

# IACE

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

### 30<sup>th</sup> AUG 2025 DESCRIPTIVE



### HEADLINES

- ❖ India and Bhutan have entered into a formal agreement to enhance cooperation in agriculture and related fields
- ❖ India Launches First National Biofoundry Network under BioE3 Policy
- ❖ Unity Bank and BharatPe partner to launch India's first EMI-driven card
- ❖ Urjit Patel Appointed IMF Executive Director for 3-Year Term
- ❖ National Annual Report & Index on Women's Safety (NARI) 2025
- ❖ India Signs Letter of Intent with UN-WFP to Supply Fortified Rice
- ❖ PM Modi's Japan Visit: Strategic Cooperation on Chips, AI, and Rare Earths
- ❖ "UP Govt Launches 'No Helmet, No Fuel' Campaign from September 1"
- ❖ Income Tax Dept Increases Prosecution Threshold for Undisclosed Foreign Assets to ₹20 Lakh from ₹5 Lakh
- ❖ India has surpassed one crore school teachers for the first time in the 2024-25 academic year, as per the UDISE+ report

Telegram: [Click here](#)

Toll Free: 1800-270-9975, Ph: 9533200400

- ❖ **International Day Against Nuclear Tests – August 29**
- ❖ **Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025 – Dal Lake, Srinagar**
- ❖ **Chennai city's first City Biodiversity Index conducted**

IACE

## India and Bhutan have entered into a formal agreement to enhance cooperation in agriculture and related fields



- The Memorandum of Understanding was signed in Thimphu by India's Agriculture Secretary Devesh Chaturvedi and Bhutan's Agriculture Secretary Thinley Namgyel.
- This development marks a key advancement in the strong bilateral relationship between the two countries.
- The pact highlights their mutual dedication to advancing food security, sustainable agricultural practices, and rural well-being.
- The agreement will facilitate joint efforts in agricultural innovation, livestock care and productivity, and research initiatives.
- It also aims to strengthen collaboration in post-harvest technologies, value chain enhancement, and the sharing of technical knowledge and expertise.

## **India and Bhutan relationship:**

- India is Bhutan's top trading partner and the leading source of investments.
- There has been significant cooperation between the two sides in the area of hydro-power projects.
- The revised Bilateral Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit between India and Bhutan came into effect in 2017.

IAACE

## India Launches First National Biofoundry Network under BioE3 Policy

- India launched its first National Biofoundry Network (NBN) in 2025 under the BioE3 Policy to achieve a \$300 billion bioeconomy by 2030.
- The initiative was unveiled by Union Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh.
- The NBN is a collaborative platform of six premier biotechnology institutions.
- It provides end-to-end facilities covering design, prototyping, testing, and scaling up of biotechnology products.
- The focus areas include advanced biomanufacturing, synthetic biology, CRISPR gene editing, climate-smart agriculture, and green biotechnology.
- The objectives are to strengthen indigenous biomanufacturing, accelerate research-to-market translation, and align with the economy, environment, and employment goals of the BioE3 Policy.
- The initiative supports innovation and entrepreneurship through the BioE3 Challenge, offering funding for youth-driven innovations and start-ups.
- It fosters global collaborations with international biofoundry networks for knowledge exchange and technology transfer.
- The network will create employment, promote sustainability, and position India as a global hub for sustainable biotechnology and indigenous biomanufacturing.



## Unity Bank and BharatPe partner to launch India's first EMI-driven card

- **BharatPe**, in partnership with Unity Small Finance Bank, launched **the Unity Bank BharatPe Credit Card on the NPCI RuPay network**, which can be seamlessly linked with UPI for secure payments.
- The card offers industry-first features covering groceries, bill payments, travel, utilities, insurance, and lifestyle spends across both online and offline platforms.
- With a zero-fee structure, the card has no joining fee, annual fee, or hidden charges, and allows penalty-free EMI prepayments, ensuring transparency and stress-free credit access.

### Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector

- L & T Finance Ltd. Partners with Google Pay to Offer Personal Loans to its Eligible Users
- PNB Partners with CRPF to Offer Enhanced Insurance and Benefits under Rakshak Plus Scheme
- India Exim Bank signs \$40 million credit line deal with Africa's ECOWAS Bank
- Indian Overseas Bank Partners with Mumbai Metro One to Launch Smart Ticketing Solution
- HDFC ERGO Partners with PhonePe to Launch Affordable Health Insurance for Young Adults
- PhonePe Partners with SBI Card to Launch PURPLE and SELECT BLACK Co-Branded Credit Cards

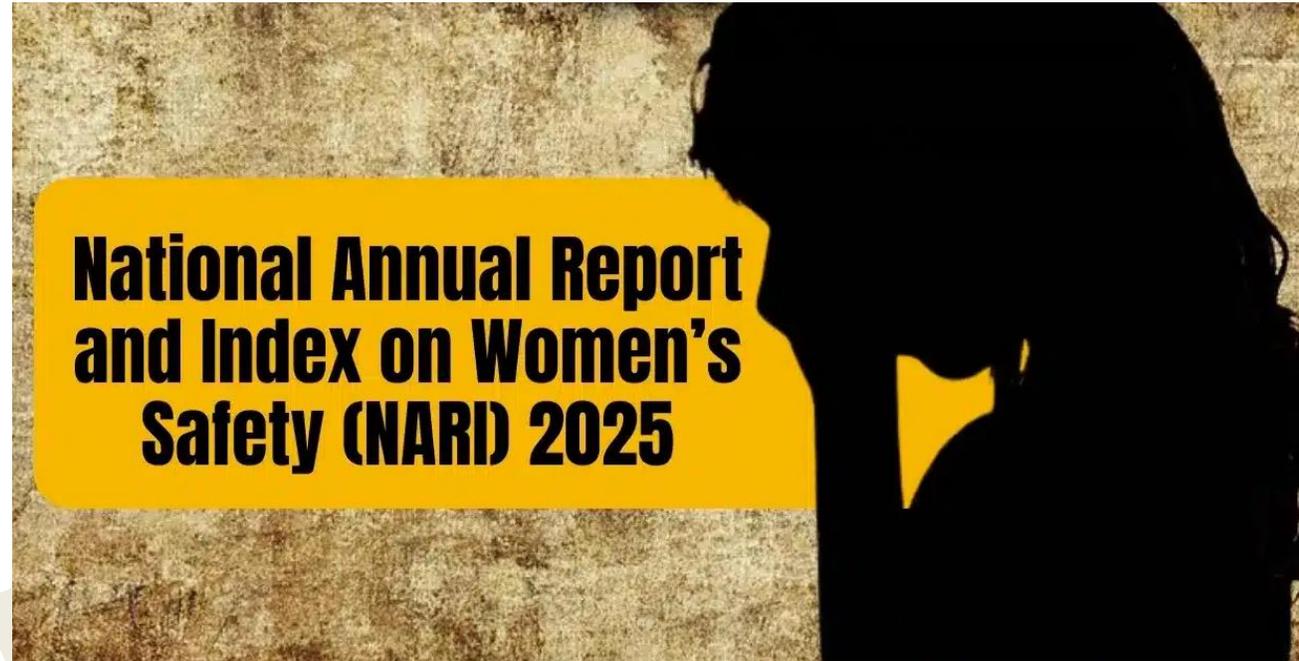


## Urjit Patel Appointed IMF Executive Director for 3-Year Term

- On August 28, 2025, the Ministry of Personnel announced the appointment of former RBI Governor **Urjit Patel** as Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a three-year term.
- In this role, Patel will represent **India and other countries in his constituency** at the IMF Board.
- This marks another **high-level international assignment** for India in multilateral financial institutions.
- Urjit Patel previously served as the **24th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** from September 4, 2016, to December 10, 2018.
- His professional background includes roles at the **IMF** (India, US, Bahamas, Myanmar), private sector consulting firms, and economic advisory bodies at the **central and state levels**.
- Soon after becoming RBI Governor, Patel oversaw the **demonetisation drive of November 2016**, one of India's most significant financial reforms.
- He also guided the RBI during the implementation of the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** in 2017.
- His tenure ended amid a **conflict between RBI and the Government of India**, particularly over issues of **RBI's autonomy and the transfer of ₹3.6 lakh crore in surplus reserves** to the Centre.



## **National Annual Report & Index on Women's Safety (NARI) 2025**



- National Annual Report & Index on Women's Safety (NARI) 2025, released recently, has shed new light through its latest report on how safe Indian cities really are for women.

### **About National Annual Report and Index on Women's Safety (NARI) 2025:**

- Released by the National Commission for Women, NARI 2025 offers the telling reality of the urban safety landscape
- The report, a collaborative effort by the Group of Intellectuals and Academicians (GIA), Pvalue Analytics, The NorthCap University, and Jindal Global Law School, is based on a survey of 12,770 women across 31 cities in all states.

### **Highlights of the Report:**

- It placed the national safety score at 65%, categorising cities as “much above”, “above”, “below” or “much below” this benchmark.

