

NEWS TODAY

NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) Satellite launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota

This is the **first dual frequency Radar Imaging mission** marking a major milestone in **Indo-US space collaboration**.

About NISAR

- **Earth Observation Satellite (EOS):** Images global land and ice-covered surfaces including islands and selected oceans **every 12 days** (orbits Earth every 97 minutes).
- **Weight:** 2,392 kg.
- **Launch Vehicle:** ISRO's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)-F16.
- **Placing Orbit:** **Sun Synchronous Polar Orbit.**
 - ⊕ It is the first time a **GSLV rocket** is used to place a satellite into **Sun-Synchronous orbit**.
 - ◆ GSLV is typically used for placement in **Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit/GTO** (35,786 km).

NISAR: Key Benefits




Measure and track changes in **Woody biomass**; extent of **active crops** and **wetlands**.



Map **Greenland's & Antarctica's ice sheets**, dynamics of **sea ice** and **mountain glaciers**.



Characterize **land surface deformation** related to seismicity, volcanism, landslides, etc.



Urgent-response during **weather disasters** like hurricanes, storm surges due to its **cloud penetrating abilities**.

Key Features

- ⊕ Built around **ISRO's I-3K spacecraft bus**.
- ⊕ **Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR):** **Dual band SAR** operating on **both L** (by NASA) **and S** (By ISRO) **bands**.
 - ◆ SAR sends out a **pulse of energy** and then records the **energy reflected back** after its interaction with Earth **creating high resolution images** through **radar motion**.
 - » Processes **radar signals** received from different positions along the path, creating a larger "synthetic" aperture.
- ⊕ **SweepSAR technique:** For high-resolution, wide-swath images across broad **range of terrain**.
- **Expected Mission Life:** At least 5 years.
- **Open-Data Policy:** Information collected will be freely available to global scientific community **benefiting developing countries**.

About Sun Synchronous Orbit (SSO) and Polar Orbit

- **SSO:** Kind of **polar orbit** where satellites are in sync with Sun, matching earth's rotation around sun and appearing to be in the **same position relative** to sun.
- **Polar Orbit:** Type of **Low Earth Orbit** (altitudes under 2000 km) typically between 200 to 1000 km where satellites usually travel around Earth **from one pole to another**.

United States announces 25% tariff on Indian exports plus a 'penalty' to be effective from August 1, 2025

Since January 2025, USA has taken tariff actions against some of its **trading partners** including India, announcing a **26% reciprocal tariff** on India (in April 2025) which was put on hold.

Reasons for Current Tariffs

- **Trade Deficit:** U.S. **goods trade deficit** with India was **\$45.7 billion (2024)**, 5.4% higher than in 2023.
- **India's alleged Non-monetary trade barriers:** India's **agricultural subsidies** and **sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS)** measures for food safety are considered a **hurdle for US exports**.
- **India's BRICS membership:** The bloc is viewed by the USA as **anti-dollar**.
- **India-Russia Relations:** An unspecified penalty to be imposed due to India's **Defence and Energy imports** from Russia.
 - ⊕ USA in its proposed **Russian Sanctions Act, 2025** aims to impose **500% duties** on countries that buy oil or other petroleum products from Russia.

Potential Implications of the Tariff Imposition

- **Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA):** Potentially **pressurize** India to **fast track negotiations** for an interim deal.
 - ⊕ Both countries seek to more than double bilateral trade to **\$500 billion by 2030** (currently at **\$131.8 billion in 2024**) and negotiate a multi-sector **BTA**.
- **Competitive Disadvantage:** In comparison to its **competitors**. E.g. tariffs on India are higher than **Vietnam (20%)**, **Indonesia (19%)**.
- **Impact Exports:** E.g. India is the **largest exporter** of non-patented drugs to the USA.
- **Supply Chain Disruption:** **Inflate costs, delay shipments, etc.**

Conclusion

India remains **committed** to fair, balanced and mutually beneficial **BTA prioritizing welfare of farmers, entrepreneurs, MSMEs** and its **national interests**.

