

# Monthly July Current Affairs 2025

## PM Modi Embarked Five Nation Tour

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a **five-nation visit to Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, Brazil, and Namibia beginning**. Addressing a special media briefing in New Delhi, Secretary, Economic Relations in the External Affairs Ministry, **Dammu Ravi said, the Prime Minister** will undertake a **visit to Ghana from 2nd to 3rd of next month** on the first leg of his five-nation tour. He said, this will be his **first ever bilateral visit to Ghana** and the Prime Minister will hold talks with the President of Ghana. He said, **both the nations will review the strong bilateral partnership** and discuss further avenues to enhance economic, energy, and defence collaboration, and development cooperation partnership.



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## India - Ghana

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** held a bilateral meeting with the President of Ghana, John Mahama, at Jubilee House in Accra last night. Both leaders discussed various ways to **strengthen and deepen bilateral relations**. Four MoUs were signed following the talks, including in the areas of cultural exchange and traditional music.



- The Prime Minister arrived in Accra yesterday on a state visit to Ghana. He was accorded a **ceremonial welcome by President Mahama**, including a guard of honour and a **21-gun salute at the airport**. both sides discussed expanding cooperation in **trade, investment, agriculture**, digital technology, capacity building, infrastructure, and people-to-people ties. They welcomed the growing bilateral trade and Indian investments in Ghana, and also discussed defence and security cooperation. PM Modi said, in the defence and security sector, we will move forward with the guiding principle of '**Security through Solidarity.**'
- Collaboration will be strengthened in key areas such as armed forces training, maritime security, defence supply chains, and cybersecurity." They committed to deepening **development partnerships through India-supported infrastructure** and capacity-building projects, offering expertise in health, pharma, UPI, and skill development. The two leaders also discussed UN reforms and agreed on the need for stronger global counter-terrorism cooperation.



- Following the talks, four MoUs in culture, standards, Ayurveda and traditional medicine, and a joint commission mechanism were exchanged. Later, at a State Banquet hosted by President Mahama, the Prime Minister received the national honour of **Ghana – Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana** – by the President of Ghana, John Mahama, in recognition of his distinguished statesmanship and influential global leadership. Ghana Foreign Minister reading the citation of the **Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana**.



- A groundbreaking step **towards food self-sufficiency**, Ghana has launched a climate-resilient wheat initiative in collaboration with India's Arima Farms and CSIR-Crops Research Institute.



- With wheat imports **crossing \$400 million annually**, this project aims to cut dependency and boost local farming. Arima Farms MD, Saalai Manikam,



highlighted how South-South cooperation is driving agricultural innovation. She also shared how many Ghanaians admire and follow Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. A new chapter in India-Ghana partnership is being sown.

## 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.

## India Signs 6 Agreements With Trinidad, Tobago

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** held wide-ranging talks with his Trinidad & Tobago counterpart **Kamla Persad-Bissessar** at the iconic Red House in Port of Spain last evening. Following the talks, **the two countries signed six agreements** to enhance cooperation in several sectors including infrastructure and pharmaceuticals.



- Prime Minister Modi said, the **two countries have agreed to deepen economic** ties and enhance cooperation in areas such as disaster management, climate change, defence, technology, healthcare and agricultural research.
- They also reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen global fight against terrorism. **Mr Modi reiterated India's commitment to India-CARICOM ties** and to furthering the voice of the Global South.

## Order Of Trinidad & Tobago Caribbean Nations

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred **with 'The Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago'**. Mr Modi said he is honoured to be conferred with the country's highest national award.
- **He said he accepts it on behalf of 140 crore** Indians. Prime Minister Modi met the President of Trinidad and Tobago, Christine Kangaloo, at the President's House, Port of Spain.





## PM Modi Reaches Argentina

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached **Argentina's capital Buenos Aires** this morning on the third leg of his five-nation tour that aims to reinforce India's **engagements with the Global South**.
- Prime Minister Modi will begin his visit to **Argentina this evening by paying respects at the statue of General José de San Martín**, Argentina's revered freedom fighter and national hero.
- This visit is expected to **further strengthen the Strategic Partnership** and open new avenues of cooperation. Key areas include trade and investment, health and pharmaceuticals, defense and security, infrastructure, mining and mineral resources, agriculture and food security, green energy, ICT and digital innovation, disaster management, science and technology, education, and people-to-people linkages.



- Prime Minister Modi is visiting **Argentina at the invitation of President Javier Milei**. The last meeting between the two leaders took place in November 2024 on the sidelines of the **G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**.
- While the **Prime Minister visited Argentina in 2018 to attend the G20 Summit**, this marks the first bilateral visit to the country by an Indian Prime Minister in 57 years – making it a historic occasion.



- Prime Minister's visit comes at a particularly **significant moment, as Argentina is undergoing major economic reforms** – in some ways reminiscent of those previously undertaken in India. India and Argentina share cohesive and robust relations across a wide range of sectors, deepened over decades of cooperation.
- **The bilateral ties were elevated to the level of a Strategic Partnership** in 2019, and the two countries celebrated 75 years of diplomatic relations in 2024. People-to-people connections are also strong, with Indian traditions such as Yoga, Ayurveda, and philosophy enjoying popularity in Argentina.

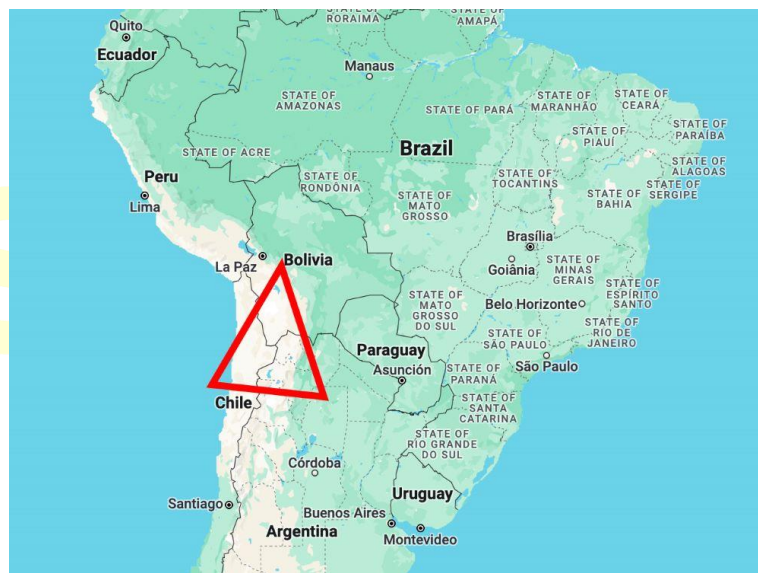


- **India's advancements in sectors such as defense manufacturing, space, information technology, and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** could offer



valuable opportunities for Argentina. In addition, India's expertise in telemedicine and digital healthcare solutions presents a promising pathway for Argentina to enhance access to affordable, quality healthcare.

- **Argentina possesses the world's second-largest shale gas reserves** and the fourth-largest shale oil reserves, along with substantial conventional oil and gas deposits. This positions it as a potentially important energy partner for India in the future.
- Furthermore, **Argentina's rich deposits of critical minerals** – including lithium, copper, and other rare earth elements – complement India's growing need for secure and sustainable supplies to support its clean energy transition and industrial development. Together with Bolivia and Chile, Argentina forms the so-called '**Lithium Triangle.**'



- **Lithium is essential for modern technologies**, particularly for rechargeable batteries used in electric vehicles, portable electronics, and energy storage systems for renewables. Toward this end, Indian public sector companies such as Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. and Coal India Ltd. have secured certain concessions in Argentina's Catamarca province.
- This partnership is expected to be a key topic during discussions between the two leaders. Following his visit to Argentina, Prime Minister Modi will travel to **Brazil to participate in the BRICS Summit** in Rio de Janeiro, before proceeding to Namibia – the final stop on his tour.

## India- Brazil To Sign 4 Agreements

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Brasilia for his State Visit to Brazil.** He was warmly received by Brazil's Minister of Defence, Jose Mucio Monteiro Filho, at the airport. He arrived in Brasilia after attending the two-day BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro from July 6-7.
- **Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal,** stated that taking new strides in India-Brazil steadfast partnership, Prime Minister Modi landed in the capital city.



- Prime Minister Modi will hold bilateral discussions with Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on broadening the **Strategic Partnership between the two nations** in areas of mutual interest. The talks will also include trade, defence, energy, space, technology, agriculture, health and people-to-people linkages. This will be followed by a delegation-level talk. **Both countries will sign MoUs to foster cooperation** in areas of mutual interest.
- The Indian Ambassador to Brazil, Dinesh Bhatia, had informed earlier that the four MoUs will be signed during the Prime Minister's bilateral meetings. These will be on working together on **counter terrorism, to mutually share confidential information, cooperate in Renewable energy and Agriculture research**. The Prime Minister will then depart for Namibia, which is the last leg of the Prime Minister's five-nation visit abroad.

## BRICS Summit

- **Addressing the 17th Brics Summit in Rio de Janeiro**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi strongly advocated for comprehensive reforms in **global governance structures, emphasising** the need to better represent the Global South in 21st-century decision-making. **"Two-thirds of humanity has not been adequately** represented in the global institutions formed in the 20th century. Countries that have a major contribution to today's global economy have not been given a place at **the decision-making table**. This is not just a question of representation but also a question of credibility and effectiveness. Without the Global South, these **institutions seem like a mobile with a SIM card but no network**," he said.



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi today participated in the Outreach Session on **‘Strengthening Multilateralism, Economic-Financial Affairs and Artificial Intelligence’**, along with BRICS members, partners and outreach invitees, at the 17th BRICS Summit. In his address, Mr Modi emphasised **BRICS as a catalyst for global cooperation and a multipolar world**. He urged demand-driven approach and long-term financial sustainability in NDB-led projects. The Prime Minister highlighted India’s initiatives in agri-biotech, digital education access, and called for a BRICS Science and Research Repository. On AI, he stressed responsible governance and invited the BRICS partners to the **“AI Impact Summit”** that India will be hosting next year.





- Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a strong pitch for a world order that is **multipolar and inclusive**. Making an intervention during the first session of the BRICS Summit that began in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, the Prime Minister stressed that this has to start with **comprehensive reforms in global institutions**. He said such measures should not merely be symbolic but their real impact should be visible. He advocated for change in **governance structures, voting rights and leadership positions**. He also urged for higher priority for the global south in policy making. Making his views clear, the Prime Minister noted that the global **south often faces double standards about** development, distribution of resources, and security related matters.



