



P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

Building Bureaucrats Since 2006

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1. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has stated that there will be no charges for the daily UPI transactions of the general public. She further said that the Government is considering imposing charges on UPI transactions made by merchants, but clarified that such charges would not apply to consumers.
2. At the Asian Aerobic Gymnastics Championships held in the Philippines, India's Ariha Pangambam created history by winning the gold medal in the Senior Women's Individual category.
3. Arun Vasu, President of the Surfing Federation of India, has been elected as the President of the Asian Surfing Federation.
4. India's R. Praggnanandhaa won the championship title at the Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz Chess Tournament held in the United States. This is the first time he has won the title and lifted the trophy at this tournament.
5. Amid rising tensions in the West Asian region, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye signed a historic joint defence agreement.
 - i. Under the agreement, an attack on any one of the three countries will be considered an attack on all the other countries as well.
 - ii. The "Mecca Joint Defence Agreement" was signed at a meeting held at the Al Safa Palace in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.
6. Indian-origin NASA astronauts Anil Menon and Jessica Meir have successfully

completed a spacewalk aimed at upgrading the electrical infrastructure of the International Space Station (ISS).

- i. The two astronauts exited through the Quest airlock to install new solar power panels on the 3B power channel in the Starboard-6 truss area of the space station. They worked in space for approximately 6 hours and 27 minutes and successfully completed the task.
- ii. NASA stated that these upgrades will greatly facilitate the installation of IROSA (International Space Station Roll-Out Solar Arrays), which can automatically unfold from a rolled-up configuration, on the space station in the future. Six solar arrays have been installed since 2021, while the remaining two arrays are scheduled to be sent to the space station by the end of this year. Meanwhile, during the spacewalk, the two astronauts were amazed by the sight of the Moon and expressed their enthusiasm about the future lunar base.

7. US President Donald Trump signed two new executive orders aimed at restricting birthright citizenship in the United States and preventing women from travelling to the US while pregnant for the purpose of obtaining citizenship for their children.

- i. The US Supreme Court had struck down Trump's earlier order on the issue at the end of June. The new orders have now been issued with certain modifications.
- ii. Under the new orders, citizenship documents will be denied to children born in the US through commercial agreements, children of members of terrorist organisations, and children of employees of foreign Governments.
- iii. President Donald Trump further stated: "The 14th Amendment to the US Constitution, which grants citizenship to those born in the United States, was introduced after the Civil War for the children of slaves. However, some people are now using it for commercial purposes. Since the Supreme Court's decision was unfortunate, these new changes have been introduced."

8. President Droupadi Murmu has expressed confidence that handloom products can reach the global market through e-commerce. Speaking at the 12th National Handloom Day celebrations held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, she said:

- i. Around 3.5 million people are engaged in India's handloom sector, of whom more than 2.5 million are women. She expressed confidence that the handloom sector would serve as a strong foundation for the country's development and self-reliance.
- ii. The handloom sector provides significant employment opportunities. E-commerce can help handloom products reach the global market. It is essential to adopt new technologies for the sustainable growth of the handloom sector.
- iii. Many talented young entrepreneurs are entering the sector with modern technologies and innovative designs. The participation of young people in the handloom sector should be encouraged through Government schemes and institutions. Their enthusiasm and skills, she said, would help make the handloom sector successful.
- iv. During the felicitation ceremony, the President presented the prestigious Sant Kabir Handloom Awards and the National Handloom Awards for 2025.
- v. National Handloom Day is celebrated every year on August 7, marking the day the Swadeshi Movement was launched in 1905. The objective of the day is to promote domestically manufactured products and self-reliance.