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DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS

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POLITY
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ECONOMICS

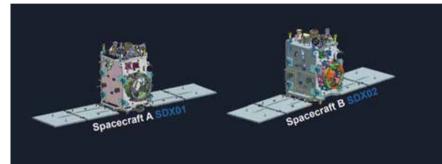
TECHNOLOGY

ECOLOGY

# ISRO undocks SpaDex satellites in first attempt

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Nearly two months after the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) carried out the docking of the two satellites which are part of the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) mission, the space agency on Thursday accomplished their undocking. "The undocking of the satellites took place in a 460 km circular orbit with 45-degree inclination. The satellites are now orbiting independently and their health is normal," the agency said.



✓ PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-4 (POEM-4)

PS4 stage is configured as a 3-axis stabilized orbital platform for conducting experiments to space qualify systems with novel ideas. The PS4 stage orbital platform electrical power requirements are catered by flexible solar panel in conjunction with 50Ah Li-lon battery in battery tied configuration. The orbital platform consists of avionics systems to take care of navigation, guidance, control & tele-commands and orbital platform attitude control system to cater to control of the platform to test the payloads.



### About Space Docking Experiment" (SpaDeX)

- The primary objective of the SpaDeX mission is to develop and demonstrate the technology needed for rendezvous, docking and undocking of two small spacecraft.
- Secondary objectives include:
  - Demonstration of the transfer of electric power between the docked spacecraft, which is essential for future applications such as in-space robotics,
  - Composite spacecraft control, and
- Payload operations after undocking.
- Two small spacecraft- SDX01 (the Chaser) and SDX02 (the Target) will be docked in a 476-km low-Earth circular orbit.
- Weight of two satellites: Approximately 220 kg each.

- Launch Vehicle: PSLV- C60
- The indigenous technology used for this mission is called the "Bharatiya Docking System".
- Significance:
  - It will make India the fourth country after USA, Russia and China in the world to achieve the feat.
  - SpaDEx mission is expected to be a stepping stone for India's future endeavours in space exploration which include getting rocks and soil from the moon on Earth, the proposed Bharatiya Antariksha Station and landing an astronaut on the lunar surface.



## Kuki-Zo groups end shutdown of Manipur's National Highways

#### POLITY

The Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) ended the community's shutdown of the National Highways passing through Manipur's hill districts on Thursday, following the burial of a protester who was killed in clashes on March 8. Movement of commercial vehicles resumed on National Highways no. 2 and 37 on Thursday evening.

### About Kuki Tribe

- The Kukis are an ethnic group including multiple tribes originally inhabiting the Northeastern States of India, including Manipur, Mizoram and Assam; parts of Burma (now Myanmar), and Sylhet district and Chittagong hill tracts of Bangladesh.
- The **Chin people of Myanmar and the Mizo people of Mizoram** are kindred tribes of the Kukis and are collectively known as the Zo people.
- Notably, Kuki is not a term coined by the ethnic group itself, the tribes associated with it came to be generically called Kuki under the colonial rule, and were further divided by the British into 'old Kukis' and 'new Kukis'.
- The Kukis have a rich cultural heritage, with institutions like Sawm and Lawm playing significant roles in their society.
- Sawm is a community center for boys where they learn under the guidance of elders, while Lawm is a youth club that fosters social activities and practical skills
- The Kukis traditionally engaged in **shifting or Jhum cultivation** in the forested hills, which allowed them to expand their settlements through the wooded areas over generations.
- Their expansionist land ownership patterns due to Jhum cultivation put them at odds with the Nagas, who practised territorial agriculture, and the Meiteis, who lived in the cultivated valley areas.

### Kuki Rebellion of 1917-19

- The first resistance to British hegemony by the Kuki people was the Kuki Rebellion of 1917-19, after which their territory was subjugated by the British and divided between the administrations of British India and British Burma.
- Up until their defeat in 1919, the Kukis had been an independent people ruled by their chieftains.