- He further said that the interests of the global south are not given due importance. These **countries in the global south receive nothing** more than

token gestures on topics like climate finance, sustainable development and technology access. Hence the Prime Minister said that these **institutions have failed to offer effective solutions during** the ongoing conflicts across the world, during the pandemic and economic crisis and during the emerging challenges in cyber and space.



- Mr Modi asked for a **determination to reform institutions** like the UN security Council, the WTO and Multilateral Development Bank. He made it clear that **21st Century software cannot run on 20th Century typewriters**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi today met with **Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim** on the sidelines of the 17th BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Both leaders reviewed progress in various areas of India-Malaysia's 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership', including defence, counter terrorism, education, trade and investment and pharma. The two leaders also discussed the India-ASEAN partnership. Mr Modi thanked Mr Ibrahim for his strong condemnation of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam.



- **Mr Modi also met the President of Cuba, Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez, on the sidelines of the Summit. Both leaders exchanged views on various facets of the India-Cuba relationship, including in the areas of economic cooperation, biotechnology, pharma, Ayurveda and traditional medicine, Digital Public Infrastructure and UPI, disaster management and capacity building.**



- **Brics, originally formed by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates, with Indonesia joining in 2025.** Together, the 11 nations now represent approximately 49.5 percent of the global population, 40 percent of global GDP, and 26 per cent of global trade. Notably, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin did not attend the summit in person.





## India, Argentina

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded a productive meeting with **Argentine President Javier Milei**. The visit marked the first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to **Argentina in 57 Years**. The two leaders held a brief one-on-one meeting, followed by delegation-level talks covering the full spectrum of bilateral ties.
- **They agreed to enhance cooperation in key sectors** including trade & commerce, technology, defence, space, health, and pharmaceuticals and further deepen the strategic partnership between the two countries.
- Prime Minister requested Argentina's support in expanding the **India-MERCOSUR preferential trade agreement**. Highlighting its strength in affordable and quality medicines, India called for easing of entry regulations for Indian pharma companies. Argentina confirmed that it will allow imports for **medicines having US FDA or European EMA approvals**.
- **Cooperation in energy and critical minerals was a key focus**. With vast reserves of **shale gas, oil, and lithium, Argentina is seen as a reliable partner** in powering India's growing clean energy and industrial needs. Collaboration in Space Sector, multiple use cases for drones and sports management were also discussed.



- **President Milei showed keen interest in India's UPI**, and both sides agreed to facilitate a central bank visit to study its role in monetary policy. Prime Minister thanked Argentina for their support following the Pahalgam terror attack. Prime Minister also invited President Milei to visit India.

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes** to Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore at their statues in Buenos Aires yesterday. In a social media post, Mr Modi said, Mahatma Gandhi's timeless vision and noble ideals will always guide humanity. Prime Minister said, the thoughts give strength and hope to millions. **Mr Modi said, Gurudev Tagore had visited Argentina in 1924** and had left a lasting impression on the minds of many people in this nation, especially scholars and students. He said, We in India take immense pride in the contributions of Gurudev Tagore to the nation's history and culture. The Prime Minister said, Gurudev Tagore's emphasis on learning and education is also very motivating.
- **Mr Modi was today presented with the 'Key to the City of Buenos Aires'** by Head of the City Government of Buenos Aires Jorge Macri. This ceremonial honour is in recognition of PM's contributions in strengthening India-Argentina ties.



## India, Namibia

- **India and Namibia signed MoUs in the field of Health and Medicine**, and on the setting up of Entrepreneurship Development Center in Namibia and on Cooperation. An announcement on launching of **Digital Payments system in Namibia later** this year also took place. Letters of acceptance for Namibia's **joining of CDRI and Global Biofuels Alliance** have also been presented.

- MoUs have been signed after the delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Namibian President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah at the State House in the Namibian capital, Windhoek.



- Addressing the media on the sidelines of the visit, Secretary Economic Relations of Ministry of External Affairs Dammu Ravi said **Namibia is the first country in the world where NPCI has done a technology agreement with a central bank for the implementation of UPI like payment system in the country.**
- **Both the leaders also touched upon the multilateral issues** like condemnation of terrorism and reforming of the multilateral institution. Prime Minister Modi also paid **tribute to Sam Nujoma, the founding father of the Namibian nation,** at the National Memorial Heroes' Acre in Windhoek. Prime Minister Modi in a social media post said that he reviewed the full range of India-Namibia relations during the talks with Namibian President.



- He said, **Cooperation in areas such as digital technology, defence, security, agriculture, healthcare, education** and critical minerals figured prominently



during discussions. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that Africa must not be viewed merely as a source of raw materials, but as a continent that must lead in value creation and sustainable growth.



- Addressing the **Namibian Parliament**, Mr Modi reiterated **India's strong support for the African Union's Agenda 2063**, particularly its industrialisation goals. He reaffirmed India's commitment to deepening collaboration in key sectors such as defence and security. Prime Minister Modi also reaffirmed **India's focus on capacity building of African youth and expansion of healthcare infrastructure in Namibia**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with **Namibia's highest civilian award, the Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis**, in recognition of his contributions to strengthening bilateral ties. This marks the **27th award received by Prime Minister Modi and the 4th during his ongoing tour**.
- The Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to the Namibian government and people. He said the honour is a testament to the everlasting friendship between India and Namibia. Mr. Modi noted that India and Namibia have stood by each other since the time of their respective freedom struggles.



## Mahayogi Guru Gorakhnath AYUSH University

- President Droupadi Murmu will formally inaugurate **Uttar Pradesh's first Mahayogi Guru Gorakhnath AYUSH University in Gorakhpur** in the presence of the Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. State's first AYUSH University, named after Mahayogi Guru Gorakhnath, will be inaugurated in Gorakhpur.



- It will be an important **centre for both education and treatment in traditional systems of medicine, including Ayurveda, Unani and Homoeopathy**. More than an academic institution, the university will open new avenues of employment and promote the **commercial cultivation of medicinal plants in the region**.



- The foundation stone of this **university was laid on August 28, 2021**, by then-President Ram Nath Kovind. **Spread over 52 acres**, the university has been developed with a sanctioned budget of more than **Rs 267 crore**.
- **Mahayogi Guru Gorakhnath is a figure revered in Hinduism**, particularly within the Nath tradition, and is associated with the establishment of the Nath sect and the practice of Yoga. Historians place Gorakhnath's existence between the 11th and 14th centuries, with some referencing his presence in texts by Kabir and Guru Nanak.



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## Sagar Mala vision

- Union Minister for Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal has said that the Central government has a **vision to professionalise 5000 km of navigable waterways** in the Country **connecting the ASEAN Nations by Cruise**. Speaking at the inaugural of the **first ASEAN-India cruise dialogue**, he said that the government's **initiative of Sagar Mala has a target of one million passengers** in 2029.





- He informed that the **cruise ship call, which was 102 in 2013 -2014, has increased to 14,272 calls**. The Minister said that in the past eleven years, the Government had taken numerous initiatives on policy, legislation, taxation and improving the infrastructure.
- Noting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that this is the **right time to enable public-private partnership to increase connectivity** and enable customs and immigration across the shores of the Country.



- Observing that **cruise tourism offers a promising avenue** to revive ancient culture in the modern world, he reiterated India's strong commitment to walking **closely with ASEAN Member states to co-create** and co-promote new circuits connecting the vibrant coastal cities and cultural destinations. He said that India is willing to start an integrated cruise network linking the country with other ASEAN nations to modern ports with efficient and real-time tracking systems.
- **Reflecting on the ancient waterways, the Minister** said that Tamilnadu is the most industrialised State with the second largest economy among the States with high literacy and health, education and governance standards among maritime States. He said that the **State had more than 16 ports** that helped in

maintaining direct **maritime links with China, Egypt and parts of Europe and Southeast Asian Countries**. He said that the Narendra Modi Government has a vision of **Viksit Bharat in 2047 and the ASEAN Community Vision 2045**. He said that India has the proud privilege of not only linking the ASEAN nations but also people-to-people relations in the Country.



## Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will embark on a **three-day official visit to the United States** from today, at the invitation of US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, to participate in the upcoming Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting, scheduled to be held tomorrow.



- In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said that the Quad grouping will focus on new proposals to advance a common vision for a **free and open Indo-Pacific**. Notably, this meeting will mark the first gathering of the Quad ministers following the Pahalgam attack. Dr. Jaishankar will also inaugurate an exhibition

titled “**The Human Cost of Terrorism**” at the **United Nations Headquarters in New York** . The exhibition will highlight the **devastating impact of terrorist acts worldwide**, as well as the steps taken by the international community to combat terrorism. The event comes just a day before Pakistan assumes the rotating presidency of the UN Security Council.

## Cabinet Approves Employment Linked Incentive Scheme

- Union Cabinet today approved around **one lakh crore rupees employment-linked incentive scheme** to boost employment generation in the country. The scheme is aimed at incentivising the **creation of over 3.5 Crore jobs** in the country over a period of two years. **Out of these, 1.92 Crore beneficiaries** will be first timers, entering the workforce.



### Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme

Cabinet approves ELI scheme to support employment generation, enhance employability and social security across all sectors, with special focus on the manufacturing sector

- Scheme aims to incentivize the creation of more than 3.5 Crore jobs in the country, over a period of 2 years
- Outlay of ₹ 99,446 Crore
- Benefits to be applicable to jobs created between 1st August 2025 and 31st July, 2027

**Incentive to First Time Employees:**

- One-month EPF wage up to Rs 15,000 in two installments
- Employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh will be eligible
- 1st installment will be payable after 6 months of service and the 2nd installment will be payable after 12 months of service
- To benefit around 1.92 crore first time employees

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- The benefits of the scheme will be applicable to jobs created between **01st August 2025 and 31st July, 2027**. The scheme also aims to generate employment and provide social security across all sectors, with special focus on the manufacturing sector. Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, **first-time employees will get one month's wage up to 15 thousand rupees** under the scheme. He said the employers will be given incentives for a period of up to two years for



generating additional employment, with extended benefits for another two years for the manufacturing sector.

**Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme**

Cabinet approves ELI scheme to support employment generation, enhance employability and social security across all sectors, with special focus on the manufacturing sector

**Support to Employers:**

- Employers will get incentives in respect of employees with salaries up to ₹ 1 lakh
- Up to Rs 3000 per month, for two years, for each additional employee with sustained employment for at least six months
- For manufacturing sector, incentives to be extended to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years also

The infographic also features a circular inset showing a hand holding several Indian Rupee banknotes and a portrait of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

- Government has decided to **incentivise employers, up to three thousand per month for two years**, for each additional employee with sustained employment for at least six months. **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, an employment-linked incentive scheme** was announced in the Union Budget 2024-25 as part of the Prime Minister's package of five schemes to facilitate employment, skilling and other opportunities **for over four crore youth with a total budget** outlay of two lakh crore rupees.
- **With the ELI Scheme, the government intends** to catalyse job creation in all sectors, particularly in the manufacturing sector, besides incentivising youth joining the workforce for the first time. An important outcome of the Scheme will also be formalisation of the country's workforce by extending social security coverage for crores of young men and women.
- **Mr. Vaishnaw further informed that the Union Cabinet** has also cleared the Research Development and Innovation Scheme with a corpus of one lakh crore rupees. The scheme aims to provide long-term financing or refinancing to spur private sector investment to bolster the country's research and innovation ecosystem.

## Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme

Cabinet approves RDI Scheme with corpus of ₹ 1 lakh Cr

- Scheme aims to provide long-term financing or refinancing with long tenors at low or nil interest rates to spur private sector investment in RDI
- Designed to overcome the constraints and challenges in funding of private sector
- Seeks to provide growth & risk capital to sunrise and strategic sectors to facilitate innovation
- Governing Board of Anusandhan National Research Foundation, chaired by the Prime Minister, will provide overarching strategic direction to the RDI Scheme

### Governance structure of the RDI Scheme shall include

- › Governing Board constituted under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) Act 2023
- › A Special Purpose Fund (SPF), the first-level custodian
- › The Executive Council constituted under ANRF



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- The Minister said that the scheme has been designed to overcome the constraints and challenges in funding of private sector and seeks to provide growth and risk capital to sunrise and strategic sectors to facilitate innovation, promote adoption of technology and enhance competitiveness.

## Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme

Cabinet approves RDI Scheme with corpus of ₹ 1 lakh Cr

- › An Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS), headed by the Cabinet Secretary
- › Department Science and Technology (DST)
- › 2<sup>nd</sup>-level Fund Managers
- RDI Scheme shall be implemented via the constitution of a Special Purpose Fund (SPF) within ANRF. This shall be the 1st level Fund Manager, which shall receive a 50-year interest free loan

### Key objectives:

- Encourage the private sector to scale up RDI in sunrise domains and in other sectors relevant for economic security, strategic purpose, and self-reliance;
- Finance transformative projects at higher levels of Technology Readiness Levels
- Support acquisition of technologies which are critical or of high strategic importance;
- Facilitate setting up of a Deep-Tech Fund of Funds



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- Mr. Vaishnaw added that the **National Sports Policy 2025** has also been approved to transform the country's sporting landscape and empower citizens with sporting activities. He said, with the implementation of the policy, the goal has been set to become the **top five sporting nations in the world**.





- During the briefing, Mr. Vaishnaw stated that the Union Cabinet has also given its nod for the construction of four lane **Paramakudi-Ramanathapuram section in Tamil Nadu with a cost of one thousand 853 crore rupees**. The total length of the project will be 46.7 kilometers and it will provide seamless connectivity by strengthening connectivity between major religious and economic centres, boosting tourism **to Rameshwaram and Dhanushkodi**.



### 4-Laning of Paramakudi-Ramanathapuram Section of NH-87


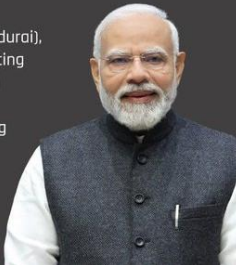
Cabinet approves construction of 4-Lane Paramakudi-Ramanathapuram Section in Tamil Nadu

 Total length of section **46.7 km**

 Project to cost **₹ 1,853 cr**

#### Benefits

- Provide seamless connectivity to key economic, social, and logistics nodes across southern Tamil Nadu
- Enhance multi-modal integration by connecting with 2 major Railway Stations (Madurai and Rameshwaram), 1 Airport (Madurai), and 2 minor ports (Pamban and Rameshwaram) thus facilitating faster movement of goods and passengers across the region
- Play a pivotal role in regional economic growth, strengthening connectivity between major religious and economic centers, boosting tourism to Rameshwaram and Dhanushkodi
- Generate approximate 8.4 lakh person-days of direct and 10.45 lakh person-days of indirect employment

## FIFA's F4S Programme

- **About 10 lakh footballs will be distributed** to schools across the country to boost participation in football and nurture a strong sporting culture among the students. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced this while flagging the **distribution of FIFA footballs as part of the Football for Schools (F4S)** at the PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya, Fort William in Kolkata.
- While speaking at the event, Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan shared that over **88,000 footballs will be distributed in West Bengal** alone, benefiting nearly 15 to 16 lakh children. Expressing his love for the sport, he emphasised that even a **single football in a small school** can inspire children to engage with the game and develop a genuine passion for playing. He further highlighted that approximately **10 lakh footballs will be distributed** to schools across the country.



- The F4S programme, spearheaded by **Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)**, aims to promote football at the grassroots level by making the sport more accessible to students within the school system. In India, the programme is implemented by the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL) with support from the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the **Sports Authority of India (SAI)**. Under the F4S program, FIFA is contributing more than 9.6 lakh footballs for school students in India, besides 129 other countries.

## Parag Jain Appointed As New RAW Chief

- Senior IPS officer Parag Jain has been appointed as the new chief of the **Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)**, succeeding Ravi Sinha, who retires on June 30; Jain will serve a two-year tenure.



- Jain, a 1989-batch IPS officer from the Punjab cadre, currently heads RAW's Aviation Research Centre (ARC) and is the second senior-most officer in the agency.

- He played a key role in intelligence operations during Operation Sindoor, launched after the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir, which led to retaliatory strikes by India.
- Jain's extensive experience includes handling the Pakistan desk, tenures in J&K during **Article 370 abrogation, and stints in Indian missions** in Sri Lanka and Canada monitoring Khalistani terror networks. Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) is India's premier external intelligence agency, focusing on gathering intelligence outside India to safeguard national security.



- **Established in 1968 by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi**, in the aftermath of the 1962 war with China and 1965 war with Pakistan, to improve India's external intelligence capabilities.
- Headquarters – New Delhi, India.

## Ladakh Hosts Its First Astro Tourism Festival

- Ladakh marked a significant step in promoting **science-based tourism** with the successful conclusion of its first-ever Astro Tourism Festival in Leh. Organized by **the Tourism Department of Ladakh in collaboration** with the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bangalore**, the two-day festival aimed to harness Ladakh's unique natural advantages—such as high altitude, dry climate, and low light pollution—to position the region as a leading destination for astro tourism. The event offered a blend of educational sessions and hands-on celestial observation, captivating tourists, astronomy enthusiasts, and science lovers alike.





- The first Ladakh Astro Tourism Festival concluded recently in Leh, highlighting the region's **potential for astro-tourism**. With growing interest in **science-based and sustainable tourism**, the event underlines India's efforts to develop astrotourism circuits and increase public interest in space science and astronomy, especially in high-potential regions like Ladakh.

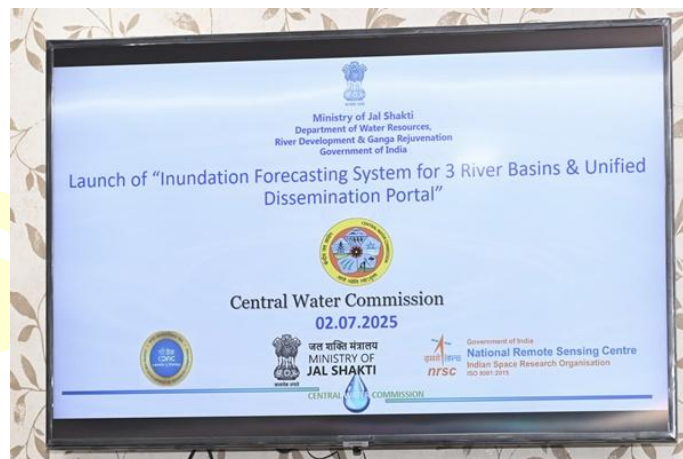


- Locations
- Leh – Main venue for workshops and observation
- Hanle Dark Sky Reserve – A globally recognized astronomy site
- Key Features : Night Sky Observation, Held at Ladakh University Campus, Leh,
- Included telescope-guided sessions on, Constellations, Planet spotting, Deep-sky viewing of galaxies and nebulae
- Objectives of the Festival
- To position Ladakh as a hub for astro tourism in India
- To educate the public and tourists on astronomy and space science
- To integrate science-driven tourism into local development strategies
- To leverage Ladakh's unique geography (high altitude, dry weather, low light pollution)
- **Ladakh is home to Hanle, designated as India's first Dark Sky Reserve in 2022.**

- The region's skies are among the clearest and darkest in the country.
- The Indian Astronomical Observatory in Hanle is one of the world's highest sites for optical, infrared, and gamma-ray telescopes.

## Unified Inundation Forecasting System C-FLOOD

- Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil today inaugurated a **Unified Inundation Forecasting System C-FLOOD in New Delhi**. This is a web-based platform that provides two-days advance **inundation forecasts up to village level**.
- The platform **will act as a unified system integrating flood modeling outputs** from national and regional agencies, offering a comprehensive decision-support tool for disaster management authorities. At present, the system covers the Mahanadi, Godavari, and Tapi river basins.



- Minister directed the **concerned agencies to widely popularize the C-FLOOD portal** to enhance public awareness and preparedness, and to prepare a comprehensive plan for inundation studies covering all river basins.
- The project marks a **transformative step towards strengthening India's** flood management and disaster response framework. The initiative, executed under the **National Supercomputing Mission jointly** steered by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Department of Science and Technology.

## Japan Launches Climate Satellite

- Japan successfully launched the **GOSAT-GW climate monitoring satellite aboard the H-2A rocket's 50th and final flight**; the satellite will monitor greenhouse gases like carbon and methane, providing high-resolution climate data globally within a year.



