

Weekly One Liners 09th to 15th June, 2025

India's Extreme Poverty Rate Falls to 5.3% in 2022-23: World Bank Report

India has made remarkable strides in reducing extreme poverty, with the rate plunging to 5.3% in 2022-23 from 27.1% in 2011-12, according to the latest World Bank report. Despite the poverty line threshold being revised upwards to \$3 per day to account for inflation and purchasing power parity, India has successfully lifted 171 million people out of extreme poverty over the past decade. This achievement underscores the impact of sustained economic growth, social welfare initiatives, and targeted poverty alleviation programs.

Why in News?

The World Bank's recent report on poverty reduction in India draws global attention as it reveals substantial progress amid economic challenges. The updated poverty line of \$3 per day reflects a more realistic measure of deprivation, making India's success even more significant. With continued economic uncertainties and global risks looming, the report serves as a vital indicator of India's developmental trajectory and the effectiveness of its policies in addressing poverty and inequality.

Aim and Objectives

- To highlight India's substantial reduction in extreme poverty over the last decade.
- To understand the factors and policies contributing to this success.
- To analyze the updated poverty thresholds and their implications for policy and planning.

Background

- In 2011-12, India's extreme poverty rate stood at 27.1% based on the \$2.15 per day threshold.
- The World Bank revised the global extreme poverty line to \$3 per day (2021 PPP) to adjust for inflation and updated cost of living, raising the benchmark for poverty measurement.
- India's economic growth, combined with social welfare schemes such as free/subsidised food transfers, helped in reducing poverty.
- The rural-urban poverty gap has narrowed significantly, highlighting inclusive growth patterns.

Static Facts and Figures

- Extreme poverty rate (at \$3 per day) declined to 5.3% in 2022-23 from 27.1% in 2011-12.
- Around 54.7 million people lived below the \$3/day threshold in 2024, representing 5.44% of the population.
- The number of people lifted from extreme poverty during 2011-12 to 2022-23: approximately 171 million.

- Extreme poverty rate dropped from 16.2% to 2.3% at the \$2.15/day line.
- Rural extreme poverty fell from 18.4% to 2.8%, urban extreme poverty from 10.7% to 1.1%.
- The rural-urban poverty gap narrowed from 7.7 percentage points to 1.7 points, indicating reduced disparity.
- Five most populous states account for 54% of India's extremely poor population.
- India's real GDP as of FY25 remains about 5% below pre-pandemic levels but is expected to recover by 2027-28.

Overall Significance

- The decline in poverty highlights India's progress in social and economic development.
- Improved access to food and social welfare programs have been crucial in reducing deprivation.
- Narrowing rural-urban gap indicates more balanced growth across sectors and regions.
- The findings stress the importance of sustained policy support amid global economic uncertainties.
- Continued vigilance is required as global trade tensions and other risks could impact future growth and poverty reduction.

India's population Reaches 1.46 billion, Fertility Drops Below Replacement Rate: UN Report

In 2025, India's population is **estimated to reach 1.46 billion**, making it the most populous country in the world. According to a report by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), this number is expected to peak at 1.7 billion in the early 2060s and then slowly start to decline.

Drop in Fertility Rate

The report says that India's total fertility rate (TFR) has now **dropped to 1.9 births per woman**, which is below the **replacement level of 2.1**. This means Indian women are having fewer children than needed to maintain the population size from one generation to the next, without migration.

What the UN Report Says?

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) released its 2025 State of World Population (SOWP) Report, titled **"The Real Fertility Crisis."** It explains that the world should not panic about falling fertility rates but focus on helping people meet their personal family goals.

Fertility Rate Falls Below Replacement Level

India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is now 1.9 births per woman, which is below the replacement level of 2.1. This means women in India are, on average, having fewer children than needed to keep the population stable in the long term.

India's Population Will Peak Around 2064

According to the UN, India's population is expected to peak around the **early 2060s at about 1.7 billion**. After that, it will begin to slowly decline. As of now, India's population stands at 1.4639 billion.

India's Changing Population Structure

India's population is going through big changes:

- 24% of people are aged 0-14 years
- 17% are aged 10-19 years
- 26% are aged 10-24 years
- 68% of the population is in the working age group (15-64)

This gives India a chance to benefit from a demographic dividend – where more people can work and grow the economy, if given good jobs and policies.

Growing Elderly Population

Currently, **7% of the population is aged 65 and above**, and this number will rise as life expectancy increases.

Life expectancy in 2025:

- Men: 71 years
- Women: 74 years

How Fertility Has Changed Over time?

In 1960, India's population was about 436 million and the average woman had nearly six children. Most women then had little control over their bodies and very few used contraception or went to school.

But over time, things improved:

- More girls went to school
- Access to reproductive healthcare increased
- Women gained more voice in decisions

Now, Indian women have about two children on average, a major drop from past decades.

Still a Long Way to Go

While Indian women today have more rights and choices than earlier generations, many still do not have full control over their reproductive decisions. Deep differences remain between rich and poor and across states and communities.



A Message of Hope and Opportunities

Andrea M. Wojnar, UNFPA's India Representative, said that India has made great progress, especially in lowering fertility and saving mother's lives.

But the real success, she says, will come when everyone, no matter who they are, has the power to make informed choices about having children. India has a unique chance to lead the world in showing how reproductive rights and economic growth can go hand in hand.

Ministry of Minority Affairs Celebrates 11 Years of Seva, Good Governance, and Welfare Under Modi Government

The **Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA)** celebrated a significant milestone, marking **11 years of Seva, Good Governance, and Welfare** under the leadership of the **Modi Government**. The event, held at MoMA headquarters, served as a tribute to the transformative journey that has redefined the landscape of **minority welfare** in India.

