

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

20 AUGUST 2025





#### **NATIONAL AFFAIRS**

1. India's First Hydrogen-Powered Train Successfully Completes Load Tests in Chennai under the Leadership of Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.



In August 2025, India's first Hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>)-powered train successfully cleared load tests at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, under the supervision of the Research Designs & Standards Organization (RDSO) and the Ministry of Railways (MoR) led by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. The achievement marks a major step in India's push towards green and sustainable railway technology.

- The hydrogen-powered train has been developed by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) at a cost of ₹136 crores under the "Hydrogen for Heritage" initiative of Indian Railways.
- The project is aimed at reducing carbon emissions on heritage and hill routes while promoting green transport solutions.

# **Key Points:-**

(i) The train has been designed with a passenger capacity of 2,638 and can achieve a maximum speed of 110 km/h. It will operate on the Jind-Sonipat route in Haryana, covering 89 km, during its initial

trial phase.

- (ii) Equipped with advanced technology, the hydrogen train features a 1,200-horsepower hydrogen engine and a 3,000 kg hydrogen storage capacity. This advancement positions India among the world leaders in hydrogen-powered railway innovation.
- (iii) The "Hydrogen for Heritage" programme plans to deploy a total of 35 hydrogen-powered trains across India's heritage and hilly routes. This initiative aligns with India's broader climate goals and its commitment to reducing dependency on fossil fuels in the transport sector.
- 2. Six-Day Indian Cinema Festival Kicks Off at Eastern University, Trincomalee, Sri Lanka.



A vibrant, six-day Indian Film Festival was inaugurated today at the Trincomalee campus of Eastern University in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province. The festival, opened by the province's Governor, aims to strengthen cultural bonds through cinema, showcasing six Indian films across diverse languages.

 The festival was formally inaugurated by Professor Jayantha Lal Ratnasekera, Governor of Sri Lanka's Eastern Province, who emphasized the importance of cultural diplomacy.





Representing India, Prof. Ankuran Dutta, Director of the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in Colombo, spotlighted Indian cinema's dynamic evolution over 111 years.

• The event features a curated lineup of six Indian films presented in multiple Indian languages. The selection underscores the diversity and vibrancy of Indian cinema, reflecting its cultural depth and ability to transcend linguistic borders.

# **Key Points:-**

- (i) By bringing Indian films to Sri Lankan audiences, the festival serves as a soft-power initiative designed to deepen people-to-people ties. It acts as a cultural bridge—facilitating mutual understanding and artistic exchange between the two nations.
- (ii) Hosting the festival at the Eastern University's Trincomalee campus provides students and faculty direct access to Indian cinema's rich heritage, enriching both academic discourse and cultural exposure within the university community.
- (iii) Organised under the auspices of India's Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), the festival aligns with India's broader cultural diplomacy efforts in South Asia. It further consolidates bilateral goodwill by harnessing the unifying power of storytelling and film.
- 3. FAITH Unveils 'Tourism Vision 2047' to Build a \$3 Trillion Tourism Economy for India.



At the FAITH Conclave 2025 held on August 12–13 at The Taj Palace in New Delhi, the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH) unveiled its bold 'Tourism Vision 2047', aiming to elevate India's tourism industry to a USD 3 trillion economy within 22 years.

- The Tourism Vision 2047 charts a definitive growth path: attracting 100 million inbound tourists, generating 20 billion domestic visits annually, and creating 200 million tourism-related jobs by India's centenary year of independence in 2047.
- FAITH aims to raise tourism's share of GDP from 5% to 10%, transforming the sector into a top-tier driver of national economic growth and employment.

#### **Key Points:-**

- (i) The roadmap calls for substantial policy interventions, including provision of infrastructure status to tourism, inclusion in the concurrent list, and granting industry status in all states and Union Territories. These will help streamline regulation, incentivize investment, and align tourism growth across India.
- (ii) Prepared at a conclave that included industry heads, state tourism officials, and





ministers, key recommendations will be handed to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the Ministry of Tourism (MoT). FAITH (Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality) positions itself as the unified platform for tourism stakeholders across India, encompassing bodies such as IATO (Indian Association of Tour Operators), FHRAI (Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations HAI of India). (Hotel Association of India), and ICPB (India Convention Promotion Bureau).