- Kohima, Visakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Aizawl, Gangtok, Itanagar, and Mumbai have emerged as the safest cities in the country for women, while Patna, Jaipur, Faridabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Srinagar, and Ranchi were ranked the lowest.
- Kohima and other top-ranked cities were associated with stronger gender equity, civic participation, policing, and women-friendly infrastructure.
- Overall, six in ten women surveyed felt “safe” in their city, but 40% still considered themselves “not so safe” or “unsafe”.
- Prevalence of harassment remains high, with 7% women reporting at least one incident of harassment in public spaces in 2024.
- The highest risk group is women under 24 years of age (14% reported harassment).
- Verbal harassment was most common (58%), with physical, psychological, economic, and sexual harassment reported less frequently.
- Neighborhoods (38%) and transport (29%) were the main hotspots for harassment.
- In terms of response, 28% of women confronted harassers, 25% left the scene, 21% sought safety in crowds, and 20% reported to authorities.

## India Signs Letter of Intent with UN-WFP to Supply Fortified Rice

- India Signs Letter of Intent with UN's World Food Programme to Combat Global Hunger.
- Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MoCAF&PD), signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with the United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP) in New Delhi. The collaboration focuses on addressing global hunger, fortifying rice supply, and supporting food security through India's humanitarian initiatives.
- The Letter of Intent foresees India supplying up to 200,000 metric tonnes (MT) of fortified rice over the next five years.
- This fortified rice will be rolled out across nutrition-linked government programmes such as the Public Distribution System (PDS), Mid-Day Meal Scheme, and Poshan Abhiyaan, supporting both domestic and international hunger mitigation efforts.
- This LoI builds upon discussions held earlier in February 2025 during the WFP Executive Board meeting in Rome, Italy .



## PM Modi's Japan Visit: Strategic Cooperation on Chips, AI, and Rare Earths



- India and Japan signed a Semiconductor Supply-Chain Partnership (July 2023) to strengthen resilience through G2G and B2B collaboration in chip and display manufacturing.
- Japan plans to invest about ¥10 trillion (~US \$68 billion) in India over the next decade, with a focus on AI and semiconductor sectors.
- During his Tokyo visit, PM Modi will tour a semiconductor facility and meet leaders from Sony, Hitachi, and Nomura to promote “Make in India, Make for the World.”
- An AI Cooperation Initiative will be launched to boost collaboration in AI research, startups, and technology ecosystems, including talent exchanges.
- Digital Partnership 2.0 will expand cooperation beyond manufacturing to deep-tech areas such as AI, semiconductors, and emerging technologies.

- Japan will double Indian tech specialists working there from 25,000 to 50,000 over five years, strengthening manpower in chip and AI sectors.
- India launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) on Aug 26, 2025, to boost domestic production of rare earths and reduce import dependency.
- Within the Quad framework, India and Japan are aligning to counter China's dominance in rare earths, with collaboration also in defense and space sectors.
- IREL (Indian Rare Earths Ltd) is working with Japanese and Korean firms for magnet production; India targets 450 MT of neodymium by 2026, doubling it by 2030.
- The partnership enhances economic sovereignty, attracts Japanese investments, supports "Make in India," and fosters strategic resilience against global supply chain disruptions.

## “UP Govt Launches ‘No Helmet, No Fuel’ Campaign from September 1”

- UP govt to launch ‘No Helmet, No Fuel’ campaign from September 1
- The Uttar Pradesh government will launch a month-long campaign, ‘No Helmet, No Fuel’, from September 1, under which petrol pumps will deny fuel to two-wheeler riders not wearing helmets.
- The campaign will be led by district magistrates in coordination with road safety committees, with police, transport, revenue, and district administration officials ensuring compliance with helmet rules under the Motor Vehicles Act.
- Officials emphasized that the initiative is for safety, not punishment, promoting the rule “Helmet first, fuel later”, with awareness campaigns and monitoring conducted by the Food & Civil Supplies and Information & Public Relations Departments.
- **About Uttar Pradesh**
- **Capital** – Lucknow
- **Chief Minister** – Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor** – Anandiben Patel

# No Helmet, No Fuel



# Income Tax Dept Increases Prosecution Threshold for Undisclosed Foreign Assets to ₹20 Lakh from ₹5 Lakh



- The Income Tax Department has raised the threshold for initiating prosecution in cases of undisclosed foreign assets (excluding immovable property) to ₹20 lakh from the previous ₹5 lakh.
- This change, which is effective from October 1, 2024, is designed to provide relief and reduce compliance issues for employees working overseas.