The occasion was chaired by **Dr. Chandra Shekhar Kumar, Secretary of the Ministry**, and attended by senior officials from MoMA and its affiliated bodies. The gathering not only recognized major policy achievements but also reaffirmed the Ministry's **vision for inclusive development** in alignment with **ViksitBharat@2047**.

Reflecting on 11 Years of Impactful Reforms

The event spotlighted a series of transformative reforms and digital advancements that have been instrumental in modernizing the Ministry's functioning and enhancing the quality of service delivery for **minority communities**.

Digitization and Transparency

In a landmark administrative shift, the Ministry has ensured that **all schemes are now administered through dedicated digital portals**. This move has **eliminated bureaucratic opacity**, promoted **real-time access** for beneficiaries, and enabled seamless service delivery. The use of technology ensures **end-to-end transparency**, from application to disbursement, empowering citizens and minimizing human intervention.

Third-Party Review and Audit Mechanism

To maintain **accountability and continuous improvement**, the Ministry has institutionalized **rigorous third-party reviews and audits** for all schemes. This process ensures that **fund utilization, target achievement, and scheme impact** are systematically monitored and evaluated, fostering a culture of **evidence-based governance**.

Inclusive Policy Making

MoMA has made significant strides in **consultative governance** by involving **states, stakeholders, and community representatives** in its policy formulation processes. The Ministry has consistently worked to ensure that **ground realities are reflected** in central policies, making them more responsive, locally relevant, and effective.

Key Legislative and Technological Breakthroughs

Waqf Amendment Act, 2025: A Milestone in Community Empowerment

Among the notable achievements is the passage and notification of the **Waqf Amendment Act, 2025**. Following extensive deliberations by the **Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)**, the amendment introduces sweeping reforms to improve **Waqf property governance**, enhance **transparency**, and strengthen the institutional framework overseeing Waqf affairs. The Act reflects a bold step forward in ensuring that community-owned assets are used effectively for **welfare and development**.

Launch of UMEED Central Portal

On **June 6, 2025**, the Ministry launched the **UMEED Central Portal**, a powerful digital initiative designed to **consolidate and streamline welfare schemes**. The platform serves as a **single-window access point** for multiple services targeting minorities, providing **eligibility tools**, **application support**, **real-time tracking**, and **feedback mechanisms** to improve citizen experience and access.

Progress on Central Rules Under the Waqf Act

Building on the legislative momentum, the Ministry is in the **advanced stages of formulating Central Rules** under the Waqf Act. These rules are expected to establish a **uniform regulatory framework**, enhancing legal clarity and implementation efficacy at both central and state levels.

Pledge for the Future: Inclusive, Equitable India by 2047

The celebration concluded with a solemn and unified oath taken by all officials and staff. They pledged to work with **integrity, innovation, and inclusivity** to realize the dream of a **developed India by 2047**, ensuring that **no community is left behind**.

The event was not just a reflection of past accomplishments but also a rallying call for the Ministry to continue its work with renewed purpose and vision.

Nine years of Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan

Launched in **June 2016**, the **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)** is a flagship initiative of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, Government of India. Designed to provide **free, quality, and assured antenatal care (ANC)** services, PMSMA focuses on women in their **second and third trimesters** and is conducted **on the 9th of every month** across the country. As of **June 2025**, over **6.19 crore pregnant women** have been examined under this programme, reflecting a significant public health milestone.

Core Objective: Reducing Maternal and Neonatal Mortality

The fundamental goal of PMSMA is to **reduce maternal and neonatal mortality** through the **early identification and management of high-risk pregnancies**. By enabling timely diagnosis, counselling, and referrals, the scheme ensures that mothers receive the care needed for safe and healthy deliveries.

Engagement with Private Sector: A Unique Public-Private Model
A standout feature of PMSMA is its strategic **collaboration with private medical practitioners**, encouraging their voluntary participation. These professionals contribute by:

- Conducting ANC check-ups at government health facilities.
- Supporting **awareness campaigns**.
- Strengthening the healthcare workforce on PMSMA days.

Current Statistics

- **Volunteers Registered:** 6,813
- **Facilities Offering PMSMA Services:** 20,752

Remarkable Impact on Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)

India's **Maternal Mortality Ratio** has seen a significant decline due to PMSMA and other aligned interventions:

- **MMR in 2014–16:** 130 per 1 lakh live births
- **MMR in 2021–23:** 80 per 1 lakh live births

This **50-point drop** demonstrates the success of targeted maternal health policies in enhancing safe motherhood.

Strategic Alignment with RMNCAH+N Goals

PMSMA is a key component of the **Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health plus Nutrition (RMNCAH+N)** strategy under the **National Health Mission (NHM)**. Its objectives are:

- Ensure every pregnant woman gets at least **one check-up by a specialist** during the 2nd or 3rd trimester.
- **Improve ANC quality**, especially for **High-Risk Pregnancies (HRPs)**.
- Promote **birth preparedness and complication readiness**.
- Manage **malnutrition** and address **adolescent pregnancies**.

Key Features of PMSMA

- **Fixed ANC day** (9th of every month)
- **Voluntary specialist support**
- **Free diagnostics, counselling, and nutritional support**
- Focus on **early HRP identification**
- **Public-private collaboration** to enhance reach

Extended PMSMA (E-PMSMA): Strengthening Follow-Up for High-Risk Cases

Introduced in **January 2022**, **E-PMSMA** enhances the PMSMA framework by focusing on **tracking High-Risk Pregnant women** till safe delivery and postnatal care. The strategy incentivizes both **HRP women** and their attending **ASHA workers** for participation.

