

Daily Current Affairs

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NSA Ajit Doval Meets Russian President Vladimir Putin

- **National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval** called on Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin in Moscow yesterday. Earlier in the day, Mr Doval held talks with Russian Security Council Secretary Sergey Shoigu.



- Speaking on the occasion, the National Security Adviser said, **India has a special and long relationship with Russia** and it values this relationship. He said, both sides had high-level engagement and these engagements have contributed very substantially.
- The NSA also said, **Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit India soon** and the dates are almost finalised. However, no specific date or timeline has been indicated about the visit.

Philippines President Identifies Six Priority Sectors

- **Philippines President Ferdinand Romnaldez Marcos Jr** has sought greater partnership with India to build prosperity and growth in Asia. He was addressing the Philippines-India Business forum in Bengaluru today.
- **Philippines premier said that both the countries** can share and shape regional knowledge, deepen supply chain resilience and ensure inclusive innovation in the region. **He spoke of six priority sectors** for long term collaboration in the areas of Electric vehicles, advanced electronics, renewable energy, agriculture, healthcare and cyber security.



- He informed that the **Philippines will pursue preferential trade agreements** with India to enhance two way trade, encourage product diversification and supply chain integration. **He stressed that Joint Ventures or collaborations** are possible between the two countries in smart manufacturing, green metal, data analysis infrastructure and ship building.



- **He acknowledged India's expertise** in Pharmaceuticals, Research, Design and Development, digital technology, IT-BT, healthcare and clean energy and added that Philippines would be keen to partner with India for a convergence to create greater value.
- **During the deliberations today, 18 Memorandum of Understanding** and Letter of Intent were signed by the Indian companies for investments in the Philippines in the areas of Information Technology, Telecommunication, waste to energy generation, healthcare, business process management and digital infrastructure.

'SheLeads II' Programme

- **Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Annpurna Devi,** inaugurated the second edition of **UN Women's flagship capacity-building programme – SheLeads II** in New Delhi.
- This event is a **two-day workshop organized by UN Women India Country Office**. This programme is being organised at a pivotal moment, following the passing of the **Women's Reservation Act, 2023**, which mandates a 33 percent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.



- Speaking on the occasion, **Ms Devi emphasized that the women's leadership is** not just a matter of representation, it is central to driving women-led development for a Viksit Bharat.
- She added that initiatives like **SheLeads are pivotal in equipping women** with the skills and networks needed to lead from the front which also ensures country's development agenda, like **2030 SDGs or Agenda 2040**.



- **SheLeads is a flagship initiative of UN Women India Country Office**, aimed to advance gender equality in public and political leadership, aiming to support women leaders in contesting the upcoming/next Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections. **The event brought together grassroots women leaders**, elected

representatives, and administrators from across India to foster dialogue, build political leadership skills, and amplify women's participation in governance.

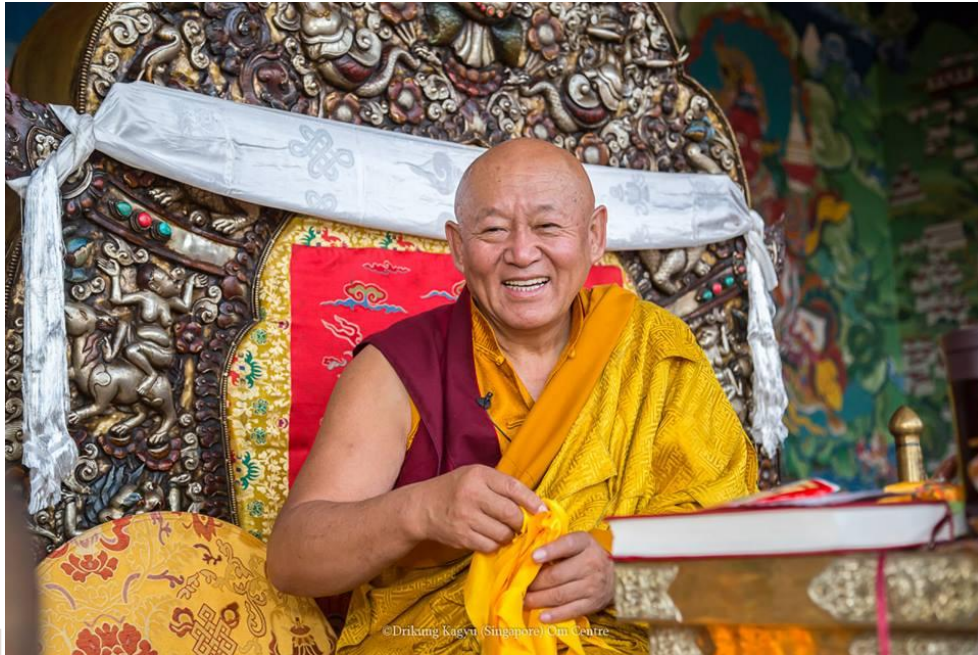
Shayok Village In Ladakh

- In eastern Ladakh, **Shayok village, situated on the way to Galwan Valley**, is working to **convert its 10 hectares of barren community** land into a botanical garden for the conservation of varieties of fruits, medicinal plants and flora and fauna of Ladakh.



