

# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

▶ **17 & 18 AUGUST 2025**

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

### 1. Northeast Frontier Railway and IIT Guwahati Launch Biodegradable Bed-Roll Bags to Phase Out Plastic.



The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) and the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT-Guwahati) have joined forces to replace conventional plastic with biodegradable, compostable materials. A pilot was launched on India's 79th Independence Day, deploying eco-friendly bed-roll bags across trains to foster sustainable rail services.

- The partnership between NFR and IIT-Guwahati was formally unveiled on 15 August 2025, coinciding with India's 79th Independence Day. Under the leadership of NFR General Manager Chetan Kumar Shrivastava and IIT-Guwahati Professor Vimal Katiyar, the initiative introduces green bed-roll bags made from bio-plastic developed at the institute's in-house Research & Development centre.

- In this pilot phase, approximately 40,000 biodegradable bags—compliant with ISO 17088 standards—are being distributed across 25 trains departing from Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Tripura, and Arunachal Pradesh. The bags decompose swiftly in compost, offering both convenience for passengers and an eco-sensitive alternative to plastic.

- NFR has advanced its environmental stewardship with initiatives like electrification, solar energy, AI-based elephant protection, rainwater harvesting, bio-toilets, composting, afforestation, and green belt creation. It also established an inoculum facility at Kamakhya to recycle biodegradable waste and remake bed-roll bags, supporting a circular economy in railway operations.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Earlier, on 1 August 2025, NFR signed two pivotal Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs): one with the Pollution Control Board, Assam (PCBA), and M/s Kusum Udyog to transform Guwahati railway station into a 100 percent plastic-recycling hub; the other with IIT-Guwahati to introduce biodegradable bed-roll packaging in AC coaches, initially trialed on the Brahmaputra Mail (Kamakhya–New Delhi), before expanding across the NFR network.

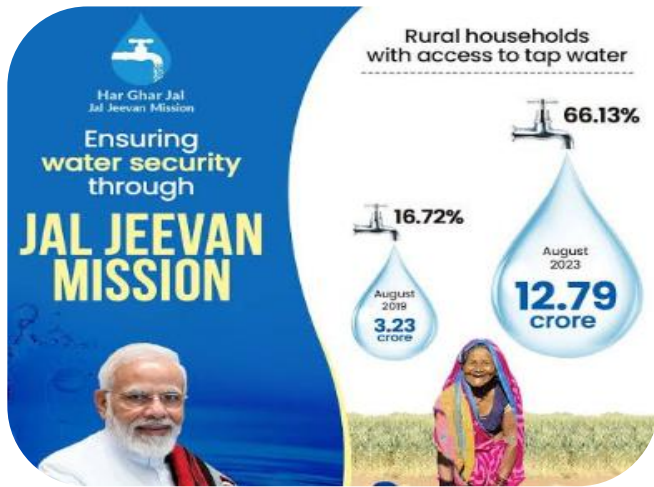
(ii) These MoUs were signed at NFR Headquarters in Maligaon, during an event chaired by GM Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, with senior officials, Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs), Chief Workshop Managers (CWMs), representatives from PCBA, IIT-Guwahati, and M/s Kusum Udyog joining, some via video conferencing. A six-member task force headed by the Station Superintendent, Guwahati, has been set up to drive the recycling hub initiative forward.

(iii) Together, these steps highlight NFR's alignment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Transformation by Transportation" vision. The initiative not only merges cutting-edge academic research with ground-level implementation but also sets a benchmark for integrating sustainability into routine railway operations—reducing plastic waste, lowering carbon emissions, and conserving



natural resources while enhancing passenger experience.

## 2. PM Narendra Modi Marked Six Years of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Covering 15.69 Crore Rural Households with Tap Water.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked the completion of six years of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) on 14 August 2025, a flagship initiative that has transformed rural water access by ensuring safe drinking water through functional household tap connections.

- The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) on 15 August 2019 with the aim of providing every rural household with a Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) by 2024. It has become a key initiative under the 'Har Ghar Jal' campaign.

