

Weekly One Liners 5th to 11th May, 2025

Operation Sindoor: India Strikes Back in Pakistan and PoK

In a significant military development, the **Indian Armed Forces** on **Wednesday** launched '**Operation Sindoor**', a series of **precision strikes** on **terrorist camps** located in **Pakistan** and **Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK)**. The operation comes in the wake of the **Pahalgam terror attack**, which claimed the lives of **25 Indian nationals** and **one Nepali citizen**, triggering widespread outrage and demands for decisive action.

Nine Terror Sites Targeted: Precision and Restraint Emphasized

According to a formal release by the **Press Information Bureau (PIB)**, the strikes targeted a total of **nine locations** believed to house **active terrorist infrastructure** involved in **planning and executing attacks against India**. These include:

- A former **Lashkar-e-Taiba** base near **Muzaffarabad** in **PoK**
- A **Jaish-e-Mohammad-linked** seminary in **Bahawalpur**, **Punjab Province**
- A **key infiltration hub** in **Kotli**, **PoK**

The Indian government emphasized that **no Pakistani military installations were targeted**, and that the strikes were **measured, focused, and non-escalatory** in nature.

Objective: Neutralize Terror Infrastructure and Re-establish Deterrence

Restoring Strategic Deterrence Post-Balakot

Sources close to the Indian security establishment said that '**Operation Sindoor**' is part of a broader strategy to **restore deterrence** that has been gradually **eroded since the 2019 Balakot air strikes**. A senior official stated that recent events made it evident that Pakistan-based terror groups had **recalibrated their activities**, believing India's **threshold for response** had lowered.

The **barbaric attack in Pahalgam** served as a flashpoint. The attack, attributed to **The Resistance Force (TRF)**—a **proxy group of Lashkar-e-Taiba**—claimed **26 lives**, including **pilgrims and local civilians**, and provoked immediate calls for action from the Indian public and leadership.

Top-Level Military Coordination and Strategic Planning

Prime Minister Modi Leads Consultations with Defence Chiefs
The operation was launched following **days of high-level meetings** between **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, **National Security Advisor Ajit Doval**, and the **top brass of the Indian Armed Forces**, including:

- **Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi**
- **Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal A P Singh**
- **Defence Secretary R K Singh**

These meetings focused on reviewing **retaliatory options, combat readiness, and intelligence assessments**. The **Army** had already reinforced **forward positions** along the **Line of Control (LoC)** in anticipation of **possible Pakistani retaliation**.

Ground-Level Execution and Strategic Messaging

No Escalation—Only Accountability

Military officials have clarified that the operation was not intended to provoke a **broader military confrontation**, but to **send an unambiguous message** to terror networks and their sponsors.

Air and Ground Coordination Involved

Unconfirmed reports from **Reuters** and the **New York Times** suggest that **Indian Air Force jets** were seen over **PoK**, and **multiple explosions** were heard near **Muzaffarabad** and **Kotli**. These areas have long been known as **hubs of terrorist activity**, protected under Pakistan's strategic depth doctrine.

Pakistan's Response: Vows to Retaliate

In its first official response, the **Pakistan military**, speaking through broadcaster **ARY**, confirmed that India had launched **missile attacks at three separate locations** and warned that **Pakistan would respond at a time and place of its choosing**. No casualties or damage reports have been officially released by Islamabad yet.

Public and Political Reaction in India

The strikes have been met with **approval and relief** across much of India, particularly from families of the **Pahalgam victims** and from security analysts who have long advocated for a **proactive doctrine against state-sponsored terror**.

Political leaders across party lines have commended the **Indian Armed Forces** and **Prime Minister Modi's leadership**. Social media has seen a surge of support under hashtags like **#OperationSindoor**, **#JusticeForPahalgam**, and **#IndiaStrikesBack**.

What Lies Ahead: Strategic Calculations Continue

A more detailed **briefing on Operation Sindoor** is expected later in the day, where the **Ministry of Defence** and **Ministry of External Affairs** will likely address operational outcomes, regional implications, and diplomatic messaging.



Maintaining Vigilance

Indian forces remain on **high alert** along the **western front**, with increased **surveillance operations** and **cross-border intelligence gathering**. Analysts caution that while the operation is a significant tactical success, it may trigger **short-term escalation** in the region.

India Set to Become 4th Largest Economy in 2025, Says IMF

India is projected to become the world's fourth largest economy in 2025, overtaking Japan, according to the April 2025 Outlook released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The IMF estimates India's GDP to reach \$4.187 trillion, slightly ahead of Japan's \$4.186 trillion, placing India behind only the U.S., China, and Germany. This projection highlights the country's rising economic trajectory and robust growth momentum driven by consumption and investment.

Why in News?

The IMF's April 2025 World Economic Outlook has brought India into the global spotlight by forecasting its rise to the fourth largest economy by nominal GDP. This achievement is a significant milestone in India's ambition to reach the \$5 trillion economy mark by 2027 and reflects sustained economic performance in a challenging global environment.

Key Projections by IM

- **India's GDP (2025):** \$4,187.02 billion
- **Japan's GDP (2025):** \$4,186.43 billion
- **India's Rank:** 4th Largest Economy
- **Growth Rate (2025):** 6.2%
- **Growth Rate (2026):** 6.3%
- **Projected GDP (2027):** \$5 trillion
- **Projected GDP (2030):** \$6.8 trillion

Static Background

- **IMF (International Monetary Fund):** A global financial body headquartered in Washington D.C., tasked with promoting international monetary cooperation and financial stability.

Current Top Economies (2025 Projections)

- **USA:** \$30.5 trillion
- **China:** \$19.2 trillion
- **Germany:** \$4.74 trillion
- **India:** \$4.19 trillion (projected)
- **Japan:** \$4.18 trillion (projected)

Highlights & Significance

- **Strong Economic Fundamentals:** India's growth is supported by rural consumption, private investment, and resilient services.

Comparison with Major Economies (2025)

- **China:** 4%
- **USA:** 1.8%
- **Japan:** 0.6%
- **UK:** 1.1%
- **India:** 6.2% — highest among major economies
- **Ambition Realization:** Reinforces India's aim to emerge as a global economic powerhouse.

Pulitzer Prize 2025: Full List of Journalism Winners

The **Pulitzer Prizes 2025**, among the most prestigious recognitions in journalism and the arts, were announced this week by the **Pulitzer Prize Board**. These awards honor outstanding contributions across various fields, especially journalism, and highlight the most impactful stories shaping public discourse worldwide.

This year, **The New York Times** emerged as the top winner, securing **four major awards**, while **The Washington Post**, **The Wall Street Journal**, **Reuters**, and **The New Yorker** also earned notable accolades for their **investigative depth**, **breaking news coverage**, and **narrative storytelling**.

Pulitzer Prizes 2025: Complete List of Journalism Winners

- **Public Service:** Kavitha Surana, Lizzie Presser, Cassandra Jaramillo & Stacy Kranitz
- **Breaking News Reporting:** The Washington Post staff
- **Investigative Reporting:** Reuters staff – "Fentanyl Express"
- **Explanatory Reporting:** Azam Ahmed, Christina Goldbaum & Matthieu Aikins (NYT)
- **Local Reporting:** Alissa Zhu, Nick Thieme & Jessica Gallagher (Baltimore Banner & NYT)
- **National Reporting:** The Wall Street Journal staff – Elon Musk investigation
- **International Reporting:** Declan Walsh & NYT staff – Sudan conflict
- **Feature Writing:** Mark Warren (Esquire)
- **Commentary:** Mosab Abu Toha (The New Yorker)
- **Criticism:** Alexandra Lange (Bloomberg CityLab)
- **Editorial Writing:** Raj Mankad & team (Houston Chronicle)
- **Illustrated Reporting:** Ann Telnaes (Washington Post)
- **Breaking News Photography:** Doug Mills (NYT) – Trump assassination attempt
- **Feature Photography:** Moises Saman (The New Yorker) – Syria prison
- **Audio Reporting:** The New Yorker staff – "In the Dark" podcast

The New York Times Wins Four Pulitzer Prizes

The **New York Times (NYT)** led the field with **four Pulitzer Prize wins** in 2025. Among the highlights was an award for **Breaking News Photography**, credited to veteran photojournalist **Doug Mills**.

Doug Mills Captures a Defining Moment

Doug Mills won for his dramatic image capturing the **assassination attempt on Donald Trump** during a campaign event on **July 13, 2024**, in **Butler, Pennsylvania**. The photograph showed the bullet missing Trump by inches as he stood at the podium, an image that stunned the world.

