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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

15th & 16th AUG, 2025 DESCRIPTIVE

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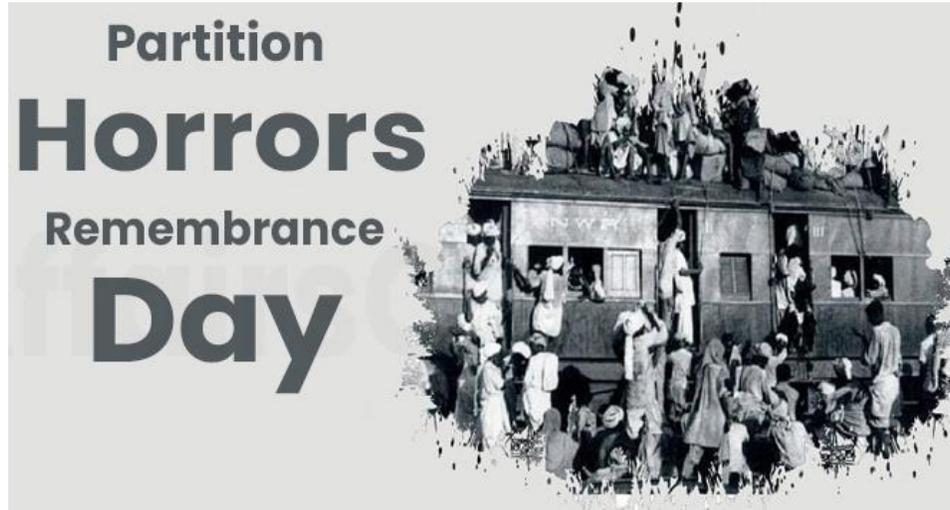
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Partition Horror Remembrance Day



- The Bibi Fatima Women's Self-Help Group (SHG) from Teertha village in Karnataka's Dharwad district won the prestigious Equator Initiative Award 2025
- Announced by PM Narendra Modi on 15 August 2021.
- The first Partition Horrors Remembrance Day was observed on 14 August 2022 in India.
- The day is observed to remember the suffering and pain experienced by millions of people in this region due to the partition of undivided India in 1947 into two independent countries: India and Pakistan

Extra Info:

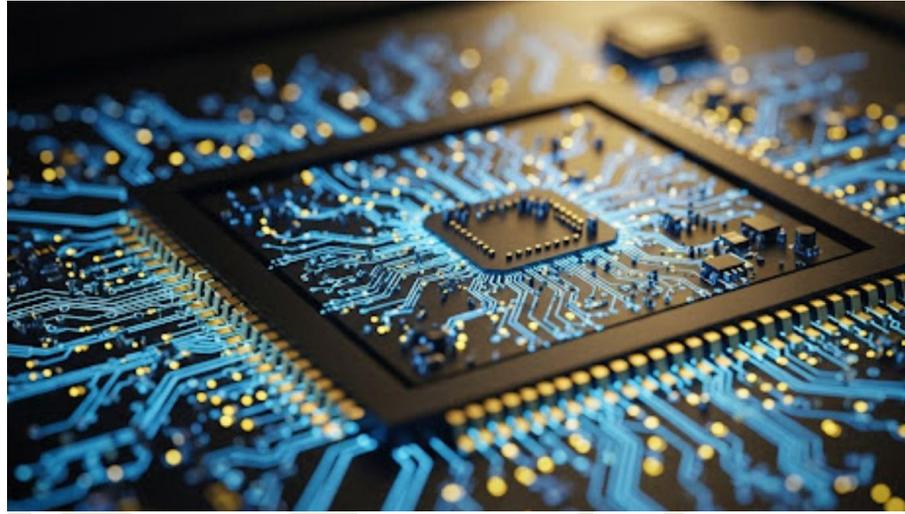
- Sir Muhammad Iqbal articulated the idea of a Muslim nation within India at the All India Muslim League conference in Allahabad in 1930.
- Choudhry Rahmat Ali, who was studying at Cambridge University, coined the word 'PAKISTAN' as the name of a new homeland for the Muslims of the Indian subcontinent.

Lahore resolution

- For the first time, the demand for a separate homeland for the Muslims of the Indian subcontinent was made by the All India Muslim League at its session in Lahore on March 23, 1940.
- On 3 June 1947, Viceroy Lord Mountbatten announced the details of the country's partition into India and Pakistan.
- Later, in June 1947, the British set up a boundary commission headed by the British jurist Cyril Radcliffe to draw the boundaries of India and Pakistan.
- The Radcliffe Commission published a map of the newly independent countries of Pakistan and India on 17 August 1947.

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Cabinet Approves ₹4,600 Crore Semiconductor Manufacturing Projects in Odisha, Punjab, and Andhra Pradesh



- India clears ₹4,600 crore for new semiconductor plants in Odisha, Punjab, and Andhra Pradesh, boosting chip production under the India Semiconductor Mission
- Two facilities will come up in Odisha, one in Punjab, and one in Andhra Pradesh. With these approvals, the total number of ISM-supported semiconductor projects has reached 10, involving investments of about ₹1.60 lakh crore across 6 states.