UN Deputy Secretary-General Called For Urgent Action To Fix Global Food Systems

The call for reform in the **global food systems** was made at the **UN Food Systems Summit +4 Stocktake (UNFSS+4)** in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia).

- She also launched the **2nd biennial UNFSS+4 report** to **review progress in global food systems**.
- The **UN Food Systems Summit was launched in 2021** for ensuring more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems.

About Food Systems

- **Definition:** It encompasses the **entire range of actors and their interlinked value-adding activities** involved in the **production, processing, distribution, consumption and disposal of food products** that originate from agriculture, forestry or fisheries, etc.
- **Importance:** Global food systems carry hidden **social, economic, and environmental costs of \$11.6 trillion**.
 - ⊕ **Social:** It has deep interconnections with all SDGs (health, Zero Hunger Goal, biodiversity, etc.).
 - ◆ **783 million people are chronically hungry.**
 - ⊕ **Economic:** Provide **significant employment** to agricultural households.
 - ⊕ **Environmental:** Account for over
 - ◆ **30% of global emissions**
 - ◆ **80% of biodiversity loss**
 - ◆ **70% of freshwater use**

Key Initiatives to Improve Food Systems

- **COP28 UAE Declaration:** 160 Governments agreed to link food systems with national climate strategies.
- **COP15 & COP16 Biodiversity Frameworks:** Set 23 targets for food system reform, backed by an implementation plan and funding.
- **World Food Programme:** Trains smallholder farmers for good agricultural practices, post-harvest management, business and marketing skills.
- **Other initiatives:** Food systems are now a top priority, with initiatives like the **Apulia Food Systems Initiative** (by G7) and the **G20 Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty**.

Why Food Systems Are Failing?

- **Climate Shocks:** Frequent disasters damage crops and disrupt food supply chains.
- **Rising Debt:** Debt burden in Least Developed Countries rose from **3.1% to 12%** of revenue (2010–2023), reducing money for health and education.
- **Weak Infrastructure:** **One-third** of food is lost or wasted due to poor storage, transport, and market access.

Way ahead for resilient Food Systems

- **Private investment** and build local capacity.
- **Coordinated action** linking emergency aid with long-term development.
- **Community-led solutions**, especially for **women and youth**.

India's resolution on the 'Wise Use of Wetlands', adopted at Ramsar CoP15 in Zimbabwe

India's resolution on '**Promoting Sustainable Lifestyles for Wetlands**' was adopted, with 172 countries supporting it for conservation efforts.

- The resolution **aligns with the principles of Mission LiFE** ('Lifestyle For Environment').
- ⊕ **Mission LiFE** is an India-led global movement introduced at the **UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26) in 2021**.
- ⊕ It aims to **nudge individuals and communities** to practice a lifestyle that is **synchronous with nature** and does not harm it.

About Wise Use of Wetland

- It is the core principle of wetland conservation under the **Ramsar Convention**.
- The Convention defines wise use as **maintaining the ecological character** of wetlands using **ecosystem-based approaches** within the context of sustainable development.
 - ⊕ Thus, it facilitates **conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and all the services they provide**, for the benefit of people and nature.
- Contracting parties are mandated to promoting wise use through **national plans, legislation, management actions and public education**.
- **India's Approach to Wise Use**
 - ⊕ The **National Plan** for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA).
 - ⊕ **Integrated Management Plans (IMPs)** outline strategies for sustainable use.
 - ⊕ India released a **2024 framework titled "Wetland Wise Use – An Implementation Framework"**.
 - ⊕ The '**Mission Sahbhagita**' and '**Save Wetlands**' Campaign have witnessed over 2 million citizens as volunteers, enabling the mapping of more than 170,000 wetlands.

About Ramsar Convention

- **Genesis:** Adopted in the Iranian city of **Ramsar** in 1971 and came into force in 1975.
- **About:** It is the **intergovernmental treaty** that provides the framework for the **conservation and wise use of wetlands** and their resources.
- **Wetland of International Importance:** There are **over 2,500 Ramsar Sites** around the world.
 - ⊕ **Designation Criteria for Wetland of International Importance:** Wetland must meet **at least one of the Nine Criteria** established by Ramsar Convention.
 - ⊕ Currently, India has **91 Ramsar Sites** (Highest in Asia).

