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Top Stories of The Day

- *India and UK Expand Defence Cooperation Through Exercises, Training, Technology, Research, and Maritime Security.*
- *President Murmu to Honour 48 Teachers with **National Teachers' Awards 2026** for Educational Excellence.*
- ***BRICS Tourism Ministers** Adopt Jaipur Declaration Promoting AI, Sustainability, Skilling, Exchanges, and Seamless Travel.*
- ***Neeraj Chopra** Finishes Second at Lausanne Diamond League with Season-Best 88.05-Metre Throw.*
- ***Kajal Dhochak** Wins Second Consecutive U20 World Wrestling Title in Women's 76kg Category.*
- *China Prepares **Chang'e-7 Mission** to Search for Water Ice Near Moon's South Pole.*
- ***IIT Hyderabad** and **Jindal Steel** Establish Centre of Excellence for Advanced Manufacturing Research and Training.*
- ***S. Somanath** Joins RBI Central Board, While **Anand Mahindra** Receives Four-Year Reappointment.*
- *Two Mumbai Parsi Doctors Nominated Posthumously for Pakistan's **Nishan-e-Imtiaz** for Jinnah's Medical Confidentiality.*
- ***Wizzmon** and **Oman Air** Launch AI-Powered Wizz Voyager Travel Card Supporting Over 35 Currencies.*

India–UK Agree to Expand Defence Cooperation



- India and the United Kingdom have agreed to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation through joint military exercises, training and capacity building.
- The decision was taken during the 25th India–UK Defence Consultative Group (DCG) meeting held in New Delhi.
- The meeting was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and the UK's Permanent Under Secretary for Defence, Jeremy Pocklington.

- Ajeya Warrior: India–UK Army exercise focused on counter-terrorism and peace-enforcement operations. The 8th edition was held in Rajasthan in 2025.
- Konkan: Bilateral naval exercise between the Indian Navy and Royal Navy.
- Cobra Warrior: UK-led multinational air exercise in which the IAF participated for the first time in 2023.
- Tarang Shakti: India's first multinational air combat exercise, held by the IAF in 2024, with the RAF among the participants.

Indo-Pacific Cooperation:

- India and the UK have also strengthened maritime security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, including the establishment of a Regional Maritime Security Centre of Excellence under the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).

Key Areas of Cooperation:

The two sides discussed:

- Joint military exercises and training
- Capacity building and military-to-military exchanges
- Defence industrial cooperation
- Joint research and development (R&D)
- Defence technology and co-production
- Maritime security in the Indo-Pacific
- The cooperation is being pursued under the India–UK Vision 2035 and the Ten-Year Defence Industrial Roadmap, which seek to expand defence-industrial collaboration and strengthen strategic autonomy.

Exam Focus Points:

Category	Details
Countries	India & UK
Meeting	25th India–UK Defence Consultative Group
Venue	New Delhi
Indian Official	Rajesh Kumar Singh
UK Official	Jeremy Pocklington
Framework	Vision 2035 & Ten-Year Defence Industrial Roadmap
Army Exercise	Ajeya Warrior
Naval Exercise	Konkan
Air Exercise	Cobra Warrior / Tarang Shakti

Important Joint Exercises:

National Teachers' Awards 2026: President Droupadi Murmu to Honour 48 Teachers

- President Droupadi Murmu will confer the National Teachers' Awards 2026 on 48 school

teachers on 5 September 2026 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on the occasion of Teachers' Day. The awards recognise teachers who have made outstanding contributions to improving the quality of school education and enriching students' lives.



Selection Process:

- The 48 awardees have been selected through a three-stage selection process at the District, State and National levels, conducted by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.

The awardees represent:

Category	Details
States	27 States
Union Territories	7 Union Territories
Central Government Organisations	6 Central Government organisations
Male Teachers	26 male teachers
Female Teachers	22 female teachers

- Online self-nominations for the 2026 awards were invited from 15 June to 20 July 2026 through the National Teachers' Awards portal.