- The **H-2A rocket**, which began service in 2001 with a **98% success rate**, retires after this mission and will be replaced by Japan's new flagship H3 rocket, developed with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries to offer larger payload capacity at roughly half the launch cost, boosting global competitiveness.

## 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.

## Russia Becomes 1st Country To Recognise Taliban Govt

- Russia said that it had accepted the credentials of a **new ambassador of Afghanistan**, making it the first nation to recognise the Taliban government of the country. In a statement, the Russian Foreign Ministry said Moscow saw good prospects to develop ties and would continue to support Kabul in security, counter-terrorism and combating drug crime.



- It also saw significant **trade and economic opportunities**, especially in energy, transport, agriculture and infrastructure. Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi said in a statement that his country values this courageous step taken by Russia, and God willing, it will serve as an example for others as well.
- No **other country has formally recognised the Taliban government** that seized power in August 2021 as U.S.-led forces staged a chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan after 20 years of war. However, China, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, and Pakistan have all designated ambassadors to Kabul, in a step towards recognition.

## Colombia And Uzbekistan Join NDB

- Ahead of the 17th BRICS Summit, **Colombia and Uzbekistan have officially joined the New Development Bank (NDB)**, expanding the multilateral lender's membership to **11 countries**.





- Founded in 2015 by the original BRICS nations, the **NDB aims to fund infrastructure and sustainable development in emerging economies**. The NDB **President Dilma Rousseff emphasized** on the bank's mission to support the Global South, focusing on innovation, science, and technology to help member nations adapt to the **Fourth Industrial Revolution**, during a press conference following the **bank's 10th Board of Directors meeting**.
- **India, Brazil, Russia, China, South Africa, Bangladesh, UAE, Egypt, and Algeria** are members of NDB. **Headquartered in Shanghai**, the bank has approved over 120 projects covering sectors such as clean energy, transport, environmental protection, water and sanitation, and digital infrastructure.

## Harvinder Singh

- At the Asian Para-Archery Championships, **Paralympic gold medallist Harvinder Singh clinched individual gold medal** at the recurve men's open in Beijing on Sunday. **Harvinder defeated Hanreuchai Netsiri** of Thailand 7-1 in the final to take the top honour, ending a six-year wait for his maiden individual gold at the Asian para-archery championships. **The two-time Paralympic medalist** secured medals in all three events at the championships, earning this individual gold, a mixed recurve gold with Bhawna, and a men's recurve team silver with Vivek Chikara.

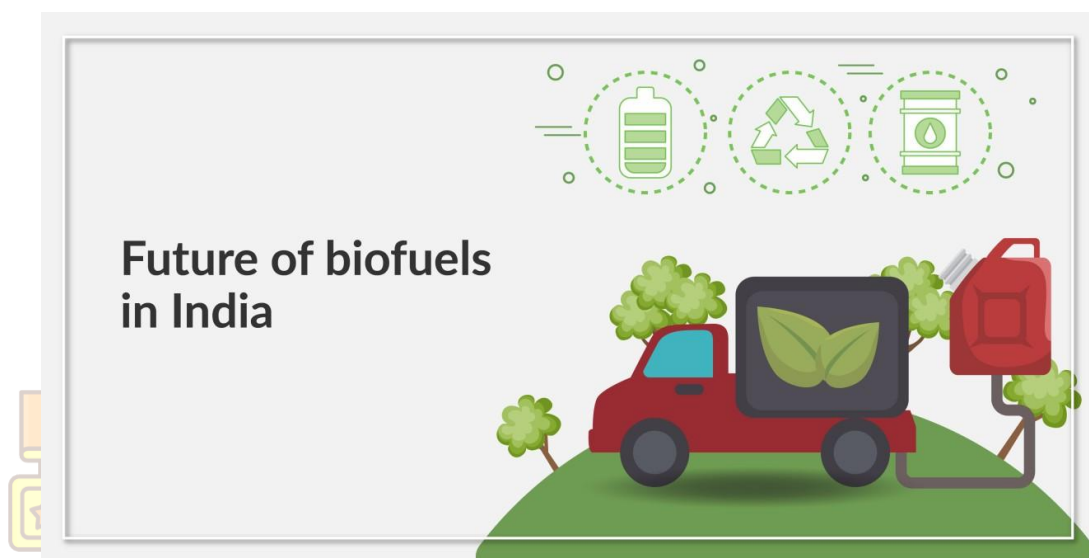


## India Becomes 4th Largest Biofuel User

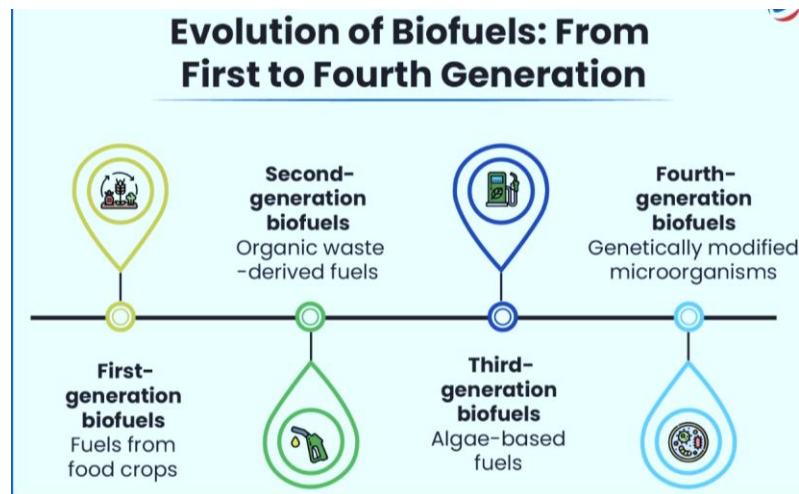
- India has overtaken **China** as the world's fourth-largest biofuel consumer in 2024, according to the Statistical Review of World Energy 2025. The country's biofuel use **jumped by 40% in just one year**, showing strong progress in clean energy.
- This is the second year in a row India has beaten China in biofuel usage, though it still lags behind in production. **India used 77 thousand barrels** of oil equivalent per day (kbbloe/d) of biofuel in 2024, a big jump from the previous year. China, in comparison, used 60 kbbloe/d, up by 18%. The report, prepared by The **Energy Institute (EI)** along with **KPMG and Kearney**, shows that India's biofuel consumption has **grown by 31.8% every year between 2014 and 2024**.



- **Biofuels include ethanol**, biodiesel, and sustainable aviation fuels. They are cleaner fuels made from natural materials like crops and are seen as a key solution to reduce pollution and carbon emissions. Even though India uses more biofuel than China, it still produces less.
- **In 2024, India made 70 kbbloe/d of biofuel, while China made 106 kbbloe/d.** India's production grew 27% in 2024 and has grown 30.4% every year over the last 10 years. Meanwhile, China's production has increased more slowly overall but saw a 31% rise in 2024 alone.



- **Globally, biofuel demand hit a new high of 2.2 million barrels of oil equivalent per day in 2024.** The Asia Pacific region led growth with a 47 kbbloe/d rise, followed by North America at 42 kbbloe/d.
- The **United States remains the biggest biofuel user at 856 kbbloe/d, followed** by Brazil, Indonesia, India, and China. Despite more use of clean fuels, global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from energy **still rose by 1% in 2024**—setting a new record for the fourth straight year. Experts warned that while clean energy is growing fast, fossil fuel use is also at record highs, especially in China, which still uses more coal than the rest of the world combined.



## Deepika Padukone Gets Hollywood Walk Of Fame Star

- **Deepika Padukone has become the first Indian actress to be honoured with a Hollywood Walk of Fame star.** The announcement was made in Hollywood on Wednesday, July 3, 2025. This is a **big achievement, not only for Deepika but also for India, as it puts Indian talent on the global map.** Before Deepika, the only Indian name to appear on the **Hollywood Walk of Fame was Sabu Dastagir, an Indian actor** whose Hollywood career began with the **1937 film Elephant Boy.**



- **Later, Mindy Kaling became the first South Asian woman to receive a star, but Deepika is the first Indian actress to be honored.** The Hollywood Walk of Fame is one of the **most famous honours in the entertainment world.** Every year, a group of stars from film, music, TV, and more are selected to get a star on the sidewalks of Hollywood Boulevard, USA.



- This year, **Deepika was announced as one of the 35 selected names** for the Class of 2026. Along with her, other stars such as Miley Cyrus, Timothee Chalamet, Emily Blunt, Gordon Ramsay, Rachel McAdams, and Marion Cotillard will also receive stars.
- **Deepika Padukone made her Hollywood debut in 2017** with the film '**XXX: Return of Xander Cage**', where she acted alongside Vin Diesel. Over the years, she has also become known internationally for her appearances at the Met Gala and the Cannes Film Festival. She was also named in TIME magazine's list of 100 most influential people, which is a big honour worldwide.

## World's First Malaria Drug

- **Swissmedic, Switzerland's medical products authority**, has granted fast-track approval to **Coartem Baby, the first malaria drug designed** for infants weighing between 2 to 5 kilograms.
- The drug, **developed by Novartis, is a lower-dose version** of an existing antimalarial tablet, aimed at providing safe treatment for newborns and small infants, especially in malaria-hit African countries.



- This is **only the third time Swissmedic has** used its fast-track process in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) to improve access to life-saving treatments in developing nations.

## Gujarat- Rajasthan To Collect Camel Milk

- **Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah** interacted with **women and other workers** associated with cooperatives of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan on the occasion of the International Cooperative Year. Mr. Shah also

interacted with **Miralben Rabari of Camel Breeder Maldhari Cooperative Society of Kutch district.**



- During the interaction, Miralben requested to conduct chemical testing of camel milk and conduct research, to which Shri Shah replied that four Ayurvedic companies are testing the **medicinal properties of camel milk.**
- One of the companies has already completed this work. Mr. Shah added that the **Gujarat and Rajasthan governments are jointly** formulating a plan to collect milk from camel breeders across the country and use its medicinal properties to get a higher price.



## Bulgaria To Join Eurozone

- **European Union (EU) finance ministers gave their final** approval for Bulgaria to adopt the euro as its **official currency starting** January 1, 2026. This move will make Bulgaria the 21st member of the eurozone.



