MADE EASY

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Coverage of

29th Aug. - 04th Sep., 2025

★★ *Useful for* ★★

UPSC ESE, PSUs, RRB, SSC, Banking & State Services Exams

Ramon Magsaysay Award 2025

'Educate Girls' became the first **Indian NGO** to win the prestigious award

educate girls

29th AUGUST 2025

15th India–Japan Annual Summit, 2025

- **Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently travelled to Japan for a two-day visit for the 15th Annual India–Japan Summit with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba.

Key Highlights

- At the 15th India–Japan Annual Summit (2025), both nations adopted a "Joint Vision for the Next Decade" along with multiple agreements covering economic, security, technological, and cultural cooperation.

- Japan also announced an investment target of 10 trillion yen (₹5.5 lakh crore) in India over the next 10 years.

- **Framework across eight pillars:** economic partnership, economic security, mobility, innovation, defence, environment, multilateral cooperation, and cultural exchanges.

- **Security and Defence Cooperation:** Adoption of a Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation, intensifying strategic ties.

  - **Expanded defence exercises:** Dharma Guardian (Army), Shinyuu Maitri (Air Force), JIMEX (Navy).

  - Logistics support under the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) has been strengthened.

- **Mobility and Human Resource Exchange:**

  - Action Plan for Human Resource Exchange enables two-way mobility for 500,000 people in 5 years.

  - 50,000 Indian workers targeted for placement in Japan under the Next-Generation Mobility Partnership.

- **Technology and Digital Cooperation:**

  - Launch of India-Japan Digital Partnership 2.0, covering AI, semiconductors, quantum computing, and cybersecurity.

  - Joint R&D through India-Japan AI Initiative boosts tech innovation.

- **Sustainability and Environment:**

  - Cooperation under the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) — aimed at low-carbon technology and clean energy adoption.

  - Sustainable Fuel Initiative promotes clean hydrogen and ammonia.

  - Collaboration on wastewater management and renewable energy deployment.

- **Space and Minerals:**

  - Joint Lunar Polar Exploration Mission brings together ISRO and JAXA for moon exploration.

  - MoU signed for critical mineral resource cooperation.

- **Cultural and People-to-People Ties:**

  - Programs boost cultural exchanges, tourism, and education.

  - City–prefecture level partnerships deepen subnational ties.

Significance of India – Japan Relations

- The partnership addresses shared concerns about assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific, aligning with the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) strategy.

- Japan is the 5th largest investor in India and key partner in infrastructure projects like the Delhi–Mumbai Industrial Corridor and Bullet Train. Industrial Competitiveness Partnership builds resilient supply chains.

- Both countries advocate for UNSC reform, are Quad and G20 members, and support reformed multilateralism.

- Regular joint exercises enhance interoperability, strengthening India's Indo-Pacific role.

National Sports Day

- **Context:** On National Sports Day, India honors Major Dhyan Chand, celebrated as one of the greatest hockey players in history.

About National Sports Day

- The Indian Government declared August 29 as National Sports Day in 2012.

- It is celebrated annually to emphasise the importance of sports and physical activities and serves to honour Major Dhyan Chand's legacy in Indian hockey
- This year's celebrations include a three-day Sports Movement under the theme "Ek Ghanta, Khel ke Maidan Main".
- India has several campaigns to promote health, sports, and fitness, including 'Khelo India' and 'Fit India Movement'.
- The International Sports Day, on the other hand, is celebrated on April 6 to mark the first Olympic Games held in Athens.

About Major Dhyan Chand

- Major Dhyan Chand was Known as the "Wizard of Hockey" for his exemplary display of sportsmanship.
- He led India to win Olympic Gold medals in 1928 (Amsterdam), 1932 (Los Angeles), and 1936 (Berlin).
- He was honoured with the country's prestigious civilian honour, Padma Bhushan, in 1956.

National Annual Report and Index on Women's Safety (NARI) 2025

- **Context:** The National Annual Report and Index on Women's Safety (NARI) 2025 was recently released by the National Commission for Women (NCW).