About National Teachers' Awards:

- The awards are presented annually to recognise excellence, innovation, dedication and commitment in teaching. The National Teachers' Awards portal states that the scheme aims to honour teachers who improve the quality of school education and positively influence their students.
- Eligible categories include teachers and heads of recognised schools under State/UT governments, local bodies, aided schools, CBSE/CISCE schools, Kendriya Vidyalayas, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, Sainik Schools, EMRS and other specified institutions.

Teachers' Day:

- 5 September is celebrated as Teachers' Day in India to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, former President of India, philosopher and educationist.

Exam Focus Points:

- Award: National Teachers' Awards 2026
- Awardees: 48 school teachers
- Conferred by: President Droupadi Murmu
- Date: 5 September 2026
- Venue: Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
- Selection: District–State–National levels
- Ministry: Ministry of Education
- Implementing Department: Department of School Education and Literacy
- Teachers' Day: 5 September
- Associated Personality: Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

BRICS Tourism Ministers Adopt Jaipur Declaration

- The BRICS Tourism Ministers' Meeting, held under India's BRICS Chairship 2026, concluded in Jaipur, Rajasthan, with the unanimous adoption of the BRICS Tourism Ministers' Communiqué 2026, also known as the Jaipur Declaration. It provides a framework for

strengthening tourism cooperation among BRICS member countries.

Jaipur Declaration – Key Priorities:

- Artificial Intelligence and Tourism: Promoting responsible and human-centred use of AI in tourism planning, destination management,

visitor services and multilingual communication.

- Sustainability and Responsible Tourism: Encouraging environmentally responsible and sustainable tourism practices.
- Tourism Skilling and Capacity Building: Developing skilled manpower and improving employment opportunities in the tourism sector.
- Tourism Exchanges and Seamless Travel Facilitation: Promoting greater tourist movement, people-to-people exchanges and easier travel among BRICS countries.



India's BRICS Tourism Chairship:

- The Tourism Track was conducted under the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability." The meeting was chaired by Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
- Representatives from nine BRICS member states participated, including Brazil, China, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, South Africa and the UAE.
- India also held bilateral tourism discussions with Brazil, Iran, South Africa and the UAE.

Significance:

- Economic growth: Tourism generates employment for hotels, homestays, guides, transport operators, artisans, farmers and entrepreneurs.
- Regional development: Tourism can spread economic opportunities beyond major cities to villages, towns and remote areas.
- Digital transformation: AI and digital technologies can improve destination management and visitor experience.
- Sustainable development: Promotes environmentally responsible tourism and preservation of cultural heritage.

Exam Focus Points:

- Declaration: Jaipur Declaration
- Official Name: BRICS Tourism Ministers' Communiqué 2026
- Venue: Jaipur, Rajasthan
- Chair: India
- Chairing Minister: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
- Theme: Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability
- Key Focus: AI, sustainability, skilling and seamless travel
- Participants: 9 BRICS member states
- Strategic Link: Tourism, employment, sustainable development and people-to-people ties

Neeraj Chopra Finishes Second at Lausanne Diamond League with Season-Best Throw



- India's javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra finished second at the Lausanne Diamond League 2026 in Switzerland with a season-best throw of 88.05 metres. He missed the top position by just 9 centimetres.

Key Highlights:

- Chopra produced his best throw of the 2026 season on his second attempt, briefly taking the lead. However, Sri Lanka's Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage reclaimed the top position with a throw of 88.14 metres on his third attempt. Anderson Peters of Grenada finished third with 86.69 metres.
- The result marked Pathirage's third consecutive victory over Chopra in 2026, highlighting the emerging rivalry in men's javelin throw.

