

# Daily Current Affairs

## 28 July 2025

### Mann Ki Baat

- In the 124th episode of Mann Ki Baat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised Navin Kumar, a weaver from Silao in Nalanda district in Bihar. Talking to Akashvani News, Mr. Kumar expressed his gratitude towards the Prime Minister. He said the members of **Nepura Silk Primary Weavers Cooperative Committee Limited** are overwhelmed.



- Mr. Kumar said the weaving and handloom is his ancestral business but after the formation of the **Cooperative Committee 261 weavers and** workers have joined and become self-reliant. The group from Silao also crafts famous Bawan booty sari and produces silk yarn.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat' today praised the traditional craftsmanship of Paithani sarees and specially appreciated the contribution of Kavita Dhawale from Paithan in Chhatrapati **Sambhajnagar district of Maharashtra**. Expressing her happiness and gratitude, Ms. Dhawale thanked the Prime Minister for recognizing the efforts of artisans involved in the creation of Paithani sarees, a traditional and exquisite handloom product of Maharashtra.



- **Kavita Dhawale, who runs a Paithani saree production** centre in Paithan, stated that over 350 women have received employment through her centre. She also acknowledged the significant support received from the government in promoting and sustaining this traditional craft. The handloom centre provides artisans with the **necessary materials required for weaving Paithani sarees.**



- Paithani sarees are a distinguished and traditional form of attire originating from the town of Paithan in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district.
- **Known for their characteristic square motifs and intricate peacock designs** on the pallu (decorative end), Paithanis are easily recognizable and considered among the most exquisite and expensive sarees in India. These sarees are made using the finest silk available in the country and are regarded as a symbol of Maharashtrian heritage and skilled craftsmanship.

1. **Paithani sarees** are known for their **rich zari work** and traditional motifs like peacocks and lotus flowers.
2. They are made of **pure silk** sourced locally from Maharashtra.
3. The weaving process is entirely **handwoven**, making each saree unique.
4. Paithan, the town of origin, was a prominent center of trade during the **Satavahana dynasty**.
5. The sarees are known for their **dual-tone (shot) effect**, created using two different colored silk threads.
6. Authentic Paithani sarees take weeks to months to weave, depending on the design.
7. They are a popular choice for **weddings and festivals** in Maharashtra.

## Australia, UK Sign 50- Year Geelong Treaty

- **Australia and the United Kingdom (UK)** have signed a **50-year commitment to the AUKUS defence treaty despite** the United States' ongoing review of the pact. Australia's Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles and UK Defence Secretary John Healey signed the **bilateral Nuclear-Powered Submarine Partnership and Collaboration Treaty** (the Geelong Treaty) at their meeting in Geelong, Victoria.



- **Marles and Healey said in a joint statement that the Geelong Treaty** is a historic agreement, the commitment for the **next 50 years of UK-Australian** bilateral defence cooperation under AUKUS Pillar I. The Geelong Treaty will enable comprehensive cooperation on the design, build, operation,



sustainment, and disposal of their **SSN-AUKUS submarines**, according to the statement.

- The signing of the treaty came as the United States wavered on its role in the **AUKUS alliance**. The US Department of Defence has announced a review of the trilateral security partnership to determine whether the agreement aligns with the America First agenda.

## WADA Intelligence And Investigations Workshop

- **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and National Anti-Doping Agency- NADA** hosted the second edition of World Anti-Doping Agency- WADA Intelligence and Investigations Workshop. The workshop was held from 21st to 25 July in New Delhi. The workshop, organized under the aegis of **WADA and in partnership with INTERPOL and Sport Integrity Australia**, was attended by representatives from **National Anti- Doping Organizations** and law enforcement agencies.



