

Daily Current Affairs

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Return Journey Of Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla

- The return journey of **Indian Astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla** and three other crew members of the Axiom-4 mission will begin today.
- In a social media post, **Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** said, the undocking has been **scheduled for today at 4:30 PM IST**. He said, the crew will arrive back to earth tomorrow at around 3 PM IST.



- After landing, **Group Captain Shukla, along with other crew members**, will undergo a 7-day rehabilitation programme under the supervision of the Flight Surgeons to adapt back to Earth's gravity.
- **Group Captain Shukla is on a 14-day mission to the International Space Station.** He became the first Indian to visit the International Space Station and the second Indian astronaut after **Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma**, who went to space in 1984. During the journey, Group Captain Shukla conducted seven India-specific experiments.

Four Prominent Personalities To Rajya Sabha

- President Droupadi Murmu has **nominated eminent lawyer Ujjwal Deorao Nikam, Social Worker C Sadanandan Master, former Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla and historian and academician Dr Meenakshi Jain** to the Rajya Sabha. In a notification, the Ministry of Home Affairs informed about the decision.



- Mr Nikam** who hails from **Maharashtra** has served as a government counsel in the Mumbai terror attacks case. **C. Sadanandan Master from Kerala** has a long career in education. He has been a victim of political violence and lost both his legs. **Mr. Shringla** has also served as **Ambassador** to the United States, Bangladesh and Thailand. He served as Chief Coordinator for India's G20 Presidency in 2023.
- Dr. Jain** has served as **Associate Professor of history at Gargi College**, University of Delhi. The President nominates 12 persons to the Upper House of Parliament for their contributions towards arts, literature, sciences and social services.



National Seminar 'Shalyacon 2025'

- All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi, is organising **Shalyacon 2025**, a three-day national seminar starting today, in celebration of the auspicious 'Sushruta Jayanti'. Celebrated annually on 15th July, Sushruta Jayanti commemorates the legendary Acharya Sushruta, revered as the Father of Surgery. The seminar will feature live surgical demonstrations including general surgeries, anorectal surgeries, and urosurgical cases.



- **On the first day, 10 general endoscopic laparoscopic surgeries** will be performed. **The second day will include sixteen anorectal surgery** live surgical procedures, offering participants an opportunity to observe and learn from real-time surgical practices.



- **The final day will also feature over 200 oral and poster presentations**, contributing to the ongoing scholarly dialogue and academic enrichment. With a theme focused on Innovation, Integration, and Inspiration, Shalyacon 2025 is poised to be a dynamic confluence of tradition and technology. It is expected to **attract over 500 eminent scholars, surgeons**, researchers, and academicians from India and abroad.
- **The event will facilitate the exchange of ideas**, showcase clinical advancements, and explore emerging trends in Ayurvedic surgical practices.
- **Shalya tantra deals with the extraction of foreign bodies (shalya)**, diseases that require surgical /para surgical management (treats diseases, injuries and deformities by manual or operative methods).

PM Modi Lauds Inclusion Of 12 Historic Forts

- **Maratha Military Landscapes of India has been** inscribed on the **UNESCO World Heritage List, becoming India's 44th property** to receive this recognition. This global accolade celebrates India's enduring cultural legacy, showcasing its diverse traditions of architectural brilliance, regional identity, and historical continuity.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Minister of Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis lauded the historic milestone and congratulated the people of India for this achievement. This decision was taken at the 47th Session of the **World Heritage Committee**. **Spanning from the 17th to 19th centuries CE, Maratha Military Landscapes** of India is an extraordinary network of twelve forts that demonstrates the strategic military vision and architectural ingenuity of the Maratha Empire.



- **Spread across the states of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu**, the selected sites, include Salher, Shivneri, Lohgad, Khanderi, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala, Vijaydurg, and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, along with Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu.
- The proposal was sent to the **consideration of World Heritage Committee** in January 2024 and after a rigorous eighteen-month long process involving several technical meetings with the advisory bodies and visit of International Council on Monuments and Sites mission to review the sites, this historic decision was taken by the members of the **World Heritage Committee last evening at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has lauded the inclusion of the Maratha Military Landscapes in the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage List. In a social media post, Mr Modi **said that every Indian is elated with this recognition**. He said that these Maratha Military Landscapes include twelve majestic forts, eleven of which are in Maharashtra and one is in Tamil Nadu.



- **Maratha Empire is associated with good governance, military strength**, cultural pride and social welfare. Prime Minister added that the great rulers inspire the countrymen with their refusal to bow to any injustice. Mr Modi also urged citizens to visit these forts and learn about the rich history of the Maratha Empire.

Govt Launches First- Ever Incentive Scheme

- **Heavy Industries Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy** launched a scheme to incentivise electric trucks (e-trucks) under the **PM E-DRIVE Scheme**. This is the **first time that the government has launched** support for electric trucks to help the country's transition to clean and sustainable freight mobility.