- The Government of India (GoI) has proposed to extend the Jal Jeevan Mission till 2028 with enhanced funding, as announced in the Union Budget for the financial year 2025–26 (FY26), to further strengthen rural water security.

- As of July 2025, more than 15.69 crore rural households have been provided with tap water connections, covering 81% of rural India. This

expansion includes over 2.63 lakh villages and 191 districts that have been officially declared as 'Har Ghar Jal'.

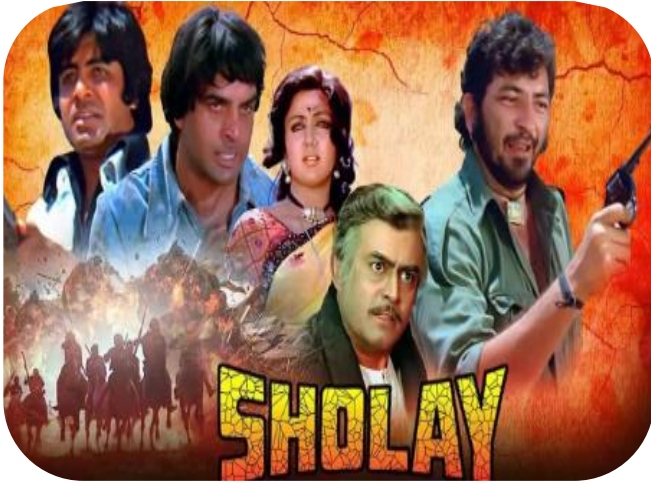
### Key Points:-

(i) The JJM has also ensured access to safe drinking water in public institutions. More than 9.5 lakh schools and 10 lakh Anganwadi centres have been connected to tap water supply. In the 112 Aspirational Districts, tap water coverage has now reached 79.32%.

(ii) The mission has significantly reduced fluoride-affected habitations, which posed serious health risks. The number of such habitations has dropped from 7,996 in 2019 to only 248 in 2025, demonstrating a remarkable improvement in rural health protection.

(iii) The Jal Jeevan Mission employs modern technology, including IoT-based monitoring systems, for real-time water quality assessment and service delivery. This has made the scheme more transparent, accountable, and reliable for ensuring sustained access to clean water.

## 3. India Post Marks 50 Years of Sholay with Special Postcards, Golden Cancellation and Tribute to Director Ramesh Sippy.



On Independence Day 2025, the Maharashtra Postal Circle of India Post commemorated 50 years of the legendary Bollywood film Sholay by launching special picture postcards, a collector's presentation pack, and an exclusive golden cancellation. The celebration paid tribute to the film's cultural legacy and honoured its director, Ramesh Sippy.

- The commemorative items included specially designed picture postcards depicting iconic characters and scenes from Sholay, a presentation pack for collectors, and an exclusive golden cancellation. The golden cancellation is a rare postal mark used by India Post to signify historic occasions.
- The special releases were unveiled by Amitabh Singh, Chief Postmaster General (CPMG) of Maharashtra Postal Circle, and presented to veteran filmmaker Ramesh Sippy. His 1975 blockbuster Sholay remains a milestone in Hindi cinema and is regarded as one of the greatest films in Indian film history.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The event was attended by philatelists (stamp collectors), senior postal department officials, cinema lovers, and dignitaries. It reflected the enduring cultural impact of

Sholay, which transformed Indian filmmaking with its action, dialogues, and memorable characters.

(ii) India Post, under the Ministry of Communications, Government of India, has a tradition of issuing philatelic tributes for cultural and sporting achievements. In recent years, it honoured Grandmaster D. Gukesh, India's youngest chess champion, and India's 2025 International Cricket Council (ICC) Champions Trophy win with special postal cancellations.

#### 4. India Celebrated 79th Independence Day 2025: PM Modi Delivers Longest I-Day Speech, Launches PM-VRBY and Major National Missions.