Apart from this, the NYT was honored for its **international and national coverage**, including its extensive reporting on the **Gaza conflict**. The details of the remaining three awards were not fully disclosed in the initial announcement but reflect the paper's **broad editorial strength**.

The Washington Post Recognized for Breaking News Reporting
The **Washington Post** staff received the **Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Reporting** for their **comprehensive and swift coverage** of the **Trump assassination attempt**. Judges praised the work for its use of **audio and visual forensics**, combining speed with **accuracy and clarity** in a high-stakes situation.

Wall Street Journal Wins for Investigating Elon Musk

In the **National Reporting** category, the **Wall Street Journal** stood out with its deep dive into **Elon Musk's personal and professional life**. The reporting explored:

- Musk's **business operations**
- His **alleged drug use**
- **Political realignment**, including his **close ties to Donald Trump**

This coverage shed light on one of the most **influential and controversial** figures of the modern tech world.

Reuters Awarded for Fentanyl Crisis Investigation

Reuters received the **Pulitzer for Investigative Reporting** for its explosive series titled **"Fentanyl Express."** This seven-part investigation exposed how:

- **Precursor chemicals** used to manufacture fentanyl could be legally purchased for as little as **\$3,600**
- That amount could produce **\$3 million worth** of drugs
- Weak **international regulations** are fueling the opioid crisis in the United States

The New Yorker Secures Three Prizes Across Categories

The **New Yorker** once again solidified its reputation in **narrative journalism**, taking home **three Pulitzer Prizes**:

- **Commentary**: Awarded to **Mosab Abu Toha** for essays on the **human toll of the Gaza war**
- **Feature Photography**: Given to **Moises Saman** for black-and-white images from inside **Syria's Sednaya prison**
- **Audio Reporting**: For the podcast **"In the Dark,"** focusing on **military secrecy** and institutional failures

Other Major Winners in Journalism

- **Public Service**: **Kavitha Surana**, **Lizzie Presser**, **Cassandra Jaramillo**, and **Stacy Kranitz** won for their reporting on **maternal deaths** linked to unclear **abortion laws**.
- **Explanatory Reporting**: NYT reporters **Azam Ahmed**, **Christina Goldbaum**, and **Matthieu Aikins** were recognized for work on how **U.S. support of militias** harmed efforts in Afghanistan.
- **Local Reporting**: **Baltimore Banner** and NYT journalists highlighted the **fentanyl epidemic** among **older Black men** in **Baltimore**.
- **International Reporting**: **Declan Walsh** and NYT staff were honored for uncovering **foreign interference** in **Sudan's conflict**.
- **Feature Writing**: **Mark Warren** from *Esquire* wrote a moving profile of a **pastor-mayor's suicide** following online exposure.

- **Criticism**: **Alexandra Lange** from *Bloomberg CityLab* won for writing on **urban spaces** designed for **families**.
- **Editorial Writing**: **Houston Chronicle's** editorial team received the award for a series on **deadly train crossings**.
- **Illustrated Reporting & Commentary**: **Ann Telnaes**, a former *Washington Post* cartoonist, won for her bold illustrations targeting **powerful figures** and institutions.

India Unveils First Genome-Edited Rice Varieties

In a groundbreaking development, India has become the first country in the world to develop and officially announce genome-edited rice varieties. Union Agriculture Minister **Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan** unveiled two innovative rice strains—**DRR Rice 100 (Kamla)** and **Pusa DST Rice 1**—developed using **CRISPR-Cas** technology by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). These varieties are poised to boost productivity, conserve water, and enhance climate resilience, representing a giant leap in India's agricultural modernization.

Why in News?

India recently announced its first genome-edited rice varieties on May 4, 2025, positioning itself as a global pioneer in agricultural biotechnology. These varieties are expected to play a transformative role in addressing food security, environmental sustainability, and climate adaptability in farming.

Key Announcements

Union Agriculture Minister **Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan** announced two genome-edited rice varieties,

- **DRR Rice 100 (Kamla)**
- **Pusa DST Rice 1**
- Event held at **Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Auditorium, NASC Complex, New Delhi**.
- Minister honored ICAR scientists behind the breakthrough.

Aim and Significance

- To increase rice yield, reduce water usage, and enhance stress tolerance.
- Supports India's ambition of being the food basket of the world.
- Contributes to the Second Green Revolution and climate-smart agriculture.

Technology and Methodology

- Based on **CRISPR-Cas** genome editing (SDN 1 & SDN 2 types).
- Alters gene expression without adding foreign DNA.
- Approved under India's biosafety regulatory framework for general crops.

Details of the Varieties

DRR Rice 100 (Kamla)

- Developed by **ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad**.
- Based on **Samba Mahsuri (BPT 5204)**.
- Matures **20 days earlier (~130 days)**.
- Saves water, reduces greenhouse gas emissions.
- Strong stalks and high grain count per panicle.

Pusa DST Rice 1

- Developed by ICAR-IARI, New Delhi.
- Based on MTU 1010.
- Yield increases of 9.66% to 30.4% in saline/alkaline soils.
- Especially suited for climate-stressed environments.

Impact and Outcome

- 19% increase in overall yield.
- 20% reduction in GHG emissions.
- Saves 7,500 million cubic meters of irrigation water.
- Boosts India's Basmati rice exports (currently ₹48,000 crore annually).

Geographical Coverage

- **Targeted states:** Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, MP, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, UP, West Bengal.

Government Support

- ₹500 crores allocated in Union Budget 2023–24 for genome editing.
- Ongoing research for genome-edited oilseeds and pulses.

Lakkundi Group of Monuments Proposed for UNESCO Tentative List

In a significant development for India's cultural heritage, the ancient group of temples and monuments in Lakkundi and surrounding areas in Karnataka, built during the Kalyana Chalukya period (10th–12th century CE), are being finalised for inclusion in UNESCO's tentative list of World Heritage Sites. The State government has partnered with INTACH to prepare and refine the proposal, aiming to secure international recognition for these architectural marvels.

Why in News?

The Karnataka government, with assistance from the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), is in the final stages of submitting a proposal to list the Lakkundi group of monuments and associated temples from the Western Chalukyan period on UNESCO's tentative list of World Heritage Sites. The monuments fulfil key UNESCO criteria for architectural and cultural significance.

Location & Historical Context

- Located in Gadag district, Karnataka.
- Temples built between 10th–12th centuries CE during the Kalyana Chalukya (Western Chalukya) reign.

UNESCO Tentative Listing Criteria Me

- **Cultural Exchange:** Illustrates architectural interchange between Nagara, Dravida, and Bhumija styles forming the Vesara style.
- **Historical Significance:** Represents a significant stage in temple architecture and technological advancement through features like stepwells.

Important Structures in the Proposal

- **Lakkundi Monuments:** Kasi Visvesvara, Manikesvara, Nanneswara, Brahma Jinalaya (1007 CE), Musukina Bavi.

Surrounding Temples

- Doddabasappa temple, Japada Bavi (Dambal)
- Trikuteshwara temple (Gadag)
- Mahadeva temple (Itagi)
- Sri Mallikarjuna temple (Kuruvatti)
- Someshwara temple (Lakshmeshwara)
- Tarakeshwara temple (Hangal)

Architectural Importance

- Showcases Vesara hybrid style.
- Stepwells integral to temple complexes, some larger than the temples themselves.

Process & Future Steps

- Proposal being reviewed by experts from INTACH and Department of Archaeology.
- Upon acceptance to tentative list, a full nomination dossier will be submitted after 1 year.
- **Other Karnataka sites on tentative list:** Badami, Aihole, Srirangapatana, Hire Benkal, and Deccan Sultanate Monuments.

10 Years of Jan Suraksha Schemes (2015–2025)

The three flagship social security schemes under the Jan Suraksha Abhiyan — Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) — have completed 10 successful years since their launch on 9th May 2015 by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. These schemes were introduced with the vision of "Securing the Unsecured" by offering affordable insurance and pension benefits to the poor, underprivileged, and unorganised sector workers. As of April 23, 2025, the schemes have collectively ensured social security coverage to over 82 crore beneficiaries, reinforcing the government's commitment to financial inclusion and protection. Their 10th anniversary was marked as a significant milestone in India's journey towards building a robust and inclusive social welfare system.

Why in the News?

The three flagship social security schemes — PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), PM Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) — are in the news because they have completed 10 years since their launch on 9th May 2015. To mark this milestone, the Government of India highlighted their achievements, with over 82 crore enrollments recorded as of April 23, 2025. This anniversary showcases the schemes' impact in providing financial protection and pension benefits to India's economically vulnerable and unorganised workforce.

