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World Lion Day – AUG 10

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in collaboration with the Forest and Environment Department, Government of Gujarat, celebrate World Lion Day – 2025 on August 10, 2025, at Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Devbhumi Dwarka district, Gujarat
- ₹180 Crore Wildlife Conservation Initiative launched to boost Lion Conservation and Ecotourism
- The Prime Minister announced Project Lion on 74th Independence Day i.e. 15th August 2020 for conservation and protection of the ‘King of the Jungle’ – the Asiatic Lions
- From just 284 lions in 1990, the population has now risen to 891 in 2025 — a 32% increase since 2020 and over 70% growth in the past decade.”

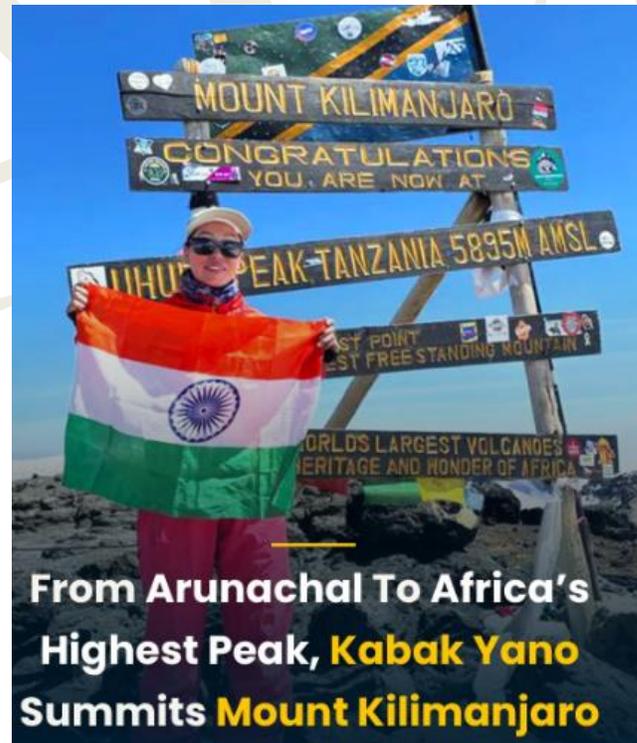
Since 2013

- The Asiatic lion, also known as the Persian Lion or Indian Lion, belongs to the subspecies *Panthera leo persica*.
- It is found exclusively in India, specifically in the Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat.
- Due to sustained conservation, the IUCN moved the Asiatic lion from “Endangered” (2008) to Vulnerable (2025) on its Red List.



Kabak Yano, a mountaineer from Arunachal Pradesh, has successfully climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak

- Kabak Yano from Arunachal Pradesh has successfully summited Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak, as part of her ongoing Seven Summits expedition.
- Standing at 5,895 meters above sea level, Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania is the tallest peak in Africa and the world's highest free-standing mountain
- Yano will continue pursuing her Seven Summits mission, which includes iconic peaks such as Mount Aconcagua in South America, Denali in North America, Mount Elbrus in Europe, Mount Vinson in Antarctica, and Mount Kosciuszko in Australia.



World Elephant Day – AUG 12

- The theme for 2025 is “Bringing the world together to help elephants”
- Year of establishment: 2012
- Started by: Canadian filmmaker Patricia Sim and Thailand's Elephant Reintroduction Foundation.
- Conservation status: Endangered in IUCN Red List
- Listed in Schedule-I under the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- Elephant Project (1992) and Elephant Reserves were created for elephants in India.
- Elephants have been declared as the National Heritage Animal of India



Rajasthan tops millet production in 2024–25

Production of Millets

- India produced a total of 180.15 lakh tonnes of millets in 2024–25. This was an increase of 4.43 lakh tonnes compared to the previous year.

State-wise Production of Millets

- Rajasthan produced the highest quantity of millets in 2024–25. It was followed by Maharashtra in the second position and Karnataka in the third position.

Crop-wise Production of Millets

- Among all millet types, bajra was produced the most in the country. It contributed the largest share to the overall millet production, followed by jowar, ragi and small millets.

India's Export of Millets

- In 2024–25, India exported a total of 89,164.96 tonnes of millets. The total value of these exports stood at 37 million USD.
- Millets, popularly known as Shree Anna, are a group of small-grained cereals valued for their exceptional nutrition and adaptability. At India's request, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets
- India is currently the largest producer of millets in the world, contributing 38.4% of global production (FAO, 2023).