- **Bulgaria will officially replace its national currency, the lev, with the euro.** The fixed conversion rate is set at 1.95583 lev per euro. Prime Minister Rossen Jeliaskov hailed the decision as a “landmark moment” and reaffirmed the government’s commitment to a smooth and effective transition.
- **Euro Area, Commonly Called The Eurozone,** Is A Currency Union Of 20 Member States Of European Union (EU) That Have Adopted The Euro (€) As Their Primary Currency And Sole Legal Tender, And Have Thus Fully Implemented EMU Policies.



- **When The Euro Was First Introduced In 2002,** Only 12 Countries Adopted It. Since Then, More Have Joined: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia,, And Spain.

## 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.





## 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.

## 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.

## India – Saudi Arabia

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers JP Nadda concluded his **three-day visit to Saudi Arabia**, securing crucial agreements that will significantly enhance India's fertilizer supply chain and strengthen bilateral cooperation in health and pharmaceutical sectors.
- The visit, which **took place from July 11-13 in Dammam and Riyadh**, focused primarily on enhancing bilateral cooperation between India and Saudi Arabia in chemicals and fertilizers. Nadda led a high-level delegation that included the Secretary and other senior officials from the Department of Fertilizers and Ministry of External Affairs.



- During discussions with Saudi Minister of Industry and **Mineral Resources Bandar bin Ibrahim Al Khorayef in Riyadh**, both ministers witnessed the signing of long-term agreements between Maaden and Indian companies including IPL, KRIBHCO, and CIL.
- These agreements will supply an **enhanced 3.1 million metric tons of Diammonium Phosphate fertilizer per annum** for five years from 2025-26 onwards, with provision for further extension of five years with mutual consent. The agreements represent a substantial increase from current supply levels. India's imports of DAP fertilizer from Saudi Arabia totaled 1.9 million metric tons in 2024-25, reflecting a 17 percent increase over the 1.6 million metric tons imported during FY 2023-24.



- The new agreements will boost this supply to 3.1 million metric tons from the upcoming fiscal year. Both sides emphasized their commitment to broadening bilateral relations to include other key fertilizers such as Urea along with DAP, aiming to **further ensure India's fertilizer security**. Discussions also covered facilitating mutual investments, with focus on exploring opportunities for Indian Public Sector Undertakings to invest in the Saudi fertilizer sector and reciprocal Saudi investments in India.
- The ministers deliberated on avenues for collaborative research, particularly in developing India-specific customized and alternative fertilizers to enhance **agricultural productivity and sustainability**. A joint team has been established led by Secretary Fertilizer on the Indian side and the Vice Minister for Mining Affairs in the Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources on the Saudi side to explore long-term collaboration in this sector.



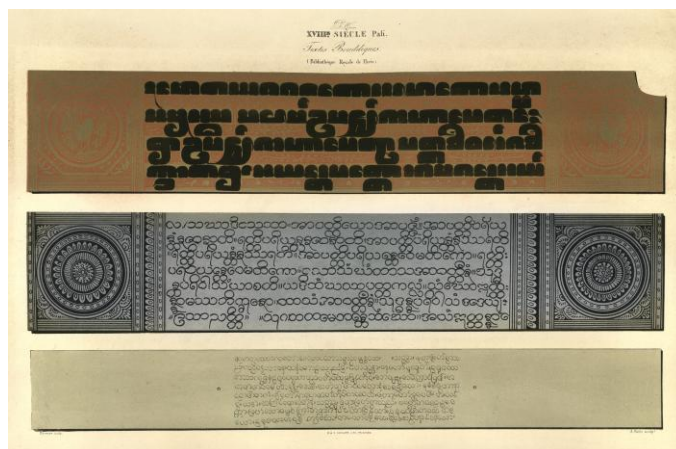
- Nadda also held a bilateral meeting with Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud, **Minister of Energy and co-chair of the Economy and Investment Committee** of the Strategic Partnership Council between India and Saudi Arabia, to discuss

ways to enhance economic partnership between the two countries. The Prince hosted a lunch in honor of the Union Minister.

- In the health sector, Nadda met with Abdulaziz Al-Rumaih, Saudi Vice Minister of Health, in Riyadh to discuss enhancing cooperation in medical services, health care, pharmaceuticals, digital health solutions, and knowledge exchange.
- They noted the significance of the bilateral MoU on Health signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent state visit to Saudi Arabia. The delegation visited Maaden facilities at Ras Al Khair and toured the Phosphate production plant.

## First Global Conference On Manuscript Heritage

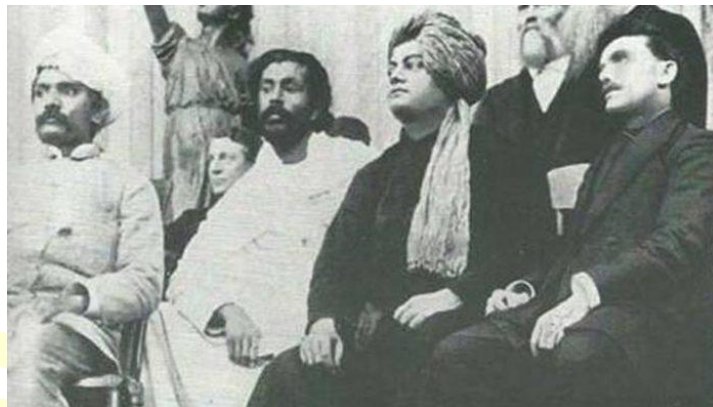
- India will host its first-ever **global conference on manuscript heritage from September 11 to 13, 2025**, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. Announced by the Ministry of Culture, this major event aims to protect, promote, and share India's ancient manuscript knowledge with the world. The announcement was made on Guru Purnima, highlighting the country's respect for its rich guru-śiṣya tradition and knowledge legacy.
- Titled **"Reclaiming India's Knowledge Legacy Through Manuscript Heritage"**, the three-day international event will gather over 500 delegates, including 75 well-known scholars and cultural experts from India and abroad. The event will be conducted in a hybrid format—allowing both in-person and online participation—to ensure wide global reach.



- India has more than **10 million manuscripts in various scripts and languages**, covering areas like **philosophy, science, medicine, literature, rituals, and arts**.

This conference is a step toward protecting this rare knowledge and making it more accessible to younger generations and global researchers.

- The event is also a **tribute to Swami Vivekananda's historic speech at the Parliament of the World's Religions on September 11, 1893**. That date was chosen for the conference as a reminder of India's deep-rooted commitment to global peace and knowledge sharing. The event will feature rare manuscript exhibitions, including works listed in **UNESCO's Memory of the World Register**, along with live conservation demos, cultural programs, workshops, and displays by startups focused on manuscript innovation.



- The conference will launch a special plan called the **Manuscript Research Partner (MRP) programme**, offering training, script labs, and hands-on workshops for young scholars. Another major outcome will be the New Delhi Declaration on Manuscript Heritage, which will guide future actions on preservation, translation, and digitisation.





## Cruise Bharat Mission

- Gujarat has become the **first state in India to join the Cruise Bharat Mission**, a national initiative to boost cruise tourism. This move, announced in Ahmedabad, is expected to help Gujarat tap into its long coastline and develop new cruise circuits. It is a key step toward making India a top global cruise destination by 2029.
- Gujarat has officially partnered with the Cruise Bharat Mission, launched by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on September 30, 2024. The mission aims to increase **India's sea cruise traffic tenfold by 2029**. Gujarat's decision puts the state at the forefront of India's push to promote maritime tourism.



- The state has the **longest coastline in India, stretching 2,340 km**, but lacked dedicated cruise terminals until now. With this alignment, Gujarat will now work to build cruise infrastructure like other ports in Mumbai, Cochin, Chennai, and Mormugao. Gujarat plans to create several cruise circuits along its western coastline.
- **These will connect popular tourist spots such as** Diu, Veraval, Porbandar, Dwarka, Jamnagar, Okha, and the scenic Padala Island. The circuits will also support the existing Ghogha–Hazira Ro-Pax route. To organize the tourism experience better, the coastal routes are divided into three clusters, Padala Island – Rann of Kutch, Porbandar – Veraval – Diu, Dwarka – Okha – Jamnagar.



- **Each cluster links destinations within a 100-km radius**, making it easy and enjoyable for tourists to visit religious, cultural, and natural sites. By joining this national project, Gujarat is setting an example for other coastal states in India. It is not just building better tourism infrastructure but also aiming to attract investment, boost local employment, and promote cultural tourism.
- **The Cruise Bharat Mission is expected to bring major economic benefits** by opening India's vast coastline to international and domestic cruise travel.

## India's First Digital Nomad Village

- **The village of Yakten in Sikkim's Pakyong district** was declared India's first digital nomad village. This initiative was launched to create a sustainable remote work hub in the Himalayas. It aims to support local homestay owners with steady income and attract digital professionals from across India and abroad. Yakten's transformation is **part of the 'Nomad Sikkim' project**, a collaboration between the **Pakyong district administration and NGO Sarvahitey**.



- The project addresses the seasonal income gap for homestay operators, especially **during the six-month off-season from April to October**. Infrastructure

upgrades include dual internet lines, village-wide Wi-Fi, and power backups to ensure uninterrupted connectivity. Plans are underway to resolve water scarcity under the Jal Jeevan Mission.



- **Yakten offers a unique blend of rural life and modern work needs.** Unlike urban coworking spaces, it provides broadband-ready homestays run by local families, encouraging a warm and authentic experience. The village setting includes orchards, mountain trails, and traditional meals, creating a balanced environment for work and well-being.
- This model **promotes sustainable tourism and rural development.** Internet connectivity is a priority, with two internet lines and comprehensive Wi-Fi coverage installed. Electricity supply is supported by inverters to prevent outages. **Water management solutions are planned to address scarcity.** The village is accessible via Pakyong Airport, with well-maintained roads ensuring year-round connectivity.



- **Yakten's initiative provides a new income source for locals,** reducing dependence on seasonal tourism. It exemplifies how rural areas can adapt to



the digital economy without losing cultural identity. This model may inspire similar projects across India, supporting decentralisation of work and promoting sustainable livelihoods.

