

Daily Current Affairs

20 August 2025

India, China Agree To Resume Direct Flights

- India and China have agreed to **resume direct flight connectivity** between the Chinese mainland and India at the earliest and finalise an updated Air Services Agreement. Both sides came to this agreement during bilateral talks between **Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar** in New Delhi.



India Post Launches IT 2.0

- India Post announced that it has entered a **new era of digital transformation with the nationwide rollout of IT 2.0** — Advanced Postal Technology (APT). The initiative, led under the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and guided by Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, is being hailed as a milestone in India Post's journey towards Digital India.



- Developed indigenously by the **Centre for Excellence in Postal Technology**, the system runs on the government's MeghRaj 2.0 cloud and is supported by BSNL's nationwide connectivity.
- The new system offers several **next-generation features**, including a unified interface, QR-code-based payments, OTP-based delivery, and a 10-digit alphanumeric DIGIPIN to improve accuracy.

South-Central Railway

- For the first time in the **history of the South-Central Railway (SCR)**, five of its most crucial departments, **Operations, Commercial, Finance, Security, and Medical, are currently being led by women officers**. An official release stated that these departments, known for their demanding responsibilities, play a vital role in ensuring smooth **train operations, passenger safety, financial discipline, and healthcare services**.
- They include **Principal Chief Operations Manager, K Padmaja**, an Indian Railway Traffic Service 1991 batch officer, who oversees train scheduling, punctuality, and freight operations and **Principal Chief Commercial Manager, Ity Pandey, an IRTS 1998 batch officer**, handling passenger services, freight revenue, and business development.



- **IG-cum-Principal Chief Security Commissioner, Aroma Singh Thakur**, an Indian Railway Protection Force Service 1993 batch officer, is leading the Railway Protection Force with several security initiatives like Operation Yatri Suraksha and Meri Saheli. Similarly, **Principal Chief Medical Director Dr. Nirmala Narasimhan**, an Indian Railway Health Service 1989 batch officer responsible for healthcare across eight major hospitals and 40 health units in the zone. Principal Financial Advisor T. Hema Suneetha, an Indian Railway Accounts Service 1993 batch officer, is heading financial management and revenue growth.

Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan

- Union Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced that **Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan** will be launched on the 3rd of October this year. He said the campaign aims at promoting **direct interaction between farmers and agricultural scientists**, and it will continue till 18th October.



- Replying to supplementaries during Question Hour in the Lok Sabha, Mr Chouhan said, during the campaign, thousands of scientists and Agriculture department officials will travel to villages and interact with farmers to apprise them about new technologies to boost food production.
- government is focusing on the **adoption of scientific farming practices** and promoting sustainable agricultural growth. The Minister informed that during the last campaign in May this year, interaction was held with over one crore 33 lakh farmers.

‘Press Sewa’ Portal

- **Press Registrar General of India (PRGI) Yogesh Baweja** has said the Press Sewa portal has been introduced as a single-window solution to simplify the registration process for newspapers and periodicals. He said the initiative will **enhance transparency, speed up approvals and improve the ease of doing business for publishers** and resolve the issues faced by publishers.



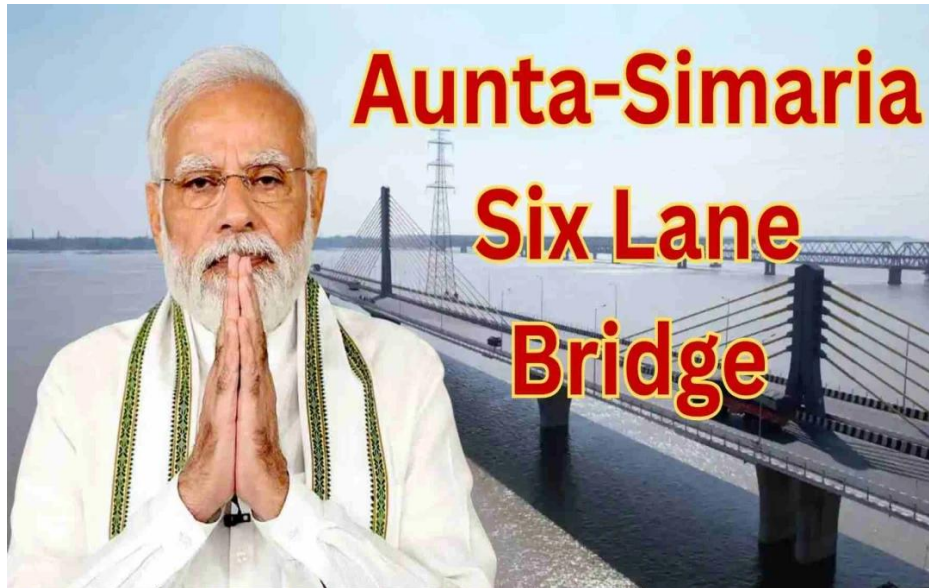
- He was interacting with publishers at **Vartalap, organised by the Press Information Bureau (PIB)**, Hyderabad, under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- **Deputy Press Registrar Ashutosh Mohle explained** that the entire registration process has transitioned online since March last year. He stated that applications will be deemed approved if there is no response within 60 days and emphasised the importance of publishers avoiding agents and using the PRGI portal directly.