- The scheme aims to support the **deployment of around 5 thousand 6 hundred e-trucks**, promoting indigenous manufacturing and reducing logistics costs and carbon footprint.
- **To ensure the reliability of electric trucks**, the manufacturers will provide a comprehensive manufacturer-backed warranty. This will include a five-year or five-hundred-thousand-kilometre warranty for the battery. Speaking on the occasion, H.D. Kumaraswamy said a dedicated provision has been made to reserve incentives for **approximately one thousand one hundred e-trucks registered in Delhi**, with an outlay of one hundred crore rupees. He said the scheme provides **financial incentives for N2 and N3 category e-trucks**, with demand **incentives ranging up to 9.6 lakh rupees**, depending on the gross vehicle weight.



- The **N2 category includes trucks with a gross vehicle weight of above 3.5 tonnes and up to 12 tonnes, while the N3 category covers those exceeding 12 tonnes up to 55 tonnes.**
- The Minister said that the **potential beneficiaries of the scheme include** e-truck users in the cement, ports, steel, and logistics sectors. The scheme is a strategic move to support India's commitment to reducing vehicular emissions and **achieving its net-zero 2070 goals.**
- **To ensure the reliability of electric trucks**, manufacturers will provide a comprehensive warranty, and scrapping old polluting trucks is mandatory to avail of incentives.

Australia Announces 34 Maitri Awards

- **Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong announced the 34 recipients** of this year's Maitri Grants, Fellowships and Scholarships, aimed at promoting Australia-India ties.



- **Maitri Grants, administered by the Centre for Australia-India Relations,** aims to support greater exchange and collaboration with India across technology, business, education and culture.
- **Wong said Australia and India's relationship** is closer and more important than ever. She said **both countries are deepening cooperation across priority** sectors that are vital to both nations' futures, including in defence, trade, education, and technology.

New Caledonia To Become New State In French Republic

- **France has announced a historic deal with New Caledonia** in which the South Pacific overseas territory will be declared a new state. The **13-page accord, reached** after negotiations in Paris, proposes the creation of a State of New Caledonia, **within the French Republic,** inscribed in the **French constitution, and the creation of a Caledonian nationality** alongside French nationality.



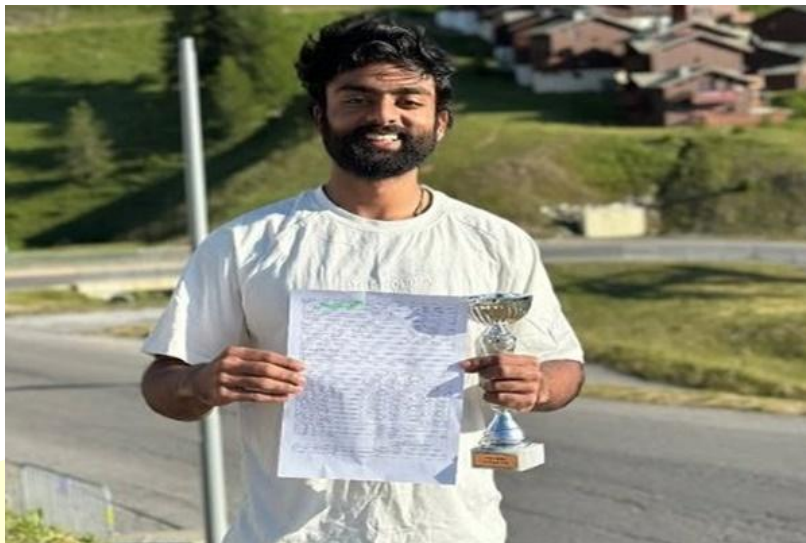
- The deal also calls for an **economic and financial recovery pact** that would include a **renewal of the territory's nickel processing capabilities**. The agreement hailed by French President Emmanuel Macron as historic still needs final approval in New Caledonia.



- **The accord may face a vote by New Caledonians in February.** France colonised the **Pacific archipelago in the 1850s**, and it became an overseas territory after World War II, with French citizenship granted to all Kanaks in 1957. The last independence referendum in New Caledonia was held in 2021.

A Ra Harikrishnan Becomes India's 87th Grandmaster

- A Ra Harikrishnan Earned His **Third Gm-norm At The La Plagne International Chess Festival In France** To Become The **Country's 87th Grandmaster**.
- The **Chennai-based Chess Professional Earned His First GM Norm** In July 2023 At The Biel International Chess Festival In Switzerland. Harikrishnan, 24, Gained His Second One At Andujar Open In Spain Last Month.



- In Chess, A **Grandmaster (GM) Norm** Is A Performance In A Tournament That Meets Specific Criteria, Indicating A Strong Level Of Play. To Achieve The GM Title, A **Player Typically Needs To Earn Three GM Norms** And Reach A FIDE Rating Of 2500.