India observed its 79th Independence Day on 15th August 2025 with grand celebrations at the Red Fort, New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation for the 12th consecutive time, delivering the longest-ever Independence Day speech by any Indian Prime Minister.

- The celebrations were organized by the Government of India (GoI), with the Indian Air Force (IAF) serving as the coordinating service for the year's national event. The occasion

featured a ceremonial Guard of Honour, a 21-gun salute, and a flypast showcasing the national flag alongside the Operation Sindoor flag, making the event historically significant.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address lasted for 103 minutes, marking the lengthiest Independence Day speech in Indian history. His speech focused on India's journey towards becoming a developed nation, emphasizing the central theme of "Naya Bharat" which aligns with the vision of building a "Viksit Bharat" by the year 2047.

- Among the key government initiatives announced were the launch of the Prime Minister Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VRBY), Sudarshan Mission by 2035, and the National High-Powered Demography Mission. Reforms in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) were also introduced with an implementation target of October 2025, alongside a push to boost semiconductor manufacturing under the 'Made in India' strategy.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) confirmed that 1,090 personnel from the Police, Fire Services, Home Guards, Civil Defence, and Correctional Services were honoured with Gallantry and Service Medals this year. These recognitions highlighted the government's focus on bravery, discipline, and service to the nation during the celebrations.

(ii) On this occasion, President of India Droupadi Murmu conferred a total of 127 Gallantry Awards and 40 Distinguished Service Awards upon members of the Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs). Additionally, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) received recognition with the

award of three Tatrakshak Medals (Gallantry) and two Tatrakshak Medals (Meritorious Service), honouring their exceptional commitment to maritime security.

(iii) This year's Independence Day not only celebrated India's freedom but also reinforced long-term policy visions, strategic reforms, and recognition of national service, thereby setting a roadmap for India's development trajectory as it approaches the centenary of its independence in 2047.

## INTERNATIONAL

1. India–Sri Lanka Conduct 12th Edition of Bilateral Naval Exercise 'SLINEX 2025' in Colombo.



The 12th edition of the bilateral naval exercise 'SLINEX 2025' between the Indian Navy (IN) and Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) was recently held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 14 to 18 August 2025. The exercise, conducted in Harbour and Sea phases, focused on strengthening maritime security and enhancing operational interoperability.

- The exercise was conducted in two phases: the Harbour Phase (14–16 August 2025) and the Sea Phase (17–18 August 2025). The Harbour Phase



included Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE), professional interactions, yoga sessions, sports engagements, and cultural programmes, while the Sea Phase witnessed advanced maritime drills such as gunnery firing, anti-submarine warfare, visit board search and seizure (VBSS), and search and rescue operations.

- The Indian Navy deployed INS Jyoti (Fleet Tanker) and INS Rana (Guided Missile Destroyer), while the Sri Lanka Navy participated with SLNS Gajabahu and SLNS Vijayabahu (Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessels), and SLNS Sayura (Offshore Patrol Vessel). Additional participants included Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) helicopters, BEL ALH Dhruv helicopters, and Special Forces from both navies.

- SLINEX 2025 was conceptualised in 2005 and is aligned with India's maritime policies—SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions). The exercise highlights India's role as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and reflects New Delhi's emphasis on regional cooperation in line with its Neighbourhood First policy.

### Key Points:-

(i) The exercise addressed conventional and non-traditional security challenges, including piracy, smuggling, drug trafficking, and illegal fishing. It also focused on coordinated operational drills, enhancing communication protocols, and building joint capacity to respond to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) situations, making it crucial for safeguarding maritime trade routes in the Indo-Pacific.

(ii) The previous edition, SLINEX 2024, was hosted by India at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, from 17 to 20 December 2024. By alternating between Indian and Sri Lankan coasts, SLINEX ensures balanced participation and deeper understanding between the two navies.

(iii) Over the years, SLINEX has become a flagship naval engagement between India and Sri Lanka, fostering military diplomacy and strengthening ties under the broader framework of India–Sri Lanka defence cooperation agreements.

## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

### 1. India's Russian Oil Imports Surge to 2 Million Barrels per Day in August 2025.



In August 2025, India's crude oil imports from Russia surged to an all-time high of 2 million barrels per day (bpd), cementing Moscow's position as New Delhi's top energy supplier. The surge comes despite ongoing Western sanctions on Russia following the Ukraine war and reflects India's strategy of sourcing discounted oil to ensure energy security.

- According to data released by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), India's overall crude oil imports averaged 4.8 million

bpd in August 2025, of which Russia accounted for nearly 42%. This marks a sharp increase compared to the 1.7 million bpd imported in July 2025, highlighting India's growing reliance on discounted Russian crude.

- India and Russia have been increasingly settling oil trade using a rupee-dirham payment mechanism via banks in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to bypass the U.S. dollar-based financial system affected by sanctions. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has facilitated special vostro accounts with Russian banks to support this system, ensuring uninterrupted supply chains.

- The surge in imports comes amid heightened pressure from the United States Department of State and the European Union (EU), urging India to align with G7 sanctions on Russian oil. However, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri defended India's stance, emphasizing that New Delhi's priority is to protect domestic consumers from global price volatility.

### Key Points:-

(i) A significant portion of Russian crude is being processed at Indian refineries like Reliance Industries' Jamnagar refinery in Gujarat and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) refineries, with a part re-exported as refined petroleum products to markets in Europe and Asia. This has allowed India to benefit economically while balancing diplomatic relations with the West.

(ii) The import surge is part of India's broader energy diversification strategy under the Integrated Energy Policy of NITI Aayog. India, the world's third-largest oil importer after China and the United States, aims to reduce reliance on Middle Eastern suppliers.

The Russian imports are helping India keep average crude import costs below USD 80 per barrel, despite Brent crude trading above USD 90 globally.

(iii) Analysts from the International Energy Agency (IEA) predict that India's Russian oil imports could remain above 1.5 million bpd in the coming months, depending on geopolitical developments. With Russia's market share in India jumping from 1% in 2021 to over 40% in 2025, the partnership signals a long-term restructuring of India's energy sourcing strategy, aligning economic pragmatism with diplomatic balancing.

## 2. India's Exports to the US Surge 20% in July 2025 and Bilateral Trade Hits New High.



India's exports to the United States rose sharply by 19.94% to reach USD 8.01 billion in July 2025, while imports climbed 13.78% to USD 4.55 billion. This surge helped elevate India-US bilateral trade to new heights amidst shifting tariff dynamics.

- According to data from India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry, July 2025 witnessed remarkable growth in bilateral trade, with exports to the US reaching USD 8.01 billion, an

increase of 19.94% year-on-year, while imports from the US grew by 13.78% to USD 4.55 billion.

- For the period April–July 2025, exports to the US totalled USD 33.53 billion, marking a 21.64% rise over the previous year, while imports stood at USD 17.41 billion, up 12.33%, confirming the US as India’s top trade partner in this interval.

#### Key Points:-

(i) The export surge is driven by strengthened demand in sectors such as electronics, jewelry, and engineering goods. Several exporters fast-tracked shipments ahead of looming US tariff hikes—a move that significantly accelerated trade volumes during the period.

(ii) While July marked a trade upswing, India’s overall merchandise trade deficit widened to USD 27.35 billion, reflecting higher imports. Amid uncertainties surrounding US tariff policy, India continues trade talks and aims to further expand its bilateral ties around the ambitious target of doubling trade by 2030.

### 3. Microsoft Secures No.1 Position in TopBrand 2025 Global Ranking, Followed by NVIDIA and Apple.



At the 19th China Brand Festival, held in Shenzhen from 7–11 August 2025, the TopBrand Union released its “Top 500 Global Brands List 2025.” Microsoft emerged as the highest-valued brand at USD 1.062 trillion, followed by NVIDIA and Apple, highlighting the ongoing global dominance of U.S. tech giants.