(iii) FAITH Chairperson Puneet Chhatwal described tourism as India's greatest soft-power lever and a potent job multiplier. During the conclave, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar underscored tourism's strategic role in diplomacy, aligning with PM Modi's "Tourism, Trade, Technology" development framework.

#### INTERNATIONAL

1. Dubai Launches Al-Powered 'Unlimited Smart Travel' Corridor at DXB for Rapid, Passport-Free Immigration.



Dubai International Airport (DXB) has launched the revolutionary "Unlimited Smart Travel" corridor—an artificial intelligence (AI)-driven immigration system developed by the

General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs – Dubai (GDRFA–Dubai). The system allows travelers to clear immigration in mere seconds without showing any documents.

- The system, unveiled recently, enables selected passengers to pass through immigration in approximately 14 seconds, completely eliminating the need to present passports, boarding passes, or put a stop to undergo manual checks.
- Utilizing multiple facial-recognition cameras, the corridor can process up to ten passengers simultaneously, replacing traditional passport counters and smart gates.

# **Key Points:-**

- (i) The Al-powered passenger corridor in Dubai builds on the Smart Tunnel (2020) launched at DXB, integrating biometric recognition, tunnel analytics, and ΑI algorithms. It enables seamless. contactless. immigration and secure clearance, processing up to 10 passengers traditional simultaneously, replacing counters efficiently.
- (ii) Despite rapid processing, the Al-powered passenger corridor ensures uncompromised security. Any anomaly detected during biometric verification is instantly flagged for expert review, maintaining rigorous identity checks. This balance of speed and safety strengthens passenger trust while modernizing border control at DXB.
- (iii) The launch reinforces Dubai's reputation as an aviation innovation leader. By replacing physical counters with Al-driven corridors, DXB sets a new standard for passenger convenience and operational efficiency worldwide.





### **BANKING & FINANCE**

1. SBI Launches Collateral-Free ₹4 Lakh Loan for Agniveers at 10.5% Interest.



The State Bank of India (SBI), on the occasion of India's 79th Independence Day celebrated on August 15, 2025, launched a special personal loan scheme for Agniveers. This scheme aims to provide financial support to soldiers recruited under the Agnipath Recruitment Programme with a collateral-free loan of up to ₹4 lakh.

- The scheme has been designed to align with SBI's existing Defence Salary Package (DSP), which provides tailored banking services to armed forces personnel. By including Agniveers under this initiative, SBI has extended preferential banking benefits to the newest category of recruits serving the Indian Armed Forces.
- The collateral-free loan scheme offers a maximum loan amount of ₹4 lakh with no requirement of security or processing charges. This step is expected to provide Agniveers with financial independence during their service tenure and ease their transition after the completion of their four-year engagement period.

• The interest rate under this special loan scheme has been fixed at 10.5% per annum, significantly lower than conventional personal loan rates. The concessional interest has been offered exclusively for Agniveers and will remain applicable until September 30, 2025, ensuring timely access to affordable credit.

# **Key Points:-**

- (i) The repayment tenure of the loan is structured in line with the four-year service term of Agniveers, ensuring flexibility and affordability. This arrangement allows Agniveers to manage their financial commitments efficiently while they are in service and prepare for their future after service completion.
- (ii) The scheme is closely linked to the Agnipath Recruitment Programme, which was launched in 2022 as a central government initiative to recruit youth into the Armed Forces for four years. Selected individuals are designated as Agniveers, and the programme is aimed at providing India's youth with military exposure, skill development, and future career opportunities.
- (iii) The launch of this scheme reflects SBI's role in supporting national programmes while catering to the financial needs of defence personnel. By introducing this scheme, SBI has reaffirmed its position as the leading public sector bank committed to empowering both traditional soldiers and Agniveers through innovative and accessible financial solutions.
- 2. SBI Report 2025: Maharashtra Tops UPI Usage as Transactions Surge Across India.





# SBI Report 2025: Maharashtra Tops UPI Usage as Transactions Surge Across India



In August 2025, the State Bank of India (SBI)'s Economic Research Department (ERD) released its latest report highlighting the rapid growth of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions. The report showed a sharp increase in both transaction value and volume, with Maharashtra emerging as the leading state in UPI usage.