Indian Railways Successfully Trials Asia's Longest 4.5 km Freight Train 'Rudrastra'

- Indian Railways has successfully conducted the trial run of 'Rudrastra', Asia's longest freight train measuring 4.5 km, marking a significant milestone in freight logistics efficiency.
- The trial was conducted between Ganjkhwaja (Uttar Pradesh) and Garhwa (Jharkhand).
- Rudrastra is a 4.5 km-long freight train
- It is India's longest freight train and among the longest in Asia.
- Wagons: 354 (carrying capacity of ~72 tonnes per wagon).
- Locomotives: 7 engines (two at the front, others positioned between rakes).
- Speed: Average of 40 km/h over a 209 km

Organisation Involved:

- Developed and operated by Indian Railways, specifically the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya (DDU) Division of the East Central Railway.
- Trial run coordinated with the Dhanbad Division for operational integration

Indian Railways launches Asia's longest 4.5 km long 'Rudrastra' freight train

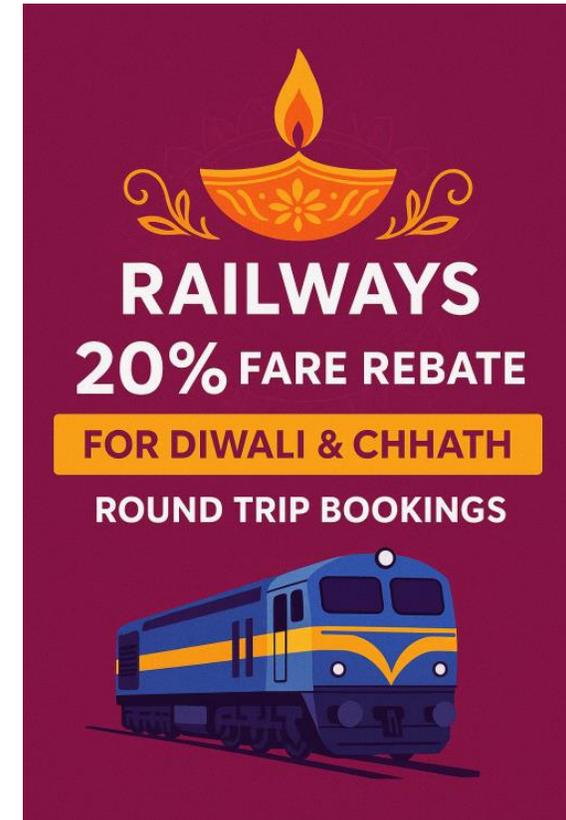


Indian Railways Launches 20% Return Fare Rebate for Round Trip Festival Package

- The Indian Railways has announced a trial scheme called "Round Trip Package for Festival Rush" to help reduce passenger crowding and improve travel during the coming festive season.
- Scheme gives a 20 per cent discount on the base fare of the return journey.
- This applies only if passengers book confirmed tickets for both onward and return trips, for the same passengers, class, and origin-destination route.
- Bookings under this scheme will start on August 14, 2025. The onward journey must take place between October 13 and October 26, 2025.
- The scheme is open to all classes and trains, except those with flexi-fare pricing, and only applies to confirmed tickets.

Booking Timeline:

- Onward Journey: Train start dates between October 13–26, 2025.
- Return Journey: Train start dates between November 17–December 1, 2025.
- Discount Structure: 20% rebate on the base fare of the return journey only.



RBI moots 15 day limit to settle deceased customer's deposit claims

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released a draft circular to make it quicker and easier for families or legal heirs to claim money, valuables, or locker contents of deceased customers.
- Under the proposal, banks will have just 15 days to settle claims once all necessary documents are submitted.
- These rules are set to come into effect on or before January 1, 2026, and public feedback is open until August 27, 2025.

Penalties for Delays

- If banks fail to meet the 15-day deadline:
- Deposit accounts: Compensation will be paid at the Bank Rate plus 4% interest per year.
- Lockers: ₹5,000 per day will be paid for the delay.

Standardised Forms and Document Requirements

- Banks will be required to use standardised claim forms and clearly display the list of required documents both online and at their branches.
- If a nominee is registered: Only a claim form, death certificate, and valid ID/address proof will be needed.
- If there's no nominee: For claims up to ₹15 lakh, extra documents like an indemnity bond, no-objection letters from other legal heirs, and a surety will be needed. For claims above ₹15 lakh, a legal heir or succession certificate, or a declaration of legal heirs, will be required.



RBI Imposes Rs. 75 Lakh Monetary Penalty on ICICI Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹75.00 lakh on ICICI Bank Limited for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on ‘Valuation of Properties - Empanelment of Valuers’ and ‘Opening of Current Accounts by Banks – Need for discipline’.
- This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers conferred on RBI under the provisions of Section 47A(1)(c) read with Section 46(4)(i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- The Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE 2024) of the bank was conducted by RBI with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2024
- RBI found that the following charges against the bank were sustained, warranting

Imposition of monetary penalty:

- The bank did not carry out valuation of properties by independent valuers in certain mortgage loans.
- The bank opened / maintained certain current accounts in contravention of extant regulatory requirements.