- **Successful completion of this proposed project** will be the first-ever botanical garden in the Union Territory. Leh Hill Council, through the department of Command Area Development, is assisting the villagers with Civil works of the project, such as land tilling and construction of a water reservoir.
- **The Council has so far funded one crore rupees for the project.** Area Councillor of **Leh Hill Council, Tashi Namgyal Yakze**,e financed the installation of the solar pumping water system. Considering the potential as tourists spots in the future due to its location on the **route of Galwan Valley, which is in consideration** of opening as **Battle Field Tourism Initiative**, the upcoming botanical garden will have all the available specimens of varieties of Apricot, Apples, Trees, Medicinal Plants, Plants found high lands of mountain and varieties of rocks of Ladakh.

- It is being developed as part of the ongoing **Go Green Go Organic** initiatives in Ladakh of Drikung Kyabsgon Chetsang Rinpoche. The upcoming botanical garden is planned to be completed by 2029.



ISRO Launches HOPE Mission In Ladakh

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched a 10-day high-altitude isolation experiment in Ladakh. Conducted at 14,000 feet, this mission simulates the extreme **conditions astronauts might face on long-duration space** missions to the Moon or Mars. The initiative is part of preparations for India's Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme and future interplanetary exploration.



- The mission takes place at the **Himalayan Outpost for Planetary Exploration (HOPE)**, located near Tso Kar in Ladakh. Built by Bengaluru-based space technology firm Protoplanet, the site was inaugurated by ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan just a day before the mission began.
- **HOPE was selected for its lunar-like rocky terrain**, cold desert climate, and low oxygen environment—conditions that closely mimic extraterrestrial landscapes and stressors. Night-time temperatures drop well below freezing, adding another layer of challenge for the participants.



- **From 135 applicants, ISRO selected Rahul Mogalapalli**, a PhD candidate at Purdue University, and Yaman Akot, a planetary science graduate from the University of Aberdeen.
- The HOPE mission focuses on understanding the effects of isolation, high altitude, and extreme environments on human health and performance.
- **Key research objectives include,**
- **Physical Health Monitoring** – Collecting blood, urine, and stool samples to study genomic, proteomic, and metabolomic responses to stress.
- **Mental Health Evaluation** – Tracking mood changes, sleep cycles, cognitive performance, and interpersonal dynamics.
- **Operational Readiness** – Testing astronaut-like daily routines, including work schedules, exercise regimens, and mission control communications.
- The experiment mirrors routines on the International Space Station (ISS) and will guide planning for long-duration missions beyond Earth orbit.

- **How HOPE Compares to Other Space Analogues**
- Globally, space agencies run similar analogue missions,
- Mars Desert Research Station (USA) – Desert environment studies since 2001.
- Flashline Mars Arctic Station (Canada) – Arctic terrain simulations.
- HI-SEAS (Hawaii) – Crew psychology and isolation studies.
- SIRIUS (Russia) – Long-term isolation missions up to 340 days.
- ESA CAVES (Italy) – Underground astronaut training.
- **HOPE stands out because it combines multiple space-like stressors**—high altitude, cold desert conditions, and lunar-like terrain—in one integrated facility.

GTRI Criticizes US Tariffs

- **Global Trade Research Institute (GTRI) criticized the United States’** decision to impose an additional 25 per cent tariff on Indian imports, calling it hypocritical and highlighting Washington’s selective approach toward its allies in relation to trade with Moscow. **This criticism follows the U.S. announcement** of a new 25 per cent levy on Indian goods, on top of an existing 25 per cent tariff, raising the total duty to 50 per cent, effective from August 27.



- In a statement, **GTRI cited data showing that China imported 62.6 billion dollars worth of Russian oil in 2024, exceeding India’s 52.7 billion dollars.** Despite this, Beijing has not faced any punitive tariffs.
- **The institute further noted that the U.S. has ignored the European Union’s 39.1 billion dollars in imports from Russia in 2024, including 25.2 billion dollars worth of oil. It also revealed that the U.S. itself imported 3.3 billion dollars in strategic materials from Russia during the same period.**



Annu Rani

- In Athletics, India's Annu Rani has won gold medal in the women's javelin throw at the International Wiesław Maniak Memorial in Poland with a season-best effort of 62.59 meter. **The 32-year-old and Asian Games champion** started strong, throwing 60.96m in her first attempt, which was already enough to secure the win.



