

International

UN Chief praises humanitarians, warns of record 390 aid worker deaths in 2024.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has praised relief workers on World Humanitarian Day, celebrated on August 19 each year, and urged action to protect their safety amidst conflicts and disasters around the world. He emphasized that humanitarians are the last lifeline for over 300 million people caught in conflict or disaster worldwide, but face increasing dangers. In 2024, at least 390 aid workers were killed globally, marking a record high. This number represents a 31% increase from the previous year. These deaths were particularly concentrated in Gaza, where 181 aid workers and 60 in Sudan.

India, China agree to resume direct flights.

India and China have agreed to resume direct flight connectivity between the Chinese mainland and India at the earliest and finalise an updated Air Services Agreement. Both sides came to this agreement during bilateral talks between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar in New Delhi.

World Photography Day 2025 is observed on Aug. 19.

World Photography Day is celebrated on August 19 every year. The day also encourages photographers from around the globe to share a single photo that encapsulates their world.

On this day in 1839, the French government announced the invention of the daguerreotype, which is an early photographic process developed by Louis Daguerre. This year, the theme is "My Favourite Photo".

National

Former SC Judge B. Sudershan Reddy named as INDIA alliance's Vice-Presidential candidate.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge has announced Former Supreme Court Judge B Sudershan Reddy as the candidate for the Vice-Presidential election from the INDIA bloc against the National Democratic Alliance (NDA)'s C P Radhakrishnan.

Justice Reddy served as the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court and at the Supreme Court between 2007 and 2011.

Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan to be launched on October 3.

Union Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced that Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan will be launched on the 3rd of October this year. He said the campaign aims at promoting direct interaction between farmers and agricultural scientists, and it will continue till 18th October.

During the campaign, thousands of scientists and Agriculture department officials will travel to villages and interact with farmers to apprise them about new technologies to boost food production.

Manika Vishwakarma crowned Miss Universe India 2025.

Manika Vishwakarma from Rajasthan has been crowned Miss Universe India 2025. The grand finale was held in Jaipur on August 18, where 48 contestants from different parts of India competed for the title. She will now represent India at the Miss Universe 2025 pageant in Thailand on November 21.

Business and Economy

NCLT declares ex-DHFL chairman Kapil Wadhawan bankrupt over ₹4,546 crore dues.

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Mumbai has declared Kapil Wadhawan, former chairman of the now-defunct Dewan Housing Finance Corp (DHFL), bankrupt following a petition by Union Bank of India for recovery of ₹4,546 crore.

The tribunal passed the bankruptcy order after Wadhawan failed to submit a repayment plan despite multiple attempts by resolution professionals to secure one. Also, the tribunal has appointed Sanjay Kumar Mishra as bankruptcy trustee to conduct the whole process.

SEBI proposes to ease minimum shareholding norms in view of expanding the market.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed to increase the flexibility of minimum public shareholding (MPS) and minimum public offer (MPO) for companies

aspiring to get listed, aimed at simplifying fund-raising by issuers in India.

SEBI has proposed to increase the MPO for companies approaching listing, MPS post listing, and extend the timelines to achieve the latter.

Japan's SoftBank to invest \$2 billion in Intel.

Japan-based tech investor SoftBank Group will invest \$2 billion in Intel, as the U.S. government reportedly considers taking a 10-percent stake in the troubled U.S. chip giant.

The move is the latest in SoftBank's succession of investments and business deals in the United States as its charismatic founder, Masayoshi Son, aggressively courts U.S. President Donald Trump.

Since Trump returned to power, Son has already announced other investment plans in the United States, including its leading role in the \$500-billion Stargate project.

Centre suspends import duty on cotton.

The Ministry of Finance has removed the 11% import duty on cotton till September 30.

In a notification issued on August 18, the Ministry said the Customs Duty will not be levied from August 19 to September 30 (including September 30) on cotton imports. Since February 2021, imports have been subject to 11% duty (5% Basic Customs Duty and 5% Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess).

23% of the total 56.04 crore PM Jan Dhan accounts are inoperative.

As many as 23% of the total 56.04 crore Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts are inoperative, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said.

Out of 56.03 crore PMJDY accounts at the end of July 31, 2025, 13.04 crore such accounts are inoperative, he said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

Banks sanction Rs 62,791 cr to 2.75 lakh beneficiaries under Stand-Up India Scheme.

Banks have sanctioned Rs 62,791 crore to 2,75,291 loan accounts under the Stand-Up India Scheme since its launch, Parliament was informed. The Stand-Up India Scheme was launched on April 5, 2016, with an aim to

promote entrepreneurship among the SC/ST and Women by facilitating bank loans of value between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore to at least one SC/ST borrower and one woman borrower per bank branch of Scheduled Commercial Banks.

The loans are sanctioned under the scheme for setting up greenfield enterprises in the trading, manufacturing, services sectors and activities allied to agriculture.

Sports

Carlos Alcaraz wins maiden Cincinnati Open title.

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz has won his maiden Cincinnati Open title in Ohio after defending champion and World No. 1 Jannik Sinner retired due to illness, trailing 0-5 in the opening set. The final lasted just 23 minutes, as Sinner called for the doctor and then conceded the match.

Alcaraz becomes the third Spaniard to win the Cincinnati title, following in the footsteps of Carlos Moya and Rafael Nadal. This marks his 22nd career title and extends his unbeaten run at the Master's 1000 level to 17 matches.

24-member Indian squad gears up for World Youth Archery Championships 2025 in Canada

A 24-member Indian archery squad is all set for the World Youth Championships 2025, kicking off today in Winnipeg, Canada. The tournament will run until the 24th of this month and features 570 top youth archers from 63 countries, competing in recurve and compound disciplines across Under-18 and Under-21 categories. The 19th edition of the biennial event includes individual, team, and mixed team formats for both men and women.

Asian Shooting Championship: Rashmika Sahgal wins gold.

In the 16th Asian Shooting Championship, Rashmika Sahgal has won gold, India's third individual yellow medal on day two of the competition at Shymkent in Kazakhstan. Rashmika has won the junior women's air pistol crown with her impressive score of 241.9.

Earlier, Manu Bhaker, a double Olympic bronze medallist, bagged another individual international medal as she shot 219.7 in the women's 10m air pistol final to finish third.