

NATIONAL**▪ India's First Animal Stem Cell BioBank Inaugurated at NIAB, Hyderabad**

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated India's first Animal Stem Cell BioBank and Laboratory at NIAB, Hyderabad. The BioBank aims to boost animal health, regenerative medicine, and agricultural productivity, with future expansion planned under the National Biopharma Mission.

▪ Maharashtra Launches 'Disha Abhiyan' for Inclusive Education

Maharashtra has become the first state in India to implement Disha Abhiyan, a uniform, research-based curriculum for students with intellectual disabilities across 453 special schools. Aligned with the *Developed India 2047* vision, it aims to standardize learning, improve outcomes, and promote inclusivity for differently-abled children.

▪ Sikkim Launches 'Nari Adalat' on Amma Samman Diwas

On the first Amma Samman Diwas, Sikkim CM Prem Singh Tamang inaugurated Nari Adalat at Rongpo — a women-led community justice forum aimed at offering accessible, empathetic, and informal conflict resolution. The initiative empowers women to address local disputes and social issues while reducing reliance on formal courts.

▪ Uttar Pradesh's First Private Railway Station

Gomti Nagar Railway Station in Lucknow has become Uttar Pradesh's first privately managed railway station. The move aims to enhance facilities, cleanliness, and passenger comfort, providing travelers with improved services and a world-class experience.

▪ India's First AI-Drone Cloud Seeding Pilot in Jaipur

For the first time in India, drone- and AI-based cloud seeding was carried out at Ramgarh Dam, Jaipur, to revive the 129-year-old dry reservoir. The pilot project, launched by the Rajasthan

Government and GenX AI, aims to restore water sources, secure Jaipur's drinking water supply, and protect local biodiversity.

▪ **SHRESTH: India's First State Health Regulatory Excellence Index Launched**
Union Health Ministry launched SHRESTH (State Health Regulatory Excellence Index), the first initiative to benchmark and strengthen state drug regulatory systems. Overseen by CDSCO, it evaluates states on licensing, surveillance, infrastructure, and responsiveness—27 indicators for manufacturing states and 23 for distribution-focused ones. The index aims to standardize regulation, ensure safe medicines, and boost global trust in Indian pharmaceuticals.

▪ **Mumbai Hosts Record-Breaking IOAA 2025**
The 18th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) opened in Mumbai on 12 August 2025, with 288 students from 64 countries, including 12 first-time participants and the highest-ever female representation. Organised by HBCSE-TIFR, the 10-day event features theory, data analysis, and observational exams, with sky sessions at Nehru Planetarium, strengthening India's role in global science education and diplomacy.

▪ **India Celebrates 79th Independence Day**
On August 15, 2025, India marks its 79th Independence Day, honoring the nation's freedom struggle and progress as a democratic republic. The theme of this year's celebrations is "Naya Bharat".

INTERNATIONAL

▪ **Kenya Declared Free from Sleeping Sickness by WHO**
The World Health Organization has certified Kenya free of human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), making it the 10th country to achieve this milestone. This marks Kenya's second major success against neglected tropical diseases, after being declared Guinea worm-free in 2018, and strengthens Africa's collective fight to eliminate NTDs.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **10th August - World Lion Day 2025:** Aim - Raising Awareness for Lion Conservation
- **9th August - World Sanskrit Day 2025 (Vishva-Sanskrita-Dinam):** The day celebrates Sanskrit's cultural legacy, promotes its learning, and emphasizes its relevance in modern times.
- **9th August - Nagasaki Day 2025:** 1945 atomic bombing of Nagasaki, honoring the survivors (hibakusha) and reminding the world of the devastating impact of nuclear warfare.
- **12th August - International Youth Day 2025:** This year's theme, "Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond," emphasizes the importance of grassroots youth initiatives in achieving global goals and shaping a better future.
- **12th August - World Elephant Day 2025:** The 2025 theme, "Bringing the world together to help elephants," calls for global cooperation to ensure the survival of these gentle giants.

SPORTS

- **India Shines at Asian U19 & U22 Boxing Championships 2025**

India wrapped up the Asian U19 & U22 Boxing Championships 2025 in Bangkok with an impressive 27 medals. The U19 team bagged 14 medals (3 gold, 7 silver, 4 bronze), finishing second overall behind Uzbekistan, while the U22 team secured 13 medals (1 gold, 4 silver, 8 bronze).

- **Namrata Batra Secures India's First Wushu Medal at World Games**

Namrata Batra created history by reaching the women's 52 kg Wushu final at the 2025 World Games in Chengdu, assuring India its first-ever medal in the sport after a 2-0 win over the Philippines' Krizan Faith Collado. She will now fight for gold against China's Mengyue Chen.

- **India Bids to Host 2030 Commonwealth Games**

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has approved India's bid to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games, with the official proposal to be submitted by 31st August 2025.

- **Khelo India Water Sports Festival to Debut at Dal Lake**

The first-ever Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) will be held at Srinagar's Dal Lake from August 21–23, 2025, unveiled on August 14, the mascot—a vibrant Himalayan Kingfisher—symbolizes adventure and harmony, while the logo highlights Kashmir's natural beauty with a Shikara and mountains. Organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, J&K Sports Council, and SAI, the event aims to boost sports culture and eco-tourism, establishing Kashmir as a multi-season sports hub.

AWARDS

- **Bibi Fatima SHG Wins UNDP Equator Prize 2025**

Bibi Fatima SHG (Dharwad, Karnataka) won the Equator Prize 2025 by UNDP for eco-friendly farming, seed banking & women-led entrepreneurship. Theme: Women & Youth Leadership for Nature-Based Climate Action.

- **Neeraj Ghaywan's *Homebound* Wins Big at IFFM 2025**

Acclaimed filmmaker Neeraj Ghaywan's latest drama *Homebound* won Best Film and earned him Best Director at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2025. Starring Ishaan Khatter, Vishal Jetwa, and Janhvi Kapoor.

OBITUARIES

- **Japanese Boxer Hiromasa Urakawa Passes Away After In-Ring Injury**

The boxing community is mourning the loss of 28-year-old Japanese fighter Hiromasa Urakawa, who passed away after suffering a serious brain injury during a recent match in Tokyo. Urakawa was knocked out in the eighth round of his fight against Yoji Saito on August 2 and later underwent surgery. Despite medical efforts, he succumbed to his injuries.

- **Dr Vece Paes Passes Away at 80**

Dr Vece Paes, former Indian hockey midfielder and 1972 Munich Olympics bronze medallist, passed away at 80. A renowned sports medicine doctor and mentor, he leaves behind a lasting legacy, carried forward by his son, tennis legend Leander Paes.

▪ **Nagaland Governor La Ganesan Passes Away at 80**

Nagaland Governor La Ganesan passed away at 80, in Chennai after a week of treatment following his sudden collapse on August 8.



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