Background

- The three Jan Suraksha Schemes — PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), PM Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) — were launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 9th May 2015, as part of a national initiative to extend affordable insurance and pension benefits to underserved sections of society.
- The schemes were envisioned to protect individuals from life's uncertainties, such as accidents, death, and old age, by providing financial security.
- Over the last decade, these schemes have achieved significant milestones in terms of enrollments, claims settled, and financial inclusion, improving the lives of millions across India.

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)

- **Objective:** PMJJBY provides life insurance cover for death due to any cause, offering a sum of Rs. 2 lakh to the beneficiary's family in the event of the policyholder's death.
- **Eligibility:** Available for individual bank/Post office account holders aged 18-50 years.
- **Premium:** The premium is Rs. 436 per annum, or about Rs. 1.19 per day, to be deducted through auto-debit from the policyholder's bank or post office account.

Achievements

- As of April 23, 2025, the scheme has recorded 23.63 crore enrollments, with a total of Rs. 18,397.92 crore paid out for 9,19,896 claims.
- 10.66 crore women have enrolled in PMJJBY, and 7.08 crore enrollments were from PM Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) account holders.

Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)

- **Objective:** PMSBY aims to provide accidental death and disability cover. In case of accidental death or permanent disability, the scheme provides a sum of Rs. 2 lakh for death and Rs. 1 lakh for partial disability.
- **Eligibility:** All bank/Post office account holders aged 18-70 years.
- **Premium:** The premium for the scheme is extremely low — only Rs. 20 per annum or less than Rs. 2 per month. It is deducted via auto-debit.

Achievements

- As of April 23, 2025, the scheme has enrolled 51.06 crore individuals, with Rs. 3,121.02 crore paid for 1,57,155 claims.
- 23.87 crore women and 17.12 crore PMJDY account holders are enrolled under this scheme.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

- **Objective:** APY aims to provide a pension to individuals, especially from the unorganised sector, who do not have access to formal pension schemes. Upon reaching 60 years of age, subscribers receive a guaranteed monthly pension ranging from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000, depending on the contributions made during their working years.

- **Eligibility:** Open to bank account holders aged 18-40 years, non-tax payers, and without a formal pension plan.
- **Premium and Contribution:** The contributions vary based on the pension amount chosen (Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000). The scheme is designed to offer flexibility in contributions, with options to pay on a monthly, quarterly, or half-yearly basis.

Achievements

- By April 23, 2025, more than 7.66 crore individuals have enrolled in APY.
- Around 47% of these subscribers are women, demonstrating significant female participation.

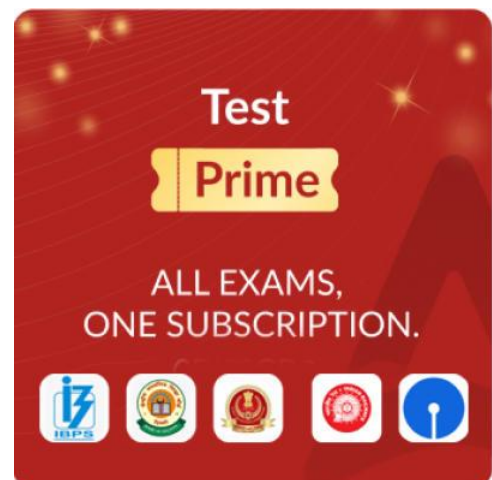
Key Highlights and Impact of the Jan Suraksha Schemes:

- **Financial Inclusion:** All three schemes play a crucial role in enhancing financial inclusion, particularly for the poor and underprivileged sections of society, many of whom were previously excluded from financial services.
- **Simplified Enrollment and Claims Process:** The introduction of the Jan Suraksha Portal has significantly simplified the enrollment process, making it accessible without the need to visit banks or post offices. Digitization of claims has ensured quicker disbursement, benefiting families in times of crisis.
- **Inclusivity and Coverage:** The schemes have been instrumental in covering millions of women, PMJDY account holders, and individuals from rural areas, thus ensuring that no one is left behind in India's journey towards social security.
- **Significant Impact on the Vulnerable:** With a cumulative payout of Rs. 21,518.94 crore across all schemes by April 2025, the Jan Suraksha schemes have significantly impacted millions, offering timely financial aid to families in need.

National Affairs

- Goldsikka's latest unveiling of an **AI-powered Gold-Melting ATM** marks a major advancement in digital banking and gold commerce. With features like real-time purity testing, automated cash transfers, and AR jewellery previews, the ATM offers a futuristic approach to secure and efficient gold transactions. The move aligns with **India's broader digital transformation goals and could revolutionise how people interact with precious metals.** ([Click here to read article](#))
- During the **State Visit of Angola's President to India in May 2025**, three significant **MoUs** were signed covering **Ayurveda, Agriculture, and Culture (2025–29)**. **India approved a USD 200 million Line of Credit (LOC) for defence procurement** in Angola, reinforcing strategic ties. Additionally, **Angola joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as its 123rd member**, deepening cooperation on **renewable energy**. These developments mark a leap in **India-Angola bilateral relations**, with a focus on **South-South cooperation, climate diplomacy, and economic engagement.** ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Election Commission of India (ECI)** announced the upcoming launch of **ECINET**, a **unified digital platform** that will integrate over **40 existing web and mobile apps** into a single interface. Envisioned by **CEC Gyanesh Kumar**, ECINET aims to modernize **electoral services**, improve **UI/UX**, ensure **data accuracy**, and provide a **one-stop solution** for **voters, BLOs, officials, and political parties**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Operation Hawk 2025**, launched by the CBI with international support, targeted online child sexual exploitation networks operating via platforms like *Discord* and *Arisu*. The operation led to the arrest of two individuals—**Sheik Muizz Ahmed** and **Mukul Saini**—who coerced minors into sharing explicit content through intimidation and threats. The success of this operation, following earlier initiatives like *Operation Carbon* and *Operation Megh Chakra*, emphasizes the significance of **global cooperation** and **rapid response** in addressing **cyber-enabled child sexual abuse**. This marks a vital step towards protecting vulnerable minors from online exploitation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Union Civil Aviation Minister **Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu** has approved **Greenfield airports** in **Kota (Rajasthan)** and **Puri (Odisha)** on **May 5, 2025**. These airports aim to boost **regional connectivity**, promote **tourism**, and support **economic development**. Kota, a center for **education and industry**, and Puri, a renowned **pilgrimage site**, are both crucial locations that will now benefit from enhanced air infrastructure. This move aligns with the **UDAN scheme** and is a part of the **government's long-term aviation strategy** to make air travel more **accessible and inclusive**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In response to the **Pahalgam terror attack** and rising **India-Pakistan tensions**, the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has instructed all states to conduct **civil defence drills** from **May 7 to 9, 2025**. The comprehensive exercise will involve **air-raid sirens, blackout drills, evacuation strategies, and bunker cleaning** across **244 vulnerable districts**. Over **4 lakh volunteers**, along with **students, NCC, and NYKS members**, will participate. This initiative strengthens India's **passive defence strategy**, a concept rooted in the **1962 war**, and aligns with recommendations made during the **2022 Chintan Shivir**. The drills are a vital response to current **geo-political challenges** and seek to improve **civilian preparedness and national security**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Supreme Court of India** has taken an important step towards transparency by publishing the assets of 21 of its judges ahead of **Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna's** retirement. The Court has also made the **appointment process for judges** more transparent, providing detailed information about the selection and recommendation process for High Court and Supreme Court judges. This initiative aligns with efforts to ensure accountability within the judiciary. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India's first mortgage-backed Pass Through Certificates (PTCs)** were listed on the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)**, with an issue size of ₹1,000 crores. Backed by **LIC Housing Finance loans** and structured by **RMBS Development Company Ltd.**, these **demat-tradable PTCs** have a **7.26% coupon** and a maturity of nearly **20 years**. The DFS Secretary highlighted the importance of **housing finance and securitization** in driving **economic growth** and **financial market integration**. This marks a significant innovation in India's **debt and housing finance markets**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Government of India** has launched the **Cashless Treatment of Road Accident Victims Scheme, 2025**, offering **₹1.5 lakh cashless emergency care** for road accident victims for up to **7 days** post-incident. The scheme, notified on **May 6, 2025**, is implemented by the **National Health Authority (NHA)** and involves coordination with **police, hospitals, and state health agencies**. This initiative is a **critical road safety measure**, aiming to **reduce fatalities** and make trauma care **affordable and accessible** nationwide. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)** has received **approval** to set up an **off-campus centre** at **GIFT City, Gujarat**, marking a major development in India's **trade education infrastructure**. The initiative supports the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, offering **MBA (International Business), short-term training, and research** in **international trade**. Approved under the **UGC Act**, this expansion is expected to support **export-led growth** and promote **multidisciplinary education** aligned with India's **global trade ambitions**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **NMCG's 62nd Executive Committee** meeting has endorsed several projects to ensure the Ganga river's rejuvenation through sustainable environmental and water management practices. The projects include conserving wetlands like **Nathmalpur Bhagad in Bihar**, and initiatives for wastewater reuse in **Agra and Prayagraj**. These projects align with the broader goals of the **Namami Gange mission**, reinforcing India's commitment to restoring the Ganga basin's ecosystem. ([Click here to read article](#))