- In terms of value, the report noted that the average daily UPI transactions increased from ₹75,743 crore in January 2025 to ₹80,919 crore in July 2025. By August 2025, this figure further surged to ₹90,446 crore, marking a significant jump within just eight months.
- In terms of volume, UPI transactions recorded a major rise, with daily average transaction volume increasing by 127 million. This brought the total average daily volume to 675 million transactions in August 2025 compared with January 2025, reflecting India's accelerating shift toward digital payments.
- State-wise, Maharashtra has emerged as the top-performing state in UPI usage, accounting for 9.8% of the total transaction volume in July 2025. It was followed by Karnataka (5.5%), Uttar Pradesh (5.3%), Telangana (4.1%), and Tamil Nadu (4%). This confirms Maharashtra's dominance in digital financial adoption.

# **Key Points:-**

- (i) In terms of transaction value, Maharashtra also secured the top spot, with 1,905 million transactions worth ₹2.30 lakh crore, accounting for 9.2% of the national share. Karnataka ranked second with ₹1.45 lakh crore (5.8%), followed by Uttar Pradesh with ₹1.31 lakh crore (5.3%), Telangana (5.1%), and Tamil Nadu (4.7%).
- (ii) At the banking level, SBI emerged as the leading remitter bank with 5.2 billion transactions, which is 3.4 times higher than HDFC Bank, the second-largest remitter.
- (iii) Yes Bank Limited stood out as the top beneficiary bank, recording nearly 8 billion received transactions, reinforcing its position in UPI settlements.
- 3. Kotak Mahindra International Secures UAE Licence to Sell Funds to Retail Investors.



In August 2025, Kotak Mahindra (International) Limited, the international arm of Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL), became the first Indian company to secure a license from the United Arab Emirates' Securities and Commodities Authority (SCA).

 This landmark approval allows the company to sell investment funds and portfolios to onshore





retail investors in the UAE, strengthening India's footprint in global financial services.

- Kotak Mahindra (International) Limited's approval from the SCA makes it the first Indian entity to receive such a licence, reflecting the deepening cross-border collaboration between India and the UAE in financial markets. This move also highlights the growing demand for Indian financial institutions to provide regulated investment solutions in global hubs.
- The new licence provides retail investors in the UAE access to Kotak Mahindra's diverse fund offerings. By catering to individuals rather than just institutional investors, the bank is expanding its reach and supporting the UAE's investment fund industry with broader retail participation.

# **Key Points:-**

- (i) The investment offerings under this licence can be accessed with a minimum investment of around USD 500, making them relatively accessible for small and medium-scale investors. This low entry threshold reflects Kotak Mahindra's strategy to democratize access to professional financial management in the UAE.
- (ii) Looking ahead, Kotak Mahindra (International) plans to launch funds aligned with its Luxembourg-domiciled Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities (UCITS) and India-domiciled strategies. These funds are expected to open for subscriptions from UAE investors by the final quarter of Calendar Year 2025 (Q4 CY25).
- (iii) This development marks a major milestone in India-UAE financial cooperation, positioning Kotak Mahindra (International) as a bridge for global retail

investors seeking exposure to Indian and international fund strategies under a trusted regulatory framework.

#### **APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS**

1. Ajay Kumar Bhalla Takes Additional Charge as Governor of Nagaland.



In August 2025, the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, appointed Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla as the additional Governor of Nagaland, following the demise of La. Ganesan on August 15, 2025. This appointment took effect immediately.

- Ajay Kumar Bhalla, a 1984-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Assam cadre, currently serves as the Governor of Manipur and now holds dual charge with Nagaland. His vast administrative experience across ministries strengthens his role in constitutional governance.
- He succeeds La. Ganesan, who passed away on August 15, 2025. Ganesan, a senior political leader, had been serving as the Governor of Nagaland since February 2023, and his tenure was marked by efforts to strengthen administrative coordination in the state.