Aunta – Simaria Project In Gaya

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will **inaugurate Aunta-Simaria project in Bihar's Gaya on the 22nd of this month**. The project includes a nearly two-kilometre-long bridge over river Ganga, which will provide direct connectivity between Mokama in Patna District and Begusarai.



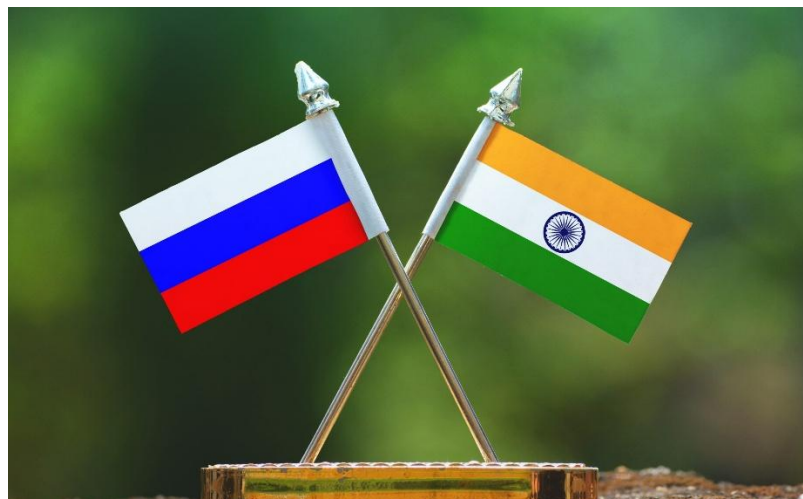
- Briefing the media in New Delhi, **National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)** Member, Anil Choudhary, informed that this bridge has been constructed parallel to the **old 2-lane rail Cum-road bridge 'Rajendra Setu'**.
- He added that the new bridge will reduce the extra travel distance by up to 100 kilometres for the heavy vehicles, travelling between the regions of North Bihar and South Bihar.



- Mr Choudhary said that the project will make travel easier as well as faster for heavy vehicles, thereby saving on fuel and vehicle operation costs. The foundation stone of the project was laid **by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2017, marking the beginning of a transformational journey to enhance connectivity and support regional development across Bihar.**

EAM Jaishankar To Be On 3-day Visit To Russia

- External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar will be on a **three-day visit to Russia**. The Ministry of External Affairs, in a statement, said that Dr. Jaishankar will co-chair the **26th Session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation** in Moscow tomorrow.



- During the visit, Dr. Jaishankar will hold discussions with his Russian counterpart, **Sergey Lavrov and will also address the** India-Russia Business Forum. The Ministry further said that the two leaders will review the bilateral agenda and exchange views on regional and global issues. The visit of the External Affairs Minister seeks to further strengthen the longstanding and time-tested India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership.

Manika Vishwakarma Crowned Miss Universe India

- India has chosen its new **global beauty ambassador**. **Manika Vishwakarma, a model from Ganganagar, Rajasthan**, has been crowned Miss Universe India 2025 in a glittering event held in Jaipur.
- With this victory, Manika will now **represent India at the 74th Miss Universe competition, scheduled** to take place later this year in Thailand. Manika's rise in the world of pageantry has been inspiring. **Originally from Ganganagar, she moved to Delhi** to pursue modeling and prepare for national-level competitions.



- Crowned Miss Universe Rajasthan 2024, which paved her way to the national stage.
- India and the Miss Universe Legacy
- India has a proud history at Miss Universe, producing several winners who went on to become global icons, such as,
- **Sushmita Sen (1994) – the first Indian to win Miss Universe.**

- **Lara Dutta (2000)** – second Indian Miss Universe.
- **Harnaaz Sandhu (2021)** – third crown for India after two decades.

Rashmika Sahgal Wins Gold

- The 16th Asian Shooting Championship, **Rashmika Sahgal has won gold**, India's third individual yellow medal on day two of the competition at Shymkent in Kazakhstan. **Rashmika clinched the junior women's air pistol** crown with her impressive score of 241.9, a yawning 4.3 ahead of silver-winning Korean Han Seunghyun.