Key Statistics (as of Dec 31, 2024)

- **High-Risk Pregnancies Identified:** 78.27 lakh+

Salient Features

- **Name-based line listing** of HRPs
- **Up to 4 sessions per month** for HRP care
- **Individual tracking** till 45th day after delivery
- **SMS alerts** for beneficiaries and ASHAs to ensure regular follow-ups

Services Offered Under PMSMA

- Comprehensive ANC check-ups
- Blood tests, urine tests, blood pressure monitoring
- Nutritional counselling and supplements
- Tetanus immunization
- Specialist referrals for complications
- Birth preparedness plans

Integration with Other Flagship Maternal and Child Health Initiatives

PMSMA works in tandem with other **maternal and child welfare schemes** to create a holistic care framework:

Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)

Encourages **institutional deliveries** via **conditional cash transfers**, benefitting **11.07 crore women** by March 2025.

Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)

Promotes **free institutional delivery and neonatal care**, having served **16.60 crore beneficiaries** since 2014–15.

LaQshya

Improves **quality of care in labour rooms and maternal ICUs**.

Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN)

Guarantees **respectful and dignified maternity care**. As of March 2025, **90,015 SUMAN facilities** are active.

POSHAN Abhiyaan

Targets **malnutrition** in vulnerable groups. **6.97 crore Poshan Pakhwadas** have been conducted nationally.

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

Offers **₹5,000 direct cash benefit** to pregnant and lactating women to promote maternal health and institutional births.

Aadhaar OTP Must for Tatkal Bookings from July 15

In a major move to curb malpractices and ensure fair access to Tatkal tickets, the Ministry of Railways has announced that Aadhaar-based OTP authentication will be mandatory for booking Tatkal tickets on the IRCTC website and mobile app starting July 15, 2025. The updated rules also impose time-bound restrictions on agents and bring enhanced transparency to the reservation system.

Why in News?

The Railway Ministry declared the rollout of mandatory Aadhaar OTP authentication for all Tatkal bookings done online. The revised rules will be enforced from July 15, 2025. This move is aimed at reducing bulk bookings, deterring unfair practices, and ensuring genuine passengers benefit from the Tatkal scheme.

New Tatkal Ticket Booking Rules

Aadhaar-based OTP Authentication

- Mandatory for users booking Tatkal tickets online via the IRCTC website/app.
- OTP will be sent to the mobile number linked with Aadhaar.

Tatkal Bookings at PRS Counters

- Similar OTP-based authentication will apply at Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters.
- The OTP will be sent to the mobile number provided during booking.

Restriction on Booking Agents

- IRCTC-authorized agents will not be allowed to book Tatkal tickets during the first 30 minutes of the opening window:
- AC classes: Blocked from 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM.
- Non-AC classes: Blocked from 11:00 AM to 11:30 AM.

Objective of the Move

- Prevent bulk booking and misuse of the Tatkal quota.
- Ensure genuine users can access high-demand tickets fairly.
- Enhance transparency and security through Aadhaar validation.
- Improve overall passenger convenience and experience.

Implementation & Coordination

Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) and IRCTC will,

- Make technical modifications.
- Notify Zonal Railways and other stakeholders.
- Launch awareness campaigns before the new rule comes into effect.

India's First Underwater Museum to Be Built Around INS Guldar in Maharashtra

India is set to develop its first underwater museum and artificial coral reef around the decommissioned warship INS Guldar near Nivati Rocks, located off the coast of Vengurla in Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra. The project, supported by the Union Tourism Ministry with an outlay of ₹46.91 crore, aims to promote marine biodiversity conservation, eco-tourism, and underwater adventure tourism like scuba diving and submarine tours.

Why in News?

On June 11, 2025, Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis virtually attended the launch of India's first underwater museum project, marking a significant step in promoting sustainable tourism and marine ecosystem restoration. The decommissioned INS Guldar, which served the Indian Navy until January 2024, has been handed over to the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) to transform it into a submerged attraction.

Aims and Objectives

- Convert INS Guldar into an underwater museum to promote marine tourism.
- Create an artificial coral reef to support marine biodiversity.
- Offer new tourism opportunities including scuba diving and future submarine tours.
- Preserve naval heritage by repurposing a historic vessel.

About INS Guldar

- INS Guldar was a 1,120-ton Landing Ship Tank (LST) in the Indian Navy.
- It was decommissioned in January 2024 after years of service.
- The ship has undergone environmental cleaning to make it suitable for submersion without harming marine ecosystems.

Site and Environmental Impact

- Nivati Rocks, Vengurla, in Sindhudurg district, has been chosen for its pristine waters and rich marine life.
- The ship will be scuttled (intentionally sunk) to serve as the foundation for coral reef formation.
- Artificial reefs help rejuvenate marine life, benefiting both biodiversity and local fisheries.

Funding and Project Implementation

- The Union Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned ₹46.91 crore for the initiative.
- The project is being implemented by Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC).
- The initiative aligns with India's goals of promoting Blue Economy, eco-tourism, and sustainable development.

Expected Benefits

- Boosts coastal tourism and creates local employment opportunities.
- Enhances India's status as a hub for eco-tourism and maritime heritage.
- Serves educational and recreational purposes for tourists, students, and marine researchers.
- Encourages awareness of marine conservation and sustainable tourism practices.

11 Years of Digital India: A Tech Revolution Empowering the Poorest

As India marks 11 years of the Digital India initiative, the country reflects on a technological revolution that has redefined governance, transparency, and service delivery. Launched in 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Digital India aimed to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Over the past decade, it has become the backbone of many public welfare schemes, ensuring that the benefits of development reach even the remotest corners of the country.

Why in News?

June 2025 marks the 11th anniversary of the Digital India mission. PM Modi highlighted its transformative impact, especially in empowering the poor and promoting transparency. The initiative is now deeply embedded in policy-making and public welfare delivery across sectors.

1. Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT): Speed & Transparency

- 322+ schemes under 56 ministries integrated.
- ₹44 lakh crore transferred directly to beneficiary accounts.
- ₹3.48 lakh crore saved by eliminating leakages and middlemen.
- 90x increase in DBT volumes over the past decade.