**Key Points:-**





- (i) Bhalla previously served as the Secretary of the Ministry of Power (MoP) from 2017 to 2019 and later as the Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) from 2019 to 2024, making him one of the longest-serving officers in this position. He played a critical role in policy execution, especially in handling changes post the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir in 2019.
- (ii) He was also appointed as Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), and later as Director of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT). Between 2016 and 2017, he also served as Additional Secretary in MoC&I and Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Coal.
- (iii) In December 2024, Ajay Kumar Bhalla was appointed as the Governor of Manipur and formally assumed office on January 3, 2025. Following the imposition of President's Rule in Manipur in February 2025, he has been overseeing the state's administration, in addition to his new role in Nagaland.
- 2. TCL Appoints Olympic Champion Eileen Gu as Global Brand Ambassador Ahead of Milano Cortina 2026.



TCL (Telephone Communication Limited), the global technology brand, has recently appointed freestyle ski legend Eileen Gu—the youngest Olympic champion in her discipline—as its Global Brand Ambassador. The partnership aligns with TCL's dedication to "Inspire Greatness" and its support for the Olympic Movement as an official worldwide partner.

- Eileen Gu made history as the youngest-ever Olympic freestyle skiing champion at 18 and the first athlete to win three medals in a single Winter Games. Her ambition and resilience resonate with TCL's motto, "Inspire Greatness."
- In partnership with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), TCL is positioning Eileen Gu at the heart of its global engagement, particularly as the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026 approach next year.

# **Key Points:-**

- (i) Eileen Gu's appointment also supports TCL's "TCLforHer" initiative, dedicated to female empowerment through technology and culture. To date, the platform has supported over 2,000 young women through various education and mentorship initiatives.
- (ii) Strengthening its Olympic ties, TCL was recognized on the Donor's Wall at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland earlier this year and has rolled out performance-centric campaigns bridging Milan and Hollywood, symbolizing its global footprint.
- (iii) TCL plans to enhance the Winter Games experience with advanced displays for fans and athletes, deploy home appliances in Olympic Villages, and launch the "Athlete Moments" platform, connecting athletes with loved ones instantly after competition.





#### **SPORTS**

1. German GM Vincent Keymer Becomes First Sole Champion of Quantbox Chennai Grand Masters 2025.



In August 2025, German Chess Grandmaster (GM) Vincent Keymer emerged as the first sole champion of the Quantbox Chennai Grand Masters 2025, held from August 6–15, 2025, at the Hyatt Regency in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN), securing the title with a round to spare.

- The Chennai Grand Masters 2025 featured two separate 10-player round-robin sections: a Masters section for top-rated players and a Challengers section for emerging talent. This format provided a competitive platform for both seasoned and upcoming chess players.
- Vincent Keymer scored 1.5 points ahead in Round 8 with a draw against GM Jorden van Foreest (Netherlands), showcasing his dominance. His performance rating reached an impressive 2917, earning him 20.9 Elo points and placing him among the world's top 10 chess players with a rating above 2750.
- Anish Giri (Netherlands) secured second place after a dramatic final-round win against Jorden van Foreest. Arjun Erigaisi of India finished third

following a calm draw with Murali, who ended fourth, with only Keymer defeating him in the tournament.

# **Key Points:-**

- (i) In the Challengers section, GM M. Pranesh (India) triumphed with 6.5/9 points, earning a spot in the 2026 Masters after defeating GM Harika Dronavalli (India). Despite losing his final game, Pranesh maintained his lead as other competitors faltered.
- (ii) Vincent Keymer's victory marked a milestone as he became the first sole champion in the Chennai Grand Masters history. The tournament further strengthened India's reputation as a growing hub for international chess competitions, showcasing talent from across the globe.
- 2. Carlos Alcaraz Clinches First Cincinnati Open Title After Jannik Sinner Retires.



Carlos Alcaraz secured his maiden Cincinnati Open title on August 18, 2025, when top seed Jannik Sinner retired from the final due to illness. The match, held at the Lindner Family Tennis Center in Ohio, was halted after just 23 minutes, with Alcaraz leading 5-0 in the first set. This victory marks Alcaraz's





third ATP Masters 1000 title of the season, adding to his previous wins in Monte Carlo and Rome.

- The anticipated showdown between Alcaraz and Sinner, both top-ranked players, was cut short when Sinner, visibly unwell and struggling with the heat, opted to retire from the match. He cited a lack of energy and discomfort as reasons for his withdrawal. This unexpected turn of events not only denied fans a thrilling final but also raised concerns about Sinner's fitness ahead of the upcoming US Open.
- Alcaraz showed exemplary sportsmanship by encouraging Sinner during his retirement and expressing sympathy at the trophy presentation, saying it wasn't the way he wanted to win. His gesture was widely praised in professional tennis.