- China’s premier branding event, themed “AI and Global Expansion,” brought over 10,000 entrepreneurs, brand leaders, and policymakers to Shenzhen. The festival featured brand expos, forums, and interactive sessions, culminating in the unveiling of the year’s most influential global brands.

- The recently released rankings reveal that Microsoft leads with a brand valuation of USD 1,062.505 billion, while NVIDIA closely follows at USD 1,046.760 billion, and Apple ranks third with USD 997.685 billion. These numbers reflect their pivotal roles in AI, semiconductor propulsion, and consumer ecosystems.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Beyond tech, the list underscores evolving global dynamics. Amazon, Alphabet (Google), Saudi Aramco, Walmart, Meta (Facebook), Berkshire Hathaway, and Broadcom fill ranks four through ten, showcasing a mix of tech, retail, energy, and investment powerhouses.

(ii) Despite China having 130 companies in the Fortune Global 500 (2025) list—only eight fewer than the U.S.—its representation in the TopBrand rankings is less than half. Dr. Wang Yong, Chairman of the TopBrand Union and President of the festival, remarked this gap underscores the urgent need for Chinese firms to build stronger global brand influence.



#### 4. Centre Unveils Two-Slab GST Overhaul: 5% and 18% Rates and 40% for Sin Goods.



On August 15, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a significant overhaul of India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) system during his Independence Day speech. The proposed changes aim to simplify the current four-tier tax structure by introducing two primary slabs of 5% and 18%, with a special 40% rate for luxury and sin goods. This reform is expected to be finalized by the GST Council in September or October 2025 and could be implemented by Diwali 2025 .

- The proposed two-slab GST structure is designed to replace the existing four-tier system, which includes 0%, 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28% slabs. Under the new structure, essential food items will remain tax-free, while most goods currently taxed at 12% will move to the 5% slab, and many items in the 28% bracket will shift to the 18% slab. A special 40% rate will apply to select luxury and sin goods, such as tobacco and pan masala.

- The GST Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, is set to convene in the coming weeks to discuss and finalize the proposed changes.

- The Council comprises the Union Finance Minister and the finance ministers of all Indian states and union territories. The upcoming meeting will focus on streamlining the tax structure, addressing classification disputes, and facilitating quicker business registrations and expedited refund processes.

#### Key Points:-

(i) This GST overhaul is part of the government's broader agenda to boost consumption and stimulate economic growth. By reducing the tax burden on everyday items, the reform aims to make goods more affordable for consumers, thereby encouraging spending and supporting key sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, and manufacturing.

(ii) The proposed changes are expected to have significant implications for various industries. For instance, the reduction in GST rates for automobiles and insurance premiums is likely to benefit manufacturers like Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai, and Tata Motors, as well as insurance companies. Additionally, sectors such as cement and consumer electronics may see a boost in demand due to the revised tax structure.

(iii) While the reform is anticipated to stimulate economic activity, it may also strain government finances. The proposed tax cuts are expected to cost the government approximately \$20 billion annually. However, the government projects that the reform will boost India's GDP by 0.6 percentage points over the next year, contributing to economic growth and improved market sentiment.

## SPORTS

### 1. Real Madrid Crowned Most Valuable Football Club in the World for 2025.



Real Madrid has once again been declared the world's most valuable football club in 2025, topping prestigious rankings like Brand Finance and Forbes. With brand and enterprise valuations soaring past historic thresholds, the club continues its financial dominance in global football.

- The Brand Finance Football 50–2025 report reaffirmed Real Madrid's position as the most valuable football brand worldwide, estimating its brand value at €1.921 billion and granting it a near-perfect brand strength score of 94.9 out of 100, with a coveted AAA+ rating. This marks the fourth year in a row the Spanish club has claimed the top ranking in this report.

- Forbes' 2025 valuation also places Real Madrid at the summit, estimating its overall worth at an impressive \$6.75 billion—matching its record for being the most valuable club for the fourth consecutive year and the ninth time in the past twelve editions. The club famously became the first in history to surpass \$1 billion in annual revenue, achieving \$1.13 billion in the 2023–24 season.