About Neeraj Chopra:

- Neeraj Chopra is India's Olympic champion and world champion in men's javelin throw. His personal best is 90.23 metres, achieved in Doha in May 2025, which is also the Indian national record.
- He won the 2020 Tokyo Olympics gold medal and became the first Indian to win an Olympic athletics gold medal. He also won silver at the 2024 Paris Olympics and gold at the 2023 World Athletics Championships.
- Chopra won the Diamond League Final in 2022, becoming the first Indian to win the prestigious title. He also won the Lausanne Diamond League in 2022 (89.08m) and 2023 (87.66m).

About Diamond League:

- The Wanda Diamond League is a premier annual athletics series organised under World Athletics. Athletes compete across multiple international meetings, earning points for qualification to the Diamond League Final.
- The Lausanne meeting was held at Stade Olympique de la Pontaise, Switzerland, on 20–21 August 2026.

Exam Focus Points:

- Athlete: Neeraj Chopra
- Sport: Javelin Throw
- Event: Lausanne Diamond League 2026
- Position: Second
- Throw: 88.05 m — Season Best
- Winner: Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage — 88.14 m
- Third: Anderson Peters — 86.69 m
- Venue: Lausanne, Switzerland
- Personal Best/National Record: 90.23 m
- Olympic Gold: Tokyo 2020
- Olympic Silver: Paris 2024
- World Champion: 2023
- Diamond League Final Winner: 2022

Kajal Dhochak Wins Second Consecutive U20 World Wrestling Championship

Title



- India's Kajal Dhochak has won her second consecutive U20 World Wrestling Championship title, securing the women's 76 kg gold medal at the 2026 U20 World Wrestling Championships in Bratislava, Slovakia. She defeated China's Jingru Sun 7–0 in the final.

About Kajal Dhochak:

- Kajal, aged 18, achieved the feat after moving up from the 72 kg category, in which she won the U20 World title in 2025. She has therefore become only the second Indian wrestler to win two U20 World Championship gold medals.
- Her recent international achievements include gold medals at the U20 Asian Championships, Ulaanbaatar Ranking Series and Budapest Ranking Series in 2026. She also won the U17 World Championship in 2024 in the 69 kg category.

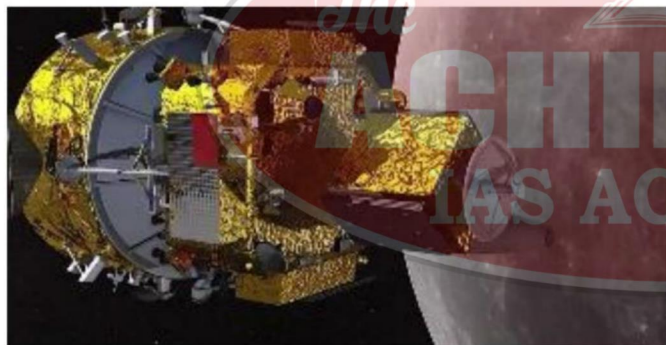
India also secured two silver medals in women's wrestling:

Wrestler	Weight Category	Result	Opponent / Details
Tanu Sharma	72 kg	Silver	Lost 3–5 to Japan's Chisato Yoshida
Savita	62 kg	Silver	Lost to Japan's Sakura Onishi by technical superiority, 2–12
Mansi Lather	68 kg	In contention	Remained in contention for the gold medal

Exam Focus Points:

- Athlete: Kajal Dhochak
- Sport: Wrestling
- Category: Women's 76 kg
- Achievement: Second consecutive U20 World title
- Final Score: 7–0
- Opponent: Jingru Sun, China
- Venue: Bratislava, Slovakia
- Previous U20 Title: 2025 – 72 kg
- U17 World Title: 2024 – 69 kg
- Age: 18 years
- Governing Body: United World Wrestling (UWW)

China's Chang'e-7 Mission to Search for Lunar Ice



- China is preparing to launch Chang'e-7, its most ambitious lunar exploration mission so far, to investigate water ice and other resources near the Moon's south pole.
- The launch window is expected from 24 to 31 August 2026. The mission will focus particularly on permanently shadowed regions (PSRs), where sunlight has not reached the surface for extremely long periods.