2. Aadhaar: World's Largest Digital Identity

- Over 140 crore citizens have a 12-digit Aadhaar number.
- Aadhaar authentication transactions have crossed 150 billion.
- Critical for DBT, digital signatures, banking KYC, and more.

3. DigiLocker: Making Governance Paperless

- 52+ crore users.
- 852+ crore documents issued.
- Enables secure access to certificates (e.g., PAN, driving licenses, education).

4. Jeevan Pramaan: Easing Pensioner Lives

- Digital Life Certificates eliminate the need for in-person bank visits.
- Over 10 crore pensioners registered.
- 143 lakh Digital Life Certificates submitted since Nov 2024.

5. UMANG App: One Nation, One Digital Gateway

- Offers 2,000+ services across departments on a single app.
- 8.21 crore users, 597+ crore transactions.

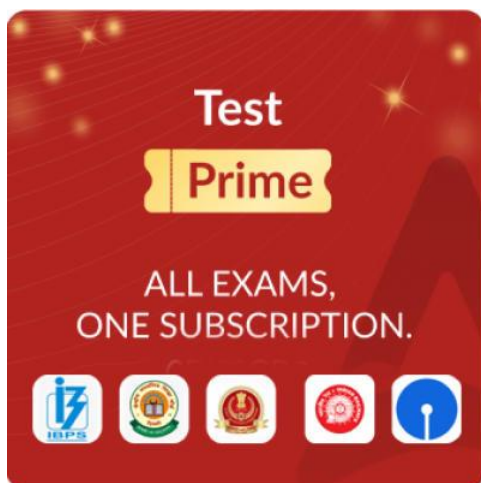
6. Rural Digital Empowerment

- Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan (PMGDISHA):
- Aims to make 6 crore rural Indians digitally literate.
- Reduces the digital divide and boosts digital awareness at the grassroots.

National Affairs

- A new climate study warns that **India's urban centres** are on track to face **twice as many heatwave days by 2030**, especially in **Mumbai, Delhi, and Chennai**. Released during a key **climate symposium in New Delhi**, the study links these projections to **climate change**, urban heat islands, and land-use changes. It highlights a **43% surge in extreme rainfall intensity**, affecting nearly **80% of Indian districts**. Experts urge the formation of **Climate Risk Observatories (CROs)**, **risk financing tools**, and **district-level climate champions** to combat the worsening **climate crisis**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD)** and **Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS)** signed an **MoU in New Delhi** to integrate **multilingual AI solutions** into Indian Railways' digital services, using **BHASHINI's language technologies** like **ASR, TTS, Text Translation, and OCR** to make platforms like **NTES** and **RailMadad** accessible in **22 Indian languages**, enhancing **linguistic inclusion** and **AI-driven public service transformation**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Delhi government** has announced India's **first electronic waste (e-waste) eco park** in **Holambi Kalan, North Delhi**, aiming to promote a **circular economy** and **sustainable urban living**, with **Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa** confirming plans to issue a **global tender** for advanced **green technology partnerships**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Government of India** has launched the **Ayush Nivesh Saarthi Portal**, a digital platform developed by the **Ministry of Ayush** and **Invest India** to attract and assist **domestic and international investors** in the **Ayush sector**—covering **Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy**. The portal provides **investment policies, project listings, benefits, and real-time support**, aiming to boost **FDI**, support **startups**, and capitalize on the sector's **17% annual growth** between 2014 and 2020. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Bengaluru** has been officially recognized as the '**Leopard Capital**' of India, with an **estimated 80–85 wild leopards** found across **Bannerghatta National Park** and surrounding zones, surpassing **Mumbai's 54**. A **year-long camera trap survey** by **Holématti Nature Foundation**, led by **Dr. Sanjay Gubbi**, also recorded **34 mammal species**, many listed as **Endangered or Schedule I** under Indian law. The study recommends **expanding conservation reserves, safeguarding wildlife corridors**, and minimizing human-wildlife conflict. This highlights Bengaluru's **unique position as an urban wildlife haven** and calls for proactive ecological stewardship. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has introduced a **cap of 10 projects per Engineer** for consultancy firms working on **national highway construction and maintenance projects**. This move aims to improve **supervision quality**, prevent overburdening of engineers, and ensure **contract compliance** under project modes like **HAM** and **EPC**. Effective after **60 days**, the rule mandates monthly site visits and inputs into **progress reports**, significantly boosting the quality and safety of India's highway infrastructure. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **ESIC Sanath Nagar Campus** in **Hyderabad** has evolved into a **national Centre of Excellence**, offering **advanced medical services, super-specialty care, and medical education** under the **Modi government's eleven-year governance**. Accredited by **NABH, NABL, and ISO**, the campus delivers **digital diagnostics, cutting-edge surgeries, and innovative IT-enabled patient services**. With over **1,000 beds**, including **ICU and dialysis units**, and robust **educational infrastructure**, it stands as a **beacon of accessible, high-quality public healthcare** in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has **initiated a strategic shift** in its **rare earth export policy** by asking **IREL** to suspend a 2012 export agreement with **Japan**, aiming to **develop domestic processing and reduce dependence on China**. With rising demand for **neodymium** in **electric vehicles** and China's tightening grip on the market, India is investing in **local capacity building, infrastructure, and incentives** to create a **self-reliant rare earth ecosystem**. The move is also crucial for safeguarding national interests in **defence, renewable energy, and critical technology sectors**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved **two strategic multitasking projects** under Indian Railways, totaling **₹6,405 crore**, to enhance connectivity and freight movement across **Jharkhand, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh**. Spanning **318 km**, the **Koderma–Barkakana** and **Ballari–Chikjajur** doubling lines will improve **logistics efficiency**, benefit over **28 lakh people**, and cut **carbon emissions**, aligning with India's **sustainability goals and economic self-reliance vision**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India took a major step toward strengthening its textile exports with the **first meeting of the Task Force on Textiles Exports**, chaired by Commerce Secretary **Sunil Barthwal** on **June 10, 2025**. The meeting addressed issues across the textile value chain, from **ESG infrastructure and e-commerce expansion to fibre innovation and regulatory simplification**. Stakeholders unanimously supported forming **issue-specific sub-task forces** to craft actionable strategies. The initiative is a cornerstone of India's **export and sustainability goals** under the **Viksit Bharat 2047** roadmap. ([Click here to read article](#))