SiCSem Private Limited – Odisha

- Partnership: Clas-SiC Wafer Fab Ltd., UK
- Location: Info Valley, Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- Significance: First commercial Silicon Carbide (SiC) compound semiconductor fab in India
- Capacity: 60,000 wafers/year & 96 million packaging units/year
- Applications: Defence, electric vehicles, railways, data centres, solar inverters, consumer electronics.

3D Glass Solutions Inc. – Odisha

- **Capacity:** 69,600 glass panel substrates/year & 50 million assembled units/year
- **Applications:** High-performance computing, AI, automotive, photonics, defense.

ASIP Technologies –Andhra Pradesh

- **Partnership:** APACT Co. Ltd., South Korea
- **Capacity:** 96 million units/year
- **Products:** Semiconductor components for mobile phones, set-top boxes, automotive electronics, consumer devices.

Continental Device India Pvt. Ltd. (CDIL) – Punjab

- **Location:** Mohali (brownfield expansion)
- **Products:** High-power devices — MOSFETs, IGBTs, Schottky diodes, transistors (Silicon & SiC)
- **Capacity:** 158 million units/year
- **Applications:** EVs, renewable energy, power conversion, communication systems.

Revised Income Tax Bill, 2025



- Finance Minister has tabled the revised Income Tax Bill, 2025 in the Lok Sabha, incorporating most of the 566 recommendations made by the Parliamentary Select Committee.
- BJP Member Baijayant Panda was the chairman of the Parliament Select Committee
- It aims to simplify and replace the old 1961 Act. The law is set to become effective from April 2026 with faceless assessment and digital compliance.
- **Single 'Tax Year' Concept:** Replaces "Previous Year" and "Assessment Year" with a uniform term to simplify understanding and compliance.
- **Simplified Refund Provisions:** Refunds allowed even if ITR is filed after the due date, reducing taxpayer grievances.
- The new Bill also clarified that there will be nil TCS on Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) remittances for education purposes financed by any financial institution, a provision that had gone missing in the earlier version.

Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS):

- About: The LRS, introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2004 with an initial limit of USD 25,000 per financial year, now permits resident individuals to remit up to USD 250,000 annually for approved current or capital account transactions.
- Eligibility: Only resident individuals are eligible. The scheme excludes corporates, Hindu Undivided Family (HUFs), partnership firms, and trusts.

Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill:

- Separately, the government also brought in the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which amends the Finance Act, 2025.
- It has exempted income from dividend, interest, long-term capital gains or other incomes from investments made by the 'Public Investment Fund of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia' and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, which make investment, directly or indirectly, out of the Fund in India under clause (23FE) of the Income-tax Act.
- The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill also extended income tax benefits under the market-linked national pension system (NPS) to the guaranteed unified pension scheme (UPS), by allowing tax-free withdrawal of lump sum payments or the accumulated UPS corpus, up to 60 per cent, at the time of retirement.
- **Charitable Trust & LLP Relief:** Relaxation in transfer pricing rules and removal of Alternate Minimum Tax on LLPs.
- The provisions of MAT (Minimum Alternate tax) and AMT (Alternate minimum tax) are separated as two sub-sections under section 206.
- The provisions of AMT are applicable only to those non-corporates who have claimed deductions.
- New income tax bill aims to “make language simple”, adding that “no new rate is being introduced”

SHRESTH: India's First State Health Regulatory Excellence Index

- Recently, the union health secretary virtually launched the State Health Regulatory Excellence Index (SHRESTH).
- It is a first-of-its-kind national initiative to benchmark and strengthen state drug regulatory systems through a transparent, data-driven framework.
- The initiative, proposed by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)
- It will have 27 indices for Manufacturing States across five key themes: Human Resources, Infrastructure, Licensing Activities, Surveillance Activities and Responsiveness

Data Submission & Ranking Process:

- States submit data by the 25th of every month.
- Metrics are scored on the 1st of the next month.
- Rankings shared with all States/UTs for transparency.



Cabinet Approves ₹8,146 Crore Tato-II Hydro Electric Project in Arunachal Pradesh



- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the construction of the 700 MW Tato-II Hydro Electric Project (HEP) in Shi Yomi district, Arunachal Pradesh.
- With an investment outlay of ₹8,146.21 crore and a completion target of 72 months, the project aims to enhance the region's power supply
- The Tato-II Hydro Electric Project will have an installed capacity of 700 MW, split into four units of 175 MW each, and is expected to generate 2,738.06 million units (MU) of clean energy annually.
- The project will be implemented through a joint venture between North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd. (NEEPCO) and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Yarjep River in Arunachal Pradesh

Revenue and Local Gains

- Arunachal Pradesh will benefit from 12% free power and 1% additional power allocated to the Local Area Development Fund (LADF). This will contribute directly to community welfare and fund local development projects.

Social Infrastructure

- From the ₹20 crore dedicated fund, facilities such as hospitals, schools, marketplaces, and playgrounds will be established, improving the quality of life in the project area.

