

Weekly One Liners 7th to 13th April, 2025

Haryana Declares Two Harappan Sites as Protected Archaeological Monuments

The Haryana government has officially declared two Harappan civilization sites located in **Bhiwani district — Mitathal and Tighrana** — as protected archaeological sites and monuments. These sites, dating back over 4,400 years, hold immense historical and cultural value, shedding light on the evolution of early agricultural societies, town planning, craft industries, and **trade during the Harappan and post-Harappan periods**. The sites have now been brought under legal protection through a notification issued by the Haryana Heritage and Tourism Department under the Haryana Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1964. The move aims to safeguard these ancient settlements from encroachment and damage, with fencing and security arrangements to be implemented.

Key Highlights

Legal Protection

- Notification issued on March 13, 2025, by Kala Ramachandran, Principal Secretary of Haryana Heritage and Tourism.
- Protected under the Haryana Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1964.
- The site at Mitathal spans 10 acres.

Mitathal Site (Harappan Civilization)

- **First discovered in 1913**, with a hoard of coins belonging to **Samudra Gupta (Gupta dynasty)**.
- Excavated in 1968, revealing the Copper-Bronze Age culture of the Indo-Gangetic divide (3rd–2nd millennia BCE).
- Excavations from 1965 to 1968 uncovered proto-historic material, including beads and copper implements.

Archaeological features

- Harappan-style town planning, architecture, arts, and crafts.
- **Pottery:** Sturdy red ware, well-burnt and painted in black with pipal leaf, fish scale, and geometric designs.
- **Artifacts:** Beads, bangles, terracotta, and objects made of stone, shell, copper, ivory, and bone.

Tighrana Site (Post-Harappan/Chalcolithic Culture)

- Settlement dating back to around 2,400 BCE.
- **Inhabited by Chalcolithic agricultural communities called Sothians.**
- Located at Chang, Mitathal, Tighrana, and nearby regions.

Settlement features

- Thatched-roofed mud-brick houses, possibly fortified.
- 50 to 100 houses per settlement.

Lifestyle and tools

- Agriculture and domestication of animals: cows, bulls, goats.
- Use of wheel-made ceramics, painted in bichrome black-and-white designs.
- Use of copper, bronze, and stone tools in large numbers.
- **Craft industry:** Presence of beads and green carnelian bangles indicates jewelry and bead-making trade.
- Discoveries include remains from Pre-Siswal, Pre-Harappan, and Post-Harappan periods — making it a significant chronological settlement site.

India-Sri Lanka Sign Historic Defense Pacts For The Future

India and Sri Lanka have taken a historic step in **strengthening their bilateral relations by signing a landmark defence cooperation pact, the first of its kind between the two nations**. This comes almost 40 years after the deployment of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka during the civil conflict. The pact, signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Colombo and his discussions with Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, reflects a shared strategic vision and growing interdependence on security and development matters. The pact is part of a wider framework of ten major agreements focusing on defence, energy, digital cooperation, and health, aimed at deepening the partnership between the two neighbouring countries.

Key Highlights of the India-Sri Lanka Defence Pact & Other Agreements

Defence Cooperation

- A first-ever framework MoU on defence cooperation.
- Includes joint military exercises, training programmes, and high-level exchanges.
- Reinforces the idea that the security of both countries is interconnected.
- PM Modi highlighted the sensitivity of Sri Lanka towards India's security concerns.
- President Dissanayake reassured that Sri Lankan soil will not be used against India.

BANK MAHAPACK
for all Bank & Insurance Exams
Selection Ka Saathi

Energy & Infrastructure

Sampur Power Project

- Groundbreaking ceremony held virtually.
- Will aid in Sri Lanka’s energy security.
- Multi-product energy pipeline project:
- Tripartite MoU involving India, Sri Lanka, and UAE.
- To develop Trincomalee as an energy hub.

Grid Interconnectivity MoU

- Connects India and Sri Lanka’s electricity grids.
- Facilitates power trade and potential electricity exports.

Digital Transformation

- MoU signed for India to share digital governance solutions.
- Aims to accelerate Sri Lanka’s digital transformation.

Renewable Energy Initiatives

Solar Rooftop Project

- Installation of rooftop solar panels on 5,000 religious institutions.
- Funded with \$17 million Indian credit assistance.
- Will generate 25 MW of green energy.
- Inclusive of Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, and Muslim religious places.

Health & Medicine

MoU between

- India’s Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Sri Lanka’s Ministry of Health & Mass Media.
- Focuses on cooperation in healthcare services and medicine.

Separate MoU between

- Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission and Sri Lanka’s National Medicines Regulatory Authority.
- To ensure cooperation in pharmacopoeial standards and practices.

Regional Support & Development

- India announces a support package worth 2.4 billion Sri Lankan rupees.
- Focuses on social and economic development of Sri Lanka’s eastern provinces.

New Pamban Bridge Inaugurated by PM Modi

On April 6, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the New Pamban Bridge in Tamil Nadu, marking a historic milestone in India’s infrastructure development. This first vertical-lift sea bridge in the country replaces the century-old Pamban Bridge and stands as a marvel of modern engineering. The bridge, which connects **Rameswaram Island to Mandapam on the mainland**, is designed for both durability and technological excellence. The inauguration coincided with Ram Navami and PM Modi’s return from Sri Lanka, where he also had a divine aerial view of Ram Setu, symbolically linking the spiritual and structural achievements of the day.

Key Highlights

New Pamban Bridge

- **Inauguration Date:** April 6, 2025 (Ram Navami)
- **Inaugurated by:** PM Narendra Modi
- **Location:** Ramanathapuram district, Tamil Nadu
- **Purpose:** Connects Rameswaram Island with Mandapam on the Indian mainland

Bridge Specifications & Engineering Features

- **Total Length:** 2.07 km
- **Cost of Construction:** Over ₹700 crore
- **Executing Agency:** Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) – A Navratna PSU
- **Design Type:** Vertical-lift bridge
- **Lift Span:** 72.5 metres (can be vertically lifted to 17 metres)
- **Function:** Allows ships to pass underneath safely
- **Track Capacity:** Designed for two railway tracks, currently operating one
- **Train Speed Supported:** Up to 80 km/h
- **Projected Lifespan:** 100 years

Advanced Construction Materials & Techniques

- Use of stainless steel reinforcement
- Fully welded joints for enhanced durability
- High-grade protective paint
- Polysiloxane coating to resist marine corrosion
- Minimal maintenance design

Significance and Global Comparisons

- Compared with iconic global bridges,
- Golden Gate Bridge (USA)
 - Tower Bridge (UK)
 - Oresund Bridge (Denmark–Sweden)
 - Represents India’s visionary infrastructure progress
 - A symbol of modern engineering and national pride

Other Events During the Visit

- PM Modi flagged off
- A new Coast Guard ship (which passed under the bridge)
 - The Rameswaram–Tambaram (Chennai) train
 - Foundation stones laid for rail and road projects worth ₹8,300 crore
 - Puja performed at Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram

Spiritual Significance: Ram Setu Darshan

- PM Modi had aerial Darshan of Ram Setu (Adam’s Bridge) while returning from Sri Lanka
- Shared the video on social media platform X (formerly Twitter)
- Coincided with the Surya Tilak ceremony in Ayodhya, calling it a “divine coincidence”
- Highlighted Ram Setu’s religious and cultural importance

About Ram Setu (Adam’s Bridge)

- A chain of shoals linking Rameswaram Island (India) with Mannar Island (Sri Lanka)
- **Length:** ~48 km

Geographical Division

- **North:** Palk Strait (Bay of Bengal inlet)
- **South:** Gulf of Mannar (Indian Ocean inlet)

10 Years Of PM MUDRA Yojana

On 8th April 2025, India celebrates **10 years of the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)**—a flagship initiative launched in 2015 to fund the unfunded by offering collateral-free loans to micro and small enterprises. PMMY has democratized access to finance, transformed livelihoods, and shifted the economic narrative from job-seeking to job-creating, especially in semi-urban and rural India. Today, over 52 crore loans worth ₹32.61 lakh crore have been sanctioned under this transformative scheme, empowering entrepreneurs from all walks of life.

