

**NATIONAL****▪ Indian Tricolour Hoisted at Seattle's Space Needle**

On India's 79th Independence Day, the Tricolour was hoisted for the first time at Seattle's iconic Space Needle, marking a historic gesture of India-US friendship, the event hosted by the Consulate General of India in Seattle in the presence of Consul General Prakash Gupta, Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell, and members of the Indian-American community.

**▪ SabhaSaar: AI Tool for Strengthening Gram Sabhas**

On Independence Day 2025, the government launched SabhaSaar, an AI-powered tool to enhance Gram Sabha functioning under the Panchayati Raj system. Integrated with e-GramSwaraj and built on the Bhashini platform, it transcribes and translates proceedings into standardized minutes across major Indian languages.

**▪ India's First Removable Solar Panel System on Railway Tracks**

Indian Railways has inaugurated the nation's first removable solar panel system at Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), Varanasi. Commissioned on August 19, 2025, the 70-metre installation comprises 28 panels with a 15 kWp capacity, designed for easy removal to facilitate maintenance without disrupting rail operations.

**▪ Jalalabad Renamed as Parashurampuri**

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has approved the renaming of Jalalabad town in Shahjahanpur district, Uttar Pradesh, to Parashurampuri, the change fulfills a long-standing demand of residents and leaders who regard the town as the mythological birthplace of Lord Parashuram.

**▪ Kerala Becomes India's First Fully Digitally Literate State**

Kerala has been declared the country's first fully digitally literate state under the Digi Kerala project, marking a historic milestone in bridging the digital divide. Through an inclusive and

community-driven approach, the initiative trained over 21.87 lakh individuals, achieving a 99.98% success rate. Notably, participants ranged across all age groups, including 104-year-old M.A. Abdullah Moulavi Baqavi, reflecting the program's wide accessibility and impact.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### ▪ **Dubai Airport Introduces AI-Powered Passenger Corridor**

Dubai International Airport (DXB) has launched the world's first AI-powered passenger corridor under its "Travel Without Borders" initiative, enabling travelers to clear immigration in just 14 seconds without documents.

### ▪ **World Humanoid Robot Games Held in Beijing**

Beijing recently hosted the World Humanoid Robot Games, featuring over 500 robots from 16 countries competing across 26 events, including sprinting, soccer, kickboxing, dancing, and relay races. The four-day event highlighted advances in robotics, testing AI, sensors, and adaptability while showcasing the future potential of intelligent machines.

### ▪ **Dubai Launches "One Freezone Passport"**

Dubai has introduced the One Freezone Passport, a unified licensing system allowing companies to operate across all its free zones under a single license. Effective immediately, the reform reduces costs, cuts bureaucracy, and streamlines compliance, while ensuring continued access to tax exemptions, full foreign ownership, and other free zone benefits.

## **LEGAL**

### ▪ **Parliament Passes Landmark MMDR Amendment Bill, 2025**

Parliament passed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2025, introducing major reforms to the MMDR Act, 1957. The Bill strengthens the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust by expanding its mandate and increasing funding, grants greater flexibility in leases for deep-seated and critical minerals, removes the sale cap on captive mining, and allows creation of mineral exchanges for transparent trade. It also promotes

sustainable, zero-waste mining to support strategic sectors like EVs, defense, and renewable energy.

### **IMPORTANT DAYS**

- **19<sup>th</sup> August - World Photography Day 2025:** 2025 Theme, “My Favorite Photo”.
- **19<sup>th</sup> August - World Humanitarian Day 2025:** 2025 Theme — “Strengthening Global Solidarity and Empowering Local Communities”.
- **20<sup>th</sup> August - World Mosquito Day 2025**
- **20<sup>th</sup> August - Akshay Urja Day 2025**
- **20<sup>th</sup> August - Sadbhavana Diwas 2025**
- **21<sup>st</sup> August - World Senior Citizens’ Day 2025:** 2025 Theme: “Empowering Elderly Voices for an Inclusive Future”
- **21<sup>st</sup> August - International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism 2025:** Theme for 2025: “United by Hope: Collective Action for Victims of Terrorism”
- **22<sup>nd</sup> August - Madras Day 2025**
- **22<sup>nd</sup> August - International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief**
- **23<sup>rd</sup> August - National Space Day 2025:** The theme for 2025 - “Aryabhata to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities”

