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## Current Affairs - 16 August 2025

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### e-SUSHRUT@CLINIC



- It provides a **lightweight, cloud-based Hospital Management Information System (HMIS)** designed specifically for outpatient clinics.
- This government-backed **Health Management Information System (HMIS)** is designed specifically for **small and medium healthcare providers**.
- It marks a pivotal step in expanding the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)** ecosystem.
- The application developed by C-DAC is a lighter version of their flagship **e-Sushrut HMIS software**.

#### Features of eSushrut@Clinic:

- It is tailored for **outpatient management, pharmacy, and nursing modules**, and delivers essential functionalities at a low per-user cost.
- Any healthcare provider can onboard it from his/her laptop/mobile on a webpage through their **Health Facility Registry (HFR)** and **Health Professionals Registry (HPR)**.
- If the healthcare provider is not registered on HFR/HPR, they would be able to register on eSushrut@Clinic itself.
- This will make it much easier for **doctors in both public and private clinics** to access and update patient health records, offer telemedicine services, and streamline diagnostics and prescriptions.
- The platform enables small clinics, sub-centres, and medium-sized hospitals to digitize patient records, prescriptions, and billing with minimal technical overhead.
- Several utilities and **features of ABDM will be available in eSushrut@Clinic**.
- This CDSS helps improve patient care by supporting doctors in making better diagnoses and treatment.



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## Current Affairs - 16 August 2025

### WHAT IS PM SVANIDHI YOJANA?



- It is a **central-sector micro-credit scheme** launched on 1st June 2020 by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** for providing affordable **working capital loans** to **street vendors affected by the Covid-19**
- The scheme aims to provide financial support to street vendors to **resume their livelihoods** and help them become self-reliant.
- Implementation Agency: Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
- Benefits:
  - Vendors can avail a **working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000**, which is **repayable in monthly installments** in the **tenure of one year**.
  - **On timely/early repayment** of the loan, an **interest subsidy at 7% per annum** will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries **through Direct Benefit Transfer on a quarterly basis**.
  - There will be **no penalty on early repayment** of the loan.
  - The scheme **promotes digital transactions through cash back incentives** up to an amount of Rs. 100 per month.
  - The vendors can avail the facility of **escalation of the credit limit on timely/early repayment** of loan.
  - The **loan amount** can be used for **any purpose related to the street vending** business, such as buying raw materials, paying rent, or purchasing equipment.
  - The loan repayment period is one year.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Street vendors in **possession of Certificate of Vending /Identity Card** issued by **Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)**.



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## Current Affairs - 16 August 2025

- The vendors, who have been **identified in the survey of street vendors** but have not been issued Certificate of Vending/Identity Card.
- **Street Vendors** left out of the ULB-led identification survey or who have started vending after completion of the survey and have **been issued a Letter of Recommendation (LoR) to that effect by the ULB / Town Vending Committee (TVC).**
- The vendors of surrounding development/ peri-urban/rural areas vending in the **geographical limits of the ULBs**, who have been issued a Letter of Recommendation (LoR) to that effect by the ULB /TVC.

### NATIONAL GOPAL RATNA AWARD



- It is one of the highest national honours in the **livestock and dairy sector.**
- It was launched under the **Rashtriya Gokul Mission in 2021.**
- **Aim:** The National Gopal Ratna Awards aim to **encourage excellence among milk-producing farmers**, dairy cooperatives, **Milk Producer Companies (MPCs)**, Dairy Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Artificial Insemination Technicians (AITs), with special focus on **promoting indigenous cattle and buffalo breeds.**
- Indigenous bovine breeds of India are robust and possess the genetic potential to play a crucial role in the national economy.
- The National Gopal Ratna Awards will be conferred in the following categories:
  - **Best Dairy farmer rearing indigenous cattle/buffalo breeds** (list of registered breeds Annexed).
  - **Best Dairy Cooperative Society (DCS)/ Milk producer Company (MPC)/ Dairy Farmer Producer Organization (FPO).**
  - **Best Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT).**



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## Current Affairs - 16 August 2025

- There is also a provision of **Special award for North Eastern Region (NER) and Himalayan States** so as to encourage and boost the dairy development activities in these States/UTs.
- NGRA 2025 will consist of a **Certificate of merit, a memento and monetary prize** in first two categories i.e Best Dairy Farmer and Best DCS/FPO/MPCs as under.