- Further validation comes from Football Benchmark's 2025 valuation, which pegs Real Madrid's enterprise value at a groundbreaking €6.278 billion—a 23% increase compared to the previous year. This achievement makes them the first football club ever to exceed the €6 billion mark, with their upgraded Santiago Bernabéu Stadium playing a crucial role by generating €251 million in matchday revenue.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Real Madrid's remarkable financial leadership is evident across multiple metrics. In Brand Finance's analysis, their success reflects a powerful combination of global merchandising, long-term sponsorship agreements, consistent Champions League performance, and exceptional commercial outreach, all contributing to the brand's continued strengthening.

(ii) On the revenue front, Forbes underscores not only their record-breaking income but also the boosted matchday earnings following the Bernabéu renovation.

(iii) Beyond Real Madrid, the global football valuation landscape sees Manchester United and Barcelona trailing closely behind. Forbes ranks Manchester United at \$6.6 billion and Barcelona at \$5.65 billion. Meanwhile, Brand Finance highlights the concentration of brand value among elite clubs in Europe's top leagues, emphasizing the widening gap between the financial top tier and the rest of the football world.

## AWARDS

1. Neeraj Ghaywan's *Homebound* Shines at Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2025, Winning Best Film and Best Director.



Neeraj Ghaywan's critically acclaimed film *Homebound* emerged as the biggest winner at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2025, held from August 15–24. The drama won both Best Film and Best Director awards, celebrating Indian cinema on a global stage.

- The 16th edition of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM), organized annually to promote Indian cinema in Australia, began on August 15, 2025, with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony in Melbourne. The festival showcased the finest films and series released in 2024–25 and emphasized streaming content reaching international audiences.

- *Homebound*, inspired by the 2020 New York Times essay *Taking Amrit Home* by Kashmiri journalist Basharat Peer, narrates the struggles of two migrant workers stranded during the COVID-19 lockdown. The film, directed by Neeraj Ghaywan, starred Ishaan Khatter, Vishal Jethwa, and Janhvi Kapoor and was produced by Dharma Productions under Karan Johar, Adar Poonawalla, Apoorva Mehta, and Somen Mishra.

- The awards night on August 16, 2025, celebrated outstanding talent in Indian cinema. Legendary filmmaker Martin Scorsese served as

an executive producer for *Homebound*, mentoring the screenplay development.

### Key Points:-

(i) The film's cinematography predominantly took place in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, and it had previously received acclaim at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival, including a nine-minute standing ovation.

(ii) Key awards included Aamir Khan receiving the Excellence in Cinema Award for his lifetime contribution to Indian cinema. Abhishek Bachchan won Best Actor (Male) for *I Want to Talk*, while Jaideep Ahlawat received Best Actor (Male) in a series for *Paatal Lok Season 2*. Best Actress (Female) awards went to Geetha Kailasam (*Angammal*) and Nimisha Sajayan (*Dabba Cartel*).

(iii) Other notable winners included *Angammal* for Best Indie Film, *Black Warrant* for Best Series, Vir Das for the Disruptor Award, Aditi Rao Hydari for the Diversity in Cinema Award, and Baksho Bondi for the Equality in Cinema Award. Short films recognized were *Kalar Pencils* (India) and *Drifters* (Australia), highlighting the festival's emphasis on both mainstream and independent storytelling.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**1. ISRO Launches Pasang Wangchuk Sona Space Laboratory in Shi-Yomi, Arunachal Pradesh to Boost Science Education.**





In August 2025, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), in collaboration with Muskaan Foundation, inaugurated the Pasang Wangchuk Sona ISRO Space Laboratory at Mechuka Government Higher Secondary School in Shi-Yomi district, Arunachal Pradesh—bringing hands-on space science education to one of India's most remote regions.