About Chang'e-7:

- Chang'e-7 is part of the fourth phase of China's Lunar Exploration Programme (CLEP). It will use a combination of orbiter, lander, rover and hopping spacecraft to explore the lunar south pole. The hopper is designed to enter difficult, permanently shadowed craters and analyse the lunar soil for water and other volatiles.

- The mission is expected to investigate surface environment, lunar geology, water ice, magnetic and thermal characteristics and the composition of the Moon's south-polar region.

Why Lunar Ice Matters:

- Water ice on the Moon could become an important in-situ resource for future human missions.
- Water can potentially be separated into hydrogen and oxygen, which can be used as rocket propellant.
- It could provide drinking water and other life-support resources for lunar bases.
- Using lunar resources could reduce the need to transport water and fuel from Earth.
- Studying lunar ice may also provide clues about the history and origin of water in the Solar System.

Strategic Significance:

- Lunar exploration: Strengthens China's position in advanced deep-space exploration.
- Future lunar bases: Chang'e-7 will help prepare for China's proposed International Lunar Research Station.

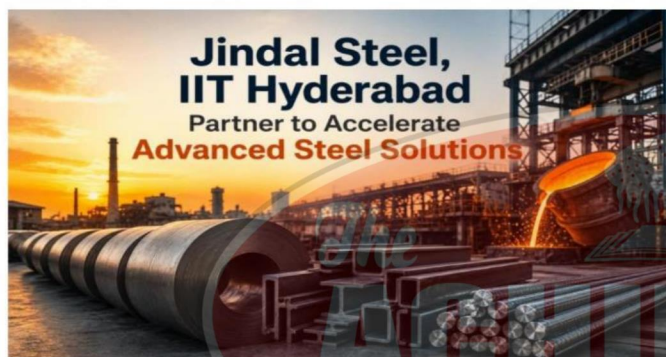
- Human exploration: China aims to achieve a crewed Moon landing by 2030.

Additional Key Facts:

- Mission: Chang'e-7
- Country: China
- Target: Lunar South Pole
- Primary Objective: Search for water ice

- Mission Type: Uncrewed/robotic
- Components: Orbiter, lander, rover and hopper
- Programme: China Lunar Exploration Programme
- Launch: 2026
- Future Mission: Chang'e-8
- Long-term Goal: International Lunar Research Station

IIT Hyderabad–Jindal Steel Partnership: Centre of Excellence for Advanced Manufacturing



- IIT Hyderabad and Jindal Steel & Power (JSP) have partnered to establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE) aimed at promoting industry-academia collaboration, advanced research, skill development, internships and employment opportunities for students.
- The initiative seeks to connect academic expertise with the practical requirements of the steel and manufacturing sectors.

Key Features:

- The proposed Centre of Excellence will focus on advanced materials, manufacturing technologies, process optimisation, automation and emerging industrial technologies.

It will provide students with opportunities for:

- Internships and industrial training
- Placement and employment opportunities
- Exposure to real-world industrial projects
- Joint research and technology development
- Interaction with industry experts
- The partnership is expected to help develop a skilled workforce equipped with knowledge

relevant to modern manufacturing and steel production.

Industry–Academia Collaboration:

- The initiative represents the growing importance of collaboration between higher educational institutions and industries in India. Such partnerships can help bridge the gap between theoretical education and practical skills, while enabling industries to access research capabilities and trained human resources.

About IIT Hyderabad:

- Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IIT-H) is one of India's newer IITs and was established in 2008. It is located in Kandi, Sangareddy district, Telangana.
- IIT Hyderabad is known for research and innovation in areas including engineering, artificial intelligence, advanced materials, biotechnology, semiconductor technology and sustainable technologies.

About Jindal Steel & Power:

- Jindal Steel & Power Limited (JSPL) is an Indian steel and energy company. It is involved in steel manufacturing, mining and power generation and operates major industrial facilities in India.