## Key Highlights :

- **Increased Threshold:** The value of undisclosed foreign assets (excluding real estate) that can lead to prosecution has been raised to ₹20 lakh.
- **Legal Framework:** This relief pertains to offenses under the Black Money Act (BMA), 2015
- The BMA prescribes a penalty of up to ₹10 lakh under sections 42 and 43 for nondisclosure, while prosecution can be initiated under sections 49 and 50.

- **Exclusion:** The revised threshold does not apply to immovable foreign property.
- **Target Audience:** The move is specifically aimed at simplifying compliance for Indian employees deputed overseas, who might have small-value foreign assets like bank accounts or investments.
- Ravichandran Ashwin Announces Retirement from IPL
- Ravichandran Ashwin, legendary off-spinner and one of India's finest cricketing minds, has retired from the Indian Premier League (IPL) after playing his last season with Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in 2025.

### **IPL Career Overview:**

- Ravichandran Ashwin made his IPL debut in 2009 and went on to play 221 matches
- **Franchises represented:** CSK, Punjab Kings, Delhi Capitals, Rajasthan Royals
- **International Retirement:** Ashwin retired from international cricket in December 2024 after the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia.

## **India has surpassed one crore school teachers for the first time in the 2024-25 academic year, as per the UDISE+ report**

- As per a report by Ministry of Education on Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE +) on school education in India, this reflects a 6.7% rise in the number of teachers since the 2022-23 academic session.
- The country currently has approximately 15 lakh schools, educating more than 24 crore students.
- Nearly half of these students attend government-run schools, 41% are enrolled in private institutions, and the remainder study in government-aided schools.
- Women now constitute 54.3% of the total teaching population across the nation.
- Girls account for 48.3% of total school enrolments.
- Pupil-Teacher Ratios have seen improvement, now standing at 10 for Foundational, 13 for Preparatory, 17 for Middle, and 21 for Secondary levels.
- Indicators like student retention, enrolment ratios, and dropout rates have shown positive trends.
- The government has made efforts to eliminate schools with zero enrolment and those staffed by only one teacher.
- Schools are becoming more adaptive and student-focused, contributing to lower dropout rates and broader inclusion in education.



## **International Day Against Nuclear Tests – August 29**

- International Day Against Nuclear Tests is observed every year on **29 August**.
- It marks the **closure of the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site in Kazakhstan on 29 August 1991**.
- The **UN General Assembly** declared this day in **2009 (Resolution 64/35)**.
- Since the first nuclear test in **1945**, over **2,000 tests** have harmed people's health and the environment.
- To raise awareness, educate people about dangers, and encourage efforts for **nuclear disarmament**.
- On **26 September**, the UN observes the **International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons** to stress full disarmament.

### **India Nuclear Weapon Programme**

- Smiling Buddha (1974): India's first successful nuclear test, conducted at Pokhran in Rajasthan, marking India as the sixth nuclear-capable nation after the US, Soviet Union, United Kingdom, France, and China. ▪ Operation Shakti (1998): (Pokhran-II) was a series of five nuclear tests under Operation Shakti, including a thermonuclear bomb.



## **Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025 – Dal Lake, Srinagar**

- In 2025, a total of **45 teachers across India** were selected for the National Teachers' Awards.
- From **Andhra Pradesh, 3 teachers** received the award, while **Telangana had 1 awardee**.
- The awards will be presented on **5th September 2025 (Teachers' Day)** at **Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi** by the **President of India**.
- **Prof. Arvind Vijay Kumar Kasana** (Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh): Honoured for his **research and leadership in higher education**.
- **Atimutha Srinu** (Andhra Pradesh): Recognized for his **contribution to tribal literacy and rural education development**.
- Each awardee receives a **Silver Medal, Certificate of Merit, and ₹50,000 cash prize**.
- Awardees are chosen through a **district, state, and national-level screening system** based on **innovation, dedication, and measurable student impact**.

### **Overview of Khelo India Water Sports Festival(KIWSF) 2025**



## Chennai city's first City Biodiversity Index conducted

- On August 25, 2025, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin released the City Biodiversity Index of Chennai, marking it as the first city in Tamil Nadu to adopt this globally recognized framework.
- Also known as the Singapore Index, the framework was developed in 2008 and endorsed at COP-9 of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Chennai's first-ever City Biodiversity Index (CBI) assessment reveals that while the city holds significant reserves of native biodiversity.
- The assessment was conducted by ICLEI South Asia in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, the Greater Chennai Corporation, among other city and State agencies.
- The index evaluated Chennai across 23 indicators grouped into three components native biodiversity, ecosystem services, and biodiversity governance and management.
- Chennai scored 38 out of a possible 72 points.