- **Visitors can explore scenic trails such as the 7-km trek to Jhandi Dara View Point with views** of Mt. Kanchenjunga. The village offers peaceful walks through terraced fields and community gardens. Nearby historical ruins and monasteries add cultural depth to the visitor experience. Yaktan's success lies in its small scale and quality-focused approach. **It is a pilot for integrating remote work** with rural life and sustainable tourism. The village's example encourages rethinking workspaces beyond cities and marks the potential of India's countryside in the digital age.

## India Launches First Weather Derivatives Market

- India has taken a major step in **climate risk management** by launching its first weather derivatives market. The **National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX)** partnered with the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** to introduce these innovative financial instruments. Weather derivatives allow farmers, businesses, and financial institutions to hedge against weather-related uncertainties.



- **This initiative aims to** enhance resilience, improve planning, and support investment in weather-sensitive sectors. Weather derivatives are financial contracts whose value depends on specific weather variables. These variables include temperature, rainfall, snowfall, or wind speed.
- **Unlike insurance, which compensates** for actual asset losses, weather derivatives cover recurring risks that affect revenue or cash flow. They transfer



weather risk from those exposed to it to others willing to assume it. This helps stabilise incomes and reduce uncertainty. The most common weather variables in derivatives markets are **temperature and precipitation**.



- **Temperature is tracked using Heating Degree Days (HDD) and Cooling Degree Days (CDD)**, which measure deviations from a base temperature. Rainfall contracts typically use cumulative rainfall totals or deviations from long-term averages. **Snowfall and wind speed derivatives are more common** in advanced markets with specific exposure, such as ski resorts or wind energy projects. Weather derivatives trade numerical weather outcomes, not weather events. For example, a rainfall futures contract might pay a fixed sum if rainfall in a region falls below a set threshold. The data source, such as IMD, is agreed on before trading.
- **This makes settlements transparent and verifiable.** Such contracts formalise weather risk management, replacing informal and less reliable methods based on observation or prediction. Insurance covers catastrophic and asset-specific losses, such as flood damage to property.



- **Weather derivatives cover frequent but less severe risks**, like lower rainfall or cooler temperatures that affect revenues. While insurance compensates verified

losses, derivatives provide cash flow protection by paying out based on predefined weather indices. Together, they create layered protection against climate risks. Farmers can hedge against poor monsoon rainfall, securing funds for future inputs or loan repayments.



- **Businesses sensitive to weather, such as beverage companies,** can protect against demand drops caused by unusual weather. **Banks and NBFCs can use derivatives to safeguard loan portfolios** from weather-related defaults. This risk transfer improves credit quality and encourages lending in vulnerable sectors. A robust weather derivatives market encourages proactive risk-sharing. It moves India beyond disaster relief towards risk mitigation.
- **The market encourages demand for accurate and granular weather data.** This stimulates investments in agritech, climate forecasting, and energy modelling. Reliable data and institutional support are essential for market success. The initiative promises improved economic stability and climate adaptation.

## 7th ISA Meeting

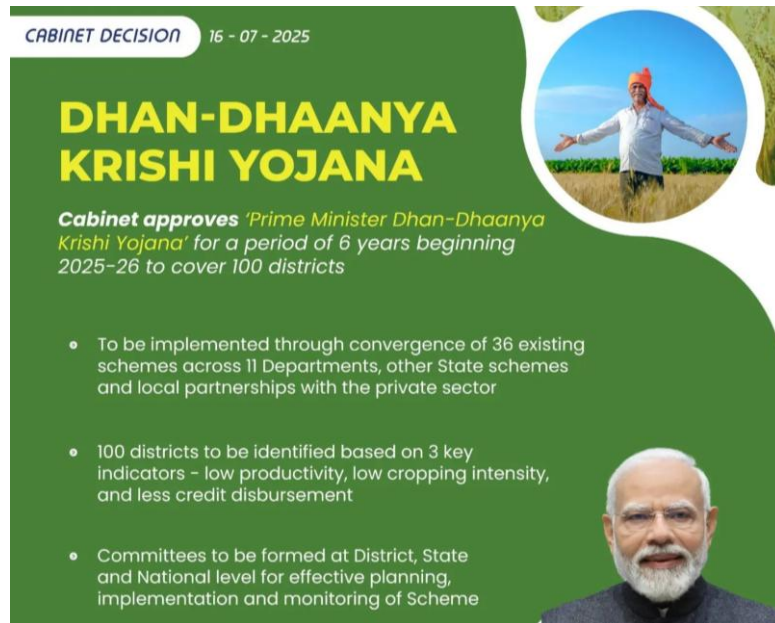
- The **Seventh Regional Committee Meeting (RCM)** of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for the **Asia and the Pacific Region commenced in Colombo**. The formal inauguration will be done by **Prime Minister Dr. Harini Amarasuriya** and Director General of ISA Ashish Khanna tomorrow. Being held under the theme, **“Advancing Solar Cooperation Across a Region of Diversity and Opportunity,”** the event brings together officials, institutions, and private sector leaders to accelerate solar energy deployment across the region.



- The meeting focuses on **expanding regional platforms, de-risking solar investments, and adopting technologies** like green hydrogen and energy storage. Sessions will also explore cross-border solar trade, regional STAR Centres, and the operationalisation of a solar marketplace for Small Island Developing States.
- ISA Director General Ashish Khanna called the region, central to the global energy transition and highlighted the meeting's role in shaping investment-ready, scalable solutions.
- In addition, **country-level partnerships and agreements with institutions** will be signed during the meet.
- **India, which co-founded ISA in 2015, plays a key role** in its leadership and continues to support the alliance's efforts to make solar energy accessible and affordable worldwide.

## PM Dhan- Dhaanya Yojana

- Union Cabinet approved the **Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)** in 2025. This new agricultural scheme aims to **develop 100 districts through the convergence of 36 schemes across 11 ministries**. It has an annual **budget of Rs 24,000 crore** and will run for six years starting from the financial year 2025-26. The scheme focuses on improving agricultural productivity, sustainability, and credit availability in selected districts.



- Each district under PMDDKY will prepare a Master Plan called the **District Agriculture and Allied Activities Plan**. This plan is created by the District Dhan Dhaanya Samiti led by the District Collector and includes progressive farmers as members. The **plan aligns with national goals such as** crop diversification, water conservation, soil health, self-sufficiency, and promotion of organic farming. District, state, and national committees will oversee the scheme's execution. Central Nodal Officers will conduct field visits and monitor progress. Agriculture universities will act as technical partners for knowledge support.
- **PMDDKY integrates 36 schemes from 11 ministries** to ensure convergence and avoid duplication. This approach is inspired by the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) launched in 2018, which focused on transforming 112 underdeveloped districts. **Like ADP, PMDDKY emphasises collaboration** between central and state nodal officers and district collectors. It also promotes competition among districts through ranking based on performance indicators.





- **The scheme will track progress using 117 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** across agriculture and allied sectors. A digital dashboard will be developed for real-time monitoring. **District rankings will be updated monthly**, encouraging healthy competition and accountability. NITI Aayog will provide guidance and capacity building to ensure effective implementation.
- **PMDDKY has five main goals** – enhance agricultural productivity, promote crop diversification and sustainable farming, improve post-harvest storage at local levels, expand irrigation facilities, and increase availability of both long-term and short-term credit. The scheme aims to raise productivity and value addition in agriculture, generate local livelihoods, and contribute to Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India). Improvement in these 100 districts is expected to positively impact national agricultural indicators.
- **Selection of the 100 districts is based on three parameters** – low agricultural productivity, moderate cropping intensity, and below-average credit access. Cropping intensity measures the number of crops grown per year on a piece of land.

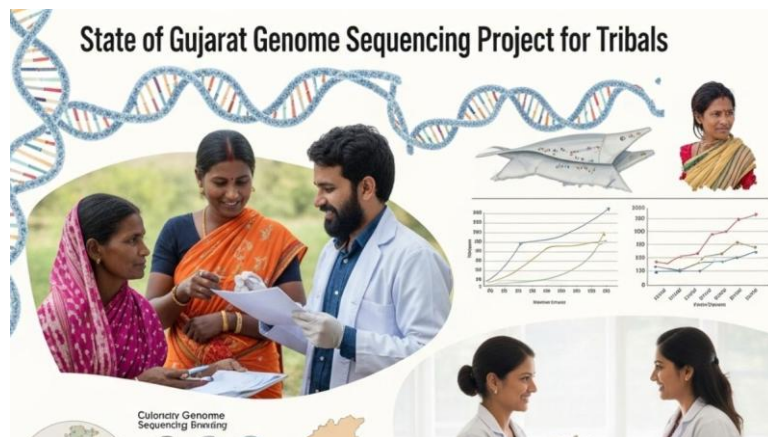


- **The scheme ensures at least one district from each state or Union Territory** is included. The number of districts per state depends on net cropped area and operational holdings. This targeted approach aims to uplift regions with potential for agricultural growth.

## India's First Tribal Genome Sequencing Project

- **Gujarat has become the first Indian state to launch a Tribal Genome Sequencing Project**, aimed at improving healthcare for tribal communities through genetic research. The **initiative focuses on early detection of hereditary** diseases and development of personalised medical solutions using genome data.

- The project was announced by Dr. Kuber Dindor, **Gujarat's Tribal Development Minister, during a high-level meeting in Gandhinagar**. It is being implemented by the Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC) with support from various state departments and experts. It is approved under the 2025–26 Gujarat state budget.



- India's tribal populations have long been underrepresented** in genetic studies. This project bridges that gap by integrating scientific advancements with tribal welfare. It also aims to empower tribal communities with modern healthcare tools, marking a significant shift toward inclusive development.
- Objectives
  - Sequence genomes of 2,000** tribal individuals across 17 districts
  - Identify genetic markers linked** to diseases like sickle cell anaemia, thalassemia, and cancer
  - Build a reference genome database** for future medical research
  - Facilitate personalised medicine and improve access to early healthcare interventions



- Key Features

- **Implemented by GBRC using cutting-edge genomic technology**
- Involves **physical sample collection, data analysis, and genetic interpretation**
- Will generate scientific data specific to India's tribal communities
- **Supported by top officials and scientists** for strong interdisciplinary coordination
- The project will **lead to early disease detection, targeted treatments**, and reduced health disparities in tribal populations. It also contributes to policy formulation, academic research, and sets a model for other states to follow. Ultimately, it enhances the role of genomics in public health planning.