Cabinet approves continuation of Targeted Subsidy for Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana Consumers for 2025-26 at Rs 12,000 crore



- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the targeted subsidy of Rs.300 per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to 9 refills per year (and proportionately pro-rated for 5 kg cylinder) to the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) during FY 2025-26 at an expenditure of Rs 12,000 crore.
- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana: Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched in May, 2016 with an objective to provide deposit-free LPG connection to adult women from poor households across the country.
- As on 01.07.2025, there are about 10.33 crore PMUY connections across the country.
- All PMUY beneficiaries receive deposit-free LPG connection which includes Security Deposit (SD) of Cylinder, Pressure Regulator, Suraksha Hose, Domestic Gas Consumer Card (DGCC) booklet and installation charges.
- As per the existing modalities of Ujjwala 2.0, the first refill and stove is also provided free of cost to all beneficiaries. PMUY beneficiaries are not required to make any payments for the LPG connection or the first refill or stove as the cost for these is borne by the Government of India/OMCs.

- Targeted Subsidy to Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana consumers: India imports about 60 % of its LPG requirement. To shield PMUY beneficiaries from the impact of sharp fluctuations in international prices of LPG and to make LPG more affordable to PMUY consumers, thereby ensuring sustained usage of LPG by them, Government started a targeted subsidy of Rs .200 / - per 14 .2 kg cylinder for up to 12 refills per annum (and proportionately pro -rated for 5 kg connections) to the PMUY consumers in May 2022.
- In October 2023, Government increased targeted subsidy to Rs .300 per 14 .2 kg cylinder for up to 12 refills per annum (and proportionately pro -rated for 5 kg connections).
- Average Per Capita Consumption (PCC) of PMUY consumers which was only about 3 refills in 2019-20 and 3. 68 refills in 2022-23 has improved to about 4.47 during FY 2024-25.

Downloads of Sanchar Saathi Mobile App crossed 50 lakh mark in around 6 months of its launch

- The Sanchar Saathi initiative by the Department of Telecommunications has made a significant impact in enhancing telecom security and empowering citizens.
- Since its launch, the mobile app has crossed 50 lakh downloads within six months. Recognizing the wide linguistic and regional diversity of India, DoT has expanded the app's accessibility by supporting English, Hindi, and 21 regional languages.

Chakshu – Report Suspected Fraud Communications:

- Instantly report suspicious calls and SMS, directly from the mobile phone logs.

Know Mobile Connections in Your Name:

- View and manage all mobile numbers registered under your name, helping detect and remove unauthorized connections.

Blocking Lost or Stolen Mobile Handsets:

- Block, trace, and recover your mobile device quickly in case it is lost or stolen.

Know Mobile Handset Genuineness:

- Easily verify whether a handset is genuine before making a purchase.



International Manuscript Heritage Conference

- The Government proposes to host the first-ever international Manuscript Heritage Conference titled 'Reclaiming India's Knowledge Legacy Through Manuscript Heritage' in September 2025.
- This event is planned to commemorate the 132nd Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's historic address at the Parliament of the World's Religions held in Chicago on September 11, 1893.
- The conference aims to bring together scholars, historians, manuscript experts, and cultural practitioners from across the world to explore, preserve, and promote India's vast and diverse Manuscript Heritage.
- The Government has taken several measures to preserve and promote India's rich manuscript heritage. Such as:
 - Establishing and supporting institutions like the 'Gyan Bharatam' that works towards the Documentation, Conservation, Digitization, and Publication of rare and Unpublished Manuscripts across the country.
 - National and International MoUs with Vietnam, Thailand, and Japan
 - Since 2003, a total of 3.50 lakh Manuscripts has been digitized. There are 92 Manuscript Conservation Centres established so far, of which 42 are presently active. Additionally, there are 93 Manuscript Resource Centres, with 37 currently active.

India Announces Global Conference on Manuscript Heritage at Bharat Mandapam, Sept 2025



India's First Smart Intelligent Village

- The village of Satnavri in rural Nagpur is at the forefront of India's rural digital transformation. Selected under a state-backed pilot project, it aims to become the nation's first 'Smart Intelligent Village'.
- The initiative integrates advanced technology into daily rural life, covering agriculture, education, healthcare, governance, and finance.
- The initiative involves 15 private firms collaborating under the 'Make in India' campaign.
- Voice of Indian Communication Technology Enterprises (VOICE) leads the technology deployment.
- The village uses drone-assisted farming, smart irrigation, and soil sensors to improve productivity.
- Satnavri's gram panchayat is equipped with WiFi and digital governance tools
- Education is enhanced with AI-integrated digital books, remote learning platforms, and smart Anganwadi centres.
- The initiative involves 15 private firms collaborating under the 'Make in India' campaign.

