

# Daily Current Affairs

## 04 July 2025

### PM Modi's Trinidad visit

- **Prime Minister Modi's** visit to the country. Indian High Commissioner Mr Rajpurohit He said that both **countries are commemorating 180 years** of their relations, and the PM's visit is a momentous occasion for the Indian Diaspora, who have **preserved their culture and traditions thousands** of miles away from their home in such a celebratory manner.



- Mr Rajpurohit said that not only the Indian Diaspora but people from all strata of society are excited about the **arrival of Prime Minister Modi**. The Indian High Commissioner said that the Prime Minister's visit to the island nation is **expected to increase cooperation** in health, renewable energy, agriculture, capacity building, and skills development.
- India has been seen as a nation that helps bring tangible benefits to the nation in various aspects of collaboration. The **people-to-people contact between** the two nations runs deep and strong, be it Yoga, promotion of Hindi and Sanskrit among the people and the Know Your India campaign.



- It is worth noting that both the President and Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago have **been awarded Pravasi Bhartiye Samman**, and the 2025 edition of the Pravasi Bhartiye Diwas saw President Cristine Carla Kangloo as the Chief Guest. Mr Rajpurohit further emphasised the emotional connect between the two countries despite the physical distance.
- The **Indian High Commissioner noted that the visit** by the Prime Minister holds great aspirations for both India and Trinidad and Tobago. Prime Minister announced that citizens of Indian origin in Trinidad and Tobago will now be eligible for **Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)** cards, allowing them to live and work in India without restrictions.



- He encouraged the Indian community to visit their ancestral land and deepen their connection with India. This is his **first visit to the country as Prime Minister and the first bilateral visit** at the Prime Ministerial level to Trinidad and Tobago since 1999.

## First National Conference Of ULB Chairpersons

- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurated the **first National Conference of Chairpersons of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** of States and Union Territories in Manesar, Gurugram today. The theme of the two-day conference is **“Role of Urban Local Bodies in Strengthening Constitutional Democracy and Nation Building.”**



- Mr. Birla called **upon urban local bodies to incorporate structured procedures**, including regular sittings, robust committee systems, and citizen engagement, to further strengthen the grassroots of democracy.
- He emphasised the importance of incorporating proven democratic practices such as **Question Hour and Zero Hour in ULBs**. The Lok Sabha Speaker described Urban Local Bodies as the closest tier of governance to the people.



## Shubhanshu Shukla

- **Indian Air Force Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla**, the first Indian astronaut on the International Space Station, is working to develop a brain-computer interface in the orbital lab. **US space agency NASA** shared in a blog post that Shukla, who is part of **the Axiom Space Mission-4**, along with fellow astronaut **Sławosz Uznański-Wiśniewski from Poland**, partnered together in the Columbus laboratory and studied using **near-infrared technology** to record brain activity for constructing brain-computer interfaces.



- The experiment **called the “Thoughts over Gravity”** explored how astronauts can use their brains to control or communicate with computers in space, even in challenging low-gravity conditions.
- Earlier, Shukla worked in the **Destiny laboratory module on ISS** to understand how tiny aquatic animals survive numerous harsh climates, including microgravity. He also looked at muscle cell stem cultures through a microscope to understand the **muscle repair process in weightlessness**. Lucknow-born Shukla is on a 14-day scientific expedition on the ISS as part of the Axiom-4 mission, along with three other astronauts from the US, Poland, and Hungary.

## Savitribai Phule National Institute

- **National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)** has been officially renamed the Savitribai Phule National Institute of Women and Child Development, highlighting its commitment to focused support for women and children's development across India.