Key Features of PM Mudra Yojana

- **Launched:** April 8, 2015
- **Implementing Agency:** MUDRA (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency)
- **Collateral-Free Loans:** Up to ₹20 lakh
- **Lending Institutions:** Banks, NBFCs, MFIs, RRBs

Categories of Loans

- **Shishu** – Up to ₹50,000
- **Kishor** – ₹50,000 to ₹5 lakh
- **Tarun** – ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh
- **Tarun Plus** – ₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh (for successful repeat borrowers)

Key Achievements in 10 Years

- **Total Loans Sanctioned:** Over 52 crore
- **Total Loan Value:** ₹32.61 lakh crore
- **Shift from Micro to Small:** Share of Kishor loans grew from 5.9% in FY16 to 44.7% in FY25

Growth in Average Loan Size

- **FY16:** ₹38,000
- **FY23:** ₹72,000
- **FY25:** ₹1.02 lakh

Empowering Women Entrepreneurs

- **Women’s Share:** 68% of total Mudra beneficiaries

Average Disbursement (FY16–FY25)

- Grew at 13% CAGR to ₹62,679
- Incremental deposits grew at 14% CAGR to ₹95,269
- **Impact:** Enhanced labour force participation and employment generation in states with higher female loan disbursement

Social Inclusion

- SC/ST/OBC & Minority Beneficiaries
- 50% of Mudra accounts held by SC/ST/OBC entrepreneurs
- 11% beneficiaries from minority communities
- Reflects the scheme’s commitment to inclusive growth and financial equality

MSME Growth & Credit Expansion

MSME Credit Growth

- **FY14:** ₹8.51 lakh crore
- **FY24:** ₹27.25 lakh crore
- **Projected FY25:** ₹30 lakh crore

MSME credit as % of total bank credit

- **FY14:** 15.8%
- **FY24:** Nearly 20%

Global Recognition by IMF

- **2017:** PMMY noted for enabling women-led businesses
- **2019:** Praised for supporting micro enterprises
- **2023:** Emphasis on women-owned MSMEs (over 2.8 million)
- **2024:** Recognized as a driver of self-employment & formalisation

Top States & UTs in Loan Disbursement (as of Feb 28, 2025)

Top States

- Tamil Nadu – ₹3.23 lakh crore
- Uttar Pradesh – ₹3.14 lakh crore
- Karnataka – ₹3.02 lakh crore
- West Bengal – ₹2.82 lakh crore
- Bihar – ₹2.81 lakh crore
- Maharashtra – ₹2.74 lakh crore

Top Union Territory

- Jammu & Kashmir – ₹45,815.92 crore across 21.33 lakh loan accounts

Transformation in Lending Pattern

- Rise of Kishor and Tarun categories reflects business scaling
- Indicates a shift from starting up to growing up
- Loan Disbursal Spike: 36% growth in FY23 alone

Mission, Vision & Target Segment

- Targets non-corporate, non-farm micro units
- Covers traders, service providers, manufacturers
- Supports over 10 crore livelihoods, especially in rural and semi-urban India

PM Modi’s Message

PM Congratulates Beneficiaries

- Acknowledged the transformational impact of the scheme.
- Celebrated the stories of individuals whose dreams became reality through Mudra loans.
- Called the scheme an example of India’s potential where “nothing is impossible.”

Inclusive Empowerment

- 50% of beneficiaries belong to SC, ST, and OBC categories—showing how the scheme has reached socially marginalized communities.
- Over 70% of beneficiaries are women—making it one of the largest women-centric financial inclusion programmes globally.

Dignity and Opportunity

- Every Mudra loan, as PM said, carries “dignity, self-respect, and opportunity.”
- The scheme has not just provided credit access, but also fostered social and economic inclusion.

Vision for the Future

- The government remains committed to strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem.
- PM emphasized the need to give every aspiring entrepreneur—regardless of their background—the confidence and opportunity to grow through credit access.

“Women and Men in India 2024” Report Released by MoSPI

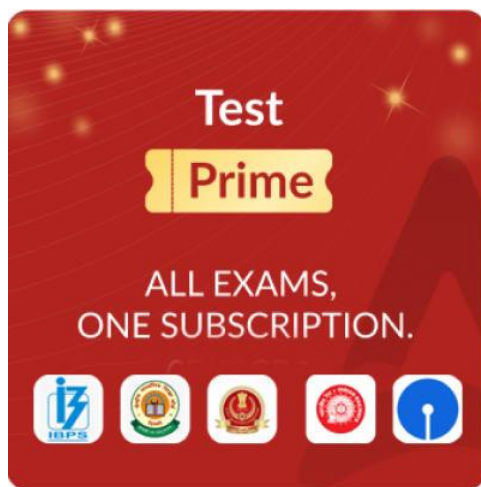
The “Women and Men in India 2024” report, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), provides an in-depth overview of gender-specific data across various sectors in India. It offers valuable insights into the progress made and the persistent challenges women face. The report highlights advancements in education, financial inclusion, political participation, and health, while also addressing ongoing disparities, particularly in employment, leadership roles, and rural-urban access. The following analysis delves into the key findings, their implications, and areas requiring further intervention.

Key Findings from the Report

1. Education – Gender Parity Trends

Gender Parity Index (GPI)

- The GPI across education levels remains above 1.00, indicating higher female enrolment than male students.
- Primary Level: 1.03
- Upper Primary Level: 1.02
- Higher Secondary Level: 1.02
- Implication: Girls are increasingly participating in education at all levels, showcasing progress in gender parity in education.



2. Labour Force Participation (15+ years)

Female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)

- Increased from 49.8% in 2017-18 to 60.1% in 2023-24.
- Implication: More women are joining the workforce, signifying improved economic participation and empowerment.

3. Banking Access and Financial Inclusion

Bank Accounts and Deposits

- Women hold 39.2% of total bank accounts and contribute to 39.7% of aggregate deposits in 2023-24.
- Rural women account for 42.2% of bank accounts, indicating greater financial independence in rural areas.
- Implication: Women are increasingly engaging in formal financial systems, enhancing their economic autonomy.

4. Stock Market Engagement

Growth in DEMAT Accounts

- Total DEMAT accounts surged from 33.26 million in 2021 to 143.02 million in 2024.
- Female account holders increased from 6.67 million to 27.71 million, a 4.2x increase over three years.
- Implication: The rise in women’s participation in the stock market reflects growing financial literacy and investment interest among women.

5. Entrepreneurship

Female-led Enterprises

- Share of Female-led Proprietary Establishments
- The share of female-led establishments in manufacturing, trade, and services increased from 2021-22 to 2023-24.
- Implication: There is a notable rise in women’s entrepreneurship, suggesting improved access to resources and opportunities in the business sector.

6. Political Participation – Voting Trends

Female Voter Turnout

- Female voter turnout reached 65.8% in the 2024 elections, nearly matching the male turnout of 65.5%.
- Implication: Women’s political participation is on the rise, with female voters playing an equal role in democratic processes.

7. Women-led Startups

Growth of Women-led Startups

- Startups with at least one woman director rose from 1,943 in 2017 to 17,405 in 2024, a growth of over 800%.
- Implication: The increase in women-led startups reflects the success of policies promoting gender equality in entrepreneurship.

8. Health and Fertility Trends

Health and Life Expectancy

- Total Fertility Rate (TFR) declined to 2.0 in 2023, signaling a decrease in birth rates.

- Female life expectancy increased to 71.3 years, suggesting improvements in women’s health outcomes.
- Implication: Women’s health has improved, marked by better fertility control and longer life expectancy.

Analysis of the Report

Positives in the Report

- **Digital Inclusion:** Significant increases in DEMAT accounts and bank account ownership by women, showing growing financial empowerment.
- **Educational Equity:** Consistent GPI above 1.0 across various education levels indicates progress in reducing the gender gap in education.
- **Political and Societal Engagement:** The rise in female voter turnout and women-led startups points to greater female participation in governance and business.
- **Improved Labour Participation:** The notable increase in female LFPR is indicative of higher formal sector inclusion.

Persistent Gaps and Concerns

- **Sectoral Employment Gaps:** Women are still concentrated in low-paid, informal sectors, limiting their economic advancement.
- **Digital Divide:** The gender gap in stock market participation persists, with women holding significantly fewer DEMAT accounts than men.
- **Under-representation in Leadership:** Women are still underrepresented in senior leadership roles in corporations and politics, despite advances in **education and entrepreneurship**.
- **Rural-Urban Imbalance:** Women in rural areas face slower progress in digital literacy, internet access, and healthcare compared to their urban counterparts.

Way Forward

- **Skilling and Employment:** Focus on upskilling women and creating formal job opportunities in high-value sectors such as IT, green energy, and digital finance.
- **Leadership Inclusion:** Implement affirmative actions to increase women’s representation in decision-making bodies, especially in corporate and political leadership.
- **Digital and Financial Literacy:** Expand outreach programs to improve financial and digital literacy among rural women.
- **Gender Data Monitoring:** Establish a Gender Data Monitoring Dashboard for tracking real-time progress and more effective policymaking.