- **Russia honoured Biju Patnaik** by unveiling a **memorial plaque** at its **Embassy in New Delhi**, recognizing his **heroic role** as a **WWII pilot** during the **Battle of Stalingrad**. Patnaik, who joined the **Royal Indian Air Force in 1936**, flew **vital supply missions** to support the **Red Army**, and also played key roles in the **Burma evacuation**, **China's resistance against Japan**, and **Indonesia's independence struggle**, solidifying his legacy as a **global freedom supporter** and **aviation hero**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **PM Narendra Modi**, has approved a **₹11,828.79 crore** expansion for **five IITs**—**Tirupati, Palakkad, Bhilai, Jammu, and Dharwad**. This move will boost **academic capacity**, create **130 faculty posts**, establish **five research parks**, and increase student intake by over **6,500**. The decision aligns with the goal of enhancing **industry-academia collaboration**, **employment generation**, and **regional development**, furthering the vision of **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and cementing India's global position in **STEM education**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has launched **chip-based e-passports** featuring **RFID chips** and **biometric data**, aimed at boosting **travel security** and **global standardization**. Rolled out under **Passport Seva Programme 2.0**, the initiative also brings new rules effective from 2025, including **mandatory birth certificates**, **digital residential addresses**, and removal of **parents' names** from passports. This marks a major step in India's **digital governance** and commitment to **secure international mobility**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Government of India has launched a dedicated **Non-Ferrous Metal Recycling Portal** to advance its **circular economy** goals and ensure efficient use of resources. The initiative, spearheaded by **Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy**, provides a one-stop digital platform for stakeholders to engage in real-time data sharing, registration, and performance monitoring. It is expected to significantly boost India's **sustainable metal recycling** efforts by enhancing transparency, informing policy, and improving industrial participation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Operation Abhyas**, a **civil defence mock drill** in **Bengaluru**, was conducted by the **Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services** under the guidance of the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**. The exercise involved rescue simulations, fire control measures, and **public awareness activities**. Prompted by the **recent Pahalgam terrorist attack**, the drill highlighted the importance of **emergency preparedness** amid a rising **threat perception** across the country. **Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara** stressed public cooperation and readiness in times of national crisis. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Vietnam** has announced a **10-year Golden Visa** to attract **Indian investors, tourists, and professionals**, positioning itself as a **long-term residency hub** in Southeast Asia. The move complements its **growing air connectivity**, **digital visa process**, and **dynamic economic sectors** like **IT, textiles, and tourism**. It marks a strategic effort to transition from a short-stay destination to a **sustainable center for innovation and business engagement**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Kozhikode has been inducted into the **WHO's Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC)** for its efforts in making the city more **accessible, inclusive, and supportive** for the **elderly**. This international recognition highlights initiatives like **elder-friendly infrastructure**, **healthcare accessibility**, and **community engagement**. Kozhikode's recognition showcases Kerala's broader focus on **human development** and aligns with **global urban best practices**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India temporarily **shut the Kartarpur Corridor** on **May 7, 2025**, in response to military strikes under **Operation Sindoor** targeting **terror camps in Pakistan and PoK**. This came after the deadly **Pahalgam attack** on April 22, 2025. The corridor, a significant **visa-free religious link** for Sikh pilgrims to visit **Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur**, was closed for the day, affecting several devotees who had arrived for prayers. ([Click here to read article](#))
- A **scientific study** published in **May 2025** has established that **Ladakh** hosts **477 snow leopards**, marking it as one of the **world's densest snow leopard habitats**. Conducted under the **Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAII)**, the research covered 93,000 sq km and involved key bodies like the **Wildlife Institute of India** and **Ministry of Environment**. The study emphasizes Ladakh's **ecological richness**, highlights the **success of community conservation**, and warns of future challenges from **climate change** and **infrastructure development**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **maternal mortality rate (MMR)** has shown a promising **decline**, with the latest data revealing a reduction to **93 per lakh live births** in 2019-21 from **97 in 2018-20**. Although **progress** is evident, some **states** still struggle with **high MMRs**, which points to the need for continued improvements in **maternal healthcare**. The global target set by the **UN** to reduce MMR to below **70 by 2030** aligns with India's efforts to improve **reproductive health** through better **healthcare services** and skilled **birth attendance**. The **reduction in maternal mortality** is a significant step toward achieving better **health outcomes** for women across the country. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a significant move to combat **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**, the **Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry** in India has imposed a **ban** on the use of several **medically important antimicrobials** in the **aquaculture industry**. This decision, made in **May 2025**, aims to protect **public health** by eliminating the use of certain **antibiotics** and other **antimicrobials** in the culture of **seafood** such as **shrimp, prawns, and fish**. ([Click here to read article](#))

States in the News

- Andhra Pradesh has unveiled **Creator Land**, India's first **transmedia entertainment city**, in **Amaravati**, aiming to become a global hub for **digital innovation** and **creative industries**. Announced by **CM N. Chandrababu Naidu** at the **WAVES Summit**, the ₹10,000 crore project is expected to generate **25,000 jobs** across sectors like **filmmaking**, **gaming**, **virtual production**, and **AI-driven content**. It will also include the **Creatorland Academy** to foster **youth skill development** and attract **FDI**, marking a transformative moment in India's **media and entertainment landscape**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis unveiled a visionary initiative at the WAVES Summit 2025 by announcing **India's first Edu City in Navi Mumbai** in partnership with foreign universities. The **University of York** and **Western Australia University** signed MoUs totaling **Rs 3,000 crore** to establish offshore campuses. Additionally, mega investments were secured for **AI-powered Film Cities** by **Prime Focus** and **Godrej**, promising large-scale employment and positioning Navi Mumbai as a **global knowledge and entertainment hub**. The initiative aligns with **NEP 2020** and sets the stage for Maharashtra's upcoming **AI policy**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Miss World 2025** pageant is being held in **Telangana**, showcasing its **rich cultural heritage**, **UNESCO sites**, and **eco-tourism potential**. With **participants from 120 countries** and broadcasts in over **150 nations**, the event is expected to boost **foreign tourist arrivals**, attract **global investments**, and position Telangana as a **multidimensional tourism hub**. Government efforts include security arrangements, heritage tours, and promotional campaigns, marking this as a landmark moment for the state's **global branding**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **M.K. Stalin** announced that **May 5 will be celebrated as Traders Day**, fulfilling a long-pending demand from the **trading community**. Several reforms were introduced, such as **increased financial assistance**, **simplified regulatory processes**, and the formation of **grievance redressal panels**. Traders were also encouraged to use **Tamil signage**. These steps aim to **empower small businesses**, promote **cultural identity**, and strengthen **ease of doing business** under the **Dravidian governance model**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Maharashtra government's announcement** of a **biopic on Ahilyabai Holkar** comes as a significant cultural tribute on her **300th birth anniversary in 2025**. Recognized for her **visionary leadership**, **religious contributions**, and **administrative excellence**, the queen's legacy will be captured through this film project. It will be produced in **Marathi and other Indian languages** and released on **Doordarshan and OTT platforms**, aiming to reach a wide audience and inspire future generations. The move also

underlines efforts to preserve and promote **India's historical women leaders**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Maharashtra has introduced the **Adishakti Abhiyan**, a comprehensive women-centric welfare campaign with a **Rs 10.50 crore budget**, to tackle key social issues such as **malnutrition**, **domestic violence**, **child marriage**, and promote **women's participation in governance**. Committees at multiple levels will implement the scheme, and **annual awards** will incentivize effective action. The initiative was launched on **Ahilyabai Holkar's 300th birth anniversary**, reflecting the state's commitment to **inclusive and empowered communities**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- CESHS has successfully completed **Northeast India's first geothermal production well** in **Dirang**, **Arunachal Pradesh**. Backed by **international collaboration** and scientific studies, the initiative marks a **major step toward renewable energy**, especially for **space heating** and **agriculture-based processing** in the **Himalayan terrain**. With support from the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** and the **state government**, this breakthrough could make Dirang **India's first geothermal-powered city**, highlighting the region's potential in clean energy transformation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **BrahMos missile production unit** set to begin operations in **Lucknow** on **May 11, 2025**, marks a critical development in India's **defence sector**. Established with a **₹300 crore investment** by **BrahMos Aerospace**, the facility will bolster the country's **military capabilities** and contribute to **regional economic growth**. With **job creation**, **technology development**, and its **strategic importance**, the **Lucknow facility** will play a key role in strengthening **national security**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- IBM**, **TCS**, and the **Andhra Pradesh government** have partnered to establish the **Quantum Valley Tech Park** in **Amaravati**, marking a landmark step in India's quantum journey. Anchored by **India's largest 156-qubit quantum computer**, the initiative seeks to foster applied research, attract talent, and boost industrial innovation. It aligns with the **National Quantum Mission** and positions Andhra Pradesh as a **pioneer in the global quantum revolution**. ([Click here to read article](#))