### PRADHAN MANTRI VIKSIT BHARAT ROZGAR YOJANA



- It provides direct **cash incentives to eligible employees** and employers to boost formal job creation.
- **Aim:** The scheme aims to support **creation over 3.5 crore jobs in two years.**
- **Key Features of the Scheme:**
  - **Part A – Support to First-Time Employees**
  - Targeting first-time employees registered with EPFO, this Part will offer one-month EPF wage up to **Rs 15,000 in two installments.**
  - Employees with **salaries up to Rs 1 lakh** will be eligible for the incentives. The 1st instalment will be payable after 6 months of service and the 2nd instalment will be payable after 12 months of service and completion of a financial literacy programme by the employee.
  - To encourage the habit of saving, a portion of the incentive will be kept in a deposit account for a fixed period and can be withdrawn by the employee at a later date.
  - **Part B – Incentives for Employers:**
  - This part will encourage generation of additional employment in all sectors, with a special focus on the **manufacturing sector.**
  - The employers will get incentives in respect of new employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh.



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## Current Affairs - 16 August 2025

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- The Government will incentivize employers, up to Rs 3000 per month, for two years, for each additional employment, **sustained for at least six months.**
  - **For the manufacturing sector**, incentives will be extended to the **3rd and 4th years as well.**
  - **Incentive Payment Mechanism:** All payments to the First Time Employees under Part A of the Scheme will be made through **DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer)** mode using **Aadhar Bridge Payment System (ABPS)**. Payments to the Employers under **Part B** will be made **directly into their PAN-linked Accounts.**
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### EXERCISE SLINEX

- It is a **bilateral naval exercise** between **India and Sri Lanka**, which was **conceptualised in 2005.**
  - It has **strengthened maritime cooperation** between the nations over two decades.
  - **Aim:** It aims at **enhancing interoperability, maritime cooperation** and exchanging best practices while jointly undertaking multi-faceted maritime operations.
  - The previous edition of SLINEX was **conducted at Visakhapatnam**, India in 2024.
  - The exercise will be conducted in two phases – the Harbour phase followed by Sea phase
  - During the harbour phase, professional interactions, **Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE)**, sharing of best practices, cultural & social exchanges along with yoga sessions and sporting events are planned.
  - The naval drills planned during the sea phase include gunnery firing serials, communication protocols, navigation, seamanship evolutions, **Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS)** and fueling at sea.
  - Significance: The SLINEX maritime exercise exemplifies the deep engagement between India and Sri Lanka, which has strengthened cooperation in the maritime domain in consonance with India's policy of **Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions MAHASAGAR.**
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## Current Affairs - 16 August 2025

### KISHTWAR FLASH FLOODS: ROLE OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN J&K'S EXTREME WEATHER

- Between 2010 and 2022, Jammu & Kashmir experienced 2,863 extreme weather events that claimed 552 lives, according to a 2024 study published in Mausam by IMD scientists.
- The most frequent occurrences were **thunderstorms** (1,942 incidents) and **heavy rain** (409 incidents), while **flash floods** (168 incidents) and **landslides** (186 incidents) also posed significant threats.
- Although heavy snow was less frequent (42 incidents), it caused the highest fatalities — 182 deaths — making it the deadliest weather phenomenon during this period.
- The study also highlighted that **Kishtwar, Anantnag, Ganderbal, and Doda districts** recorded the highest number of deaths from flash floods.
- Overall, the research concluded that while heavy rain and heavy snow remain the primary weather-related killers, other hazards such as flash floods, thunderstorms, and windstorms are increasingly emerging as major threats in Jammu & Kashmir.

#### Key Drivers of Extreme Weather Events in J&K

- Although several factors contribute to the occurrence of extreme weather events in J&K, the three significant drivers behind these events are rising temperatures, the changing pattern of Western Disturbances, and the region's topography.
- **Rising Temperatures and Their Impact on J&K**
  - The western Himalayas, where Jammu & Kashmir lies, have warmed at twice the rate of the Indian subcontinent since 2000.
  - This sharp rise in temperature has intensified both mean and extreme precipitation.
  - **A warmer atmosphere can hold more moisture** — about 7% extra water vapour for every 1°C rise — resulting in heavier and more frequent rainfall events that often trigger severe flooding.