RBI Monetary Policy 2025: Bi-Monthly Highlights

The Reserve Bank of India’s Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has announced the outcome of its first policy review of the new financial year. RBI MPC voted unanimously for the repo rate to be reduced by 25 bps to 6%, effective immediately. The RBI MPC reduces the SDF rate to 5.75% and the MSF rate to 6.25%.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held its 54th meeting from **April 7 to 9, 2025** under the chairmanship of Shri Sanjay Malhotra, Governor, Reserve Bank of India. The MPC members Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Shri Saugata Bhattacharya, Prof. Ram Singh, Dr. Rajiv Ranjan, and Shri M. Rajeshwar Rao attended the meeting. The remaining meetings for this year are scheduled for June 4–6, August 5–7, September 29–October 1, December 3–5, and February 4–6.

Current Rate

Policy	Rate
Policy Repo Rate	6.00%
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate	5.75%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate	6.25%
Bank Rate	6.25%
Fixed Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%

RBI Guv Announces Six Additional Measures

- Propose to enable the securitisation of stressed assets;
- Guidelines on co-lending are to be extended to all regulated entities on all loans.
- Regulations for loans against collateral against gold;
- Comprehensive guidelines on partial credit enhancement by regulated entities;
- NPCI, in consultation with banks and stakeholders, to get the freedom to revise the transaction limit for UPI in person-to-merchant transactions from Rs 2,00,000.
- Regulatory sandbox to be theme-neutral, on-tap.

Check out the latest GDP growth projections by the RBI

GDP Growth Projections	Previous	Now
FY26	6.7%	6.5%
Q1FY26	6.7%	6.5%
Q2FY26	7.0%	6.7%
Q3FY26	6.5%	6.6%
Q4FY26	6.5%	6.3%

Check out the latest CPI inflation projections by RBI

CPI Inflation Projections	Previous	Now
FY26	4.2%	4.0%
Q1FY26	4.5%	3.6%
Q2FY26	4.0%	3.9%
Q3FY26	3.8%	3.8%
Q4FY26	4.2%	4.4%

India-UAE Strengthen To Enhance Strategic Partnership

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Dubai Crown Prince Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum held high-level discussions in New Delhi on April 8, 2025, aimed at enhancing the **India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**. Their talks focused on strengthening cooperation in defence, coast guard operations, trade, technology, space, and people-to-people ties. Sheikh Hamdan's first official visit to India as crown prince marked a significant milestone in bilateral relations, underscoring shared strategic priorities and mutual economic interests.

Key Highlights

Defence and Security Cooperation

- India and UAE agreed to deepen defence and Coast Guard cooperation.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to formalise Coast Guard collaboration.
- Talks between Sheikh Hamdan and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasised scaling defence ties to match trade growth.

Key focus areas include

- Joint training exchanges
- Co-production and co-development projects
- Defence manufacturing collaborations
- Both sides welcomed the India-UAE Defence Partnership Forum.
- Complementarity between Make-in-India and Make-in-Emirates initiatives was discussed.

High-Level Diplomatic Engagements

- PM Modi described Sheikh Hamdan's visit as a reaffirmation of the "deep-rooted friendship".
- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also met with Sheikh Hamdan, expressing appreciation for the strong ties.
- Sheikh Hamdan described India-UAE relations as being "built on trust, shaped by history."

Trade and Economic Cooperation

- Dubai Chamber hosted the Dubai-India Business Forum in Mumbai with 200 Indian business leaders.

Key trade stats,

- India-UAE non-oil trade in 2023: \$54.2 billion
- **Dubai-India bilateral trade:** \$45.4 billion
- **Dubai's investment in India:** \$4.68 billion

In 2024

- 16,623 Indian companies joined the Dubai Chamber of Commerce.
- Indian companies in Dubai now total over 70,000.

Connectivity and People-to-People Ties

- Dubai welcomed 3.14 million South Asian visitors in 2024, with India as the largest source.
- Leaders emphasized the role of connectivity, culture, and historical links in bolstering bilateral ties.

Singapore Airports Top The List World Airport Rankings 2025

Asia continues to shine in the aviation industry, with three of its airports ranking at the top in the **Skytrax World Airport Awards 2025**, held in Madrid on April 9. **Singapore Changi Airport was crowned the World's Best Airport for the 13th time**, followed by Hamad International Airport (Doha) and Tokyo International Airport (Haneda) in second and third places, respectively. These rankings reflect outstanding performance in customer satisfaction, infrastructure, services, and innovation.

Highlights

Top 3 Airports in the World – 2025

1. Singapore Changi Airport (Singapore)
 - World's Best Airport 2025
 - 13-time winner of the top spot

Additional titles,

- Best Airport Dining
- Best Airport Washrooms
- Best Airport in Asia
- **Features:** Jewel mall, largest indoor waterfall, cinemas, gardens, museums

2. Hamad International Airport (Doha, Qatar)

- Second-best airport globally
- Best Airport in the Middle East
- World's Best Airport Shopping
- Past winner of World's Best Airport title (3 times)

3. Tokyo International Airport – Haneda (Japan)

- Ranked 3rd globally
- Best Domestic Airport in the world
- World's Cleanest Airport (Major Category)
- Best Airport PRM & Accessible Facilities
- Top in passenger handling: over 70 million

Indian Airports Performance

- **Delhi IGI Airport:** Best Airport in India & South Asia
- **Bengaluru Kempegowda Airport:** Best Regional Airport in India & South Asia
- **Hyderabad Airport:** Best Airport Staff Service in India & South Asia
- **Goa Manohar Airport:** Cleanest Airport in India & South Asia (under 5 million passengers category)

List of Top 20 Airports

1. Singapore Changi Airport / Singapore
2. Hamad International Airport / Qatar
3. Tokyo International Airport (Haneda) / (Japan)
4. Incheon International Airport / (South Korea)
5. Narita International Airport / (Japan)
6. Hong Kong International Airport / (Hong Kong)
7. Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport / (France)
8. Rome Fiumicino Airport / (Italy)
9. Munich Airport / (Germany)
10. Zurich Airport / (Switzerland)

11. Dubai International Airport / (UAE)
12. Helsinki-Vantaa Airport / (Finland)
13. Vancouver International Airport / (Canada)
14. Istanbul Airport / (Turkey)
15. Vienna International Airport / (Austria)
16. Melbourne Airport / (Australia)
17. Chubu Centrair International Airport/ (Japan)
18. Copenhagen Airport / (Denmark)
19. Amsterdam Schiphol Airport / (Netherlands)
20. Bahrain International Airport / (Bahrain)

National Affairs

- The **Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025**, which received **Presidential assent on April 5, 2025**, marks a pivotal change in the **administration of Waqf properties in India**. Passed after **intense three-day debates** in both the **Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha**, the Act has sparked **nationwide discussions and legal challenges**. While the government highlights its aim to enhance **transparency and accountability**, critics argue it may **infringe on constitutional rights** concerning **religious freedom**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **April 7, 2025**, the **Central Government of India** announced a ₹2 per litre hike in **excise duties on petrol** (₹13/litre) and **diesel** (₹10/litre), effective from **April 8, 2025**. Despite the increase, the **Ministry of Petroleum** confirmed that **retail prices** will remain unchanged as **public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs)** like **IOCL, BPCL, and HPCL** will absorb the cost. The hike comes amid global **oil price fluctuations** caused by **US tariff policies** and increased **OPEC+ output**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **April 9, 2025**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will attend the **Navkar Mahamantra Divas at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**, organized by the **Jain International Trade Organization (JITO)**. This global spiritual event, held on the eve of **Mahavir Jayanti**, aims to promote **peace, unity, and spiritual awakening**. With participation from **over 108 countries** and **1.08 crore devotees**, the event focuses on chanting the **Navkar Mahamantra** to foster **non-violence, tolerance, and ethical reflection**, with observances at **6,000+ venues** across India and internationally. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **7th edition of Poshan Pakhwada**, launched on **April 8, 2025**, by **Union Minister Savitri Thakur** in **New Delhi**, is a key initiative under **Poshan Abhiyaan** aimed at tackling **malnutrition** and improving **nutrition outcomes** for **children, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and adolescent girls**. Running till **April 22**, the campaign emphasizes **healthy lifestyles, malnutrition management, and awareness on the Poshan Tracker**, with the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** as the **nodal agency**, supported by ministries like **Health, Education, Rural Development, and Jal Shakti**, along with **State/UT governments**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- According to the **PLFS 2024**, India's **unemployment rate** (15+ age group) dipped slightly from **5.0% to 4.9%**, showing modest gains in **employment opportunities**. **Rural unemployment** fell to **4.2%**, while **urban female unemployment** dropped from **8.9% to 8.2%**, even as **urban male unemployment** rose marginally. The **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** declined slightly to **59.6%**, though **urban LFPR** increased to **51.0%**. The **Worker Population Ratio (WPR)** fell marginally to **57.7%**, with a notable drop in **rural female WPR** due to fewer **unpaid female helpers**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **landmark move toward global expansion**, **IIM-Ahmedabad** is set to open its **first overseas campus in Dubai** following an **MoU with the UAE government**. The campus will launch in **September 2025** in **Dubai International Academic City (DIAC)**, offering a **one-year full-time MBA program** for **global professionals and entrepreneurs**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda** launched the **Inter-AIIMS Referral Portal**, developed by **AIIMS New Delhi**, to streamline **patient referrals** and enhance **healthcare delivery** using **facial recognition** and **automated workflows**. Initially piloted between **AIIMS New Delhi and AIIMS Bilaspur**, the portal aims for a **nationwide rollout** across **AIIMS hospitals**. Key benefits include **reduced waiting times, enhanced security, and a patient-centric approach**, with integration into the **Vishram Sadan portal** for affordable accommodation—marking a major leap toward **digital healthcare transformation** in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **President Droupadi Murmu** was awarded an **Honorary Doctorate** by **Constantine The Philosopher University** in **Nitra, Slovakia**, on the final day of her **four-day state visit to Slovakia and Portugal**. The recognition celebrates her **distinguished public service, advocacy for social justice, education, women's empowerment, and cultural preservation**. ([Click here to read article](#))