International News

- The **Singapore General Election 2025** culminated in a **landslide victory** for the **People's Action Party (PAP)** under **Prime Minister Lawrence Wong**, who led the party to secure **87 of 97 seats** with **65.57%** of the vote. This was his **first electoral test** as PM after succeeding **Lee Hsien Loong**. The elections were held amid **economic slowdown**, **tariff pressures**, and **rising domestic concerns** like **housing and cost of living**. Despite opposition calls for greater checks, voters prioritized **stability and governance**, reaffirming PAP's long-standing political dominance. ([Click here to read article](#))

- In a surprising **political comeback**, **Anthony Albanese** has secured a **second term** as **Prime Minister of Australia**, leading the **Labor Party** to a **landslide win** in the **2025 general elections**. The vote reflected public trust in Labor's centrist approach amid economic challenges and a failed **Voice referendum** in 2023. **Peter Dutton**, seen as Australia's **Trump-like figure**, suffered a humiliating loss, even losing his seat. With **voter priorities** focused on **cost-of-living**, **climate change**, and **Indigenous reconciliation**, this election marks a pivotal moment in Australian politics. ([Click here to read article](#))
- At the **58th ADB Annual Meeting** in Milan, Finance Ministers of **India** and **Italy** discussed strengthening **economic cooperation**, with a focus on **renewable energy**, **fintech**, and **digital public infrastructure**. This aligns with the **Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025–2029**, aiming to enhance bilateral ties and contribute to global goals like **SDG alignment** and **climate commitments**. The meeting also emphasized **IMR reform** and showcased India's success with platforms like **Aadhaar** and **UPI**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Yemen's **Presidential Leadership Council (PLC)** has appointed **Salem Saleh Bin Braik** as the new **Prime Minister** after the resignation of **Ahmed bin Mubarak**. Mubarak resigned due to **constitutional constraints**, stating he was unable to reform key institutions or reshuffle the cabinet. The leadership change comes amid a deepening **economic crisis**, driven by the ongoing **civil war**, **collapse of the Yemeni rial**, and **suspended oil exports** since **October 2022** due to **Houthi attacks**. Yemen continues to face one of the **worst humanitarian crises**, as described by the **United Nations**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Friedrich Merz**, after a historic defeat in the **Bundestag**, has secured his position as **Chancellor of Germany** following a **second vote**, bringing an end to political uncertainty. His coalition with the **SPD** aims to address Germany's economic challenges, including recession and stagnation, while enhancing the country's leadership role in European and global matters. Despite the rocky start, Merz's leadership is seen as crucial for Germany's future, particularly in managing migration issues and economic recovery.. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **May 8, 2025**, **Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost** of the **United States** was elected as the **267th pope**, adopting the name **Pope Leo XIV**. Succeeding **Pope Francis**, who passed away on **April 21, 2025**, the new pope brings a **moderate**, globally aware perspective shaped by **missionary work in Peru**. The conclave, with **133 cardinals from 70 nations**, was the most **international** to date. As the **first American pope**, Leo XIV faces challenges such as **healing Church divisions**, **addressing abuse scandals**, and **reasserting the Church's moral leadership** amid **geopolitical conflicts**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- The **IWAI-Rhenus MoU**, signed on **6 May 2025**, marks a major leap in India's efforts to **modernize its inland waterways** and promote **sustainable cargo transport**. The collaboration will see phased deployment of **cargo barges and pusher tugs** on **NW-1, NW-2, NW-16, and IBP routes**, with the aim to lower operational costs, encourage **private investment**, and expand the reach of the **Jal Marg Vikas Project**. This move also aligns with the **Jalvahak Cargo Promotion Scheme**, enhancing India's vision of a **multi-modal logistics ecosystem**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India and Vietnam have signed a significant **MoU** to deepen Buddhist cooperation during the **UN Day of Vesak 2025** in Vietnam. This initiative, led by the **International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)** and **Vietnam Buddhist Sangha (VBS)**, formalized the launch of the **Vietnam Chapter of IBC**, aiming to promote **Buddha Dhamma**, foster **global peace**, and enhance **cultural exchange**. The agreement highlights **India's Buddhist diplomacy** and promotes **spiritual collaboration** through teachings of **compassion, wisdom, and peace**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India and Chile have taken a significant step towards deepening their **bilateral trade relations** by signing the **Terms of Reference (ToR)** for a **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**. Building on the **Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)** signed in **2006** and expanded in **2016**, this new agreement aims to promote cooperation in **digital services, MSMEs, critical minerals, and investment**. The decision follows the Chilean President's **State visit to India in April 2025**, where both countries reiterated their commitment to economic integration. The first round of CEPA negotiations will be held in **New Delhi from May 26–30, 2025**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- Berkshire Hathaway's annual shareholder meeting** in **Omaha**, **Warren Buffett**, aged 94, announced his decision to **step down as CEO**, officially naming **Greg Abel**, a seasoned Canadian executive and **Vice Chairman since 2018**, as his **successor**. The move marks a **historic leadership transition** aimed at preserving Berkshire's **investment philosophy, corporate culture**, and ensuring **future growth** of the **\$1.2 trillion conglomerate**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** reported a **10% decline** in its **Q4 FY25 standalone net profit**, citing ₹18,643 crore compared to ₹20,698 crore in the same quarter last year. Despite this, **total income grew** by 12% and **asset quality improved**, with **gross NPAs** reducing to 1.82%. The bank's **annual net profit rose** by 16% to ₹70,901 crore, and it declared a **dividend of ₹15.90 per share**. SBI plans to **raise ₹25,000 crore** in FY26 through equity issuance, signaling continued growth and investment in future expansion. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Morgan Stanley has reaffirmed its optimistic view on **India's long-term equity prospects**, citing solid macro fundamentals, low inflation, and domestic demand as key drivers. It recommends focusing on domestic sectors like **financials and industrials**, while encouraging a patient, long-term approach amidst global uncertainties. The brokerage views India as a **resilient and relatively insulated market**, capable of delivering in the face of worldwide economic volatility. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has initiated the largest **staff engagement and training programme** in India's banking sector to equip its **2.3 lakh employees** with **future-ready skills** and instill **organizational pride**. Through initiatives like 'Next LEAP' and 'SuPer SBI: Great to Greater', over **1.75 lakh employees** have been trained using a **centralised learning system** and data-driven performance tools. SBI also introduced a **succession planning policy** for smooth transitions in key roles ([Click here to read article](#))
- Japan's **Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC)** is reportedly exploring the acquisition of a **51% stake** in India's **Yes Bank**, potentially buying **25% from SBI** and others and making an **open offer for 26% more**. The deal, still subject to **RBI approval**, could mark a significant moment in **foreign investment in Indian banking**. However, **Yes Bank** has denied any formal negotiations, calling such media reports **speculative**. The news caused a temporary spike in **Yes Bank's stock price**, highlighting market sensitivity to such developments. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Moody's has revised **India's GDP growth projection for 2025 to 6.3%**, citing heightened **policy uncertainty**, **geopolitical tensions**, and **global trade disruptions** as the primary challenges. Despite global headwinds, the forecast for **2026 remains at 6.5%**, reflecting expectations of stabilization. The agency also noted the **Reserve Bank of India** may continue to lower interest rates to **support economic activity**. The broader outlook for the **US, China, and global markets** also shows slowing momentum amid evolving **tariff policies**, **market volatility**, and **investment risks**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In FY25, **foreign banks** like **HSBC** and **American Express** emerged as top performers in **net credit card additions**, according to **RBI data**. HSBC added **216,997 cards**, while Amex added **107,086**, reversing past declines and capitalizing on India's **growing digital payment ecosystem**. The overall **banking industry added 8 million+ cards**, underscoring a **surge in consumer credit demand** and the revival of **foreign players' retail banking ambitions** in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Starlink**, owned by **Elon Musk**, has received approval from the **Indian government** to offer **satellite internet services**, marking a major step in expanding digital access across the country. Following regulatory reviews and a **Letter of Intent**, Starlink can now obtain a **GMPCS licence**. The move aligns with new **satcom guidelines** focusing on **data localisation**, **NavIC integration**, **local manufacturing**, and **telecom security**. This approval is expected to revolutionise internet access in **remote and underserved areas** and promote **technological collaboration** under the **Digital India** initiative. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Kotak Mahindra Bank's newly launched **Kotak Solitaire Credit Card** is a premium, **invite-only travel card** offering **10 airmiles per ₹100** on travel bookings through **Kotak Unbox**, **unlimited airport lounge access**, and **zero forex mark-up**. It allows airmile transfers to **major airlines** like **Air India**, **British Airways**, and **Singapore Airlines**, along with hotel partners like **Marriott Bonvoy**. With **exclusive hotel booking perks**, minimal cash withdrawal fees, and a **₹25,000 annual fee**, it competes with other luxury travel cards in the Indian credit card market. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's sovereign credit profile received a **notable boost** from **Morningstar DBRS** on May 9, 2025, with both long-term and short-term ratings being upgraded. This reflects India's successful navigation through **structural reforms**, **digital transformation**, and **fiscal consolidation**, all while maintaining **high growth and macroeconomic stability**. The report also suggests that with further reforms and reduced debt, India's rating could climb even higher. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In **FY25**, **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** in India achieved a **record cumulative profit of ₹1.78 lakh crore**, driven largely by the **State Bank of India (SBI)** which alone contributed over **40%** of the total. The **profit growth of 26%** over FY24 underscores the success of the **government's 4R reform strategy—Recognising NPAs, Resolution, Recapitalisation, and Reforms**. This financial turnaround, from a **loss of ₹85,390 crore in FY18** to current historic profits, highlights the impact of policy changes including **recapitalisation**, **bank mergers**, and emphasis on **credit discipline** and **technology adoption**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **first round of negotiations** for the **India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** concluded in **New Delhi in May 2025**. Both countries are committed to enhancing **bilateral trade and economic cooperation**, with total **merchandise trade** having grown significantly in the past year. The **FTA** will focus on **trade in goods and services**, **trade facilitation**, and boosting **mutual economic cooperation**. The agreement is expected to improve **market access** and integrate **global supply chains**, with a goal to conclude the **FTA** by the end of **2025**. The next round of negotiations is scheduled for **July 2025**. Key terms include the **48.6% growth in trade** and the growing importance of both nations in each other's **economic agendas**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **RBI** has imposed **monetary penalties** on **SBI (₹1.72 crore)** and **Jana Small Finance Bank (₹1 crore)** for **non-compliance** with key regulations related to **loan restrictions**, **customer liability in electronic fraud**, and **account opening norms**. The central bank clarified that the action stems from **compliance deficiencies**, not the legality of transactions. This development emphasizes the **RBI's regulatory vigilance** and its commitment to **customer protection** and **banking discipline**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- India has appointed **Parameswaran Iyer** as its interim **IMF Executive Director**, replacing **K.V. Subramanian**, who was relieved of his duties six months early. The change occurs ahead of a key **IMF Board meeting on May 9**, which will address a **\$1.3 billion climate loan** and review **Pakistan's \$7 billion bailout package**. This nomination ensures India's **representation and voting power**, especially amid growing **diplomatic tensions with Pakistan**. The IMF Executive Board consists of **25 directors**, and India is part of a **four-country constituency**. The reshuffle reinforces India's **strategic interests** and influence in global financial policy. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Indian government has prematurely ended the IMF tenure of **Dr. K.V. Subramanian**, who served as the country's Executive Director at the institution since 2022. Although no official reason has been cited, his critical stance on IMF data methodologies and the promotion of his book *India @ 100* have been suggested as contributing factors. This move may impact India's representation at the IMF and signals possible friction in global economic data discourse. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Shri Prakash Magdum**, a 1999-batch **Indian Information Service** officer, has been appointed as the **Managing Director** of the **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)**. With prior leadership roles at **NFAI, FTII**, and the **Ministry of Defence**, his appointment is a significant move for the **promotion of Indian cinema** and **preservation of film heritage**. This aligns with India's broader cultural and **soft power strategy**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)** has recommended **Sanjay Joshi** as the next **CMD of Oriental Insurance Company Limited (OICL)**, following the **retirement of R.R. Singh**. Joshi, currently **General Manager** at **United India Insurance Company**, brings over **three decades of experience** in the **general insurance sector**. He has held various senior positions and holds **academic and professional qualifications** relevant to the role. The appointment comes during a key period for leadership transition in India's **public sector insurance** industry. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Titan**, a leading **Tata Group** company, has named **Ajoy Chawla** as its next **Managing Director**, effective **1 January 2026**, following the retirement of **C.K. Venkataraman**. The announcement aligns with Titan's record performance in **FY25**, marked by **₹57,819 crore in revenue** and **22% annual growth**. A **Titan veteran**, Chawla has played a pivotal role in the success of the **jewellery division** and is expected to lead the company into its next phase of **growth and innovation**. Titan, founded in **1987** as a **TIDCO-Tata JV**, now spans segments like **watches, jewellery, ethnic wear**, and **accessories**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Defence News