- On August 16, 2025, Arunachal Pradesh Education Minister Pasang Dorjee Sona officially inaugurated the state-of-the-art space laboratory at Mechuka in the Shi-Yomi district—a remote Himalayan outpost whose educational infrastructure has long faced logistical challenges
- The facility, named the Pasang Wangchuk Sona ISRO Space Laboratory in memory of the minister's late father, honours his enduring belief in the transformative power of education. It embodies a vision where students from remote areas can dream big and engage early with cutting-edge science.
- This lab is a collaborative initiative by ISRO and the Muskaan Foundation, aiming to provide students with immersive, hands-on exposure to space science and technology. It seeks to foster curiosity, innovation, and scientific thinking among youth in Shi-Yomi district.

### Key Points:-

- (i) In his speech during the inauguration, Minister Sona emphasized that the laboratory is not merely educational infrastructure, but a heartfelt tribute to his father's legacy—a beacon designed to inspire generations of students in this remote corner of India to explore the skies fearlessly.
- (ii) The inauguration was attended by key dignitaries including Shi-Yomi Deputy Commissioner Liyi Bagra, Deputy Director of School Education Tade Dabi, and Muskaan Foundation COO Pranesh Debnath, alongside local students, teachers, and community leaders—marking a significant moment in bringing advanced space education to India's northeastern frontier.

## OBITUARY

### 1. Governor La Ganesan of Nagaland Passes Away at 80 in Chennai.



La Ganesan, the 16th Governor of Nagaland, passed away at the age of 80 in Chennai on August 15, 2025. He had been in intensive care following a head injury sustained days earlier. His death has prompted nationwide mourning and heartfelt tributes.

- La Ganesan collapsed at his residence in Chennai on August 8, 2025, suffering a severe head injury. He was immediately shifted to Apollo Hospital, admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), and underwent surgery for a blood clot in his head. He remained under close monitoring until his demise on the evening of August 15, at approximately 6:23 pm.

- Appointed the 21st Governor of Nagaland on February 12, 2023, La Ganesan formally assumed the office on February 20, 2023. Prior to that, he served as Governor of Manipur (August 2021 – February 2023) and briefly held additional charge as Governor of West Bengal (July–November 2022). A veteran of the RSS and long-standing BJP leader, he also represented Madhya Pradesh in the Rajya Sabha (2016–2018) and held key organisational roles within the party.

- Following his passing, the Nagaland government declared a seven-day state mourning (August 16–22, 2025), during which the national flag will be flown at half-mast and all official entertainment suspended. His contributions were widely acknowledged across the political spectrum, reflecting the respect he garnered as a leader who bridged diverse cultures and regions.

#### Key Points:-

(i) Prominent leaders across India paid tribute to La Ganesan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi described him as a “devout nationalist” who dedicated his life to service and nation-building, particularly recounting his work strengthening the BJP in Tamil Nadu and his deep affection for Tamil culture.

(ii) President Droupadi Murmu, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Nagaland Chief Minister

Neiphiu Rio, and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin also expressed their condolences, honoring his integrity, simplicity, and cross-regional connection.

(iii) La Ganesan was given a state funeral with full honours at Besant Nagar crematorium in Chennai after public homage at his T. Nagar residence and GCC ground. His body, draped in the national tricolor, was cremated with military honours in the presence of dignitaries including Governor R.N. Ravi, Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan, Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio, Union Ministers Arjun Ram Meghwal and L. Murugan, NTK chief Seeman, and DK president K. Veeramani.

**Static GK**

<b>Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS)</b>	Union Minister : Chandrakant Raghunath (CR) Patil	Headquarters: New Delhi
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	Prime Minister (PM) : Dr. Harini Amarasuriya	Currency : Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR)
<b>Russia</b>	Prime minister: Mikhail Mishustin	Capital: Moscow
<b>ISRO</b>	Chairman : Dr. V. Narayanan	Headquarters: Bengaluru
<b>United States</b>	President: Donald Trump	Capital: Washington, D.C.