- India's **National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)**, launched in 2025, aims to secure vital minerals for **green energy technologies** like **solar panels, wind turbines, electric vehicles (EVs), and battery storage**. Led by the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** and coordinated by the **Ministry of Mines**, the mission focuses on reducing **import dependency**, enhancing domestic exploration, and forming global partnerships. Key minerals identified include **lithium, cobalt, rare earth elements (REEs), and nickel**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched and laid the foundation for over **₹3,880 crore** worth of **development projects in Varanasi**, focusing on **infrastructure, energy, education, law enforcement, public welfare, and cultural heritage**. Major highlights include **₹980+ crore** in **road connectivity** (flyovers, underpass, Ring Road bridge), **₹1,820 crore** in **energy projects** (400 KV & 220 KV substations), new **colleges, libraries, and Anganwadis**, **Jal Jeevan Mission** schemes (₹345 crore), **ghat redevelopment, solar power plant**, and support for **MSMEs and rural artisans**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)** celebrated its **75th anniversary** on **April 9, 2025**, at the **Indian Cultural Centre** in **Dhaka**, highlighting its legacy since **1950** in promoting **India's cultural heritage, enhancing cultural diplomacy, and fostering India-Bangladesh ties**. The event featured **traditional performances, showcasing rich artistic and educational exchanges**. ICCR's presence in Bangladesh includes the **Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (2011)** and **Indian Cultural Centre (2021)**, hosting diverse activities like **music, dance, films, and workshops**. ([Click here to read article](#))

States in the News

- The **11th edition of the Pondicherry Heritage Festival** kicked off with the vibrant '**Veedhi Vilayattu**' (**Street Games**) in **Puducherry's Tamil Quarter**, attracting over **250 children** and numerous residents. Held between **Easwaran Koil** and **Anna Salai**, the festival celebrated the city's **culture and history**, featuring traditional games like **Pallanguzhi, Pambaram, Dhayam, and Pacha Kuthirai**. Co-hosted by **People for Pondicherry's Heritage** and **PondyCAN**, the event successfully engaged the community, with the streets coming alive with traditional activities, food, and fun. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Madhavpur Mela** was inaugurated by **Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel** on **April 6, 2025**, during **Ram Navami**, celebrating the divine union of **Lord Krishna and Rukmaniji**. This **cultural and religious** festival, held in **Madhavpur, Porbandar**, symbolizes **unity and cultural harmony** across regions of India. Since its elevation to a **national event** in 2018, the fair has gained significance, attracting dignitaries like **Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**. Chief Minister

Patel also launched new **pilgrimage facilities** at the **Rukmani Temple**, supporting **religious tourism** and infrastructure development. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Haryana Chief Minister **Nayab Singh Saini** announced key initiatives to support **Agniveers** under the **Agnipath Scheme**, including a **20% reservation in Haryana Police jobs**, making it the first state in India to offer such a guarantee. Additionally, provisions for **affordable loans for self-employment** and **priority in gun licenses** for private security roles were introduced, aiming to ensure the **future welfare** of Agniveers post-service. These steps reflect Haryana's commitment to securing the livelihoods of **Agniveers**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami** launched the **Bhagirath mobile app** as part of the **Jal Sanrakshan Abhiyan 2025** (Water Conservation Campaign). The app allows citizens to report endangered water sources like **Naulas, Dharaas, and rain-fed rivers**, enabling prompt government action for their conservation. The campaign's theme, "**Dhara Mera, Naula Mera, Gaon Mera, Prayas Mera**," emphasizes collective action for preserving water resources. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a move to **revive pre-Mughal heritage**, the **Maharashtra government** has announced the **renaming of Khultabad to its original name, Ratnapur**, on **April 8, 2025**, by **Social Justice Minister Sanjay Shirsat**. Located in **Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar district, Khultabad**—home to **Aurangzeb's tomb**, along with graves of **Azam Shah and Asaf Jah I**—was renamed during the **Mughal era**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Nilgiri Tahr Census 2025** will be jointly conducted by **Kerala and Tamil Nadu** from **April 24–27, 2025**, to mark the **50th anniversary of Eravikulam National Park**, home to the largest population of the **vulnerable Nilgiri Tahr**, endemic to the **Western Ghats**. With over **1,300 participants** using modern tools like **camera traps, pellet sampling, and the bounded count method**, the census aims to monitor and estimate the population and distribution of the species. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Madhya Pradesh government** has declared a new wildlife sanctuary named **Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Abhyaran** in **Sagar district**, covering **258.64 sq km**, ahead of **Ambedkar Jayanti**. Spanning the **North Sagar Forest Division** including **Banda and Shahgarh tehsils**, the sanctuary aims to **boost wildlife conservation, promote eco-tourism, and create employment opportunities**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Kavach 5.0**, the next-gen **Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system**, was announced by **Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** to boost **Mumbai's suburban rail services by 30%** by reducing the train headway. Set to be developed by **December 2025**, Kavach 5.0 enhances **safety**, supports loco pilots with **auto-braking**, and ensures smoother operations even in **adverse weather**. ([Click here to read article](#))