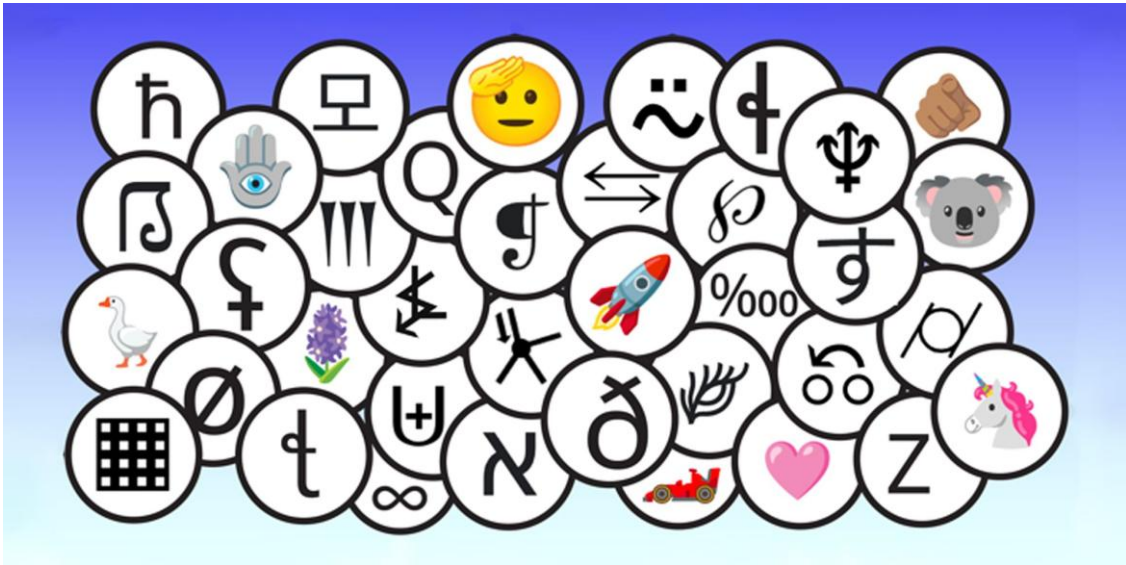


- **A new Regional Centre will open in Ranchi, Jharkhand**, to address specialized training and research needs for key programs like Mission Shakti, Mission Vatsalya, and Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0, specifically for states in the eastern region—Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal.
- **The new Regional Centre will also offer the Advance Diploma in Child Guidance and Counselling** and will facilitate better accessibility for frontline functionaries in these states. It is estimated that over seven lakh functionaries operate under the Ministry's missions across the four states, spread across 115 districts.

## Unicode Consortium For Global Language Support

- **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** of India rejoined the **Unicode Consortium as a Supporting Member**. This move positions India as one of only two government members with voting rights within the consortium.
- The **Unicode Consortium plays important role in standardising** text and emojis across the internet, ensuring that various languages, including Indian languages, are recognised globally. The Unicode Consortium is **a non-profit organisation responsible** for developing and maintaining the Unicode Standard. This standard

encodes characters from virtually all writing systems in use . It aims to encourage international communication by providing a consistent way to represent text in computers and on the internet. India's involvement with the Unicode Consortium began in 2000.



- The government aimed to **promote Indian languages and scripts** in the digital realm. The initiative was part of the Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL) programme. This programme was **designed to create a digital infrastructure that supports Indian languages** and scripts. The recent membership requires an annual **commitment of \$20,000, approximately ₹17 lakh**. This **financial investment grants MeitY** a half vote in the technical committee's decision-making processes.



- The technical committee primarily meets in the **United States and online**, **allowing India to participate in discussions** regarding global text representation. Despite the membership, there have been concerns about the effectiveness of



India's participation. Reports indicated that the Tamil Virtual Academy, a member since 2003, has not actively engaged with the consortium since 2016.

