aarogya Setu
- B. Rakt Setu
- C. e- Rakt Kosh
- D. BloodLink India

**ANSWER: C**

**20. Salihundam Buddhist Heritage Site, Is Located In Which State**

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Gujarat
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Maharashtra

**ANSWER: A**