International Affairs

- **Saudi Arabia** has imposed a **temporary visa ban** on individuals from **14 countries**, including **India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh**, to control **overcrowding** during the **Hajj pilgrimage**. The ban affects **Umrah visas, business visit visas, and family visit visas** and aims to regulate the flow of visitors, prevent **illegal overstaying**, and ensure a **smooth and secure Hajj season**. The ban will remain in place until the end of the Hajj pilgrimage in **mid-June 2025**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Kazakhstan has discovered its largest-ever reserve of **rare earth metals** at the **Kuirektykol site** in the **Karaganda region**, with an estimated reserve of **1 million tons** and potential reserves exceeding **20 million tons** in the broader **Zhana Kazakhstan zone**. This discovery, located about **300 km southeast of Astana**, positions Kazakhstan as a potential major player in the global **critical minerals** sector, especially as the world shifts toward **green technology** and aims to reduce reliance on suppliers like **China**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Gabon** will hold a crucial **presidential election on April 12, 2025**, marking a key step in its **transition from military to civilian rule** after the **August 2023 coup** that ended the **56-year Bongo dynasty**. **Brice Oligui Nguema**, the **junta chief and frontrunner**, is contesting as the **"candidate of the people"**, having suspended his military duties under a **new electoral code** adopted in **January 2025**. He faces **7 other candidates**, with main challenger **Alain-Claude Bilie By Nze**, the last PM under Ali Bongo. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a major shift in global trade policy, **Donald Trump** announced a **90-day pause** on **higher tariffs** for most nations, offering a **10% "reciprocal tariff"** instead, especially sparing countries like the **EU, Vietnam, and South Africa**. However, **China** faced a steep escalation, with **tariffs on Chinese goods rising to 125%**, in response to its **84% tariffs** on US imports. Trump cited China's **"lack of respect"** and warned of further action. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **US-China trade war** intensified after the **Trump administration imposed 104% tariffs** on Chinese imports, prompting **China** to retaliate with **84% tariffs** on US goods, up from 34%. In a sharp response, China **blacklisted 12 US companies**, added six to its **unreliable entities list**, enforced **export controls on rare earths**, and filed a **WTO complaint**, accusing the US of disrupting **global trade stability**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **West Japan Railway Company (JR West)** has achieved a groundbreaking feat by constructing the **world's first 3D-printed train station, Hatsushima Station**, in **Arida City, Wakayama Prefecture**. The station, built in **under six hours**, replaces a 1948 wooden facility and showcases the potential of **3D printing** in transforming public infrastructure. Collaborating with **Serendix**, a **Japanese construction technology firm**, the project significantly reduced construction time and costs while minimizing **labor and service disruption**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **India** has announced a **USD 990,000 financial grant** to **Sierra Leone** under the **India-UN Development Partnership Fund** for a project titled **"Enabling Economic Independence for Specially Abled Persons"**, aimed at empowering persons with disabilities in rural areas. Implemented with **UNDP**, the initiative focuses on **skills training, technology access, work cooperatives, and micro-loans**, aligning with **Sierra Leone's national priorities**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Mauritius** has become the **first African nation** and the **fourth globally** (after **Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Cuba**) to sign the **Country Partnership Framework (CPF)** with the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, marking a major step in its **clean energy transition**. The CPF, a strategic document by ISA, will guide **long-term cooperation on solar energy**, aligning with **Mauritius' sustainable development and energy security goals**, through innovative, scalable solar solutions and a customized **Country Partnership Strategy (CPS)**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL)** has announced an investment of **₹61,077 crore** to establish a **world-class petrochemical complex** in **Paradip, Odisha**. This marks IOCL's largest-ever single-location investment, aimed at enhancing India's **petrochemical industry and manufacturing capabilities**. The project includes a **dual-feed cracker** and downstream units to produce key petrochemicals like **phenol, polypropylene (PP), isopropyl alcohol (IPA), HDPE, LLDPE, PVC, and butadiene**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- At the **8th Session of the India-Russia Working Group on Priority Investment Projects (IRWG-PIP)** in **New Delhi, India and Russia** agreed on **six new strategic projects** to boost **bilateral investment**. Co-chaired by **Amardeep Singh Bhatia (India)** and **Vladimir Ilichev (Russia)**, the session emphasized **trade, technological collaboration, and economic development**. The **2nd India-Russia Investment Forum**, with **80+ participants**, showcased growing interest in joint ventures. ([Click here to read article](#))

Books and Authors

- **S. Ambujammal (1899–1981)**, born into a prestigious **Iyengar family** in **Madras**, overcame early struggles, including emotional neglect, an **unwanted birth**, and a troubled marriage, to become a prominent **Gandhian and social reformer**. Her autobiography, **Naan Kanda Bharatham** (translated as **The India I Saw**), chronicles her journey through India's **freedom movement** and her commitment to **women's welfare**. A dedicated follower of **Gandhi's ideals**, her life is a testament to **resilience, personal transformation, and social service**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Sarah Wynn-Williams'** memoir, *Careless People*, exposes the toxic inner workings of Facebook (now Meta) during its global rise. As a former director of global public policy, Wynn-Williams reveals the unethical leadership and personal misconduct within the company, particularly under Mark Zuckerberg, Sheryl Sandberg, and Joel Kaplan. The book highlights Facebook's involvement in the 2016 U.S. election, its role in the Myanmar crisis, and its controversial push into China. ([Click here to read article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

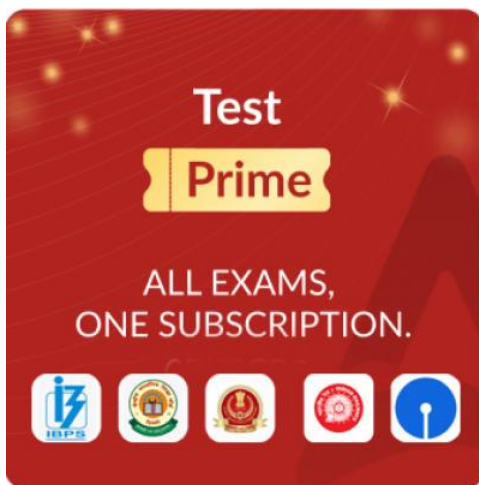
- The **Indian government** is launching the **"One State, One RRB"** policy to enhance **operational efficiency** and reduce competition by consolidating the existing **43 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** into **28**. This move aims to improve **credit flow** and service delivery, particularly in **rural areas**, by merging smaller, less efficient banks. The consolidation builds on previous efforts that reduced the number of RRBs from **196 to 43**, with states like **Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal** most affected by the restructuring. The policy focuses on **cost rationalisation** and strengthening the **financial and operational frameworks** of RRBs. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has launched its official and **verified WhatsApp channel** as part of the **'RBI Kehta Hai'** campaign to promote **financial literacy, digital safety, and fraud prevention**. This initiative delivers **real-time financial updates**, enhances **digital trust**, and ensures **inclusive outreach** by tapping into **WhatsApp's vast user base**, especially in **rural and remote areas**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** authorized **NPCI** to revise **UPI Person-to-Merchant (P2M) transaction limits**, allowing **greater flexibility** for **evolving user needs** and **merchant use cases**, while keeping the **P2P limit unchanged at ₹1 lakh**. Banks can set internal limits within NPCI's range, with exceptions for **P2M transactions** in sectors like **education, healthcare, and credit card bill payments**, now permitted up to **₹2–5 lakh**. The move supports **fintech innovation** and **digital payment adoption**, with **risk safeguards** in place. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Juspay**, a Bengaluru-based **payments infrastructure provider**, became India's first **unicorn of 2025** after raising **\$60 million** in a **Series D funding round**, led by **Kedaara Capital**, with participation from **SoftBank** and **Accel**. This funding pushed Juspay's valuation past the **\$1 billion** mark. The company plans to enhance its technology through **AI** and expand into international markets, including **APAC, Latin America, Europe, UK, and North America**. Despite facing challenges like the **loss of major clients** such as **Razorpay** and **PhonePe**, Juspay aims to focus on **AI-led productivity** and **global expansion** to maintain growth momentum. ([Click here to read article](#))

- In April 2025, several significant announcements were made in India's banking sector. **Bandhan Bank** launched the **Elite Plus Savings Account** for **High Net-worth Individuals (HNIs)**, offering benefits like **unlimited cash deposits** and **enhanced insurance coverage**. **Bank of Baroda** introduced the **bob Square Drive Deposit Scheme**, providing attractive **interest rates (up to 7.80% p.a.)** for **senior citizens** and **general customers**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **BlackRock**, along with other US and European investors, participated in a **\$750 million private bond issue** by the **Adani Group** to fund **Renew Exim's acquisition** of **ITD Cementation**. This marks a cautious return of investor confidence despite ongoing legal challenges, including a **\$256 million bribery case** involving **Gautam Adani**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's economy shows **resilient growth** amid global uncertainties, with the **Asian Development Outlook (ADO) April 2025** projecting **GDP growth of 6.7% in FY2025** and **6.8% in FY2026**, fueled by **strong domestic demand**, **rising rural incomes**, and **moderating inflation**. The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** attributes this momentum to **supportive fiscal and monetary policies**, while the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has revised its **FY2025 forecast to 6.5%**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Razorpay**, in collaboration with **NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL)** and **Axis Bank**, has launched the **Turbo UPI Plugin** on the **BHIM Vega** platform on **April 9, 2025**. This innovation enables **in-app UPI payments** without external **redirection**, ensuring **faster, safer, and more reliable** transactions. By eliminating the need to switch apps, it aims to **reduce payment failures, boost conversion rates, and set a new benchmark** for digital payments in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **IIP growth** slowed to **2.9% in February 2025**, marking the **lowest pace in six months**, due to weak performance in **mining (+1.6%), manufacturing (+2.9%), and electricity (+3.6%)**, coupled with a **high base effect**. While most **use-based sectors** showed reduced output, **capital goods** stood out with a robust **8.2% growth**. In contrast, **consumer non-durables** declined by **-2.1%**, and **month-on-month momentum** dropped across all segments after a **5-month positive streak**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- **Equitas Small Finance Bank**, India's second-largest SFB, has appointed **Balaji Nuthalapadi** as **Executive Director – Technology and Operations**, effective **29 March 2025**, with approvals from the **RBI** and the **Bank's Board**. A seasoned leader with **20+ years of experience** in **operations, digital banking, and wealth management**, Balaji previously served as **MD at Citi Bank**, leading a **1,100-member global controls testing team** and overseeing **Operations and Technology for South Asia**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Supreme Court collegium** has recommended **Justice Arun Palli** as the next **Chief Justice** of the **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh High Court**, following the retirement of **Chief Justice Tashi Rabtan** on **April 9, 2025**. Justice Palli, a senior judge from the **Punjab and Haryana High Court**, brings extensive experience in **civil, criminal, constitutional, industrial, and labor laws**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Satish Chavva** has been appointed as the **CEO** of the **Oman India Joint Investment Fund (OIJIF)** on **April 8, 2025**. With over **20 years** of experience in **private equity** and **finance**, Chavva is set to lead the fund in enhancing **portfolio performance** and driving **sustainable growth** in **India**. OIJIF is a **private equity fund** jointly promoted by the **Oman Investment Authority (OIA)** and the **State Bank of India (SBI)**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** has appointed **Viral Davda** as its new **Deputy Chief Information Officer (CIO)** to drive **technological advancements** and strengthen its **IT infrastructure**. With over **20 years** of experience, including as **CTO at NCDEX**, Davda has led **key digital projects** like hybrid cloud transitions and was honored as **CTO of the Year** in 2022. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Dr. Mohan Rajan**, Chairman and Medical Director of **Rajan Eye Care Hospital**, has been elected **Vice-President** of the **All India Ophthalmological Society (AIOS)**, which represents over **29,000 ophthalmologists** across India. Announced on **April 5, 2025**, at the **Asia Pacific Academy Congress** in **New Delhi**, Dr. Rajan is the **fifth ophthalmologist from Tamil Nadu** to hold this position in AIOS's 84-year history. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Dr. Neelam Dhungana Timsina**, Senior Deputy Governor of **Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB)**, was appointed as the **Acting Governor** following the completion of **Maha Prasad Adhikari's** five-year term on **April 6, 2025**. The appointment was made by the **Ministry of Finance**, led by **Deputy Prime Minister Bishnu Prasad Paudel**, under the **Nepal Rastra Bank Act**. ([Click here to read article](#))