Exam Focus Points:

- Institutions: IIT Hyderabad & Jindal Steel & Power
- Initiative: Centre of Excellence

- Key Areas: Research, internships, placements and advanced manufacturing
- Location: Telangana
- Objective: Industry-academia collaboration
- IIT Hyderabad Established: 2008

S. Somanath Appointed to RBI Central Board; Anand Mahindra Reappointed



constituted by the Central Government under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

It includes:

- The Central Government has appointed former ISRO Chairman Dr. S. Somanath Sreedhara Panicker as a part-time, non-official Director on the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). At the same time, Anand Mahindra, Chairman of the Mahindra Group, has been reappointed to the RBI Central Board for another four-year term. Both appointments are effective from 20 August 2026.

- Official Directors: RBI Governor and up to four Deputy Governors.
- Non-official Directors: Government-nominated members representing different fields and regions.
- The Board provides overall direction to the affairs of the central bank.

About S. Somanath:

- Somanath served as Chairman of ISRO and Secretary, Department of Space. He played a key leadership role in India's space programme, including the Chandrayaan-3 mission, which achieved India's first successful soft landing on the Moon in 2023.

Key Highlights:

- Both Somanath and Mahindra will serve for four years, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- S. Somanath brings expertise in space technology, engineering, science and large-scale project management, while Anand Mahindra brings experience from the corporate and industrial sector. Their inclusion adds diverse professional expertise to the RBI's policymaking and governance framework.

About RBI Central Board:

- The Central Board of Directors is the apex governing body of the RBI. The Board is

Exam Focus Points:

- Institution: RBI
- New Director: S. Somanath Sreedhara Panicker
- Reappointed Director: Anand Mahindra
- Nature: Part-time, non-official Directors
- Term: 4 years
- Effective From: 20 August 2026
- Appointing Authority: Central Government
- Legal Basis: RBI Act, 1934
- Somanath: Former ISRO Chairman
- Mahindra: Chairman, Mahindra Group
- RBI Headquarters: Mumbai

Two Mumbai Parsi Doctors to Receive Pakistan's Nishan-e-Imtiaz



About Nishan-e-Imtiaz:

- Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Order of Excellence) is one of Pakistan's highest state honours and its highest civilian award category, while Nishan-e-Pakistan is reserved primarily for foreign heads of state. The award recognises exceptional service and achievements of national or international significance.

Historical Context:

- Muhammad Ali Jinnah was the founder and first Governor-General of Pakistan. Pakistan was created on 14 August 1947, following the partition of British India.
- Jinnah died on 11 September 1948, about a year after Pakistan's independence.

About the Doctors:

- Dr. Jal Ratanji Patel was a physician, while Dr. Jal Dhaybho-Koo was a radiologist. In 1946, they examined Jinnah's X-rays and diagnosed him with advanced tuberculosis, reportedly estimating that he had only about one or two years to live. Despite the political significance of the diagnosis, they maintained professional confidentiality.
- Pakistan's Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, who also chaired the Awards Committee, announced their nomination and described their confidentiality as a significant historical contribution. Some historical accounts argue that wider knowledge of Jinnah's deteriorating health could have influenced the timing and course of Partition, although the counterfactual impact remains a matter of historical interpretation.

Exam Focus Points:

- Award: Nishan-e-Imtiaz
- Country: Pakistan
- Awardees: Dr. Jal Ratanji Patel & Dr. Jal Dhaybho-Koo
- Profession: Physician & Radiologist
- Community: Parsi
- City: Mumbai
- Recognised For: Maintaining confidentiality of Jinnah's illness
- Diagnosis: Advanced tuberculosis
- Year of Examination: 1946
- Award Ceremony: March 2027
- Jinnah: Founder of Pakistan
- Jinnah's Death: 11 September 1948

Wizzmonī–Oman Air Launch AI-Powered Wizz Voyager Travel Card

- Wizzmonī Financial Services Ltd and Oman Air have partnered to launch the co-branded Wizz Voyager Multi-Currency Travel Card, an AI-

enabled travel card designed to simplify international payments and travel-related financial management. The partnership was announced in Kochi on 20 August 2026.



