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Indian Naval Ships Arrived in Sri Lanka for SLINEX-25

- SLINEX was conceptualized in 2005 and has now become a major bilateral maritime exercise. Its aim is to enhance interoperability, cooperation, and the exchange of best practices between the two navies.
- **Event:** SLINEX 2025 (Indian Navy - Sri Lanka Navy Annual Exercise)
- **Edition:** 12th
- **Where:** Colombo, Sri Lanka
- **Phases:** Harbour Phase and Sea Phase
- Participating Naval Assets: INS Jyoti, INS Rana SLNS Gajabahu & Vijayabahu, SLNS Sayura
- The previous edition of SLINEX was held at Visakhapatnam from 17–20 December 2024.



20 August - World Mosquito Day

- World Mosquito Day is observed every year on 20th August to commemorate the significant discovery made by British physician Sir Ronald Ross in 1897.
- Sir Ronald Ross proved that malaria is transmitted by mosquitoes, particularly the female Anopheles mosquito, which for the first time revealed the cause of the disease's spread.
- The theme of World Mosquito Day 2025 is: “Accelerating the Fight Against Malaria for a More Equitable World.”



SBI Launches Collateral-Free ₹4 Lakh Loan for Agniveers

- On the occasion of India's 79th Independence Day (15th August 2025), the State Bank of India (SBI) announced two major initiatives—first, a new personal loan scheme for Agniveers, and second, a revision in IMPS online transaction charges.
- These initiatives are expected to benefit both defence personnel as well as digital banking users.

1. New collateral-free loan scheme for Agniveers

- This scheme has been specially launched for Agniveers holding an SBI salary account.
- It offers collateral-free loans with zero processing fees.
- The maximum loan limit is ₹4 lakh.
- Interest Rate and Tenure The interest rate has been kept uniform for all defence personnel: minimum 10.50%.

2. Revised charges on online IMPS transactions above ₹25,000

- From 15th August 2025, SBI has introduced a nominal charge on online IMPS transactions above ₹25,000.
- Lower transaction slabs (up to ₹25,000) will continue to remain completely charge-free as before.



**SBI Launches
Collateral-Free
₹4 Lakh Loan**

Foxconn's Bengaluru unit commences operation with iPhone 17 production

- Marking a historic milestone for India's electronics manufacturing sector, Foxconn has officially commenced production at its new plant in Devanahalli, Bengaluru.
- This state-of-the-art manufacturing facility has begun producing the iPhone 17, further strengthening India's role in Apple's global supply chain.
- The Bengaluru-based factory is Foxconn's second-largest manufacturing hub outside China, reflecting India's growing importance as a global center for electronics production.

Foxconn's growing investment in India:

- Foxconn, Apple's largest manufacturing partner, has been steadily expanding its presence in India.
- Its Chennai plant in Tamil Nadu has been producing iPhones for several years.
- This expansion has been strongly supported by the Indian government, with key incentives provided under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme.



CM Rekha Gupta vows Yamuna cleaning, best infra and Atal canteens

- Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, in her first Independence Day speech on Friday, pledged to revive the Yamuna River, provide the best infrastructure in the country in Delhi, and set up Atal Canteens to serve meals at five rupees for the needy.

Yamuna cleaning

- The government's primary goal will be the revival of the Yamuna River and providing Delhi with the best infrastructure in the country.
- She assured that continuous efforts will be made to transform Delhi into a modern, clean, and world-class city.

'Atal Canteen' Scheme

- Chief Minister Gupta announced the launch of the "Atal Canteen Scheme" on the birth anniversary of late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- Under this scheme, nutritious meals will be provided to the needy at just five rupees.
- This initiative is expected to directly benefit the city's low-income groups and the working-class population.

Special Initiatives for Women and Workers

- To support women engaged in labor-intensive jobs (such as taxi drivers), the government will set up 500 new centers and childcare facilities.
- To assist gig economy and unorganized sector workers, the Delhi government will also establish a "Gig Workers Welfare Board."



India's Abhinav Bindra named among IOC's nine mental health ambassadors

- India's first individual Olympic gold medalist, Abhinav Bindra, has been named by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) this week as one of its nine mental health ambassadors.
- The role of mental health in sports
- Abhinav Bindra, who won the gold medal in the men's 10m air rifle event at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, has long been a strong advocate for athletes' mental health.
- He has been actively involved in this initiative since the establishment of the IOC's Mental Health Working Group.

Other ambassadors

- Holly Bradshaw (GBR, Athletics) – MSc in Sport & Exercise Psychology
- Camille Cheng (HKG, Swimming) – Founder of Mind the Waves
- Bruno Fratus (BRA, Swimming) – Olympic medallist advocating mental strength
- Gracie Gold (USA, Figure Skating) – Mental health advocate & author
- Marie-Josée Ta Lou-Smith (CIV, Athletics) – Empowering athletes on emotional realities
- Ryan Pini (PNG, Swimming) – Support advocate for Pacific athletes
- Akani Simbine (RSA, Athletics) – Founder of Akani Simbine Foundation
- Masomah Ali Zada (AFG, Cycling) – Refugee Olympic Team leader & resilience advocate



NTPC becomes 1st PSU to Adopt Global Standard for Power Supply Continuity

- NTPC Limited has become the 1st Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) in the Indian power sector to adopt a comprehensive Business Continuity Plan (BCP) aligned with International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 22301:2019, global standard for Business Continuity Management Systems (BCMS).
- This move aims to bolster NTPC's ability to ensure uninterrupted power generation and supply under all circumstances.