Key Facts

- It was conducted across 31 cities with the participation of 12,770 women.
- **Developed by**: Pvalue Analytics, The NorthCap University, Jindal Global Law School, and published by Group of Intellectuals and Academicians (GIA).
- **Objective:** To capture both crime data and women's perceptions of safety.

Major Highlights

- **National Safety Score:** It placed the national safety score at 65%, categorising cities as "much above", "above", "below" or "much below" this benchmark.

- **Safest Cities:** Kohima, Visakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Aizawl, Gangtok, Itanagar, Mumbai.
- **Least Safe Cities:** Patna, Jaipur, Faridabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Srinagar, Ranchi.
- **Factors for Safety:** Stronger gender equity, civic participation, women-friendly infrastructure, better policing.
- **Factors for Low Safety:** Patriarchal norms, weak institutional responsiveness, and urban infrastructure gaps.

30th AUGUST 2025

Urjit Patel

- **Context:** The Union government has approved the appointment of former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Urjit Patel as Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a period of three years.

About International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- The IMF was established in 1944 in the aftermath of the Great Depression of the 1930s.
- The organization is currently composed of 191 member countries. Each member's representation on the Executive Board is determined by its financial contribution (quota).
- The Board consists of 25 Executive Directors, elected by member countries or groups of countries. India belongs to a four-country constituency along with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan.
- **Headquarters:** Washington, D.C
- **Publications:** World Economic Outlook, Global Financial Stability Report, Fiscal Monitor, Global Policy Agenda.

- **Major Functions:**
  - **Crisis Management:** The IMF provides financial assistance to countries facing macroeconomic risks, particularly currency crises, often referred to as a "bailout."
  - **Lending Mechanism:** Assistance is usually provided in the form of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), a reserve asset based on a basket of five currencies: U.S. dollar, euro, Chinese yuan, Japanese yen, and British pound.
  - Lending instruments include the Extended Credit Facility, Flexible Credit Line, and Stand-By Arrangements.
  - IMF support is tied to structural reforms and policy adjustments. Borrowing countries are often required to implement fiscal consolidation, currency stabilization, or governance reforms.

State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI)

- **Context:** Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, and Tripura have emerged as the top performers in their respective groups in the State Energy Efficiency Index 2024 (sixth edition).

About State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI)

- **Released by:** Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under Ministry of Power + Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE). First launched in 2018, SEEI is published annually.
- **Objective:** To track state-level energy efficiency progress and encourage energy-efficient governance, policies, and outcomes.
- **Classification:** States and UTs are classified into four categories: Front Runners (>60% score), Achievers (50–60%), Contenders (30–50%), and Aspirants (<30%).

Exercise Achook Prahar

- **Context:** The Indian Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) wrapped up a high-altitude exercise Achook Prahar in Arunachal Pradesh.

Key Facts

- It was conducted under simulated combat conditions, the drill tested interoperability between Army and ITBP, reaffirming the combat readiness of Armed Forces and CAPFs in safeguarding the nation's frontiers.
- It reinforces India's layered defence architecture and rapid-response capability in the sensitive eastern sector bordering China.
- It follows a series of recent integrated exercises — such as Prachand Prahar and Poorvi Prahar — that have tested India's tri-service capabilities in the high-altitude terrain of Arunachal Pradesh.

31st AUGUST 2025

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), 2025

- **Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladmir Putin met on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Tianjin.

Key Highlights about India-China Meeting

- **High-level Engagements:** Both leaders met and welcomed the positive momentum in their ties. Reaffirmed they are development partners, not rivals; differences must not turn into disputes.
- **Border Issues:** Leaders noted successful border disengagement in 2024 and maintenance of peace since then.
- **People-to-People Ties:** Agreed to expand exchanges through direct flights, visa facilitation. Building on the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra resumption and tourist visas.
- **Economic and Trade Cooperation:** Recognized their economies' role in stabilizing world trade.
- **Multilateral Engagements:** PM supported China's SCO Presidency and Tianjin Summit. He also invited President Xi to India's BRICS Summit 2026.

About Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- The Shanghai Five emerged in 1996 from a series of border demarcation and demilitarization talks between 4 former USSR republics and China. Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan were members of the Shanghai Five.

- With the accession of Uzbekistan to the group in 2001, the Shanghai Five was renamed the SCO.