# **Key Points:-**

- (i) Alcaraz's victory in Cincinnati adds to an impressive 2025 season, where he has consistently performed at a high level. The Spaniard has now secured 50 match wins this year, becoming the first player to reach this milestone in the season. Notably, he is the only player to have achieved 50 or more wins in each of the past four seasons, underscoring his sustained excellence on the ATP Tour.
- (ii) With this title, Alcaraz strengthens his position in the ATP rankings, further solidifying his status as a leading contender for the year-end No. 1 spot.
- (iii) His consistent performances and multiple Masters 1000 titles this season have placed him in a favorable position to challenge for the top ranking, especially with the US Open approaching. The outcome of the Cincinnati final also impacts the ATP

Race to Turin, with Alcaraz extending his lead over Sinner.

#### **DEFENCE**

1. Assam Rifles and IIIT Manipur Sign MoU to Enhance Drone Technology for Defence and Security.



In a significant move towards modernizing border security operations, the Assam Rifles has partnered with the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Manipur. On August 18, 2025, both institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at Mantripukhri, Imphal West district, aiming to advance drone technology for defence and security purposes.

- The MoU underscores the growing importance of defence-academia partnerships in leveraging emerging technologies. Maj Gen Ravroop Singh, Inspector General of Assam Rifles (South), and Prof. Krishnan Baskar, Director of IIIT Manipur, highlighted the transformative role of drone systems in modern warfare and emphasized the need for joint initiatives to accelerate technology adoption in defence operations.
- As part of the collaboration, an 'Advanced Drone Training and Refresher Course' was inaugurated. The program focuses on drone





flight operations, maintenance, and certification aligned with Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) standards.

• It aims to enhance the technical proficiency and field adaptability of Assam Rifles personnel, enabling them to effectively deploy drones in challenging terrains for surveillance, reconnaissance, and logistics support.

# **Key Points:-**

- (i) The partnership highlights a commitment to indigenization of drone systems. A technical session during the event focused on the relevance of developing and deploying indigenous drone technologies to achieve autonomy and resilience in defence operations.
- (ii) The integration of advanced drone technology is expected to significantly enhance the surveillance and operational capabilities of the Assam Rifles. Drones will play a crucial role in intelligence gathering, border monitoring, and rapid response operations, particularly in the challenging terrains of the northeastern region.
- (iii) This initiative reflects a broader effort to strengthen civil-military synergy. By involving academic institutions like IIIT Manipur, the Assam Rifles aims to foster innovation and skill development, empowering personnel with modern technological tools to address contemporary security challenges.

#### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Former Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal Launches
 Al Startup 'Parallel Web Systems' with \$30
 Million Funding.



Parag Agrawal, the former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Twitter, has ventured into the artificial intelligence (AI) landscape with the launch of his new startup, Parallel Web Systems. Based in Palo Alto, California, the company aims to revolutionize how AI agents interact with the World Wide Web (Web) by providing real-time, autonomous web research capabilities.

- With a \$30 million funding round led by prominent investors including Khosla Ventures, Index Ventures, and First Round Capital, Parallel Web Systems is poised to compete with leading AI models like Generative Pre-trained Transformer 5 (GPT-5).
- Parallel Web Systems focuses on developing infrastructure tools that enable AI agents to autonomously gather, verify, and organize information from the internet. This approach aims to enhance the efficiency and accuracy of AI-driven research tasks.
- The company's flagship product, the Deep Research API, is designed to perform complex web research tasks more efficiently than current AI models. In benchmark tests, Parallel's technology outperformed GPT-5, achieving a 58% accuracy rate compared to GPT-5's 41%. This positions Parallel Web Systems as a formidable player in the AI research domain.