- The **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** accomplished a major milestone by **scaling Mt. Makalu**, the **world's fifth highest mountain**, as part of a **historic twin expedition**. While the **Mt. Annapurna** attempt was halted near the summit due to a **blizzard**, the Makalu team achieved an **83% success rate**. Led by **Anoop Kumar Negi**, the climbers also contributed to environmental sustainability by collecting **150 kg of waste** under the **'Clean Himalaya – Save Glacier'** campaign. With this, ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **May 3, 2025**, the **DRDO** successfully conducted the **maiden flight trial** of its **Stratospheric Airship Platform**, developed by **ADRDE, Agra**, from **Sheepur, Madhya Pradesh**. The airship reached a **stratospheric altitude of ~17 km** and flew for **62 minutes**, testing key systems like the **envelop pressure control** and **emergency deflation system**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **INS Sharda's deployment to the Maldives** for a week-long **HADR exercise** symbolizes India's proactive engagement in **regional disaster preparedness** and defence diplomacy. Aligned with India's **MAHASAGAR** vision, the exercise involves **joint drills, SAR operations**, and **medical support**, deepening ties with the **Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF)**. India also supports Maldives through **training, infrastructure**, and **healthcare aid**, reinforcing its role as a key maritime partner in the Indian Ocean. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has finalized a **\$131 million agreement with the US** for **HawkEye 360** satellite-based RF surveillance technology, significantly enhancing its ability to monitor maritime activity and detect dark ships. The deal supports QUAD goals and boosts India's coastal security infrastructure, especially in its Exclusive Economic Zone. Integrated with existing systems like **P-8I aircraft** and **IFC-IOR**, the tech offers **24/7 real-time, weather-proof monitoring**. This development marks a new chapter in US-India strategic defense cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. ([Click here to read article](#))