Revision Point –

- Bank of Baroda is the Indian bank that achieved ISO 22301:2019 certification for Business Continuity Management Systems (BCMS).



FAITH Unveiled 'Tourism Vision 2047' to Boost India's Tourism Economy to USD 3 Trillion

- The Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH), apex body of travel and hospitality industry in India, has unveiled its 'Tourism Vision 2047', a roadmap designed to boost India's tourism economy to USD 3 trillion by 2047.
- It was unveiled at its FAITH Conclave 2025 held under the theme 'Indian Tourism-Invincible Spirit', at Taj Palace in New Delhi
- The newly unveiled roadmap also aims to attract 100 million inbound tourists, generate 20 billion domestic visits, 200 million tourism-related jobs and USD 400 billion in forex earnings.
- The roadmap is based on the 4 main pillars: Policy Reforms, International and Domestic Marketing, Infrastructure Development and Sustainability.
- Objective is to make tourism a national priority, doubling its contribution from 5 percent to 10 percent of India's GDP by 2047



NABL launches new Medical Application Portal for ISO 15189:2022 applicant laboratories

- The National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), a constituent board of the Quality Council of India (QCI) launched its new Medical Application Portal designed for ISO 15189:2022 applicant laboratories.
- The online portal was unveiled during a virtual event titled “GOING LIVE”, marking a major step in NABL’s mission to enhance ease, efficiency, and transparency in the accreditation process.
- The initiative is expected to benefit hundreds of medical laboratories across India, providing them with an intuitive, transparent, and efficient digital platform for accreditation under ISO 15189:2022.

About Quality Council of India:

- Established: 1997
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairman: Jaxay Shah



Manika Vishwakarma Crowned Miss Universe India 2025, to Represent India at 74th Miss Universe in Thailand

- Manika Vishwakarma from Ganganagar, Rajasthan, wins Miss Universe India 2025 in Jaipur. She will represent India at the 74th Miss Universe in Thailand.
- Crowned by Miss Universe India 2024 Rhea Singha, she beat Tanya Sharma from Uttar Pradesh (the first runner-up), Mehak Dhingra from Haryana (the second runner-up)

India and the Miss Universe Legacy:

- Sushmita Sen (1994) – the first Indian to win Miss Universe.
- Lara Dutta (2000) – second Indian Miss Universe.
- Harnaaz Sandhu (2021) – third crown for India after two decades.



ISRO inaugurates space laboratory in remote Arunachal Pradesh district

- **ISRO inaugurates space laboratory in remote Arunachal Pradesh district**
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has inaugurated a state-of-the-art space laboratory at Mechuka Government Higher Secondary School in the remote Shi-Yomi district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Named:** The Pasang Wangchuk Sona ISRO Space Laboratory
- The initiative, launched in collaboration with the Muskaan Foundation, was formally inaugurated by Arunachal Pradesh Education Minister Pasang Dorjee Sona
- **Aim:** Provide hands-on learning opportunities in space science and technology.
- Foster curiosity, innovation, and scientific thinking among students.
- Encourage participation of rural youth in STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics).



Govt plan for an animal blood bank network



- Bhopal will become the first city in Madhya Pradesh where animals will get the facility of blood donation and transfusion at a centre to be set up soon
- India is home to a very large livestock population of 536.76 million, according to the 20th Livestock Census conducted in 2019
- The Government of India has introduced draft guidelines aimed at standardising blood transfusion and blood banking practices for animals.
- Currently, most transfusions are carried out without standardised blood typing, screening, or storage protocols. This increases the risks of donor mismatching, infections, and unsafe handling.
- Dairy animals will not be covered by the bank. The blood of dairy animals, including cows and goats, will not be taken.
- National Veterinary Blood Bank Network (N-VBBN) will coordinate blood banks nationwide. It will maintain a digital donor registry with species, breed, location, and blood type data.

Animal blood donation criterion:

- According to the rules framed by the central government, if the age of a dog is between 1 to 8 years and its weight is a minimum of 25 kg, then such pets or street dogs will be able to donate blood.
- The age of a cat has been fixed from 1 to 5 years, and its minimum weight should be 4 kg.
- Talking about the interval of blood donations, it was stated that a healthy dog can donate blood every 4 to 6 weeks, and cats can donate blood once in 8 to 12 weeks.

Animal Blood Volume And Blood Group Systems:

- Animal blood volume generally represents 7–9% of body weight. For example, cattle carry around 55 ml of blood per kg, meaning a cow weighing 300 kg holds about 16.5 litres. Different species have distinct blood group systems:
- Cattle: 11 blood groups
- Dogs: 9 blood groups
- Horses: 8 blood groups
- Cats: 4 blood groups
- Accurate blood typing is essential to prevent adverse transfusion reactions.