States in the News

- **Squadron Leader Manisha Padhi** has become the **first female Aide-De-Camp (ADC)** in Indian history to be appointed to a **Governor**, marking a significant moment in the **Indian Armed Forces**. Appointed to serve the **Governor of Mizoram**, this landmark posting reflects India's **growing commitment to gender inclusivity** in military ceremonial roles. With prior experience across **multiple Air Force stations**, **Padhi's achievement** sets a new precedent for **women officers** aspiring to serve at high-ranking, prestigious posts. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Tamil Nadu government** declared **Dhanushkodi** as a **Greater Flamingo Sanctuary** to protect migratory birds, particularly **Greater and Lesser Flamingos**, along the **Central Asian Flyway**. Covering **524.7 hectares**, the sanctuary includes **mangroves, mudflats, and marshes**, forming a rich ecosystem within the **Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve**. With over **10,700 birds** from **128 species** recorded, the sanctuary plays a crucial role in **wetland conservation, ecotourism, and climate resilience**. The move was inaugurated by **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** during the **World Environment Day** celebration. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **historic decision**, **President Droupadi Murmu** promulgated three major regulations for **Ladakh** on **June 3, 2025**. The **Ladakh Reservation (Amendment) Regulation** ensures **85% reservation** in public jobs for locals. The **Ladakh Official Languages Regulation** recognizes **English, Hindi, Urdu, Bhoti, and Purgi** as **official languages**, while promoting native tongues like **Shina, Brokskat, and Balti**. Additionally, the **Hill Councils Amendment** mandates **33% reservation for women** in **Leh and Kargil**. These steps enhance **local empowerment**, promote **linguistic and cultural heritage**, and boost **women's representation** in governance. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Justice Naranahalli Srinivasan Sanjay Gowda** officially took charge as a **judge of the Gujarat High Court** on **June 9, 2025**, after his **transfer from the Karnataka High Court**. The oath was administered by **Chief Justice Sunita Agrawal** during a ceremony in **Vadodara**. At **58 years old**, Justice Gowda has had a distinguished legal career since **1989**, and was appointed a **permanent judge in Karnataka in 2021**. His transfer is part of a **Supreme Court Collegium** initiative to promote **diversity and judicial efficiency** by redistributing experienced judges across High Courts. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Government of Maharashtra** has rolled out a new digital initiative assigning a **geo-tagged 13-digit unique ID** to all **infrastructure projects** in the state. Launched through the **Infra ID portal**, the system will enhance **transparency**, facilitate **inter-departmental coordination**, and prevent **project duplication**. Beginning with **Wardha district** and key development departments, the full rollout will start **October 1, 2025**, with registration of projects from the **last five years** to be completed by **March 2026**. This move leverages the **MRSAC platform** for real-time tracking and ensures each public asset has a **traceable digital identity**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **June 10, 2025**, **Bihar CM Nitish Kumar** inaugurated the **Bikram Lock Canal Solar Project**, a **2 MW green energy plant** built at **no cost to the state**. Developed under the **Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali Abhiyan**, the project utilizes canal-side land to produce clean energy at **₹3.10 per unit** for 25 years. It not only boosts **renewable energy generation**, but also reduces **carbon emissions**, ensures **affordable rural electrification**, and strengthens **sustainable development** in the state. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Punjab has recorded a **20% surge in cotton cultivation** in 2025, expanding to **2.98 lakh acres** across the state. This increase aligns with the government's **crop diversification agenda** aimed at reducing reliance on **water-guzzling paddy**. The state is offering a **33% subsidy on cotton seeds**, and over **49,000 farmers** have registered under the initiative. With **Fazilka, Mansa, Bathinda, and Sri Muktsar Sahib** leading in cultivation, Punjab's focus on **sustainable agriculture** and **digital farmer outreach** is showing tangible results. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Calcutta High Court** has permitted a **15-year-old boy** to adopt his **stepfather's surname**, upholding the rights of **custodial parents** and recognizing **modern family dynamics**. Though the **Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC)** opposed the change, the court ruled that **surname** falls within the scope of **Section 454** of the **Kolkata Municipal Corporation Act**, which allows for name alterations. However, the court denied the plea to change the **biological father's name** due to the lack of a **legal adoption order**. Justice **Kaushik Chanda** emphasized that statutory time limits can be interpreted **flexibly** when justified by circumstances. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **June 9, 2025**, **Puducherry** became the **19th legislature** in India to adopt the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)**, a digital platform for **paperless legislative functioning**, inaugurated by **Union Minister Dr. L. Murugan**. The initiative supports the **Digital India** vision, enabling **real-time legislative transparency, livestreaming**, and saving paper, with **100% central funding**. NeVA represents a step toward **"One Nation, One Application"**, furthering eco-friendly governance, citizen access, and institutional efficiency. ([Click here to read article](#))