Defence News

- India has approved a **₹63,000 crore (\$7+ billion)** deal with **France** for **26 Rafale Marine fighter jets** under a **Government-to-Government (G2G)** agreement, enhancing **naval aviation** and **carrier-based air power** on **INS Vikrant**. Cleared by the **Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)**, the deal includes **22 single-seaters, 4 twin-seater trainer jets**, along with **fleet maintenance, weapon systems, training, and offset obligations** to boost **indigenous manufacturing** and the **defense ecosystem**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully conducted trials of the **Gaurav Long-Range Glide Bomb (LRGB)** from **April 8–10, 2025**, using the **Su-30 MKI** aircraft. The **1,000 kg bomb** demonstrated **pin-point accuracy** at a range of **approximately 100 km**, marking a significant stride in **India's indigenous air-launched weapon systems**. Developed by **RCI, ARDE, and ITR Chandipur**, with support from **CEMILAC and DGAQA**, Gaurav was tested in multiple warhead configurations against land targets. ([Click here to read article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- **Sudarsan Pattnaik** made history by winning the inaugural **Fred Darrington Award for Excellence in Art and Culture** for his **Lord Ganesha sand sculpture**, which conveys the message of **"World Peace"**. The sculpture, standing **10 feet tall**, is on display at **SandWorld** in **Weymouth, Dorset**, until **November 2025**. Pattnaik, a **Padma Shri** awardee, is the first Indian sculptor to exhibit at SandWorld. The award, launched to mark **100 years** since **Fred Darrington's** first sand sculpture in 1925, includes a **gold medal** with Darrington's caricature and a **glass wave** containing sand from Pattnaik's sculpture. ([Click here to read article](#))
- President **Droupadi Murmu's** visit to **Portugal** on **April 7, 2025**, marked **50 years** of **India-Portugal bilateral relations**, strengthening ties in **culture, technology, and knowledge-based economies**. She was honored with the **'City Key of Honour'** by the **Mayor of Lisbon**, appreciating the city's **cultural diversity, tolerance, and innovation**, and attended a **state banquet** hosted by President **Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa**, highlighting the **strategic partnership** between the two nations. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Rajesh Unni**, founder of **Synergy Marine Group**, was honored with India's highest maritime recognition, the **National Maritime Varuna Award**, during the **62nd National Maritime Day** celebrations in **Mumbai**. The award, presented by the **Directorate General of Shipping (DGS)**, acknowledges individuals for their extraordinary contributions to the **maritime sector**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Uttar Pradesh Police's Investigation, Prosecution and Conviction Portal** won the prestigious **SKOCH Award** in the "Police & Safety" category on April 9, 2025, recognizing its role in modernizing law enforcement through **digital infrastructure**. Developed by the **Technical Services Unit**, the portal enhances the tracking of **serious crimes** like **mafia-related offenses, POCSO, and rape**, ensuring faster **investigations, timely chargesheet filings, and improved court trial efficiency**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences** has announced the introduction of a **Best Stunt Design** category starting with the **100th Oscars in 2028**. This historic decision recognizes the crucial contributions of **stunt professionals** in filmmaking, following years of advocacy by industry figures. It marks a significant milestone in cinema history, acknowledging **stunt work** as an essential aspect of modern filmmaking that has long been overlooked in traditional awards categories. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **2025 Breakthrough Prizes**, dubbed the "Oscars of Science", honored pioneering achievements in **Life Sciences, Fundamental Physics, and Mathematics** at a star-studded ceremony in **Santa Monica on April 5, 2025**. Key highlights included recognition for the discovery of **GLP-1 hormone** enabling **Ozempic & Wegovy** (Daniel J. Drucker & team), breakthroughs in **Multiple Sclerosis** treatment (Alberto Ascherio & Stephen L. Hauser), and advances in **gene-editing** by **David R. Liu**. In **Physics**, over **13,500 scientists** from **CERN's LHC collaborations (ATLAS, CMS, ALICE, LHCb)** were awarded for deepening our understanding of the **Higgs boson** and fundamental forces. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Dr. Ambrish Mithal**, a renowned Indian **endocrinologist**, has been awarded the **2025 IOF CSA Medal of Achievement** at the **WCO-IOF-ESCEO Congress in Rome** for his exceptional work in **osteoporosis research**. Known for launching **India's first bone density measurement service** in 1996, he has significantly advanced awareness and treatment of **bone and mineral disorders**, led key **IOF initiatives**, and shaped **global vitamin D guidelines**. Already a **Padma Bhushan awardee (2015)**, Dr. Mithal continues to champion the fight against **fragility fractures** in India's aging population. ([Click here to read article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- India has been appointed to the **United Nations Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR)** for the **2025–2027 term**, marking a significant step in shaping global **financial reporting frameworks**. This appointment underscores India's growing influence and trust in its capabilities, particularly in enhancing **transparency, accountability, and corporate governance**. As a member of **ISAR**, India will contribute to the development of international standards for **financial and non-financial reporting**, including areas like **corporate**

social responsibility, environmental issues, and governance, under the umbrella of **UNCTAD**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Brazil** has proposed the creation of a **Global Climate Action Council** under the **UNFCCC** to enhance global coordination and accelerate **climate action**, ahead of **COP30 in Belem, Brazil (November 2025)**. Aimed at simplifying complex climate negotiations, the proposal seeks to boost effective decision-making. While it has received **mixed international reactions**, it highlights Brazil's proactive role in addressing the **climate crisis**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **9th Global Technology Summit (GTS) 2025**, co-hosted by the **Ministry of External Affairs and Carnegie India**, will be held in **New Delhi from April 10-12** with the theme "**Sambhavna**" (**Possibilities**). The summit will explore how **emerging technologies** can drive **inclusive growth, digital governance, and global cooperation**, featuring **150+ speakers from 40+ countries**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Hyderabad City Security Council (HCSC)** is set to host the **second edition of the STREE Summit on April 15, 2025**, focusing on **women's safety, security, and empowerment**. Supported by **HCSC Chairperson C.V. Anand**, the summit will bring together professionals, advocates, and experts to address the challenges women face and develop **actionable solutions**. The event aims to foster **collaboration**, promote **gender equality**, and provide a platform for sharing **practical strategies** to enhance women's safety. ([Click here to read article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- India ranks **10th globally** with a **private AI investment of Rs. 11,943 crore (US\$ 1.4 billion)** in 2023, marking significant progress in the global AI landscape. It improved its position in the **UNCTAD 'Readiness for Frontier Technologies' Index**, moving from 48th in 2022 to 36th in 2024. India faces competition from nations like **Germany in wind energy, Japan in electric vehicles, and South Korea in 5G**. With 13 million **software developers**, India is a leader in **AI research and nanotechnology**, but to maintain its position, continued investment in **R&D and workforce skill development** is essential. The **economic impact** of AI is projected at **Rs. 4,09,48,800 crore (US\$ 4.8 trillion)** by 2033. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **April 7, 2025**, **MeitY**, through **CERT-In**, along with **CSIRT-Fin and SISA**, released the **Digital Threat Report 2024** for the **BFSI sector**, offering a deep analysis of **cyber threats** and a roadmap for **cybersecurity resilience**. Launched by top officials from **DFS, MeitY, and SISA**, the report highlights the risks from **AI-driven attacks, expanded digital attack surfaces, and compliance challenges**. It emphasizes a **unified cybersecurity strategy** and recommends measures across **People, Process, and Technology**, aiming to **anticipate threats, strengthen defenses, and build a secure digital economy** through **collaborative intelligence-sharing**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** has released the inaugural **Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI)** baseline report for **FY 2022–23**, offering a **data-driven framework** to assess the performance of **2.5 lakh+ Gram Panchayats (GPs)** across **nine Localized Sustainable Development Goal (LSDG) themes**. With **2,16,285 GPs** having **validated data**, the PAI promotes **evidence-based planning, inclusive governance, and accountability** at the grassroots. GPs were categorized as **Front Runners, Performers, Aspirants, and Beginners**, with **no Achievers** in this round. **Gujarat (346)** and **Telangana (270)** topped in **Front Runner GPs**, while **Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Andhra Pradesh** had the highest share of **Aspirants**, signaling areas for improvement in rural governance. ([Click here to read article](#))