# Over 3,200 PMJAY hospitals must be penalised for fraud, regulation is required: NHA

### HEALTHY

Almost 600 hospitals across India should be suspended and another 1,113 removed from the panel of the Centre's flagship health insurance scheme, and penalties totalling ₹122 crore should be levied against 1,504 errant hospitals, according to recommendations made by the National Health Authority's antifraud unit.

### What is Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY?

### About:

PM-JAY is the world's largest health insurance scheme fully financed by the government.

Launched in 2018, it offers a sum insured of Rs.5 lakh per family for secondary care and tertiary care.

Health Benefit **Packages covers surgery,** medical and day care treatments, cost of medicines and diagnostics.

### Beneficiaries:

It is an entitlement-based scheme that targets the beneficiaries as identified by latest **Socio-Economic Caste Census** (SECC) data.

The National Health Authority (NHA) has provided flexibility to States/UTs to use **non-Socio-Economic Caste Census** (SECC) beneficiary family databases with similar socio-economic profiles for tagging against the leftover (unauthenticated) SECC families.

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### Funding:

The funding for the scheme is shared – **60:40 for all states and UTs** with their own legislature, 90:10 in Northeast states and Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal and Uttarakhand and 100% Central funding for UTs without legislature.

### Nodal Agency:

The **National Health Authority (NHA)** has been constituted as an autonomous entity under the Society Registration Act, 1860 for effective implementation of PM-JAY in alliance with state governments.

The State Health Agency (SHA) is the apex body of the State Government responsible for the implementation of AB PM-JAY in the State.

## **Collection efficiency in unsecured assets under pressure: ICRA**

ECONOMY

Credit rating agency ICRA Ltd. said it has observed a decline in collection efficiency for unsecured asset classes such as microfinance, personal and unsecured SME loans amid current economic headwinds.

### What is Credit Rating?

A credit rating is an assessment of the creditworthiness of a borrower in general terms or with respect to a particular debt or financial obligation.

A credit rating can be assigned to any entity that seeks to borrow money — an individual, corporation, state or provincial authority, or sovereign government.

### What are Credit Rating Agencies?

A credit rating agency (CRA) is a company that assigns credit ratings, which rate a debtor's ability to pay back debt by making timely principal and interest payments and the likelihood of default.

There are six credit rating agencies registered under SEBI namely, **CRISIL, ICRA, CARE, SMERA, Fitch India and Brickwork Ratings.** 

CRAs were set up to provide independent evidence and research-based opinion on the ability and willingness of the issuer to meet debt service obligations, quintessentially attaching a probability of default to a specific instrument. Evaluating the creditworthiness of an instrument comprises of both qualitative and quantitative assessments, making credit rating far from a straightforward mathematical calculation.

## Cong. slams Jio, Airtel tie-up with Musk's Starlink

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Raising national security concerns about Airtel and Jio's partnership with Elon Musk's Starlink, the Congress alleged that these agreements had been orchestrated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to "buy goodwill" with U.S. President Donald Trump



### Starlink Project:

It is a **SpaceX project**, launched in 2019, to build a **broadband network** with a cluster of thousands of orbiting satellites. The **goal of the project** is to create **a low-cost**, **satellite-based broadband network** that can provide global internet access. The **Starlink satellites** will be placed in an **altitude range between 350 km and 1,200 km in Low Earth Orbit (LEO). Reduced latency** between a user seeking data and the server

transmitting that data is the key benefit of placing satellites in LEO for space-based Internet.

Solar Storms happen when th Sun emits large bursts of energy in

the form of **solar flares and coronal mass ejections.** These phenomena send a stream of electrical charges and magnetic fields toward the Earth at high speed.

One of the effects of a solar storm striking Earth is the creation of the "**Northern lights**" which are seen in the regions around the Arctic Circle. An adverse effect of solar storms is the **disruption of satellites** and other electronic means of communications.



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