- **Objective:** To enhance regional cooperation for efforts to curb terrorism, separatism, and extremism in the Central Asian region.

- **Members:** China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Iran, Belarus, and the four Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

- India became a full member in 2017 and assumed the rotating chairmanship in 2023.

- Member countries contribute around 30 per cent of the global GDP and about 40 percent of the world's population.

- **Observer status:** Afghanistan and Mongolia.

- **Language:** The SCO's official languages are Russian and Chinese.

- **Structure:** The supreme decision-making body of the SCO is the Council of Heads of States (CHS), which meets once a year.

- The Organization has 2 standing bodies — the Secretariat in Beijing and the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent.

Population Census, 2027

- **Context:** The Registrar General of India (RGI) has sought a ₹14,618.95-crore budget to conduct the Census 2027, which will be the first "Digital Census" and collect data on caste.

Key Facts

- The Population Census-2027, has been decided to be conducted in two phases along with enumeration of castes.

- More than 35 lakh enumerators and supervisors will be deployed to conduct the Census, which is over 30% higher (27 lakh) than the functionaries deployed to conduct the Census in 2011.

About Census in India

- A census is a survey of the population of an area that includes collecting details of a country's demographics including age, sex and occupation.

- **History:** Under W.C. Plowden, the Census Commissioner of India, the first synchronous decennial (every ten years) census was conducted in 1881, building on an earlier non-synchronous effort in 1872.

- Independent India's first census was held in 1951 and since then it has happened in the first year of every decade.

- The Constitution mandates that enumeration is carried out but the Census of India Act of 1948 does not specify its timing or periodicity.

- The population census is conducted by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Adi Vaani

- **Context:** The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched the beta version of "Adi Vaani," app.

About Adi Vaani

- It is an AI-powered translation tool designed to support a future large language model for tribal languages.

- It combines advanced technology with community efforts to protect and revive tribal languages and cultures in India.

- It is India's first AI-powered translator for tribal languages which was developed under Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh.

- **Adi Vaani supports:** Santali (Odisha), Bhili (Madhya Pradesh), Mundari (Jharkhand), Gondi (Chhattisgarh). Additional languages including Kui and Garo are under development for the next phase.

Importance

- India has 461 tribal languages, with 81 vulnerable and 42 critically endangered due to limited documentation and transmission.
- Adi Vaani uses AI to digitize, preserve, and revitalize these tribal languages.
- It aims to bridge communication gaps and preserve endangered tribal languages.

1st SEPTEMBER 2025

Ramon Magsaysay Award, 2025

- **Context:** An Indian non-profit organisation, 'Foundation to Educate Girls Globally', dedicated to girls' education, has been named a 2025 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee.

About Ramon Magsaysay Award

- **Established:** 1958, in memory of Ramon Magsaysay, the 7th President of the Philippines, known for his integrity, courage, and democratic leadership.
- **Instituted by:** The Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF), in partnership with the Philippine government.
- **Administered by:** The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF), Manila.
- **Nature:** Recognizes individuals or organizations in Asia who show selfless service and transformative leadership.
- **Prestige:** Considered Asia's highest honour, equivalent in stature to the Nobel Prize in Asia.
- From **1958 to 2008**, the Award was given in six categories annually, these are:
  - Government Service, Public Service, Community Leadership, Journalism, Literature, Creative Communication Arts, Peace and International Understanding, and Emergent Leadership.
  - Starting in 2009, the Ramon Magsaysay Award is no longer being given in fixed Award categories, except for Emergent Leadership.

India's First Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) Tolling System

- **Context:** The Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL) and ICICI Bank have signed an agreement to implement India's first comprehensive Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) tolling system at Choryasi Fee Plaza in Gujarat on NH-48.

About Multi Lane Free Flow Tolling

- It is a barrier-less tolling system that enables transactions through reading of FASTag and Vehicle Registration Number (VRN) by High performance RFID Readers and ANPR Cameras.
- It enables seamless toll collection without stopping vehicles at fee plazas, reducing congestion and travel time leading to enhanced fuel efficiency and lowering emissions.
- It will also contribute towards improving toll revenue collection and creating a smarter, faster and more efficient National Highway network across the country.