### **SPORTS**

- **India to Host Asian Open Short Track Speed Skating Trophy 2025**

India will debut on the global winter sports stage by hosting the Asian Open Short Track Speed Skating Trophy from 20–23 August 2025 at Maharana Pratap Sports College, Dehradun. Organized by the Ice Skating Association of India, the event will feature nine race categories, making it the largest winter sports event ever held in the country.

- **India Achieves Record-Breaking Deep Ocean Dive**

Aquanaut Jatinder Pal Singh, a retired Navy Commander, reached 5,002 metres in the North Atlantic Ocean aboard France's Nautille submersible, creating India's deepest human dive record. Achieved under the Deep Ocean Mission in collaboration with France, this milestone marks a major step towards the indigenous Samudrayaan project and boosts India's deep-sea exploration capabilities.

- **Carlos Alcaraz Clinches First Cincinnati Open Title**

Spanish tennis star Carlos Alcaraz won his maiden Cincinnati Open after Jannik Sinner retired just 23 minutes into the final. This marks Alcaraz's sixth title of 2025, his 22nd career trophy, and his eighth ATP Masters 1000 crown—the highest among active players after Novak Djokovic.

- **Iga Świątek Wins 2025 Cincinnati Open**

Poland's Iga Świątek defeated Jasmine Paolini 7-5, 6-4 to secure the 2025 Cincinnati Open title, her first hard-court triumph in over a year and the 24th title of her career, boosting her momentum ahead of the U.S. Open.

- **Cheteshwar Pujara Bids Farewell to Cricket**

Cheteshwar Pujara, one of India's most dependable Test batsmen, announced his retirement from all forms of cricket on August 24, 2025. Known for his calmness, patience, and ability to play long innings, Pujara anchored India through many challenging situations, earning respect as the backbone of the team's Test batting lineup.

## **AWARDS**

- **Manika Vishwakarma Crowned Miss Universe India 2025**

Manika Vishwakarma from Ganganagar, Rajasthan, has been crowned Miss Universe India 2025 in Jaipur and will represent the country at the 74th Miss Universe pageant in Thailand later this year.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

- **Ajay Kumar Bhalla Assigned Additional Charge as Governor of Nagaland**



The President of India, through an official communiqué, has assigned Ajay Kumar Bhalla, the Governor of Manipur, with the additional charge of Governor of Nagaland following the demise of Shri La Ganesan on August 15, 2025.

## **OBITUARIES**

### ▪ **Cricket Legend Bob Simpson Passes Away at 89**

Robert Baddeley “Bob” Simpson, former Australian captain, all-rounder, and coach, passed away at the age of 89 in Sydney. Revered for his lasting impact on the game, Simpson’s leadership and coaching shaped some of the most iconic moments in Australian cricket history.

### ▪ **Veteran Actor Achyut Potdar Passes Away**

Renowned actor Achyut Potdar, known for his work in Hindi and Marathi cinema and his memorable role in 3 Idiots, passed away at 91. With a career spanning four decades and over 125 films, he leaves behind a lasting legacy in Indian cinema.

### ▪ **Judge Frank Caprio Passes Away at 88**

Frank Caprio, the widely admired municipal judge known for his fairness and compassion on Caught in Providence, passed away at 88 after a battle with pancreatic cancer. He leaves behind a legacy of delivering justice with empathy and humanity.

### ▪ **Punjabi Actor Jaswinder Bhalla Passes Away**

Renowned comedian and actor Jaswinder Bhalla passed away, at the age of 65. A celebrated figure in Punjabi entertainment, he leaves behind a lasting legacy of laughter, satire, and memorable performances cherished by millions.