- It included countries like India, Malaysia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, and the Philippines.
- **Over the five-day workshop, participants took part in in-depth sessions** covering key areas such as intelligence operations, investigative methodologies, managing confidential sources, open-source intelligence gathering, and effective

analysis and interviewing techniques. **The discussions brought into focus the growing need for intelligence-led, collaborative efforts to protect athletes and preserve the values of fair and clean competition.**



## India And Indonesia

- **Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA) and the Indonesian Palm Oil Association (IPOA) signed a 3-year MoU during the IVPA conference in New Delhi to enhance cooperation in the palm oil sector, focusing on productivity, sustainability, and policy alignment.**



- **The agreement emphasises joint research, technology transfer, and sharing of best practices to increase productivity while reducing environmental impact.**

- A **key focus is developing a sustainability** roadmap that promotes certified sustainable palm oil, improves traceability, and ensures the inclusion of smallholder farmers.

## NASA Launches TRACERS Mission

- **NASA successfully launched the TRACERS mission** (Tandem Reconnection and Cusp Electrodynamics Reconnaissance Satellites) aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from California's Vandenberg Space Force Base to study how Earth's magnetic field shields us from space weather.



- The **twin TRACERS satellites will fly in tandem**, just 10 seconds apart, through the polar cusp — an open region of Earth's magnetic field near the North Pole — to investigate magnetic reconnection, a powerful process where magnetic field lines from the Sun and Earth snap and realign, releasing energy.
- **Over the next year, TRACERS will collect a record 3,000 measurements**, helping scientists better understand how solar wind impacts Earth's space environment and providing insights that could improve protection for satellites, astronauts, and power grids.
- **Launched alongside TRACERS were NASA's Athena, PEX, and REAL missions**, which aim to demonstrate new space technologies and gather valuable scientific data, with all satellites successfully deployed and undergoing initial contact and commissioning procedures.



## Thailand-Cambodia Border Conflict

- **Thailand-Cambodia border conflict intensified in July 2025**, with military strikes and deadly clashes resulting in civilian casualties and diplomatic strain. Both nations accuse each other of sovereignty violations amid ongoing disputes over territory and historic temples.



- The situation remains volatile with **military engagements and political repercussions**. In late July 2025, Thailand's army launched air strikes targeting Cambodian military positions along their disputed border. Thailand **deployed F-16 fighter jets and claimed** to have destroyed Cambodian regional support units. **Fighting occurred at six locations**, prompting evacuation of Thai border residents.



- **Cambodia accused Thailand of excessive force while** Thailand condemned Cambodian landmine placements injuring Thai soldiers. The conflict centres on a border **spanning over 800 kilometres**, rooted in colonial-era maps from 1907. Both countries claim sovereignty over areas including the **Prasat Ta Muen Thom temple near Surin province** and the Preah Vihear temple on the Cambodia-Thailand border.



- These sites hold **religious and cultural significance** and have been flashpoints for decades. Clashes on 24 July 2025 were reported near Prasat Ta Muen Thom, a Khmer archaeological site. Thailand accused Cambodia of drone surveillance and attacks near the temple.
- **Cambodia denied these claims, stating Thai troops initiated** incursions violating Cambodian territory. The temple complex includes Hindu and Buddhist structures built under King Jayavarman VII. **Diplomatic relations deteriorated**



**sharply** after mutual accusations of violence. Thailand's foreign ministry condemned Cambodia's alleged mine-laying and artillery shelling. Cambodia responded with bans on Thai media and imports. Political instability in Thailand followed a leaked phone call involving the Prime Minister, which sparked protests and coalition shifts.



- **The Preah Vihear temple dispute remains unresolved** despite International Court of Justice rulings favouring Cambodia in 1962 and 2013. The temple, a **UNESCO World Heritage site**, is claimed by both nations. Attempts to create a demilitarised zone failed, and Thailand rejects the court's jurisdiction. This has led to repeated violent clashes and displacement of civilians.
- The conflict has **disrupted daily life for border communities**. Crossings have been restricted to essential travel such as students and medical cases. Trade bans and internet disruptions have further isolated the regions. Civilians face heightened insecurity due to ongoing military activity and political tensions.

## Athlete Seema

- **Indian athlete Seema scripted history** at the ongoing World University Games at Rhine-Ruhr by becoming the first woman to win a medal in the 5000m final event at the championships. Seema clinched silver with a season-best time of 15 minutes 35.86 seconds, which was also her second quickest time ever in the event.