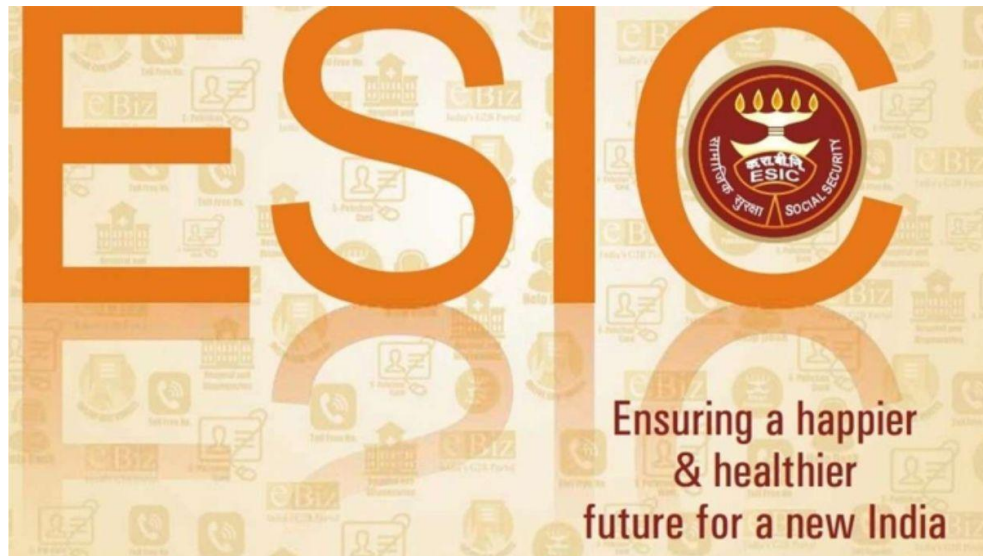
- This raises questions about the actual impact of such memberships on the promotion of Indian languages. **Rejoining the Unicode Consortium is for India.** It allows the country to influence decisions regarding the inclusion of Indian scripts and emojis. **This influence is essential for ensuring** that Indian languages are adequately represented in digital formats.



- **The renewed membership could lead to better digital representation** of Indian languages. It may also encourage other states to engage meaningfully with the consortium. The ongoing commitment to internationalising Indian scripts is vital for preserving linguistic heritage in a digital age.

## SPREE 2025

- **Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** has launched SPREE 2025. This initiative aims to increase social security coverage under the ESI Act. Approved during the **ESIC's 196th meeting in Shimla**, **SPREE 2025** will be active from 1st July to 31st December 2025.
- It provides **a unique opportunity for unregistered employers** and employees to enroll without facing inspections or demands for past dues. SPREE 2025 is designed to simplify the registration process for employers and employees. It targets unregistered workers, including those in contractual and temporary roles.



- The scheme allows **digital registration through the ESIC portal** and other platforms. This digital approach aims to streamline the process and encourage more participants. Employers can register their units and employees digitally. The registration is valid from the date declared by the employer. Importantly, there will be no contributions or benefits applicable for periods prior to registration.
- This aspect is **crucial as it eliminates the fear of retrospective penalties**. SPREE 2025 promotes voluntary compliance among employers. The scheme addresses the barriers that previously deterred registration. Before SPREE, non-registration could lead to legal action and demands for backdated dues. By removing these fears, the scheme encourages employers to regularise their workforce.





- **The initiative aims to bring more establishments and workers** into the ESI fold. This is particularly important for those in the informal sector who often miss out on essential health and social benefits. By simplifying registration, SPREE 2025 ensures broader access to social security.
- **ESIC is dedicated to strengthening its outreach and fulfilling** its mandate for universal social protection. **SPREE 2025 aligns with the vision of** creating a welfare-centric labour ecosystem in India. The scheme represents a progressive step towards inclusive social security.

## First- Ever Khelo India Water Sports

- The **first-ever Khelo India Water Sports Festival** will be held at Srinagar's iconic Dal Lake from the 21st of August. This was announced by the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya. The three-day water sports festival will see **five sports**: kayaking and canoeing, rowing, water skiing, shikara race and dragon boat.



- The open-age competition is expected to see participation of more than 400 athletes **from the 36 States and Union Territories**. He said that the Khelo India Water Sports Festival is another proof of the government's commitment to broad-based sports and creating more opportunities for athletes to express themselves at the national level.
- The **Minister said India has a decent standing in water sports** in Asia. The water sports festival in Dal Lake will help expose emerging talent and prepare them for international events.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. First National Conference Of ULB Chairpersons Organised In**