2nd SEPTEMBER 2025

Air Quality Life Index, 2025

- **Context:** According to the Air Quality Life Index, India is the second most polluted country in the world.

About Air Quality Life Index (AQLI)

- The Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) is developed by Professor Michael Greenstone and the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC).
- It translates air pollution levels into their impact on life expectancy, offering hyper-local data to help users see how much longer people could live if pollution met various standards.
- It supports EPIC's Clean Air Program, which aims to inform policy and public action with high-quality pollution data.

Key Findings of Recent Report

- South Asia, including Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan, remains the most polluted region. Bangladesh is the worst globally, with air 12 times dirtier than WHO limits.

- China, though still above WHO limits, has cut its pollution by 40.8% since 2014 through aggressive policies, including traffic restrictions, cleaner heating, and reduced coal use.

- North America saw major pollution spikes in 2023 due to wildfires, and Bolivia became the most polluted Latin American country.

- In Africa, pollution now poses a greater life expectancy threat than HIV/AIDS or malaria in countries like Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Status in India

- Air pollution is India's most severe health threat, reducing average life expectancy by 3.5 years — nearly twice the impact of malnutrition and over five times that of unsafe water and sanitation.

- All 1.4 billion Indians live in areas exceeding the WHO's safe PM2.5 limit (5 µg/m³).

- The worst-hit region is Northern India, especially Delhi-NCR, where residents could lose up to 8.2 years of life. Other states like Bihar (5.6 years), Haryana (5.3 years), and Uttar Pradesh (5 years) also show severe losses.

- 46% of Indians live in areas that exceed even India's own weaker PM 2.5 limit of 40 µg/m³.

About National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

- The government had launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019 to reduce particulate pollution levels from 2017 baselines by 20-30 per cent by 2024.

- In 2022, this target was revised upwards, with the government setting a more ambitious goal of achieving a 40 per cent reduction by 2026 in 131 non-attainment cities — urban areas that consistently fail to meet national air quality standards.

About Particulate Matter (PM)

- Particulate matter (PM) refers to a mix of solid particles and liquid droplets in the air, including visible particles like dust and soot, as well as tiny particles only detectable with an electron microscope.

- PM is categorized mainly into PM10, which includes inhalable particles 10 micrometers or smaller, and PM2.5, which consists of finer inhalable particles 2.5 micrometers or smaller.

PRATUSH Mission

- **Context:** India has developed a credit-card sized computer for space missions, designed to catch the extremely faint signals from the universe's earliest moments.

About PRATUSH

- It is an acronym for Precise Radio Astronomy for Transient Universe Studies from High-lunar orbit.

- It envisions placing a payload in lunar orbit around the far side of the Moon. The Moon shields its far side from Earth's radio frequency interference.

- The mission harnesses the radio-quiet environment on the far side to conduct low-frequency radio astronomy free from Earth's radio interference and ionospheric distortion.

3ʳᵈ SEPTEMBER 2025

Bharat's Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Enablement (BHARATI)

- **Context:** The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) launched its new initiative BHARATI which envisions making India a hub for agri-food startups and innovation, with the long-term goal of achieving $50 billion in agri-food exports by 2030.

Key Features of BHARATI

- **Startup-Centric Initiative:** Supports 100 agri-food and agri-tech startups in the inaugural cohort.

- **Three-Month Acceleration Programme:** Focus on product development, export readiness, regulatory compliance, market access, and collaborative solutions.
- **Target Sectors:** GI-tagged agricultural products, organic foods, superfoods & processed Indian food products.
- **Collaborative Model:** Partnerships with state agricultural boards, universities (IITs, NITs), industry bodies, accelerators and private stakeholders.

Significance

- **Boost to Agricultural Exports:** Will help India diversify agri-exports and capture global niche markets (organic, GI-tagged, AYUSH products).
- **Startup Support:** Fills critical gaps in incubation and scale-up for agri-tech and food processing startups.
- **Innovation Promotion:** Fosters R&D in packaging, traceability and cold-chain logistics – sectors vital for reducing perishability and wastage in Indian agriculture.
- **Alignment with National Vision:** Supports Atmanirbhar Bharat, Digital India, Vocal for Local, and Startup India.
- **Global Competitiveness:** Creates solutions to meet SPS-TBT (Sanitary and Phytosanitary, Technical Barriers to Trade) standards — a major hurdle in global agri-exports.
- **Food Security and Farmers' Income:** Encourages value addition & backward linkage that can raise farm-gate prices and empower rural entrepreneurs.