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## Current Affairs - 16 August 2025

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- Higher temperatures have also **accelerated glacial shrinkage**, increasing the number of **unstable glacial lakes**.
    - These lakes, being relatively young, have fragile edges prone to erosion, melting, and sudden breaches.
    - When heavy rainfall occurs, they overflow, releasing slush and sediment that cause catastrophic downstream floods.
  - **Changing Nature of Western Disturbances**
    - Western Disturbances (WDs) are east-moving rain-bearing wind systems that originate beyond Afghanistan and Iran, gathering moisture from the Mediterranean, Black, Caspian, and Arabian Seas.
    - Traditionally active in winter months (December–March), they are now increasingly affecting weather outside the winter season.
    - This increases the risk of floods and heavy rainfall in India’s Himalayan states, including Jammu & Kashmir.
    - Climate change has altered their behaviour. The rapid warming of the Arabian Sea releases more moisture into these systems.
  - **Topography and Vulnerability of J&K**
    - Jammu & Kashmir’s hilly and mountainous terrain amplifies its exposure to extreme weather events.
    - One of the key processes is **orographic rainfall**.
      - As moist air is forced to ascend over the mountains, it cools and condenses, resulting in heavy precipitation.
      - This process makes the region more prone to sudden and intense rain, often triggering flash floods, landslides, and cloudbursts.
    - The unique Himalayan topography acts as a natural trigger for extreme events, meaning that **climate change impacts** — like warming temperatures and shifting Western Disturbances — **are magnified by the terrain**.
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## Current Affairs - 16 August 2025

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### PM MODI'S INDEPENDENCE DAY 2025 SPEECH HIGHLIGHTS

- PM Modi delivered his 12<sup>th</sup> Independence Day address on August 15, 2025, marking his longest-ever speech at 103 minutes.

#### Key Announcements and Policy Reforms

- **Next-Generation Economic Reforms**
  - PM Modi announced the setting up of a high-powered task force to undertake next-generation reforms by reviewing outdated rules, laws, and policies.
- **GST Rationalisation and Relief to Citizens**
  - After eight years of GST implementation, PM Modi declared that “second-generation GST reforms” would be rolled out.
- **Employment and Economic Empowerment**
  - The Prime Minister launched the **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana**, a 1 lakh crore corpus designed to boost job creation.
- **Protecting Farmers, Fishermen, and Dairy Interests**
  - With trade negotiations with the US putting pressure on India to open its markets for agricultural and dairy imports, PM Modi firmly declared that India would not compromise the interests of farmers, livestock rearers, and fishermen.

#### National Security and Demographic Concerns

- **High-Powered Demography Mission**
    - In one of the most politically significant announcements, PM Modi launched a **High-Powered Demography Mission** to address concerns about infiltration and demographic changes, especially in border regions.
  - **Internal Security and Counter-Terror Operations**
    - The Prime Minister praised anti-Naxal operations, particularly in Chhattisgarh, where “terror corridors have turned into green corridors.”
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### SATPURA TIGER RESERVE



- It is located in the Hoshangabad district of **Madhya Pradesh**.
- It is located in the **Satpura** ranges of the **Central Indian**

#### **Landscape.**

- It lies **south of the river Narmada**.
  - **Satpura**, basically meaning “Seven Folds”, forms a **watershed between the Narmada and Tapti Rivers**.
  - It is spread over an area of 2133 sq. km.
  - The habitat is also an important testimony to human evolution, as it houses **more than 50 rock shelters**, which are almost **1,500 to 10,000 years old**.
  - **Geological formations** include the **Deccan trap series, Gondwanas, and metamorphic rocks**.
  - **Flora:**
    - The reserve is identified as a **mixed deciduous forest** with a variety of **flora typical of the Central Indian Highlands**.
    - These include **teak, bamboo, Indian ebony, various acacias, wild mango, Indian gooseberry, satinwood, etc.**
    - **Twenty-six species of the Himalayan region and 42 species of the Nilgiri areas** are found. Hence, STR is **also known as the northern extremity of the Western Ghats**.
  - **Fauna:**
    - It is home to a wide range of wildlife, including **tigers, leopards, sloth bears, Indian gaurs (bison), and sambar deer**.
    - The reserve is also home to a diverse range of bird species, including the **Indian peafowl, the crested serpent eagle, and several species of vultures**.
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