# **Key Points:-**

- (i) Unlike traditional AI models that rely on pre-existing data, Parallel Web Systems' platform allows AI agents to access and process live web data. This capability is crucial for tasks requiring up-to-date information, such as market analysis and current events monitoring.
- (ii) Founded in 2023, Parallel Web Systems boasts a team of engineers with backgrounds from leading technology companies like Google, Stripe, and Waymo. Under Agrawal's leadership, the company has quickly gained traction in the Al community, handling millions of research tasks daily.
- (iii) Agrawal envisions a future where Al agents play a central role in navigating and interpreting the Web. By focusing on developing tools that enhance Al's ability to interact with the internet, Parallel Web Systems aims to lead the next wave of Al innovation.

#### **OBITUARY**

1. Veteran actor Achyuta Potdar passes away at the age of 91.



Veteran Indian actor Achyut Potdar, renowned for his memorable roles in films like 3 Idiots, Lage Raho Munna Bhai, and Tamasha, passed away on August 18, 2025, at the age of 91. His demise marks the end of a distinguished career that spanned over three decades in Indian cinema. Potdar was widely respected for his dignified presence and impactful performances.

- Before entering the film industry, Potdar led a varied and accomplished life. He served as a captain in the Indian Army, later worked as a professor in Rewa, and spent nearly 25 years with Indian Oil Corporation. His passion for acting began as a hobby during his corporate tenure, eventually leading him to Bollywood at the age of 44.
- Potdar's portrayal of a college professor in 3 Idiots became iconic, particularly his memorable line, "Arey, kehna kya chahte ho?" which resonated with audiences and became a cultural reference. His performance in the film earned him widespread acclaim and solidified his place in Bollywood history.

# **Key Points:-**

- (i) Over his illustrious career, Potdar appeared in more than 125 films and over 100 television serials. His versatility allowed him to take on a wide range of roles, from comedic to serious characters, earning him respect and admiration in the industry.
- (ii) Following his passing, tributes poured in from across the film industry. Actor Boman Irani, his co-star in 3 Idiots, described him as a "true gentleman". Filmmaker Hansal Mehta expressed that it was a "privilege" to work with him. His contributions to cinema and television have left a lasting legacy.





2. Former Australia Cricket Captain and Coach Bob Simpson Passes Away at 89.



On August 16, 2025, Bob Simpson, former Australian cricket captain and coach, passed away at the age of 89 in Sydney, Australia. Born on February 3, 1936, in Marrickville, Australia, Simpson left a lasting legacy in international cricket both as a player and as a coach.

- Bob Simpson played 62 Test matches for Australia from 1957 to 1978, scoring 4,869 runs, including 10 centuries and 27 fifties, and taking 71 wickets. He made his Test debut against South Africa in 1957 and captained Australia in 39 matches.
- Simpson initially retired in 1968 but made a comeback as Australia's Test captain in 1977. His consistency and all-round performance made him one of Australia's most respected cricketers.
- After his playing career, Simpson was appointed full-time head coach in 1986. Under his guidance, Australia won the 1987 World Cup and regained the Ashes in 1989. His coaching was highly regarded for discipline, strategic planning, and building a strong team culture, helping Australia dominate world cricket during the late 1980s and 1990s.

- (i) Bob Simpson is among the few Test players to score a triple century as his firstever Test century, highlighting his exceptional batting talent. He was instrumental in shaping Australian cricket both on and off the field, contributing to the development of several future cricketing stars and strengthening the national team's performance internationally.
- (ii) Bob Simpson was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1978 and an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2007 for his services to cricket. He was inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame in 2005 and the International Cricket Council (ICC) Hall of Fame in 2013, recognizing his outstanding contributions as both a player and a coach.

**Key Points:-**





# **Static GK**

| SBI                                 | Chairman :<br>Challa<br>Sreenivasulu<br>Setty | Headquarter :<br>Mumbai                               |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Ministry<br>of<br>Railways<br>(MoR) | Minister :<br>Ashwini<br>Vaishnaw             | Headquarters:<br>New Delhi                            |
| Sri Lanka                           | President:<br>Anura Kumara<br>Dissanayake     | Capitals: Colombo,<br>Sri<br>Jayawardenepura<br>Kotte |
| Nagaland                            | Capital:<br>Kohima                            | Chief minister:<br>Neiphiu Rio                        |
| Assam                               | Chief<br>minister:<br>Himanta<br>Biswa Sarma  | Governor:<br>Lakshman Acharya                         |