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)

- **Founded:** 1986, via an Act of Parliament under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **Objective:** Development and promotion of the export of scheduled products, including fruits, vegetables, cereals, animal products, and processed foods.
- **Scope:** Over 700 products across 14 main categories (e.g. fresh/processed fruits & vegetables, cereals, meat, dairy, poultry, and more).

Vikram 32-bit Chip

- **Context:** Union IT minister presented the Vikram 32-bit processor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Semicon India 2025 in Delhi

About Vikram 32-bit chip

- It is India's first fully indigenous 32-bit microprocessor, qualified for use in harsh launch vehicle conditions.
- It is developed by ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre and the Semiconductor Laboratory in Chandigarh.
- It is an advanced microprocessor is an upgraded version of the 16-bit VIKRAM1601 chip used since 2009 in ISRO's launch vehicle avionics, designed specifically for space flight applications.

Exercise MAITREE

- **Context:** The 14th edition of the India–Thailand joint military exercise, MAITREE-XIV, commenced in Meghalaya.

Key Facts

- This year's focus is on company-level, counter-terrorist operations in semi-urban terrain under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.
- Training modules include tactical drills, joint planning, weapons skills, physical endurance and raiding operations.
- Instituted in 2006, Exercise MAITREE remains a key component of bilateral defence cooperation, underscoring the shared commitment of India and Thailand to regional peace, security and stability.

4th SEPTEMBER 2025

56th Meeting of the GST Council

- **Context:** The 56th GST Council meeting recommended changes in GST tax rates aimed at benefiting individuals, the common man, and the aspirational middle class.

Recent recommendations

- The 56th GST Council meeting focused on next-generation GST reforms, including rate rationalisation and compliance simplification.
- A simplified three-tier rate structure was introduced: 5%, 18%, and a special 40% rate for sin/luxury goods.
- Key outcomes include GST cuts on essentials like soaps, shampoos, toothpaste, and food items to 5%, exemption of GST on all life and health insurance policies, and zero GST on 33 life-saving drugs and 3 critical medicines.
- Medical and agricultural equipment now attract only 5% GST, while GST on appliances like ACs, large TVs, and small vehicles was reduced from 28% to 18%.

About GST Council

- It was established under Article 279A, is a constitutional body that acts as a joint forum of the Centre and States to make recommendations on key GST matters.
- It is chaired by the Union Finance Minister.
- Its functions include advising on GST tax rates, exemptions, threshold limits, model laws, and special provisions for specific states.

HealthAI

- **Context:** India will work with HealthAI, alongside other Global Regulatory Network (GRN) members like the UK and Singapore to share safety protocols and monitor AI performance in clinical settings. The partnership supports IndiaAI strategy, which aims to build a comprehensive and inclusive AI ecosystem

About HealthAI Global Regulatory Network (GRN)

- HealthAI is a Geneva-based, independent nonprofit organization that promotes equitable access to AI-powered health innovations.
- It collaborates with governments, international organizations, and global health leaders, focusing on AI governance and regulation to ensure AI can transform healthcare for all.
- GRN members have exclusive access to the 'Global Public Repository of AI-related Registered Solutions for Health', where participating regulatory authorities can showcase AI-related registered solutions from their countries.

Exercise Yudh Abhyas

- **Context:** The 21st edition of the India–US Joint Military Exercise Yudh Abhyas commenced in Alaska, USA.

Key Facts

- Yudh Abhyas, meaning "Preparing for War" in Hindi, began in 2004 as a counterinsurgency training exchange. Since then, it has been held annually, alternating between India and the USA.
- The exercise will culminate in jointly planned tactical manoeuvres, ranging from live-fire exercises to high-altitude warfare scenarios, with a focus on UN peacekeeping operations and enhancing readiness for multi-domain challenges.