- Turkey's Eda Tuguz won silver with a 58.36m throw, while Australia's Lianna Davidson took bronze with 58.24m. Annu's performance places her among the top 15 women's javelin throwers in the world this season. She is now aiming to meet the **64m qualification mark for the 2025 World Athletics Championships**

in Tokyo next month. In other events, India's Pooja placed third in the women's 800m with a time of 2:02.95.

World Games 2025

- **An 17-member Indian team is set to compete in the World Games 2025**, starting today and running until August 17 in Chengdu, China. The World Games, held every **four years since 1981**, **showcase sports not included** in the Olympic program. This year's edition will feature 253 medal events across 34 sports and 60 disciplines.



- **India has been participating in the World Games since** the inaugural edition in 1981 and has won a total of five medals to date including one gold, one silver, and three bronze.
- **The country's only gold medal came in 2013, when Aditya Mehta triumphed** in billiards. This time India will compete in five sports, Archery, Billiards, Roller Skating, Wushu, and Racquetball.
- The contingent will aim to improve its medal tally and make a strong impact at the 12th edition of the Games.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Shayok Village Seen In News Located In

- A. Ladakh
- B. Jammu & Kashmir
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Uttarakhand

ANSWER: A

2. HOPE Mission Launched By

- A. JAXA
- B. ESA
- C. ISRO
- D. NASA

ANSWER: D

3. 107th Member To Join International solar Alliance

- A. Moldova
- B. Georgia
- C. Spain
- D. Italy

ANSWER: A

4. Which State Became The First In India To Launch A Sabbatical Leave Scheme For Government Employees

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Sikkim
- C. Kerala
- D. Uttarakhand

ANSWER: B

5. In Which City Did The Chief Minister Launch A Door-to-door Cleanliness Drive

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

ANSWER: B

6. Who Has Taken Charge As The 47th Vice Chief Of The Naval Staff

- A. Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan
- B. Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh
- C. Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar
- D. Vice Admiral CR Praveen Nair

ANSWER: A

7. In Which Year Was The National Education Policy (NEP) That Replaced The 1986 Policy Introduced

- A. 2018
- B. 2019
- C. 2021
- D. 2020

ANSWER: D

8. Which Indian State Has Been Warned By The Supreme Court Of Possibly Vanishing Due To Severe Ecological Degradation

- A. Uttarakhand
- B. Sikkim
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Arunachal Pradesh

ANSWER: C

9. Which Two Crops From Ladakh Are Part Of Nasa's Crew-11 Experiment On The International Space Station

- A. Barley and maize
- B. Seabuckthorn and Himalayan tartary
- C. Mizuna mustard and Black eyed pea
- D. None of the Above

ANSWER: B

10. Which Institution Has Launched The India Electric Mobility Index

- A. Reserve Bank of India
- B. Bureau of Indian Standards
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

ANSWER: C

11. Sahel Region, Is Located In Which Continent

- A. Africa
- B. Europe
- C. Australia
- D. North America

ANSWER: A

12. RS-28 Sarmat Is An Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Developed By Which Country

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

ANSWER: A

13. Which Indian State Recently Reintroduced The Critically Endangered Asian Giant Tortoise Into A Community Reserve

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

ANSWER: A

14. What Is The Base Year For Reserve Bank Of India Digital Payments Index

- A. 2016
- B. 2017
- C. 2018
- D. 2019

ANSWER: C

15. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana Is A Scheme Implemented Under Which Union Ministry

- A. Ministry of Rural Development
- B. Ministry of Agriculture
- C. Ministry of Food Processing Industries
- D. Ministry of Urban Development

ANSWER: C

16. Swasthya Sathi Is A Health Insurance Scheme Launched By

- A. Manipur
- B. West Bengal
- C. Odisha
- D. Chhattisgarh

ANSWER: B

17. Which Hydroelectric Project Was Revived By NHPC Following The Suspension Of The Indus Waters Treaty With Pakistan

- A. Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project
- B. Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project
- C. Ratle Hydroelectric Project
- D. Uri Hydroelectric Project

ANSWER: B

18. Which Country Hosted The 2nd BIMSTEC Ports Conclave In 2025

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

ANSWER: D

19. Which Country Is Participating With India In 14th Edition Of Exercise Bold Kurukshetra 2025 Held In Jodhpur

- A. August 20
- B. August 23
- C. August 25
- D. August 27

ANSWER: B

20. In The Mauryan Period, The Duties Of Mudradhyaksha Were Concerned With

- A. Forest Produce
- B. Ports
- C. Commerce
- D. Passports

ANSWER: D