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) to Reform Key Economic Indicators

Key Reforms Proposed

- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** Updating **Base year** (Benchmark year for comparison) to **2022-23** from 2011-12 along with bolstering data sources.
 - ⊕ E.g., exploring **GST**, **E-Vahan portal**, and **UPI data** in addition to data from Office of Controller General of Accounts (CGA), MCA-21, and RBI.
- **Index of Industrial Production (IIP):** Updating Base year to **2022-23 (from 2011-12)**.
- **Consumer Price Index (CPI):** Updating Base year to **2024 (from 2012)**.
 - ⊕ Exploring **alternative data sources**, like online platforms for airfare, rail fare, OTT platforms and administrative records for petrol, diesel and LPG prices, etc.
- **Conducting Annual Survey of Service Sector Enterprises (ASSSE):** To measure the **formal services sector** along the lines of the **Annual Survey of Industries**.
- **Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES):** To be held every **three years** instead of five.

Need for the Reforms

- **Capture Changes in Economic Structure:** E.g., shift in consumption pattern, sector weight and the incorporation of new sectors.
- **Tapping Varied Data sources:** E.g. **GST returns** for the manufactured products, capture both value and quantities of production.
- **Real Economic Growth:** Revision in Base year captures the real economic growth after **removing** the effect of **inflation**.

Key Economic Indicators

- **GDP:** Measures the **monetary value of final goods and services** produced in a country in a given period of time.
- **IIP:** Compiled and published by **Central Statistical Organisation (CSO)** covering **mining and quarrying, manufacturing and Electricity**.
- **CPI:** **Macroeconomic indicator** of **inflation** measuring changes in general price level of goods and services meant for households consumption.

Also in News



UNSC 1267 Committee

A **UN Security Council (UNSC) Monitoring Team report** under the **1267 Sanctions Committee** has confirmed that **The Resistance Front (TRF)**, a proxy of **Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)**, was behind the **Pahalgam terror attack**.

- The report is significant as it was **adopted by consensus** by all 15 UNSC members, including Pakistan (a non-permanent member).

About the 1267 Committee

- It monitors sanctions on **ISIS (Da'esh)**, **Al-Qaida**, and their affiliates.
- Member states must act against listed individuals/groups.
- The committee is currently chaired by **Denmark (till Dec 2025)**.



Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).

The government said that **loans worth over ₹11 lakh crore have been disbursed** to women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under the DAY-NRLM.

About DAY-NRLM

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry for Rural Development.
- **Purpose:** To **organize and uplift rural poor women** through **SHGs**.
- **Support mechanism:**
 - ⊕ Offers credit support through the **Women Enterprise Acceleration Fund (WEAF)**.
 - ⊕ Encourages both **farm and non-farm** income generation.
 - ⊕ Uses **Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC)** to ensure participation of all, including the most marginalised.
 - ⊕ Trains SHG women as **Banking Correspondent Sakhis**.
- **Outreach Scope:** Across the country (except Delhi & Chandigarh).



Fundamental Right to Safe and Motorable Roads

In the **UPP Tollways v. MP Road Development Corp.** case, the Supreme Court ruled that the **right to safe, motorable roads** is a fundamental Right.

Key highlights of the judgement

- The right to **safe, motorable roads** is part of the **right to life under Article 21** and **freedom of movement** under **Article 19(1)(g)** of the Constitution.
- The Court also held that **road development is a public duty**, and the **State is responsible** for maintaining roads under its control, not private contractors.