- A. Manesar
- B. Kaithal
- C. Sonipat
- D. Karnal

**ANSWER: A**

**2. SPREE 2025 Seen In News Launched By**

- A. CSIR
- B. ESIC
- C. SEBI
- D. RBI

**ANSWER: B**

**3. First- Ever Khelo India Water Sports Will Be Held At**

- A. Thiruvananthapuram
- B. Chennai
- C. Srinagar
- D. Bangalore

**ANSWER: C**

**4. What Is The New Name Of The National Institute Of Public Cooperation And Child Development**

- A. Kasturba Gandhi National Institute of Women and Child Development
- B. Sarojini Naidu Institute for Women and Child Welfare
- C. Rani Laxmi Bai National Women and Child Centre
- D. Savitribai Phule National Institute of Women and Child Development

**ANSWER: D**

**5. Who Won The 2025 Shakti Bhatt Prize For Her Debut Memoir The Lucky Ones**

- A. Kiran Desai
- B. Shashi Deshpande
- C. Geetanjali Shree
- D. Zara Chowdhary

**ANSWER: D**

**6. Central Sector Scheme Of Scholarship For College And University Students (CSSS) Is Implemented By Which Ministry**

- A. Ministry of Finance
- B. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- C. Ministry of Education
- D. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

**ANSWER: C**

**7. Which Department Is Nodal Department For Implementing The Research Development And Innovation (RDI) Scheme**

- A. Department of Biotechnology
- B. Department of Commerce
- C. Department of Science and Technology
- D. Department of Heavy Industries

**ANSWER: C**

**8. What Is A Key Area Of Emphasis In Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme**

- A. Expansion of Rural Banking Services
- B. Focus on the Manufacturing Sector
- C. Promotion of Tourism and Heritage Sites
- D. Development of Smart Cities

**ANSWER: B**

**9. Name Of The Mobile Application Launched By Indian Railways To Unify Passenger Services Under One Platform**

- A. TrainConnect App
- B. RailOne App
- C. BharatRail App
- D. IRCTC Plus App

**ANSWER: B**



**10. In Which Indian State Has Reliance Defence And Coastal Mechanics Launched A New Defence MRO Hub**

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

**ANSWER: C**

**11. Under Which Article Of The Indian Constitution Was The GST Council Established**

- A. Article 279A
- B. Article 370
- C. Article 246A
- D. Article 368

**ANSWER: A**

**12. Which Country Has Launched The Synthetic Human Genome Project**

- A. United States
- B. Germany
- C. Canada
- D. United Kingdom

**ANSWER: D**

**13. In Which Indian State Has The Union Cabinet Approved A ₹1,853 Crore Four-lane Highway Project On NH-87**

- A. Kerala
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Karnataka
- D. Andhra Pradesh

**ANSWER: B**

**14. Who Became The Youngest Mountaineer To Scale Mount Elbrus**

- A. Teghbir Singh
- B. Arjun Vajpai
- C. Shivangi Pathak
- D. Krushnaa Patil

**ANSWER: A**

**15. Who Has Been Appointed As The Chief Mentor For The India Energy Stack Initiative**

- A. Raghuram Rajan
- B. K. VijayRaghavan
- C. Arvind Subramanian
- D. Nandan Nilekani

**ANSWER: D**

**16. In Which City Will Old Petrol And Diesel Vehicles Be Banned From Getting Fuel Starting July 1, 2025**

- A. Mumbai
- B. Bengaluru
- C. New Delhi
- D. Hyderabad

**ANSWER: C**

**17. Central Adoption Resource Authority Is A Statutory Body Of Which Ministry**

- A. Ministry of Social Justice
- B. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- C. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

**ANSWER: B**

**18. Employment Linked Incentive Scheme Was Announced In Which Union Budget**

- A. Union Budget 2023–24
- B. Union Budget 2022–23
- C. Union Budget 2024–25
- D. Union Budget 2021–22

**ANSWER: C**

**19. Which Country Has Launched The Global Observing Satellite For Greenhouse Gases And Water Cycle**

- A. China
- B. India
- C. Australia
- D. Japan

**ANSWER: D**

**20. Where Is India's First Wooden Gurudwara Named Sri Nanak Niwas Established**

- A. Fazlika, Punjab
- B. Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
- C. Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- D. Dehradun, Uttarakhand

**ANSWER: A**