International Affairs

- On **June 9, 2025**, **US President Donald Trump** implemented a new **travel ban** citing **national security** concerns following a visa overstay-related attack. The ban **restricts entry from 12 countries** including **Afghanistan, Iran, and Libya**, and places **partial restrictions** on 8 others like **Cuba, Venezuela, and Turkmenistan**. The move targets **refugees and immigrants**, especially from **unstable or war-torn nations**, due to inadequate **background verification** systems. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Iran** has announced that **Russia** will construct **eight nuclear power plants**, including **four in Bushehr**, under a **pre-existing agreement** aimed at strengthening the **civilian nuclear energy sector**. The announcement was made by **Mohammad Eslami**, head of the **Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran (AEOI)**, who also revealed plans to **triple the country's nuclear energy capacity**. This move bolsters Iran's **strategic energy cooperation** with Russia and supports its long-term goal of **energy self-reliance and carbon reduction** through clean nuclear power. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Sri Lanka** is celebrating the revered **Poson Poya festival**, marking over **2,000 years** since the arrival of **Buddhism** with **Arahat Mahinda's** first sermon to **King Devanampiyatissa**. Devotees have gathered at **Mihintale and Anuradhapura**, where the festivities are marked with **lanterns, almsgiving, and cultural programs**. **President Anura Kumara Dissanayake** emphasized **national unity and moral revival**, while the **Indian High Commission** joined the occasion with an exhibition on **Buddhist heritage**. Free and special **train services** are also aiding pilgrim movement during the sacred week. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Israel** has launched the second phase of its **Operation Rising Lion**, striking Iran's critical **Natanz uranium enrichment facility**, signaling a serious escalation in Middle East tensions. **Israeli PM Netanyahu** has pledged continued action until the Iranian threat is eliminated, while the **US** has **distanced itself**, calling it a unilateral act. This operation not only affects the region's stability but also raises questions about the future of **nuclear diplomacy and international peace efforts**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- In a landmark effort to fight **road dust pollution**, the **CAQM** signed a **tripartite MoU** with **CSIR-CRRI** and **SPA-New Delhi** on **June 10, 2025**, to implement a **standard framework for urban road redevelopment** across **nine NCR cities**. The collaboration introduces **greening strategies, smart road designs, and Web-GIS-based monitoring systems**, supported by a **Project Monitoring Cell (PMC)** at CAQM. The initiative integrates **scientific planning, technological innovation, and institutional expertise** to drive **air quality improvement** in one of India's most polluted regions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a progressive step toward reinforcing cyber security in India's payment systems, **NPCI and IDRBT** signed an **MoU** to conduct **specialized training**, launch a **payment security certification programme**, and provide access to **IBCART 3.0 (सचेत)**, a threat intelligence platform. This joint initiative aims to build **resilient infrastructure**, enhance **data privacy**, and foster a **culture of digital security awareness** in line with the **growing digital payments landscape**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Green Skills and Electric Vehicles (EV) training programme**, launched jointly by **Shell India** and the **Directorate General of Training (DGT)** under the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, marks a strategic move to prepare India's youth for the **green economy**. With **hands-on training, EV diagnostics, battery systems, and job-ready certifications**, the initiative covers **five major states** and aims to skill over **250 trainers and thousands of students**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Books and Authors