Piprahwa Relics

India witnessed the return of **Lord Buddha's sacred Piprahwa Relics**.
About Piprahwa Relics

- **Discovery:** 1898 by British civil engineer **William Claxton Peppé** in **Piprahwa, Siddharthnagar** (ancient Kapilavastu), Uttar Pradesh.
- **Significance:** Associated with the **mortal remains** (Body relics) of Buddha.
- **Key Features:** Include bone fragments, soapstone and crystal caskets, a sandstone coffer, and offerings like gold ornaments, etc.
- **Enshrined Around:** 3rd century BCE.
 - ⊕ A **Brahmi script inscription** on one of the caskets confirms them as Buddha relics, deposited by the **Sakya clan**.
- **Current Status:** Classified as **'AA' antiquities** under Indian law, prohibiting their removal or sale.



Appointment of State DGPs

The Centre has introduced a **Single Window System** for appointing State DGPs (Heads of Police).

- The process follows the **Prakash Singh Vs. Union of India (2006)** case followed by **UPSC 2009 guidelines**.

Appointment Process

- **States send a list of eligible officers to UPSC** at least **6 months before** the current DGP retires.
- **Eligibility:**
 - ⊕ Minimum **30 years of service**, or the rank of police chief (and one below) stipulated for that state
 - ⊕ Officers who have less than **6 months to retire are not eligible**.
- **UPSC Empanelment Committee** selects a panel of **3 officers** (or 2 for smaller states) based on **merit**.
- **State government** chooses the DGP from this panel



UN Women

Recently UN Women marked its **15th anniversary**.

About UN women (Hq: New York, USA)

- **Origin:** 2010 by a UN General Assembly Resolution.
- **Aim:** Advance women's rights, gender equality, and their empowerment.
- Serves as **secretariat** to **UN Commission on the Status of Women**.
- **Governance:** **General Assembly, Economic and Social Council** and the **UN Women Executive Board** constitute a **multi-tiered intergovernmental governance structure** for the operational activities and operational policy guidance.
 - ⊕ **UN-Women Executive Board** constitutes representatives from **41 Member States** elected to **three-year term** by the UN Economic and Social Council.



Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025

Central Government notified **1st August 2025** as the date for key provisions of the **Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025** to come into force.

- The Act **amends five major banking laws** (RBI Act, 1934; Banking Regulation Act, 1949; SBI Act, 1955; Banking Companies Acts, 1970 & 1980) to **strengthen governance**.

Key Changes:

- **Substantial Interest Limit** raised from ₹5 lakh to ₹2 crore (first update since 1968).
- **Cooperative Bank Directors** (excluding chairpersons and full-time directors): Tenure increased from 8 to 10 years in line with the **97th Constitutional Amendment**.
- **Public Sector Banks (PSBs):**
 - ⊕ Can now transfer **unclaimed shares/funds** to the **Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF)**.
 - ⊕ Allowed to pay **statutory auditors**, helping attract better auditors.



Supply and Use Tables (SUTs)

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Released the **Supply and Use Tables (SUTs)** for **2020–21** and **2021–22**.

- Covers **140 products** and **66 industries**, based on estimates published in **National Accounts Statistics (NAS)** 2024, survey data like Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), etc.

About SUTs

- Presented as **two interlinked matrices**: the **Supply Table** and **Use Table**, structured in a product-by-industry matrix.
 - ⊕ **Supply Table** captures the total supply of goods and services while the **Use Table** records the utilization of these products.
- Integrates **three Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** approaches viz. **production, income, and expenditure methods**.

Places in News



United Arab Emirates (UAE) (Capital: Abu Dhabi)

India and the UAE reaffirmed their commitment to deepen **defence partnership** during the India-UAE Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting in New Delhi.

Political Features

- The UAE is a **constitutional federation of seven emirates** including Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah.
- **Bordering Countries:** Saudi Arabia (west and south), Oman (southeast).
- **Maritime Boundary:** Gulf of Oman (east), Persian Gulf (north and northwest).

Geographical Features

- It is located in the **Eastern** part of the **Arabian Peninsula**.
- **Strategic location** along the **Strait of Hormuz**, a transit point for crude oil.
- **Climate:** Desert (hot and humid in summer, warm and sunny in winter); cooler in eastern mountains.
- **Tropic of Cancer** passes through UAE (**Abu Dhabi** emirate).



AHMEDABAD



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI



SIKAR