## PM Modi To Embark On 4-day Visit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a two-nation visit to the **United Kingdom (UK) and Maldives** from 23rd to 26th of this month. In his first leg of the tour, **Mr Modi will visit UK from 23rd to 24th July**, at the invitation of his UK counterpart **Keir Starmer**.
- During the visit, Prime Minister Modi will hold wide ranging discussions with Prime Minister Starmer on the **entire gamut of India-UK bilateral relations**. They will also exchange views on issues of regional and global importance. Mr Modi is also expected to call on His **Majesty King Charles III**.



- During the visit, the two sides will also review the progress of the **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) with** a specific focus on trade and economy, technology and innovation, defence and security, climate, health, education and people-to-people ties. This will be Prime Minister Modi's fourth visit to the UK.
- In the second leg, Prime Minister Modi will be on a two-day visit to Maldives from 25th of this month, on the invitation of the Maldives President Dr.

Mohamed Muizzu. He will be the 'Guest of Honour' at the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the Independence of Maldives.



- During the visit, he will meet the maldives president and hold discussions on issues of mutual interest. The two leaders will also take stock of the progress in the implementation of **the India-Maldives Joint Vision for a 'Comprehensive Economic and Maritime Security Partnership'**. The visit will provide an opportunity for both sides to further deepen and strengthen the close bilateral relationship. This will be the Prime Minister's third visit to Maldives.

## Endangered Plant Conservation Program

- **Uttarakhand, a Himalayan biodiversity hotspot with 69% forest cover**, has initiated a pioneering programme to revive 14 critically endangered plant species. This effort, led by the **Uttarakhand Forest Department's Research Wing**, aims to reintroduce rare flora to their natural habitats after four years of scientific cultivation and habitat mapping.



- The project began in July 2025, **coinciding with the monsoon**, and is expected to complete its first phase by the end of that month. Uttarakhand hosts **diverse**



**ecosystems from alpine meadows to Terai plains.** It is home to many rare, endemic, and threatened plants with ecological, medicinal, and cultural value. These species face threats from overharvesting, habitat loss, climate change, and low natural regeneration.

- The state's rich plant heritage is vital for ecosystem balance and traditional medicine. **The programme targets 14 species listed as critically endangered, endangered, or vulnerable by the IUCN Red List and the Uttarakhand State Biodiversity Board.**



- **Notable species include Himalayan Gentian, White Himalayan Lily, Indian Spikenard, Doon Cheese Wood, and Kumaon Fan Palm.** Many are prized for medicinal uses, which has led to their overexploitation and drastic population decline.
- **Propagation techniques were developed at high-altitude nurseries across Uttarakhand,** using seeds, bulbs, rhizomes, or stem cuttings. Species-specific methods ensure healthy growth. Simultaneously, historical natural habitats were mapped using primary and secondary data. These sites span various altitudes and ecosystems, including alpine and deciduous forests.



- Before replanting, **habitats were prepared by mitigating threats** such as grazing, deforestation, and human disturbance. GPS coordinates were recorded for monitoring. Protective measures like fencing and patrols were established to safeguard the plants. The first planting phase commenced with the monsoon and will be closely monitored for survival and growth.
- **Each species plays a distinct ecological role and holds medicinal significance.** For example, Himalayan Gentian treats liver and fever ailments, White Himalayan Lily is used in Chyavanprash, and Indian Spikenard produces aromatic oils for traditional medicine. Their restoration supports biodiversity and sustainable medicinal resource use.



- **Restoring endangered plants involves overcoming poor germination**, habitat degradation, and external pressures like infrastructure expansion. The **Uttarakhand Forest Department's research centres** and field teams have been crucial in addressing these challenges. Continuous monitoring and scientific management underpin the programme's commitment to long-term success.
- **This is India's first systematic plant reintroduction programme.** It sets a precedent for other states to prioritise plant conservation alongside wildlife efforts. The **initiative marks the need for protecting medicinal plants** and fragile ecosystems, offering a replicable model for biodiversity preservation nationwide.

## India & Nepal

- **The Embassy of India, Kathmandu**, Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, Government of Nepal and Project Implementing Agencies of Government of Nepal today signed Memorandums of Understandings (MoUs) for undertaking **5 High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs)** in

Nepal under the grant assistance of Government of India in Education and Health Sectors, at a total estimated cost of **NRs. 390 million**.



- **These five projects, namely, Construction** of Shree Jan Shakti Secondary School Building in Dhanusha; Construction of Shree Mahobani Padam Secondary School in Parsa; Construction of Shree Basuki Secondary School in Achham; Construction of School Building, Hostel and Library of Benga Sah Secondary School in Bara and Construction of 5 Bed Hospital Building in Manang in Nepal shall be implemented through local authorities and institutions of the Government of Nepal including Municipalities and Rural Municipalities.



- The **construction of these facilities will help provide better** education and health facilities to the people in Nepal. Since 2003, the **Government of India has taken up 579 High Impact Development Projects (HICDPs)** in Nepal. Out of these, 496 projects have been completed in the areas of health, education, drinking water, connectivity, sanitation and creation of public utilities across all 7 provinces of Nepal at the grassroots level.

- **The remaining projects are ongoing at various stages.** As close neighbours, India and Nepal share wide- ranging and multi-sectoral cooperation.

## India's First Hornbill Conservation Centre

- The Tamil Nadu government has **initiated India's first Centre of Excellence for Hornbill Conservation at the Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR)** in Coimbatore district. This pioneering effort aims to protect hornbills, vital seed dispersers in tropical forests, threatened by habitat loss and climate change.
- **Funded with ₹1 crore under the Endangered Species Conservation Corpus Fund**, the Centre will focus on research, habitat restoration, and community involvement to safeguard four hornbill species native to the Western Ghats. Hornbills are crucial for forest regeneration.



- They disperse seeds of native trees, maintaining biodiversity and forest health. Known as farmers of the forest, these birds support the growth of species like fig and canarium trees. Their decline affects entire ecosystems and other wildlife dependent on forest habitats.
- **Hornbills face threats from deforestation**, habitat fragmentation, and climate change. These factors reduce nesting sites and food availability. Fragmented forests isolate populations, increasing vulnerability. Climate shifts alter flowering and fruiting patterns, disrupting hornbill feeding and breeding cycles. ATR was chosen for its rich biodiversity and strong conservation record. It already protects tigers, elephants, lion-tailed macaques, and other endemic species.
- The reserve's existing infrastructure supports scientific research and monitoring. This makes it an ideal hub for hornbill conservation leadership.





## HORNBILLS OF INDIA



- The **Centre will focus on four hornbill species found** in the Western Ghats –
- Great Hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*)
- Malabar Grey Hornbill (*Ocyrceros griseus*)
- Malabar Pied Hornbill (*Anthracoceros coronatus*)
- Indian Grey Hornbill (*Ocyrceros birostris*)
- Each species plays a distinct ecological role and requires targeted conservation strategies.
- The Centre will conduct habitat mapping, nest monitoring, and climate impact assessments. Restoration of degraded forests will involve planting native tree species that support hornbill diets. Scientific studies will enhance understanding of hornbill ecology and threats.
- **Data will guide adaptive conservation measures.** Local communities will be involved through nest adoption programmes and sustainable livelihoods like seed collection. Scholarships for students aim to nurture future conservationists. Forest staff will receive training to improve protection efforts.



- **Awareness campaigns and school field visits will encourage public support.** The Tamil Nadu Forest Department will partner with national and international

organisations such as the **Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History**, **Nature Conservation Foundation**, Wildlife Institute of India, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Hornbill Specialist Group. Similar conservation initiatives will extend to Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, and parts of Kanyakumari district.

## National Cooperative Policy

- Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah today unveiled **the National Cooperative Policy 2025** in New Delhi this evening. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Shah said the Policy will play a huge role in achieving the **goal of Viksit Bharat 2047**.



- He added that the Policy aims to **realize the vision of prosperity** through cooperation by creating a roadmap at the grassroots level. He said that the country's first National Cooperative Policy was issued in 2002 when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister. **Key features include a 20-year roadmap** (2025–2045), the creation of 2 lakh new PACS by 2026, one cooperative in every village, and a strong focus on digitization, inclusivity, and professional management. **The policy benefits farmers, small entrepreneurs**, women, youth, and marginalized communities, aiming to enhance credit access, market linkages, and employment opportunities.

- It was drafted by a 48-member committee chaired by Suresh Prabhu, after 17 meetings and 4 regional workshops. States must adopt their own policies by 31 January 2026.
- The strategy is backed by constitutional support through the **97th Amendment (2011) and Article 43B**, emphasizing autonomy and democratic functioning of cooperatives. The launch of Tribhuvan Cooperative University will further support training and governance in the sector.



## India & Maldives

- India signed six Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the Maldives to enhance cooperation across multiple sectors following wide-ranging talks between **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu** at the President's Office in Male.



- The **key areas include fisheries and aquaculture**, meteorology, digital public infrastructure, UPI, Indian pharmacopoeia and concessional Line of Credit. India



announced a new Line of Credit of 4850 crore rupees to support the infrastructure development and other activities in the Island Nation. An Amendatory agreement was also exchanged between the two countries which reduces **Maldives' annual debt repayment obligations by 40 per cent, from 51 million dollars to 29 million dollars**. Both sides also announced the commencement of negotiations for the launch of a Free Trade Agreement.



- They exchanged Terms of Reference of the proposed FTA in this regard. During their talks, **Prime Minister Modi and President Muizzu** reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the ties. They called for further strengthening defence and maritime security cooperation **between India and the Maldives**.
- **The two leaders discussed cooperation in the fields of development partnership, capacity building, health, infrastructure, digital economy, aquaculture, climate change and renewable energy.**



- In a joint press statement after the talks, Prime Minister Modi said India and the Maldives are **celebrating sixty years of diplomatic ties**, describing their relationship as older than history and as deep as the sea. He also assured India's continued support to the Maldives in strengthening its defence capabilities.



- He added that mutual cooperation in defense and security reflects the mutual trust between the nations. **Prime Minister Modi emphasized that peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region** is a shared goal. He announced that both nations will work together to strengthen regional maritime security at the Colombo Security Conclave. Prime Minister Modi underscored that the **proposed Free Trade Agreement and the Bilateral Investment Treaty** would open new opportunities for both sides. Noting that the two countries must take advantage of the digital economy, especially to promote tourism, he welcomed the recent understandings on UPI adoption, acceptance of RUPAY card and trade in local currencies.