U.S. President Trump Imposes 30% Tariff

- U.S. President Donald Trump imposed a **30 per cent tariff on imports** from Mexico and the European Union, starting on August 1. The new tariffs were announced in separate letters posted on Truth Social.
- In his letter to the **European Union, Trump said the U.S. trade deficit** was a national security threat. The announcement came after weeks of negotiations with key trading allies failed to produce a more comprehensive trade deal. The **27-member EU, America's biggest trading partner**, said earlier this week it hoped to reach a deal with Washington before August 1.
- **Earlier this week, Trump announced new tariffs on several countries**, including Japan, South Korea, Canada, and Brazil, as well as a 50 percent tariff on copper.



Iga Swiatek

- In Tennis, world No.4 Iga Swiatek was crowned Wimbledon champion after a stunning 6-0, 6-0 victory over 13th seed Amanda Anisimova on Centre Court, in London.



- The match lasted just 57 minutes, marking a **historic milestone as the first women's final in the Open Era to be won without** the champion dropping a single game.
- **The triumph secures Swiatek's maiden Wimbledon title** and her sixth Grand Slam overall. It also marks her 100th match win at a Grand Slam, and makes her the first Polish player to win a Wimbledon singles title.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. New Caledonia To Become New State In

- A. France
- B. USA
- C. UK
- D. Japan

ANSWER: A

2. Maratha Military Landscapes Becomes India's ____ Property To Receive UNESCO Recognition

- A. 54
- B. 44
- C. 64
- D. 74

ANSWER: B

3. A Ra Harikrishnan Becomes India's ____ Grandmaster

- A. 80
- B. 85
- C. 86
- D. 87

ANSWER: D

4. Erasmus Plus Programme Is A Flagship Initiative Of Which Organization

- A. European Union (EU)
- B. World Bank
- C. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- D. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

ANSWER: A

5. Extended Range Anti- Submarine Rocket Is Developed By Which Organization

- A. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- B. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)
- C. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- D. Bharat Electronics Limited

ANSWER: C

6. Which State Government Launched Mukhyamantri Sehat Yojana In July 2025

- A. Haryana
- B. Punjab
- C. Bihar
- D. Uttarakhand

ANSWER: B

7. Which District In Kerala Won The Fisheries Department Excellence Award 2025

- A. Alappuzha
- B. Ernakulam
- C. Kasaragod
- D. Kollam

ANSWER: C

8. Which Country Has Become The First African Country To Eliminate Onchocerciasis

- A. Kenya
- B. Libya
- C. Algeria
- D. Niger

ANSWER: D

9. Which Two Countries Are Involved In The Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport Project

- A. India and Bangladesh
- B. India and Myanmar
- C. India and Nepal
- D. Nepal and China

ANSWER: B

10. Eklavya Model Residential School Is A Flagship Scheme Of Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- B. Ministry of Education
- C. Ministry of Urban Development
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

ANSWER: A

11. Nyangai Island, Is Located In Which Country

- A. Nigeria
- B. Ghana
- C. Mali
- D. Sierra Leone

ANSWER: D

12. World Rural Development Day Is Observed Every Year On Which Day

- A. July 5
- B. July 6
- C. July 7
- D. July 8

ANSWER: B

13. Which State Won The Highest Number Of Medals For India At The World Police And Fire Games 2025 Held In Alabama, USA

- A. Bihar
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Haryana

ANSWER: C

14. Sakambari Festival Is Mainly Celebrated In Which State

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

ANSWER: C

15. Which Country Became The First Caribbean Nation To Enable UPI Payments For Indian Travellers

- A. Jamaica
- B. Bahamas
- C. Trinidad & Tobago
- D. Barbados

ANSWER: C

16. Which International Group's Chamber Launched WE WISE Initiative To Promote Women In Innovation, Science, Entrepreneurship

- A. ASEAN
- B. G20
- C. BRICS
- D. SAARC

ANSWER: C

17. Which Country Completed Construction Of Grand Renaissance Dam

- A. Ethiopia
- B. Sudan
- C. Egypt
- D. Uganda

ANSWER: A

18. Who won SuperUnited Rapid And Blitz 2025 Chess Tournament Held In Zagreb

- A. Wesley So
- B. D Gukesh
- C. R Praggnanandhaa
- D. Magnus Carlsen

ANSWER: D

19. Which Country Became The First Asian Team To Win A Test Match At Edgbaston, Birmingham

- A. Pakistan
- B. India
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Bangladesh

ANSWER: B

20. Who Assassinated Grahavarmana, The Brother In Law Of Harshavardhan

- A. Shashanka of Gauda
- B. Kirtivarman
- C. Chandragupta
- D. Narsimhavarman

ANSWER: A