Sea of Galilee

- The Sea of Galilee, also called Lake Tiberias, is a freshwater lake in Israel.
- Sea of Galilee in Israel turned red due to the bloom of *Botryococcus braunii* algae.
- It lies in the Jordan Rift Valley, mainly fed by the Jordan River and some underground springs.
- Known by names like Sea of Kinneret.
- *Botryococcus braunii* is a single-celled green algae found in freshwater or brackish lakes, known for producing hydrocarbons and forming protective biofilm structures.

NABARD, APGB & Aqua Exchange Signed MoU to Launch Collateral Free Shrimp Farming Loans

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Andhra Pradesh Grameena Bank and Aqua Exchange Agritech Private Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding to launch a pilot Internet of Things (IoT) enabled loan model for shrimp farmers.
- The initiative aims to integrate shrimp farmers into the formal credit system by offering low- interest, collateral-free crop loans
- Total of Rs. 25 crores in collateral-free loans to be disbursed to around 100 shrimp farmers within 3–6 months, with an initial sanction of Rs. 1.25 crore to 5 farmers.
- Rs. 100 crores in Financial Year 2025–26 and Rs. 250 crores in FY27 is the Future Disbursement Target
- Farm Rating Score will be developed to assess farmers' creditworthiness
- IoT devices will be deployed for real-time monitoring of water quality, feed usage, and disease control, thereby improving productivity and reducing risks



One India, One Registration Initiative under NIDHI Portal



पर्यटन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
TOURISM

nidhi⁺
National Integrated Database
of Hospitality Industry

- To ensure the quality of services and experience for different classes of both domestic and international tourists, Ministry of Tourism, under its voluntary scheme of Incredible India Homestay Establishments classifies fully operational rooms of homestay facilities in the country including rural and tribal areas. Homestays are classified under two categories- Gold Category and Silver Category based on the extant Guidelines issued by the Ministry. There is no financial assistance provided by the Ministry of Tourism under this scheme.
- The Government also approved the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan for improving the socio-economic condition of tribal communities, and development of 1000 homestays is a part of the scheme. The States/UTs can avail assistance of a maximum of Rs.5 Crore for implementing 5-10 homestays per village in a village cluster of 5-6 villages, subject to eligibility as per the Guidelines issued on 01.07.2025.
- Additionally, the Government of India also announced collateral free institutional credit of Mudra Loans for Homestays in the Budget Announcement for 2025-26 to assist and encourage setting up of homestays across the country, including rural and tribal areas.

- The details of the number of rural Homestay facilities registered on the National Integrated Database of Hospitality Industry (NIDHI) portal under the "One Nation, One Registration" initiative
- The function of NIDHI platform is to gather data on registered and classified/approved units under the voluntary scheme of classification only and not a booking platform. The data regarding the number of tourism or occupancy days is not reflected on the platform.

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Skyroot Aerospace Conducts Static Test of Vikram-1 Rocket's KALAM-1200

- Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited successfully conducted the first static test of KALAM-1200 solid rocket motor, the first stage of the Vikram-1 Launch Vehicle in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- KALAM-1200 is an 11-metre-long, 1.7 m diameter monolithic composite motor, carrying Propellant Mass of 30 tonnes. It can generate up to 1200 kilonewton of peak thrust in space.
- Vikram 1 is the first orbital-class LV, built by Skyroot Aerospace, an Indian private aerospace manufacturer.
- It is a 3-stage solid propulsion LV designed to be a small satellite launcher, offering fast and on-demand access to Low Earth Orbit (LEO), scheduled to be launched in 2025.



India's largest 'Tinkering' event by Atal Innovation Mission unites 10,000 schools in live national innovation movement

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog hosted 'Mega Tinkering Day', India's largest-ever school-based tinkering event, bringing together students from over 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) across all 35 states and union territories.
- Held virtually and simultaneously in schools nationwide, the event saw participation of 4,73,350 students from 9467 ATL equipped schools who engaged in a hands-on project to design and build a DIY vacuum cleaner, using everyday materials available in their labs.
- In this live event, over 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs came together in one synchronized hour of creativity, with lakhs of students across India building, learning, and innovating as one.
- Since its inception, AIM has established over 10,000 ATLs in schools that offer students access to tools like 3D printers, robotics kits, IoT devices, and more.



China plans railway line to India's doorsteps

- China has announced the Xinjiang–Tibet Rail Project, construction of which will begin in 2025 and will pass close to India's Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- The Xinjiang–Tibet Railway Company has been established with a capital of 95 billion yuan (around USD 13.2 billion).
- The rail line will start from Hotan (Xinjiang) and go to Shigatse (Tibet), linking with the existing line from Shigatse to Lhasa.
- This approximately 2,000 km route will pass through the Kunlun, Karakoram, Kailash, and Himalayan mountain ranges, with an average altitude of 4,500 meters.
- The railway will pass through Aksai Chin, a region that is Indian territory but under Chinese control.
- This area is strategically important — it will pass close to Pangong Lake and help the Chinese military or equipment reach the border quickly.
- The project is planned to be completed by 2035, creating a strategic corridor between western and southern China.