Sports News

- India made a historic debut at the **2025 World Boxing Cup** in **Foz Do Iguacu, Brazil**, with **Hitesh Gulia** becoming the first-ever Indian boxer to win a **gold medal**. His victory came after his opponent, **Odel Kamara** from England, withdrew due to an injury. **Abhinash Jamwal** secured a **silver medal** in the 65kg category, while **Jadumani Singh Mandengbam, Manish Rathore, Sachin, and Vishal** each won **bronze medals**. India finished with a total of six medals, marking a strong performance in their first participation at the **World Boxing Cup**, providing a significant boost ahead of the **2028 Olympics**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Max Verstappen** won his first race of the **2025 Formula 1** season at the **Japanese Grand Prix**, securing his **fourth consecutive win**. After a close battle with **McLaren's Lando Norris** and **Oscar Piastri**, Verstappen held onto the lead, aided by strategic pit stops and tire choices. He edged out Norris by just **0.012 seconds** in qualifying for **pole position**. This race was also significant for **Red Bull**, marking their last race with **Honda power**. **Verstappen** extended his lead in the standings, now just **one point ahead of Norris**. Other notable finishes included **Charles Leclerc (Ferrari)** in **fourth** and **George Russell (Mercedes)** in **fifth**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Virat Kohli** made history by becoming the **first Indian cricketer to score 13,000 runs in T20 cricket** during an **IPL 2025** clash between **RCB and MI** at **Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai**. At **36**, the RCB icon became the **fifth player globally** and the **second-fastest ever** to reach this milestone, reinforcing his legendary status in the **shortest format** of the game. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **United Kingdom** is set to host the **2035 FIFA Women's World Cup**, being the **only valid bidder**, as confirmed by **FIFA President Gianni Infantino**. The **joint bid** by **England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland** positions the UK to host its **first women's World Cup**, with **Wembley Stadium** likely to stage the final. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Cricket** is set to make a **historic return to the Olympic Games at Los Angeles 2028**, as confirmed by the **IOC on April 9, 2025**, after a gap of **128 years** since its last appearance in the **1900 Paris Olympics**. The event will feature **T20 format matches with 6 teams each for men and women**, a total **athlete quota of 90 per gender** (15 players per team). Alongside cricket, other newly added sports include **Baseball/Softball, Flag Football, Lacrosse (Sixes), and Squash**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Virat Kohli** created **IPL history** by becoming the **first-ever player** to hit a combined total of **1000 boundaries** (721 **fours** and 279 **sixes**) during the **RCB vs DC match at M Chinnaswamy Stadium** in the **2025 season**. Despite this **historic milestone**, **Royal Challengers Bengaluru** suffered a home defeat to a dominant **Delhi Capitals** side led by **KL Rahul and Tristan Stubbs**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- James Anderson**, England's **legendary fast bowler**, was awarded a **knighthood** on **April 11, 2025**, in **Rishi Sunak's resignation honours** for his **services to cricket**. He retired in **2024** with **704 Test wickets**, the **highest by any England bowler and seamer**, ranking **3rd all-time** behind **Muralitharan and Warne**. Anderson played **188 Tests** and took **991 international wickets**, also winning **four Ashes**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- On **April 5, 2025**, **Delhi** became the 35th state or Union Territory to implement the **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)**, providing **healthcare coverage** to economically disadvantaged residents. Chief Minister **Rekha Gupta** hailed the move as historic, while Health Minister **Pankaj Kumar Singh** criticized the previous government's delays, announcing that **registrations** would begin on **April 10, 2025**. The scheme, already operational in 34 states, covers **50 crore people** and includes **36 lakh frontline workers**. An **MoU** between the **National Health Authority (NHA)** and the Delhi government formalized the implementation. ([Click here to read article](#))



- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, has approved the **Modernization of Command Area Development and Water Management (M-CADWM)** sub-scheme under the **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)** with a total outlay of **₹1,600 crore** for **2025–2026**. Aimed at **enhancing irrigation infrastructure**, the scheme focuses on **modernizing water supply networks, improving water-use efficiency**, and promoting **micro-irrigation** through **pressurized underground piping systems**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Science and Technology News

- On **April 6, 2025**, **Meta**, led by CEO **Mark Zuckerberg**, launched its **next-gen Llama-4 AI suite**, featuring three cutting-edge models — **Scout** (a top-tier **multimodal model**), **Maverick** (Meta's **flagship AI assistant**), and **Behemoth** (its **most powerful LLM**, designed as a **teacher model**). This strategic move intensifies Meta's position in the **global AI race**, directly challenging **OpenAI's ChatGPT**, **Google's Gemini**, and rising players like **China's DeepSeek**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Bangladesh** became the **54th** country to sign the **Artemis Accords**, promoting **peaceful, sustainable, and transparent space exploration**. The signing, led by **Ashraf Uddin**, Bangladesh's **Secretary of Defense**, emphasizes the country's commitment to **safe space exploration** and **international collaboration**. The **Artemis Accords**, based on frameworks like the **Outer Space Treaty**, guide nations in **cooperative space activities**, with **NASA's Artemis program** aiming to return humans to the **Moon** and explore **Mars**. Bangladesh's participation enhances its role in **space exploration**, fostering ties with spacefaring nations and **NASA**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's first **Agentic AI Hackathon**, organized by **Techvantage.ai** in collaboration with **CrewAI**, concluded during **Agentic AI Week** with over **1,500 participants** nationwide. Held across multiple cities and culminating at **Technopark, Kerala**, the month-long event focused on **autonomous AI solutions** for the **BFSI sector**, tackling challenges like **fraud detection, credit scoring, and regulatory compliance**, marking a major leap in India's **AI innovation ecosystem**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- A new international study published in *Ecology and Evolution* has found that **black rats (Rattus rattus)** are the **sole carriers of hantavirus** in rural areas near **Marojejy National Park, Madagascar**. Nearly **2,000 animals** were tested, but only **black rats, especially older and larger ones**, tested positive, with infections mainly occurring in **farmlands**, not homes or rainforests. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Colossal Biosciences**, a biotech firm based in **Dallas**, has made history by **reviving the extinct dire wolf (Canis dirus)** after 12,500 years using **CRISPR gene-editing** and DNA from ancient fossils. Three **dire wolf puppies—Romulus, Remus, and Khaleesi**—were born using **gray wolf cells** and **domestic dog surrogates**. Though hailed as a major **de-extinction milestone**, the breakthrough faces **ecological and ethical concerns** over authenticity and modern adaptability. ([Click here to read article](#))