- **Audrey Truschke**, a prominent **American historian and Indologist**, and **Associate Professor at Rutgers University – Newark**, is renowned for her work on **South Asian history**, especially the **Mughal era, Sanskrit texts, and historical memory**, and in 2024 she released *India: 5000 Years of History*, a **comprehensive account** of India's evolution, blending **archival research, narrative analysis, and pluralistic perspectives** to challenge **simplistic historical narratives**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- Public sector general insurance companies (PSGICs) have achieved a notable **growth milestone** by collecting **₹1.06 lakh crore** in **premium income** during **FY2024–25**, up from **₹80,000 crore** in FY19. This performance was highlighted during a **review meeting** chaired by **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman**, focusing on **insurance penetration, density, and digital transformation**. The sector witnessed a **turnaround in profitability**, with firms like **NIACL, NICL, OICL, and UIICL** returning to profits. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **World Bank** has retained **India's FY26 GDP growth forecast at 6.3%**, making it the **fastest-growing major economy** globally. While **70% of economies** saw **downgrades** due to **trade tensions, policy uncertainty, and investment slowdown**, India's robust **service sector, low inflation, and RBI's monetary easing** support its steady growth. The report also highlights India's **fiscal discipline** and medium-term plans to reduce the **public debt-to-GDP ratio** to 50% by FY31. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has launched a **special scheme** to promote **original Hindi book writing in economics, banking, and finance**, offering **recognition and financial rewards** to **UGC-recognized professors** (working or retired) who author **original Hindi books** (20+ pages) published between **April 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025**, with the **application deadline** set for **June 30, 2025**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Thomas Cook (India) Ltd.** has partnered with **Muthoot Forex** to expand access to its **Borderless Travel Card and Study Buddy Card** via Muthoot's **7,000+ branch network**, aiming to serve **international travelers and students abroad** across **metro to Tier 4 cities**, with features like **multi-currency support, emergency cash, free SIM, Rs.7.5 lakh insurance, and reward points** for forex loads. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** gave a significant boost to the **government's non-tax revenue** by paying a **dividend of ₹8,076.84 crore** for **FY 2024-25**, up from **₹6,959.29 crore** last year, with **Chairman C.S. Setty** formally handing over the cheque to **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman**, highlighting **SBI's robust financial performance**, a **₹15.90/share dividend**, and its pivotal role in **fiscal resource mobilization**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- SEBI has launched a **settlement scheme** for stock brokers involved in **algo trading violations**, open from **June 16 to September 16, 2025**. Over **100 brokers**, including top firms like **Zerodha** and **5Paisa**, were found collaborating with **unregulated algo platforms** offering **assured returns**—a direct breach of SEBI norms. The scheme provides a way to resolve cases with a **low settlement cost**, while SEBI continues to strengthen **regulations for algorithmic trading**, emphasizing **retail investor protection**, **empanelment of algo providers**, and **broker accountability**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's retail inflation fell sharply to **2.82% in May 2025**, its lowest since February 2019, led by easing **food inflation**, which dropped to **0.99%**. Key items like **vegetables, pulses, and meat** saw price declines, aided by a **favourable base effect** and **policy interventions** like import duty cuts. While **Kerala** recorded the highest inflation, **Telangana** had the lowest. Experts forecast CPI to average **around 4%** in FY26, though **monsoon progression** and **geopolitical risks** remain important to watch. The data supports the RBI's move to frontload rate cuts but signals limited room for further easing unless **economic growth slows**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Scapia**, in collaboration with **Federal Bank**, has launched India's **first dual-network credit card** combining **Visa and RuPay**, known as the **Scapia Federal RuPay Credit Card**. With **UPI compatibility**, **zero forex markup**, **Scapia Coins**, and **airport lounge benefits**, the card offers a unified credit experience for **domestic and international use**. The launch is aligned with Scapia's broader platform upgrades under its **2025 Summer Release**, including **AI recommendations**, **tailored fare options**, and **reward enhancements** — marking a key milestone in India's **fintech evolution**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a landmark move to enhance **financial inclusion**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** on **June 12, 2025**, eased **KYC norms**, allowing **video-based updates (V-CIP)** and empowering **Business Correspondents (BCs)** to update KYC information. The changes aim to help reactivate **inoperative PMJDY accounts**, ensuring **Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT)** reach beneficiaries without delay. Banks have also been urged to conduct **KYC camps in rural areas** to reach the underserved population. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Government of India** has halved the **customs duty on crude edible oils**—such as palm, sunflower, and soybean oils—from **20% to 10%** in a bid to reduce **retail prices**, promote **domestic refining**, and **curb inflation**. This move increases the **duty gap between crude and refined oils**, encouraging local processing and supporting farmers. An advisory has been issued to edible oil stakeholders to **ensure consumers receive the full benefit** of this tax relief. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **\$109.97 million loan** to support Gujarat's **Skills Development Program**, a forward-looking initiative designed to enhance **technical education**, promote **inclusive employment**, and drive **industrial competitiveness**. By upgrading **training infrastructure**, launching **industry-aligned courses**, and improving **governance** at institutions like **Kaushalya: The Skill University**, the program will create a **future-ready workforce**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Apna.co** has launched **AI Job Prep**, an innovative **AI-powered interview preparation tool** aimed at bridging the **confidence gap** in India's job market. With over **7.6 lakh simulations** completed across **900+ cities**, the platform provides **realistic interview experiences**, **real-time feedback**, and **personalized tips** using its proprietary **Agentic AI technology**. Metro cities like **Delhi and Mumbai** lead in adoption, but usage is rapidly growing in **non-metro areas**. This tool reflects a larger trend of **tech-enabled skilling** and is expected to significantly boost **employability and digital empowerment**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has revised its **gold loan LTV norms**, allowing a **higher loan-to-value ratio** of up to **85%** for **low-ticket loans**. This move, effective from **April 1, 2026**, is expected to significantly benefit **NBFCs**, especially those with a large share of **loans under ₹5 lakh**. According to **Crisil Ratings**, the revised norms offer greater **lending headroom** and help offset new LTV computation rules that include **accrued interest in bullet repayment loans**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **DFCC Bank PLC**, one of Sri Lanka's leading financial institutions, has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the **first foreign corporate to list a green bond** on India's **NSE International Exchange (NSE IX)** at **GIFT City**. This **LKR 2.5 billion bond**, previously listed in Sri Lanka and on the **Luxembourg Stock Exchange**, will finance **solar energy projects** in line with Sri Lanka's **2030 renewable goals**. The bond adheres to **ICMA Green Bond Principles** and supports the **UN SDGs**, especially **Affordable and Clean Energy and Climate Action**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **June 11, 2025**, SEBI announced the development of "**SEBI Check**," a **UPI verification tool** designed to help investors **authenticate UPI IDs** of registered intermediaries and avoid falling prey to **financial frauds**. The regulator also mandated a **new UPI payment structure**, effective from **October 1, 2025**, to ensure all fund collections within the securities market are routed through **verified and secure channels**. This initiative aims to **bolster investor confidence**, increase **digital transaction security**, and **deter impersonation** by unregistered entities. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The RBI will conduct a ₹30,000 crore **government securities auction** on **June 13, 2025**, which includes the **re-issuance of ₹5,000 crore Sovereign Green Bonds (SGRBs)** maturing in **2054**. These bonds are earmarked for **environmentally sustainable projects**. The auction will use the **multiple price method** via the **e-Kuber platform**. This step demonstrates India's firm commitment to **green financing, climate resilience**, and its **net-zero goals** under global climate agreements. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **GIFT City** has witnessed a surge in global interest, with banks from **France and the UAE** applying to set up **IFSC Banking Units (IBUs)**. The **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** has approved **Natixis and Credit Agricole**, while other foreign and domestic banks await clearances. The total number of IBUs has doubled from **15 in 2022 to 31 in 2025**, with **\$88.5 billion in assets**. This reflects **global trust in India's economic reforms**, and supports the country's ambition to make GIFT City a **world-class financial centre**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **SBI General Insurance** has appointed **Mohd. Arif Khan** as its **Deputy CEO** to steer the company through a phase of growth and innovation. With over **25 years at SBI**, Khan has expertise across retail banking, digital systems, and leadership training. His appointment is expected to strengthen **customer experience**, drive **technological innovation**, and expand **SBI General's footprint** in emerging markets. Holding multiple certifications and academic accolades, his entry signifies SBI General's push towards **excellence in insurance services and leadership transformation**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)** has raised **₹2,005.90 crore** through a **QIP issue**, attracting strong participation from domestic and international institutional investors. The funds will **enhance IREDA's Tier-I capital** and enable expanded **green energy financing**. This development follows IREDA's IPO in 2023 and reaffirms the agency's growing significance in India's **clean energy transition**, strengthening its ability to support renewable energy initiatives across the country. ([Click here to read article](#))