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Selection Ka Saathi

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), in collaboration with the Indian Navy, has successfully validated the Multi-Influence Ground Mine (MIGM) through combat firing with reduced explosives. Developed by NSTL Visakhapatnam with support from other DRDO labs and manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited and Apollo Microsystems, the system is designed to enhance India's undersea warfare capabilities against modern stealth threats. With its readiness confirmed, MIGM is poised for induction into the Indian Navy, marking a significant boost to indigenous defence production under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Indian Navy has inducted *Arnala*, the first indigenously designed **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)**, developed through a **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** between **GRSE** and **L&T Shipyard**. With **over 80% indigenous content**, this 77-meter warship boosts **coastal defence**, especially for **low intensity maritime operations** and **mine laying**. The delivery supports the vision of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and strengthens **India's maritime security architecture**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- INS Kiltan's participation in **IMDEX Asia 2025** in **Singapore** demonstrates India's growing **maritime diplomacy**, **defence cooperation**, and commitment to **regional security**. The event, hosting navies from **over 70 countries**, provides a platform for **strategic engagement**, showcasing of **indigenous naval capabilities**, and fostering **interoperability** through joint activities and professional exchanges. ([Click here to read article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- **Sonu Sood**, the renowned Indian actor and humanitarian, will be honoured with the **Humanitarian Award** at the **72nd Miss World Festival** on **May 31, 2025**, in **Hyderabad**. This global recognition celebrates his vital **COVID-19 relief efforts**, especially for **migrant workers**, **students**, and **underserved communities**, through the **Sood Charity Foundation (SCF)**. He will also serve as a **judge** for the finale and will collaborate with the Miss World Organisation on a **Cancer-Free World** initiative, strengthening his global impact on **healthcare and social welfare**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **La Prensa**, Nicaragua's oldest newspaper, has been awarded the **2025 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize** for its **resilient journalism** amid **repression** by the **Ortega-Murillo government**. Despite **arrests**, **exiles**, and **property confiscations**, the outlet continues to promote **freedom of expression** and **accountability**. The award brings **global attention** to Nicaragua's deteriorating **press freedom** and recognizes **La Prensa's** role as a **beacon of journalistic integrity**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- **India's participation in the 2025 World Bank Land Conference is set to highlight the country's leadership in digital land reforms**, with a particular focus on the **SVAMITVA Scheme** and **Gram Manchitra** platform. These initiatives are revolutionizing rural land governance by offering legal land ownership through advanced technologies such as **drones** and **geospatial data**. **SVAMITVA** has already provided over **24.4 million property cards** to households, unlocking significant land value. India's involvement at the conference underscores its role in global discussions on securing land tenure, empowering rural populations, and fostering climate action. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Seatrade Maritime Logistics Middle East (SMLME) 2025** opened in **Dubai**, reinforcing the **UAE's ambition** to lead global **maritime logistics**. A key highlight was the **Indian Register of Shipping (IRS)** announcing its new office in **Dammam, Saudi Arabia**, expanding India's **maritime footprint**. As a full member of **IACS**, IRS enhances **technical compliance**, **ship classification**, and **audit services**. This move supports both **Saudi Vision 2030** and India's strategic role in the **Persian Gulf and Red Sea maritime corridors**. The event demonstrated regional synergy on **sustainability**, **logistics infrastructure**, and **innovation** in the marine industry. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Quad** countries recently conducted a **Tabletop Exercise** in **Honolulu** to initiate the **Indo-Pacific Logistics Network (IPLN)**, which aims to **enhance shared logistics** for **civilian disaster response** in the **Indo-Pacific**. The effort underscores the Quad's strategic goal of a **Free and Open Indo-Pacific**, highlighting **cooperation**, **resilience**, and **non-military humanitarian support** in a geopolitically sensitive region. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's participation in the **20th UNFF session** spotlighted its **forest conservation** and **sustainable management achievements**, including significant progress in **forest and tree cover**. India called for global cooperation through its **International Big Cat Alliance** and emphasized **ecosystem valuation** for better **forest governance**. The session also featured India's commitment to restoring **degraded landscapes** and managing **forest fires**, marking a key moment for **environmental leadership**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- India's steady progress on the **Human Development Index (HDI)** reflects notable improvements in health and education, including a rise in life expectancy and increased school attendance. However, disparities in income and gender persist, with inequality **lowering India's HDI by over 30%**. The report also emphasizes India's growing potential in artificial intelligence, which is expected to play a key role in its future development. **Despite these advancements, global progress in human development remains slow, marking the 2025 HDR as an important indicator of both achievements and ongoing challenges.** ([Click here to read article](#))

Sports News

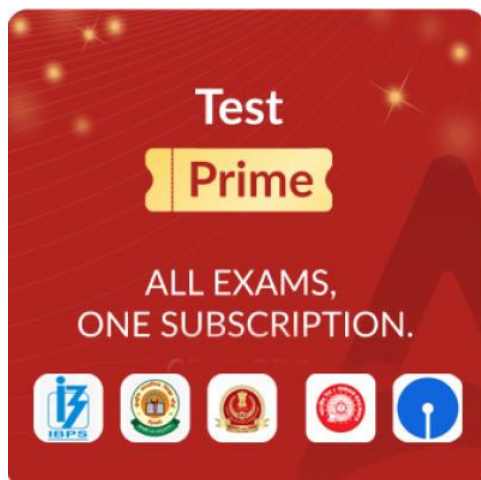
- **Kerala Cricket Association (KCA)** suspended former India pacer **S. Sreesanth** for **three years** from all association-related cricketing activities following his **public criticism** of the KCA over **Sanju Samson's exclusion** from India's **ICC Champions Trophy** squad. The decision, made during a **special General Body meeting in Kochi**, highlights concerns over the **conduct of franchise co-owners**, as Sreesanth currently serves as **co-owner of the Aries Kollam Sailors** in the Kerala Cricket League (KCL). ([Click here to read article](#))
- **The Khelo India Youth Games 2025**, hosted in Bihar, marks a transformative moment for the state's sports landscape. With participation from over 6,000 athletes across 27 disciplines, including new sports like sepaktakraw and esports, the event reflects India's commitment to nurturing talent for future global competitions. The program has bolstered Bihar's sports infrastructure, **with 38 Khelo India Centres established, offering training in various disciplines.** ([Click here to read article](#))
- China claimed their **14th Sudirman Cup** title after defeating **South Korea 3-1** in the **World Mixed Team Badminton Championships 2025** held in Xiamen. Despite a heroic win by **An Seyoung**, who extended her **25-match unbeaten streak**, **China's balanced strength** across all five disciplines ensured victory. Key performances by **Shi Yuqi**, **Feng Yanzhe**, and **Tan Ning** were instrumental in continuing China's legacy of dominance in the **BWF's premier team event.** ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **May 7, 2025**, **Rohit Sharma**, India's **red-ball captain** and one of the country's most **accomplished batters**, announced his **retirement from Test cricket**, just ahead of the **India vs England** series. Having debuted in **2013** with back-to-back centuries, Rohit's **Test career** was a journey of **resilience and reinvention**, marked by **leadership and challenges.** ([Click here to read article](#))
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- The **ECB** has banned **transgender women** from all **women's cricket** formats following a **UK Supreme Court** ruling that defines **legal gender** as **biological sex**. While **mixed** and **open categories** remain accessible to transgender players, this policy shift mirrors decisions by other sports bodies such as **FA**, **England Netball**, and **ICC**. The move has sparked debate between **inclusivity** and **fair competition**, marking a turning point in **gender policy in sport.**([Click here to read article](#))

- **FIFA** has announced **eight host cities in Brazil** for the **2027 FIFA Women's World Cup**, scheduled from **June 24 to July 25**. The **32-team** tournament will utilize **stadiums** that featured in the **2014 Men's World Cup**, including the iconic **Maracanã** in **Rio de Janeiro**. The event aims to promote **women's football**, boost **economic activity**, and enhance **international sports exposure** for Brazil. This announcement marks a milestone in the **global growth of women's sports.** ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **IPL 2025** has been suspended for a week following **escalating tensions between India and Pakistan**. This decision by the **BCCI** was prompted by security concerns voiced by franchises and stakeholders, especially after the cancellation of the **May 8 Dharamsala match**. The board, while acknowledging the nation's defense readiness, opted to prioritize **stakeholder safety** and is awaiting a reassessment before resuming. The event underscores the **influence of international conflict on sporting schedules**, with logistics and player welfare at the center of the **BCCI's** crisis response. ([Click here to read article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- On **May 4, 2025**, **India** became the **first country** to develop and announce **genome-edited rice varieties**—**DRR Rice 100 (Kamla)** and **Pusa DST Rice 1**—using **CRISPR-Cas technology**, unveiled by **Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan**. Developed by **ICAR-IIRR** and **ICAR-IARI**, these varieties promise **higher yields**, **water conservation**, **GHG reduction**, and **climate resilience**, aligning with goals of **climate-smart agriculture** and the **Second Green Revolution.** ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** approved the **Revised SHAKTI Policy** to streamline and simplify **coal allocation** for thermal power plants through a new **two-window mechanism**. The reform introduces **greater autonomy**, **flexibility**, and **market-based pricing**, promotes **import substitution**, and enhances the **ease of doing business** while reducing dependency on long-standing **Power Purchase Agreements**. The revised scheme is expected to benefit stakeholders across the power and coal ecosystem, including **Gencos, Railways, and consumers.** ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Kerala's 'Jyothi' scheme**, launched in May 2025, aims to enrol migrant children into anganwadis and public schools while offering integrated health, welfare, and social support. The programme seeks to bridge the educational gap caused by migration, foster cultural inclusion, and promote recreational engagement for migrant kids. It aligns with Kerala's efforts to modernise its migrant registry and make public services more inclusive. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The Union Cabinet has cleared the **National Scheme for Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Upgradation** and the setting up of **five National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs)** for skilling, with a total outlay of **₹60,000 crore**. The scheme, supported by **ADB** and **World Bank**, aims to transform 1,000 ITIs and train **20 lakh youth** over five years through **industry-aligned courses** and upgraded infrastructure. Five **NSTIs** will be upgraded in **Chennai, Kanpur, Ludhiana, Hyderabad, and Bhubaneswar**. The goal is to create an **aspirational skilling ecosystem** under a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** model, aligned with India's **Viksit Bharat 2047** vision. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Pandit Lakhmi Chand Kalakar Samajik Samman Yojana**, recently approved by the Haryana Cabinet, provides monthly honorariums of ₹10,000 or ₹7,000 to senior artistes based on income criteria. Open to residents of Haryana aged 60 or above with at least 20 years of experience in arts, the scheme not only offers financial relief but also acknowledges their lifelong cultural contributions. By doing so, the state aims to **preserve traditional art forms, support aged artists, and honour regional heritage**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The expansion of the **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS)** aims to boost innovation and financial access for startups in India. **The increased guarantee cover, reduced fees for Champion Sectors, and operational reforms** will encourage more lenders to support early-stage startups, particularly in emerging and self-reliant sectors. This initiative aligns with India's vision of becoming an innovation-driven economy, offering greater financial stability and opportunities for growth in the startup sector. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Uttar Pradesh has launched two **World Bank-backed** initiatives, **UP AGREES** and **AI Pragma**, focusing on **agricultural reform** and **digital skill training** respectively. With a goal to train **10 lakh youth** in **AI technologies** and promote **modern farming** across **28 districts**, these efforts are aligned with UP's vision of becoming a **\$1 trillion economy** and ensuring **inclusive growth** through **rural development** and **technology-driven empowerment**. ([Click here to read article](#))