- Earlier, **Manu Bhaker**, a double Olympic bronze medallist, bagged another individual international medal as she shot 219.7 in the women's 10m air pistol final to finish third. It was double delight for Rashmika (qualification score 582), as she combined with Vanshika Chaudhary (573) and Mohini Singh (565) to win the team gold in the event. **Manu (583) also won a team bronze in women's air pistol alongside reigning Asian Games champ Palak (573) and Suruchi Phogat (574)**. Overall, India has won five gold, two silver and four bronze medals from all competitions held so far.

Sumit Malik Wins Silver

- At the ongoing **Under 20 World Wrestling Championships**, wrestler Sumit Malik settled for a silver medal after a 5-8 loss to Russia's Magomed Odzamiro in the men's 57 kg category, in Samokov, Bulgaria.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **Aunta – Simaria Project In Gaya Will Be Inaugurated In**

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

ANSWER: B

2. **Who Is Crowned Miss Universe India 2025**

- A. Manika Vishwakarma
- B. Satisha Dutta
- C. Sushmita Sen
- D. Aishwarya Rai

ANSWER: A

3. In Which City Was India's First All-women Operated Clean Street Food Hub Inaugurated

- A. Mumbai
- B. Pune
- C. New Delhi
- D. Ahmedabad

ANSWER: A

4. Who Received A Singles Wild Card Entry Into U.S. Open 2025 At The Age Of 45

- A. Venus Williams
- B. Serena Williams
- C. Martina Navratilova
- D. Steffi Graf

ANSWER: A

5. Koraput Kalajeera Rice Got GI Status, Is Cultivated In Which State

- A. Punjab
- B. Odisha
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER: B

6. In Which Country Is Taita Hills Region Located, Where Innovative Beehive Fences Being Used To Prevent Human-elephant Conflicts

- A. Tanzania
- B. Kenya
- C. Uganda
- D. Rwanda

ANSWER: B

7. Which Institute Collaborated With Northeast Frontier Railway To Develop Biodegradable Alternatives To Single-use Plastics

- A. IIT Guwahati
- B. IIT Delhi
- C. IIT Kanpur
- D. IIT Madras

ANSWER: A

8. What Was India's Wholesale Price Index Inflation Recorded In July 2025

- A. -0.25%
- B. -1.02%
- C. -0.58%
- D. -0.75%

ANSWER: C

9. Which Country Has Directed NASA To Prepare For The Early Termination Of The OCO-2 And OCO-3 Satellites

- A. Russia
- B. United States
- C. China
- D. India

ANSWER: B

10. Where Was The Putin- Trump Summit Of August 2025 Held

- A. Alaska
- B. Moscow
- C. Washington D.C.
- D. Geneva

ANSWER: A

11. Which Football Club Was Ranked As The World's Most Valuable In The Brand Finance Football 50–2025 Report

- A. FC Barcelona
- B. Real Madrid
- C. Manchester City
- D. Paris Saint-Germain

ANSWER: B

12. Which Indian State's Traditional Bullfighting Sport 'Dhirio' Was Banned In 1996 Under The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals Act

- A. Kerala
- B. Karnataka
- C. Goa
- D. Maharashtra

ANSWER: C

13. In Which State Did ISRO Inaugurate A New Space Laboratory In Collaboration With The Muskaan Foundation

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

ANSWER: D

14. Which Organization Released Special Picture Postcards & Golden Cancellation To Mark 50th Anniversary Of Film Sholay In 2025

- A. Film Federation of India
- B. India Post
- C. Ministry of Culture
- D. National Film Development Corporation

ANSWER: A

15. Who Won The Quantbox Chennai Grand Masters 2025 Chess Title

- A. Vincent Keymer
- B. Jorden van Forest
- C. Arjun Erigaisi
- D. Karthikeyan Murali

ANSWER: A

16. What Type Of GST Structure Has The Centre Proposed In Its Latest Reform

- A. Three-Slab
- B. Two-Slab
- C. Four-Slab
- D. Single-Slab

ANSWER: B

17. Where Is The First- Ever Khelo India Water Sports Festival Being Held

- A. Shimla
- B. Srinagar
- C. Dehradun
- D. Manali

ANSWER: B

18. How Long Was PM Modi's Independence Day Speech In 2025 That Set A Record As Longest Such Address

- A. 103 minute
- B. 95 minute
- C. 120 minute
- D. 85 minute

ANSWER: A

19. Under the new FASTag Annual Pass Launched By NHAI, How Many Toll Crossings Are Allowed Before The Pass Expires

- A. 100
- B. 150
- C. 250
- D. 200

ANSWER: D

20. Ancient City Of Nineveh, Is Located In Which Country

- A. China
- B. Russia
- C. Iraq
- D. Iran

ANSWER: C



SSBCrack
EXAMS