Key Features:

- The Wizz Voyager is a prepaid multi-currency forex card that supports 35+ global currencies, allowing travellers to hold and spend multiple currencies through a single card. It is issued by Wizzmoni, an RBI-authorised Category-II Authorised Dealer, in association with Visa.
- The AI-enabled platform provides spend insights, trip-wise expense tracking and budget-related recommendations. Users can also manage the card digitally, including freezing/unfreezing the card and setting spending limits.
- The co-branded card combines travel benefits, payments and rewards, leveraging Wizzmoni's fintech capabilities and Oman Air's international aviation network.

About Wizzmoni:

- Wizzmoni Financial Services Ltd, formerly known as Unimoni Financial Services Ltd,

operates as an RBI-authorised Category-II Authorised Dealer in foreign exchange. It is part of the Wizz Financial Group, a fintech group headquartered in India and the UAE.

About Oman Air:

- Oman Air is the national airline of the Sultanate of Oman, headquartered in Muscat. The partnership expands the integration of aviation and fintech services for international travellers.

Exam Focus Points:

Category	Details
Companies	Wizzmoni Financial Services & Oman Air
Product	Wizz Voyager Multi-Currency Travel Card
Key Technology	Artificial Intelligence
Currency Support	35+ currencies
Issuer	Wizzmoni
Payment Partner	Visa
Regulator	RBI
Authorisation	Category-II Authorised Dealer
Key Aim	Simplify cross-border payments and travel finance

Lets Revise

- ❖ Which India–UK mechanism recently discussed expanding joint exercises, training and defence cooperation? **25th India–UK Defence Consultative Group (DCG).**
- ❖ How many school teachers will receive the National Teachers' Awards 2026? **48 teachers.**
- ❖ What is the name of the communiqué adopted by BRICS Tourism Ministers under India's 2026 chairship? **Jaipur Declaration (BRICS Tourism Ministers' Communiqué 2026).**
- ❖ What was Neeraj Chopra's season-best throw at the 2026 Lausanne Diamond League? **88.05 metres.**
- ❖ Who won her second consecutive U20 World Wrestling Championship title in 2026? **Kajal Dhochak.**
- ❖ Which lunar regions are of particular interest to Chang'e-7? **Permanently shadowed regions (PSRs)**
- ❖ Which IIT has partnered with Jindal Steel & Power to establish a Centre of Excellence? **IIT Hyderabad.**
- ❖ Who has been appointed as a part-time, non-official Director on the RBI Central Board in 2026? **Dr. S. Somanath Sreedhara Panicker.**
- ❖ Which two Mumbai-based Parsi doctors will receive Pakistan's Nishan-e-Imtiaz for maintaining the confidentiality of Jinnah's illness? **Dr. Jal Ratanji Patel and Dr. Jal Dhaybho-Koo.**
- ❖ Which airline partnered with Wizzmonni to launch the co-branded Wizz Voyager Multi-Currency Travel Card? **Oman Air.**



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IMPORTANCE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS IN UPSC EXAMINATIONS

Current Affairs hold a crucial place in the preparation for the UPSC Civil Services Examination. A comprehensive understanding of recent national and international developments helps aspirants strengthen their General Studies foundation and develop a well-rounded perspective on important issues. Topics such as government policies, schemes, economy, international relations, science and technology, environment, defence, social justice, governance, reports, indices, appointments, awards, and major global events are highly relevant for both the Prelims and Mains examinations. Regular study of current affairs not only enhances factual knowledge but also improves analytical ability, critical thinking, answer-writing skills, and decision-making aptitude. Since UPSC questions often connect contemporary developments with static subjects, consistent preparation of current affairs enables aspirants to understand issues in depth and present balanced, informed, and relevant answers. It also plays an important role in Essay writing, Ethics, and the Personality Test, giving candidates a strong edge throughout the examination process.

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