Science and Technology News

- India's **Gaganyaan mission**, now in its **final phase**, aims to conduct its **first human spaceflight** by **2027**. Announced by **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, this milestone reflects India's **technological self-reliance**, with successful **test missions**, astronaut **training programmes**, and **low-cost innovation**. The mission is propelling **space-tech spinoffs**, supporting **startups**, and aligns with India's vision for a **space station by 2035** and a **Moon mission by 2040**. It stands as a powerful symbol of India's rise as a **global space power**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Important Days News

- World Portuguese Language Day**, celebrated annually on **5 May**, honors the **linguistic and cultural unity** among **Portuguese-speaking nations**. Initiated by **CPLP** in **2009** and globally recognized by **UNESCO** in **2019**, it marks the global spread of the **Portuguese language**, spoken by over **265 million people**. Events include **music, literature readings, traditional food, and cultural programs**, reflecting the heritage of countries like **Brazil, Portugal, Angola, and Mozambique**. The day emphasizes **multilingualism, identity, and global communication**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- World Asthma Day 2025** is observed on **Tuesday, 6 May**, to raise awareness about **asthma**, a **chronic respiratory disease** affecting over **250 million people globally**. Organized by the **Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA)** with support from the **WHO**, the 2025 theme is **"Make inhaled treatments accessible for all"**, emphasizing equitable access to care. Asthma remains **incurable** and caused around **455,000 deaths** in 2019, highlighting the urgent need for better **treatment and awareness**, especially in **low- and middle-income countries**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- World Athletics Day 2025**, observed on **May 7**, celebrates **youth fitness, sportsmanship, and healthy living** through widespread participation in **track and field events**. Organized by **World Athletics**, the day plays a pivotal role in **shaping sports culture, promoting gender inclusivity, and identifying young athletic talent**. With growing emphasis on physical and mental well-being, this observance reinforces the global commitment to **health, equity, and empowerment through sports**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- International No Diet Day 2025**, observed on **May 6**, promotes a powerful message of **body positivity, mental wellness, and inclusive health standards**. Initiated by **Mary Evans Young**, it calls for an end to harmful diet culture and highlights the importance of nourishing the body and mind through sustainable, enjoyable habits. The day also provides helpful lifestyle tips, especially for the **summer season**, to help individuals thrive without guilt or restriction. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**, under the **Ministry of Defence**, celebrated **64 years of service** on **May 7, 2025**. Tasked with building **strategic infrastructure** in India's **border areas**, BRO has constructed over **55,000 km of roads**, **450+ bridges**, and **19 airfields**. It plays a pivotal role in **defence logistics**, **civil development**, and **international cooperation**. With record-breaking projects like the **Umiling La road**, BRO has earned global recognition for its contributions to **national security** and **connectivity**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Thalassaemia Day 2025**, observed on **May 8**, emphasizes the theme **"Together for Thalassaemia: Uniting Communities, Prioritizing Patients"**. Established by the **Thalassaemia International Federation (TIF)** in 1994, the day seeks to raise awareness about thalassaemia, advocate for preventive strategies like genetic screening, and ensure equitable access to quality care for patients worldwide. With a significant number of cases reported annually, especially in countries like India, the observed. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Red Cross Day 2025**, observed on **May 8**, honored the legacy of **Henry Dunant** and the humanitarian work of Red Cross volunteers across the globe. With the theme **"Keeping Humanity Alive,"** the day spotlighted the organization's commitment to **neutrality**, **empathy**, and **service in crisis zones**. The event reaffirmed the role of the Red Cross in fostering **compassion and global solidarity**, with activities like **blood drives**, **medical camps**, and **awareness programs**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The 2025 **World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD)** campaign, themed **"Creating Bird-Friendly Cities and Communities,"** focuses on mitigating the impact of **urbanization** on **migratory birds**. It emphasizes the need for **sustainable urban planning**, **bird-safe infrastructure**, and **green spaces**

to combat threats like **habitat loss**, **light pollution**, and **building collisions**. The initiative calls for joint efforts by **governments**, **NGOs**, and **citizens** to ensure safe and **bird-friendly environments** during migration seasons. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Mother's Day, celebrated on the **second Sunday of May**, honors the **love**, **sacrifice**, and **support** of **mothers and maternal figures** worldwide. Originating with **Anna Jarvis** in 1908 and officially recognized in **1914** in the **United States**, the day traces roots to **ancient traditions** like the Greek worship of **Rhea** and Roman **Hilaria**. It is marked by **gifts**, **flowers** like **carnations**, **family time**, and **social media tributes**. Beyond celebration, it also promotes **maternal health**, **gender equality**, and the idea that **every day can be Mother's Day**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Obituaries News

- **K.V. Rabia**, a determined **literacy activist** and **Padma Shri awardee**, passed away at **59** in Kerala. Despite enduring **polio**, **cancer**, and **spinal injuries**, she played a vital role in the **Kerala State Literacy Mission**, helping many underprivileged individuals access education. Her life symbolizes **resilience**, **social empowerment**, and **women's education advocacy**, making her a notable figure in **grassroots activism** in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Luis Galván**, Argentina's **1978 World Cup-winning** defender, has died at **77**. Revered for his solid defensive play and long-standing association with **Club Atlético Talleres**, Galván's passing marks the end of an era. His contributions in **Argentina's controversial 1978 victory**—held during a **military dictatorship**—remain a key part of football history. His death, coming soon after the loss of **Hugo Gatti**, has reignited reflection on the golden generation of Argentine football. ([Click here to read article](#))

Static Takeaways

| Sr. No | Static Names | Static Details |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Organization | | |
| 1 | SBI | Chairman - Challa Sreenivasalu Setty |
| 2 | RBI | Governor - Sanjay Malhotra |
| 3 | SEBI | Chairman - Tuhin kanta Pandey |
| 4 | BOB | MD - Debadatta Chand |
| 5 | PNB - | MD - Ashok Chandra |
| 6 | Yes Bank | MD - Prashant Kumar |
| 7 | Starlink | CEO - Cyril Anand |
| Countries | | |
| 8 | USA | Capital - Washington D.C. President - Donald Trump Currency - USD |

| Sr. No | Static Names | Static Details |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9 | Angola | Capital - Luanda President - Joao Lourenco Currency - Kwanza |
| 10 | Russia | Capital - Moscow President - Vladimir Putin Currency - Ruble |
| 11 | Vietnam | Capital - Hanoi President - Luong Cuong Currency - Dong |
| 12 | France | Capital - Paris President - Emmanuel Macron Currency - Euro |
| Indian States | | |
| 13 | Karnataka | Governor - Thawar Chand Gehlot CM - Sidharamaiah Capital - Bengaluru |
| 14 | Maharashtra | Governor - C. P. Radhakrishnan CM - Devendra Fadnis Capital - Mumbai |
| 15 | Uttar Pradesh | Governor - Anandiben Patel CM - Yogi Adityanath Capital - Lucknow |
| 16 | Madhya Pradesh | Governor - Mangubhai Patel CM - Mohan Yadav Capital - Bhopal |
| 17 | Gujarat | Governor - Acharya Devvrat CM - Bhupendra Patel Capital - Gandhinagar |
| 18 | Punjab | Governor - Gulab Chand Kataria CM - Bhagwat Mann Capital - Chandigarh |
| 19 | Jammu and Kashmir | L. Governor - Manoj Sinha CM - Omar Abdullah Capital - Sri Nagar |