Important Days News

- World Health Day 2025**, observed globally on **April 7**, commemorates the **founding of the WHO in 1948** and focuses on the theme "**Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures**." This year's theme highlights the urgent need to improve **maternal and newborn health**, launching a **year-long WHO campaign** aimed at reducing **preventable deaths** and enhancing **health outcomes for women and infants**, while raising awareness on **global health issues** and promoting **international action and policy change**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide** against the Tutsi in **Rwanda** is observed annually on **April 7th**, commemorating the **systematic murder** of over **1 million Tutsi**, alongside **moderate Hutu** and others, by the extremist **Hutu-led government**. Established by the **UN General Assembly in 2003**, the day serves to honor the victims, reflect on the **horrific events**, and educate the world on the **causes and impact of genocides**. **UNESCO** plays a key role in promoting education to prevent such atrocities in the future and raise awareness about the consequences of **hatred, discrimination, and violence**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP)**, celebrated annually on **April 6th**, highlights sport's potential in fostering **social change, peace, and equality**. The **2025 theme**, "Leveling the Playing Field: Sport for Social Inclusion," focuses on using sport to address challenges like **gender, racial equality, and marginalized groups**. The **UN** will host a major event in New York, emphasizing **gender equality, healthy aging, and racial equality** in sport. The **Olympism365 strategy** by the **IOC** supports **550 social impact programmes** worldwide, advancing the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** through sport. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Mahavir Jayanti**, celebrated on **April 10, 2025**, marks the **2623rd birth anniversary of Lord Mahavir**, the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism. The festival, observed with **devotion**, highlights key Jain principles such as **Ahimsa** (non-violence), **Satya** (truth), **Asteya** (non-stealing), **Brahmacharya** (celibacy), and **Aparigraha** (non-attachment). Lord Mahavir, born as **Vardhamana** in **599 BC** in **Kundalagrama** (modern-day **Vaishali**), renounced his kingdom at 30 and attained **Kevala Jnana** (supreme knowledge) after 12 years of penance. He passed away in **527 BC**, achieving **Moksha**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **World Homeopathy Day** is celebrated annually on **April 10th** to honor the birth of **Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann**, the founder of **homeopathy**. This day promotes awareness of homeopathy's contributions to **holistic healthcare**, emphasizing its principle of "like cures like," where diluted substances from **plants, minerals, and animals** are used to treat illnesses. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **National Safe Motherhood Day**, observed on **April 11** in India, marks the birth anniversary of **Kasturba Gandhi** and highlights the importance of **maternal healthcare**. Initiated by the **White Ribbon Alliance India (WRAI)** in **2003**, the day focuses on raising **awareness** about **maternal health, reproductive rights**, and promoting **quality healthcare** for **pregnant and lactating women**. The **2025 theme**, "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures," emphasizes ensuring safe outcomes for both **mother and baby**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Parkinson's Day**, observed annually on **April 11**, raises global awareness about **Parkinson's Disease**, a **progressive neurodegenerative disorder** affecting over **10 million people worldwide**, including nearly **1 million in India**. Established in **1997** by **Parkinson's Europe** and the **WHO**, the day honors **Dr. James Parkinson**, who first described the condition in **1817**. ([Click here to read article](#))

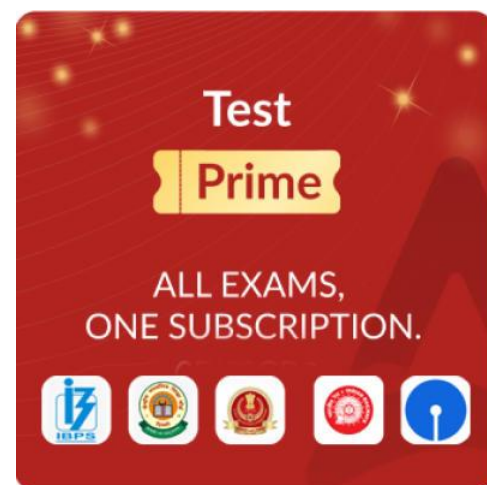
Obituaries News

- **Padma Shri Ram Sahay Pandey**, a legendary exponent of **Rai folk dance**, passed away at the age of **92** in **Sagar, Madhya Pradesh**. Despite facing **poverty, orphanhood, and caste-based taboos**, Pandey dedicated his life to revitalizing and promoting Rai dance, transforming it from a stigmatized art form into a celebrated cultural symbol. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Dadi Ratan Mohini**, born **Lakshmi** on **March 25, 1925** in **Hyderabad, Sindh** (now in Pakistan), passed away at age **100** on **April 8, 2025** in **Ahmedabad**. As the **Chief Administrator** of the **Brahma Kumaris** since **2021**, she succeeded **Dadi Janki** after her passing in **2020**. A **global spiritual leader**, Dadi Ratan Mohini represented the Brahma Kumaris at the **World Peace Conference** in **1954** and traveled extensively to promote **peace, values**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Daripalli Ramaiah**, also known as "**Vanajeevi**" or "**Chettu Ramaiah**", was a renowned environmentalist from **Telangana** who passed away at **87**. He was celebrated for planting over **1 crore saplings** in **Khammam district**, earning him the **Padma Shri** in **2017**. Ramaiah believed that **human**

survival depends on nature, and his grassroots efforts inspired widespread societal engagement in environmental conservation. ([Click here to read article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- West Bengal has achieved a milestone by securing **Geographical Indication (GI)** tags for **seven new products**, including the iconic **Nolen Gurer Sandesh** and **Baruipur guavas**. These GI tags will provide global recognition to traditional items, boosting the local economy and enhancing the state's cultural identity. The tagged products span food items like **Kamarpukur's White 'Bonde'**, **Murshidabad's 'Chhanabora'**, and **Bishnupur's 'Motichur Laddoo'**, as well as agricultural products like **Radhunipagal Rice** and **Malda's Nistari Silk Yarn**. This recognition safeguards traditional products and opens up new market opportunities, though challenges like the short shelf life of sweets remain. West Bengal now boasts **33 GI-tagged items**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (DDLJ)*, the iconic **1995** romantic film, will be commemorated with a **bronze statue** of **Shah Rukh Khan** and **Kajol** at **Leicester Square, London**, in **Spring 2025**. The statue, inspired by a memorable scene from the film, will be placed outside the **Odeon Cinema**, a location featured in the movie. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Government of India** has granted **Geographical Indication (GI)** tags to **Ryndia Silk** and **Khasi Handloom** from **Meghalaya**, enhancing their **cultural identity, legal protection, and marketability**. **Ryndia Silk**, known for being **hand-spun, naturally dyed, and organically produced**, is linked to **Umden-Diwon**, Meghalaya's first **Eri Silk Village**. **Khasi Handloom** reflects the **Khasi community's** traditional weaving with **natural dyes**. ([Click here to read article](#))



Static Takeaways

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
Organizations		
1	Equitas Small Finance Bank	MD/CEO - P. N. Vasudevan
2	RBI	Governor - Sanjay Malhotra
3	Asian Development Bank	President - Masato Kanda HQ - Mandaluyong, Manila, Philippines
4	Bombay Stock Exchange	CEO - Sundararaman Ramamurthy
5	Juspay	Founder - Vimal Kumar
6	Razorpay	CEO - Harshil Mathur
7	Adani Group	Chairman - Gautam Adani
Countries		
8	USA	President - Donald Trump Capital - Washington D.C. Currency - US Dollar
9	China	President - Xi Jinping Capital - Beijing Currency - Yuan
10	Sierra Leone	President - Julius Maada Wonie Capital - Freetown Currency - Sierra Leonean Leone
11	Japan	PM - Shigeru Ishiba Capital - Tokyo Currency - Yen
12	Saudi Arabia	President - MBS (Mohammed Bin Salman) Capital - Riyadh Currency - Saudi Riyal
13	Slovakia	President - Peter Pellegrini Capital - Bratislava Currency - Euro
14	Portugal	PM - Mr. Luis Montenegro Capital - Lisbon Currency - Euro
15	Brazil	President - Capital - Currency -
16	Mauritius	PM - Navin Ramgoolam Capital - Port Louis Currency - Mauritian Rupee
17	Kazakhstan	President - Kassym Jomart Tokayev Capital - Astana Currency - Tenge
Indian States		
18	Odisha	Governor - Kambhupati Hari Babu CM - Mohan Charan Majhi Capital - Bhubneshwar
19	Tamil Nadu	Governor - Ravi CM - Stalin M. K. Capital - Chennai
20	Meghalaya	Governor - Vijyashankar CM - Conrad Sangma Capital - Shillong

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
21	Uttar Pradesh	Governor - Anandiben Patel CM - Yogi Adityanath Capital - Lucknow
22	West Bengal	Governor - Ananda Bose CM - Mamata Banerjee Capital - Kolkata
23	Delhi	L. Governor - Vinai Saxena CM - Rekha Gupta Capital - New Delhi
24	Kerala	Governor - R. Arlekar CM - Pinarayi Vijayan Capital - Thiruvananthpuram
25	Haryana	Governor - Bandaru Dattatreya CM - Nayaba Singh Saini Capital - Chandigarh
26	Gujarat	Governor - Acharya Devvrat CM - Bhupendra Patel Capital - Gandhinagar
27	Uttarakhand	Governor - Gurmit Singh CM - Pushkar Dhama Capital - Dehradun