- **The two leaders also virtually inaugurated a road and drainage system project** in Addu city and 6 High Impact Community Development Projects in other cities. **Prime Minister Modi handed over 3,300 social housing units** and 72 vehicles for Maldives National Defence Force and Immigration authorities. Mr Modi reached Male yesterday on a two-day visit to Maldives after concluding his tour to the United Kingdom.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated road and drainage System **project in Addu City of the Maldives**. The project includes 111 km of roads, 106 km of drainage works and 160 km of street lighting. India's Exim Bank has provided a line of credit for this project and works are carried out by the Afcons Infrastructure Limited.
- **Network-to-Network Agreement between NPCI International Payment Limited** and Maldives Monetary Authority for launching UPI in Maldives is also signed between two countries.



## PM Modi Becomes Second Longest Serving PM

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the second-longest serving Prime Minister of the country with an uninterrupted tenure.** He said, Mr. Modi has completed four thousand **78 days of continuous** tenure by surpassing the record of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. He said, Prime Minister Modi's tenure has been marked by golden chapters of development.



## France To Officially Recognise Palestinian State

- **French President Emmanuel Macron said that France will officially recognise a Palestinian state during the United Nations General Assembly in September.** In his social media post, the French President said this decision to recognise the **State of Palestine has been taken in accordance** with the historic commitment of France to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.
- He said, the urgent need today is for the war in Gaza to end and for the civilian population to be rescued.



- **Saying that peace is possible, he pointed out that we need an immediate ceasefire, the release of all hostages, and massive humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza.** He further added that the world must also guarantee the demilitarisation of Hamas, and secure and rebuild Gaza.
- **Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** has criticised this decision in the wake of the **October 7th massacre**. He has called this plan a grave mistake, accusing the French President of ignoring the risks posed by Hamas and other groups. Currently, the State of Palestine is recognised by more than **140 of the 193 member states of the UN**

## ISRO Launched Earth Observation Satellite NISAR

- **ISRO, launched the NISAR Earth Observation satellite, developed jointly with the American space agency NASA, on the 30th of this month at 1740 hours from Sriharikota. GSLV F16 heavy lift rocket will place the satellite into a 743 km Sun Synchronous orbit.**



- **The NISAR satellite will scan the entire globe every 12 days and provide high-resolution, all-weather, day and night data.**

- **NISAR, developed jointly with NAS, will be the sharpest eye in the sky.** It is the first satellite to observe the Earth with a dual-frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar. **NASA's L band and ISRO's S band radar will use NASA's large 12-metre unfurlable mesh reflector antenna** that is integrated into ISRO's modified satellite.
- **The L band radar can penetrate thick forests and dense vegetation,** while the S band provides crystal clear surface details. It will observe Earth using SweepSAR technology for the first time. The radars can detect subtle changes in Earth's surface to monitor sea ice, vegetation, storm tracking, soil moisture changes, surface water mapping and disaster probabilities.



- **SweepSAR (Sweep Synthetic Aperture Radar) is a radar technique** designed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and the German Space Agency (DLR) for spaceborne Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) missions, notably used in the upcoming **NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR) mission**.
- **This technique utilizes a large deployable antenna** combined with a one-dimensional phased-array feed to achieve wide-area coverage with fine spatial resolution, a significant advancement over conventional SAR systems.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Which Institute Organized The Ladakh Astro Tourism Festival**

- A. National Institute of Science Education and Research
- B. Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore
- C. Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Pune
- D. India Institute of Technology, New Delhi

**ANSWER: B**

**2. Which Country Launched A Climate Monitoring Satellite On Its H-2A rocket**

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

**ANSWER: B**

**3. Divyanshi Bhowmick Seen In News Relates To**

- A. Table Tennis
- B. Badminton
- C. Cricket
- D. Football

**ANSWER: A**

**4. Which State First In India To Launch E-voting Through Mobile Applications For Municipal Body Elections**

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

**ANSWER: D**

**5. From Which Country Has India Restricted Jute Imports Through Most Ports**

- A. Nepal
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Myanmar
- D. Thailand

**ANSWER: B**

**6. Name Of The Japanese Climate Monitoring Satellite Launched**

- A. Hayabusa3
- B. SLIM-2
- C. GOSAT-GW
- D. Kibo-X

**ANSWER: C**

**7. Where Was The First- Ever Ladakh Astro Tourism Festival Held**

- A. Kargil
- B. Leh
- C. Srinagar
- D. Manali

**ANSWER: B**

**8. National Sports Policy 2025 Will Replace Which Earlier Policy**

- A. National Sports Policy 1995
- B. National Sports Policy 2001
- C. Sports Vision 2010
- D. National Fitness Plan 2005

**ANSWER: B**

**9. Which Ministry Has Released The Sustainable Development Goals-national Indicator Framework Progress Report 2025**

- A. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- B. Ministry of Finance
- C. Ministry of Home Affairs
- D. Ministry of Science and Technology

**ANSWER: A**

**10. What Is The Theme Of National Doctor's Day 2025**

- A. Celebrating Resilience and Healing Hands
- B. Save the Saviours
- C. Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers
- D. Zero tolerance to violence against doctors

**ANSWER: C**

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

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

**ANSWER: B**

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

**13. 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**

**14. 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**

**15. 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**

**16. Which Country Partnered With India To Launch A Climate-resilient Wheat Initiative Aimed Reducing Wheat Imports**

- A. Kenya
- B. Spain
- C. Nigeria
- D. Ghana

**ANSWER: D**

**17. RECLAIM Framework Is An Initiative Of Which Ministry**

- A. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- B. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- C. Ministry of Coal
- D. Ministry of Finance

**ANSWER: C**

**18. Namdapha National Park Is Located In Which State**

- A. Sikkim
- B. Assam
- C. Manipur
- D. Arunachal Pradesh

**ANSWER: D**

**19. Which Institution Has Launched The Financial Fraud Risk Indicator**

- A. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- B. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- C. Department of Telecommunications' Digital Intelligence Unit (DoT-DIU)
- D. Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre

**ANSWER: C**

**20. C-FLOOD Platform Is Jointly Developed By Which Two Organizations**

- A. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- B. Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) Pune and Central Water Commission (CWC)
- C. India Meteorological Department (IMD) and Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
- D. National Informatics Centre (NIC) and National Technical Research Organisation

**ANSWER: B**



**21. India's Rank In World's Most Equal Societies**

- A. First
- B. Second
- C. Third
- D. Fourth

**ANSWER: D**

**22. Harvinder Singh Seen In News Is Related To**

- A. Table Tennis
- B. Archery
- C. Hockey
- D. Badminton

**ANSWER: B**

**23. Which 3 Municipal Corporations Awarded As Best-performing Urban Local Bodies During The First National Conference Of Ulbs**

- A. Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai
- B. Lucknow, Pune, Indore
- C. Surat, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad
- D. Jaipur, Patna, Bhopal

**ANSWER: B**

**24. India's First Equine Disease- Free Compartment (EDFC) Is Located In Which City**

- A. Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- B. Meerut, Uttar Pradesh
- C. Jaipur, Rajasthan
- D. Indore, Madhya Pradesh

**ANSWER: B**

**25. Where Was Statue Of Maratha Warrior Peshwa Bajirao I Installed In Maharashtra**

- A. Pune
- B. Nagpur
- C. Amravati
- D. Nashik

**ANSWER: A**

**26. Which City Has Become Uttar Pradesh's First Zero Dump City**

- A. Lucknow
- B. Varanasi
- C. Ayodhya
- D. Gorakhpur

**ANSWER: A**

**27. India Becomes \_\_\_\_\_ Largest Biofuel User**

- A. 1<sup>st</sup>
- B. 2<sup>nd</sup>
- C. 3<sup>rd</sup>
- D. 4<sup>th</sup>

**ANSWER: D**

**28. Typhoon Danas Seen In News Hits Which Area**

- A. Taiwan
- B. Hawaii
- C. Peru
- D. India

**ANSWER: A**

**29. First Indian Actress To Get Hollywood Walk Of Fame Star**

- A. Aishwarya Rai
- B. Alia Bhatt
- C. Deepika Padukone
- D. Priyanka Chopra

**ANSWER: C**

**30. Which Country Awarded PM Modi, The Order Of The Republic**

- A. Trinidad and Tobago
- B. Ghana
- C. Barbados
- D. Guyana

**ANSWER: A**

**31. In Which Indian City Was The Country's First Transgender-led Clinic, Mitr Clinic, Reopened With Support From Tata Trusts**

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

**ANSWER: B**

**32. Which City Ranked As The World's Most Liveable City In The Global Liveability Index 2025 By The Economist Intelligence Unit**

- A. Zurich
- B. Vienna
- C. Copenhagen
- D. Amsterdam

**ANSWER: C**

**33. PM Modi Set A Target To Scale Up Bilateral Trade With Brazil To**

- A. 15 Billion Dollars
- B. 20 Billion Dollars
- C. 25 Billion Dollars
- D. 30 Billion Dollars

**ANSWER: B**

**34. UAE Launched Nomination-based Golden Visa Programme On Payment Of**

- A. 20 lakh
- B. 23.3 lakhs
- C. 24.5 lakhs
- D. 25 lakhs

**ANSWER: B**

**35. Latest Country To Join Eurozone**

- A. Bulgaria
- B. Slovakia'
- C. Italy
- D. Austria

**ANSWER: A**

**36. Smart Mosquito Surveillance System Seen In News Started In**

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Telangana
- D. Odisha

**ANSWER: B**

**37. Who Announced Launch Of A New Political Party Called The 'America Party**

- A. Jeff Bezos
- B. Mark Zuckerberg
- C. Elon Musk
- D. Bill Gates

**ANSWER: C**

**38. Which Two Countries Recently Joined The New Development Bank (NDB),  
Expanding Its Membership To 11 Countries**

- A. Saudi Arabia and Indonesia
- B. Colombia and Uzbekistan
- C. Turkey and Vietnam
- D. Nigeria and Malaysia

**ANSWER: B**

**39. New Caledonia To Become New State In**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**40. Maratha Military Landscapes Becomes India's \_\_\_\_ Property To Receive  
UNESCO Recognition**

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

**ANSWER: B**