- **Sahil Jadhav won the gold medal in the men's compound** individual event, as Indian archers finished their campaign with five medals. Earlier, archer Preneet Kaur won a silver in a thrilling women's compound final. Compound archers also won mixed team gold, men's team silver and women's team bronze.



- **Praveen Chitravel won the silver medal in triple jump** with a brilliant jump of 16.66 meters in his second attempt. India's total medal tally has gone up to nine. **The 32nd edition of the competition is being** held in six cities of Germany. The 2023 edition in Chengdu was India's best performance so far, where the country finished seventh with 26 medals.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Paithani Saree Originated From Which State**

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Telangana
- D. Kerala

**ANSWER: B**

**2. Which Initiative Of Kerala Recently Recognised By The UNICEF As A Global Best Practice In Responsible Educational Technology**

- A. KITE (Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education)
- B. Kerala Vidyalaxmi Scheme
- C. Kerala e-VIDYA
- D. DIKSHA platform

**ANSWER: A**

**3. Which State Government Has Launched A 'Shaktisree Programme' To Ensure Safety Of Girl Students In Colleges And Universities**

- A. Uttarakhand
- B. Odisha
- C. Gujarat
- D. Jharkhand

**ANSWER: B**

**4. Who Has Been Appointed As The New Chairman Of The Insurance Regulatory And Development Authority Of India**

- A. Nitin Gupta
- B. Akash Agarwal
- C. Vikrant Singh
- D. Ajay Seth

**ANSWER: D**



**5. Where Was The Maritime Financing Summit 2025 Held**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**6. Syros Island, Lies In Which Country**

- A. France
- B. Greece
- C. Spain
- D. Indonesia

**ANSWER: B**

**7. Where Was The Gorbea Solar Power Project Inaugurated**

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

**ANSWER: D**

**8. Where Is The Wandan Mud Volcano Located**

- A. Japan
- B. Taiwan
- C. Philippines
- D. Indonesia

**ANSWER: B**

**9. Which State Government Signed An MoU With FTII To Promote The Creators' Economy And Train Rural Youth**

- A. Gujarat
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Punjab

**ANSWER: B**

**10. Which State Became First In India To Cap Electors Per Polling Booth Below 1,200**

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Gujarat
- D. Bihar

**ANSWER: D**

**11. Which City's Government Announced A 7 Crore Rupee Cash Reward For Olympic Medalists Under Mukhyamantri Khel Protsahan Yojana**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**12. Which Country Withdrew From UNESCO For The Second Time**

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

**ANSWER: C**

**13. Which organisation signed an MoU with Ministry of Rural Development to promote the Bima Sakhi Yojana**

- A. NABARD
- B. SBI
- C. LIC
- D. SEBI

**ANSWER: C**

**14. Where Will The 4th Edition Of World Food India 2025 Be Held**

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

**ANSWER: D**

**15. Which State's Assembly Is Setting Up A 'Shaurya Vatika' To Honour Kargil Martyrs**

- A. Punjab
- B. Haryana
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Uttar Pradesh

**ANSWER: C**

**16. Which Country Is Set To Implement A Sugar-based Tax On Sweetened Beverages**

- A. United Arab Emirates
- B. Saudi Arabia
- C. Qatar
- D. Oman

**ANSWER: A**

**17. What Is India's New Rank In The Henley Passport Index After Making The Biggest Jump In 2025**

- A. 85th
- B. 77th
- C. 59th
- D. 68th

**ANSWER: B**

**18. Which Launch Vehicle Is Scheduled To Carry The ISRO-NASA NISAR Satellite Into Orbit**

- A. PSLV-C58
- B. Falcon 9
- C. LVM3-M5
- D. GSLV-F16

**ANSWER: D**



**19. In Which Country Was A Replica Of The Ashoka Pillar Unveiled At The Waskaduwa Sri Subhuthi Viharaya**

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Nepal
- C. Thailand
- D. Myanmar

**ANSWER: A**

**20. Which Of The Following Are The Famous Temples Of Gupta Empire**

- A. Mukund Darra Temple, Kota
- B. Dasavtar Temple, Jhansi
- C. Vishnu Temple, Tigawa
- D. All of the above

**ANSWER: D**