Appointments/Resignations

- **T Rabi Sankar**, Deputy Governor of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, has been appointed to the **16th Finance Commission** as a **part-time member**, succeeding **Ajay Narayan Jha**. His expertise in **financial regulation, digital currency**, and **monetary policy** is expected to enrich the **commission's fiscal recommendations** for the **2026-2031 period**. Headed by **Arvind Panagariya**, the commission will report by **October 31, 2025**, shaping **Centre-State financial relations** for the coming years. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Sailesh C. Mehta**, MD of **Deepak Fertilizers**, has been appointed the new **Chairman of the Fertiliser Association of India (FAI)**, succeeding **N. Suresh Krishnan** of **Paradeep Phosphates Ltd**. With over **40 years of industry experience**, Mehta aims to promote **sustainable and nutrient-efficient fertiliser solutions**, improve **farm productivity**, and enhance cooperation among the **government, fertiliser industry, and farmers**. The leadership shift comes at a critical time as the **fertiliser sector** in India undergoes **strategic transformations** to ensure **agricultural resilience and environmental sustainability**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Sat Pal Bhanoo** has been appointed as the **interim CEO and MD of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**, effective from **June 08, 2025**, following the end of **Siddhartha Mohanty's** term. The appointment, made by the **Ministry of Finance**, grants Bhanoo full **financial and administrative powers** for a period of **three months** or until further notice. This ensures **continuity of leadership** in India's **largest life insurance provider**, which plays a **vital role** in the country's **financial ecosystem**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Katrina Kaif**, one of India's leading actors, has been named the **Global Tourism Ambassador** for the **Maldives** by the **Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC)**. This appointment aligns with the launch of the **Visit Maldives Summer Sale Campaign** and comes ahead of **PM Modi's visit**, suggesting renewed efforts to strengthen **tourism and diplomatic ties**. Kaif's global brand appeal is expected to enhance the Maldives' image as a **luxury travel destination**. This move also reflects a **soft power strategy** amid recovering relations between **India and the Maldives**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd** has appointed **Kirti Ganorkar** as its **Managing Director**, effective **September 1, 2025**, in a strategic move reflecting structured **succession planning**. Founder **Dilip Shanghvi** will remain as **Executive Chairman**, focusing on **long-term vision** and the **specialty portfolio**. Ganorkar brings over **25 years of experience**, having led Sun's **India operations** and driven global market expansion. Alongside this transition, **Abhay Gandhi** will exit his role as **North America CEO**, with **Richard Ascroft** taking over, reporting to **Aalok Shanghvi**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- On **June 11, 2025**, the **Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)** recommended **R Doraiswamy**, a seasoned executive with **38 years of experience**, for the role of **Managing Director and CEO of LIC**. This decision is part of a wider leadership revamp at LIC, India's largest insurer. The final appointment awaits approval from the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet**. The move is considered critical for LIC's strategic future, especially in areas of governance, expansion, and market stability. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Cipla Health** has launched a powerful new campaign for **Cipladine**, titled "**Aapka Fast Aid Expert**", featuring **Neena Gupta**. The campaign emphasizes Cipladine's **quick action**, **30-second effectiveness**, and deep wound healing with its **Povidone Iodine formula**. Backed by relatable and witty ads crafted by **Lowe Lintas**, the initiative redefines traditional first aid as **fast aid**, reinforcing Cipladine's leadership in India's antiseptic market. ([Click here to read article](#))

Defence News

- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** has commissioned a **dedicated jetty at Vizhinjam Harbour**, Kerala, marking a vital development in India's maritime security network. Inaugurated on **June 7, 2025**, by **DG Paramesh Sivamani**, this 76.7-metre jetty lies just 10 nautical miles from key international shipping lanes and aims to strengthen operations related to **coastal surveillance**, **anti-smuggling**, and **search & rescue**. The event was attended by high-ranking officials from various defense and maritime bodies. The initiative underscores India's strategic efforts to secure its southwestern coastline and bolster integrated coastal management. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi** visited **Uttarakhand's Garhwal region** to evaluate the **readiness of deployed troops** and to boost morale. During this visit, he launched **Ibex Tarana 88.4 FM**, a **community radio station** in **Jyotirmath** envisioned to promote **local culture**, **education**, and **disaster awareness**. The station aims to empower **youth voices** and connect the people with their **cultural roots**. Additionally, the Army Chief honoured **veterans** for their **nation-building contributions**, marking a notable blend of **military vigilance** and **community development**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai** has been appointed as the new **Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy)**, a key role overseeing **Operations** and **Intelligence Directorates**, while continuing as **DGMO**, marking a major move in the Indian Army's **strategic leadership** to strengthen **threat anticipation**, **integrated command**, and **inter-departmental synergy** through a unified **operational oversight** structure. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** chaired the **137th Offshore Security Coordination Committee (OSCC)** meeting in **New Delhi** on **June 12, 2025**, to reinforce the **security of India's offshore installations**. Senior representatives from the **armed forces**, **ministries**, **ONGC**, and **state police** discussed enhancing **joint response frameworks** and **inter-agency coordination**. Established in **1978**, OSCC plays a pivotal role in safeguarding India's **strategic energy infrastructure**, making the meeting a crucial step toward **energy security and maritime safety**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a proud moment for India, a **10-member NCC team**, including **five girls and five boys**, successfully summited **Mount Everest** on **May 18, 2025**, marking NCC's **third successful expedition** to the world's highest peak. The team was **felicitated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** on **June 12, 2025**, and awarded a **₹10 lakh reward**. The expedition showcased **courage**, **discipline**, and **patriotism**, reinforcing the **NCC's role** in developing **resilient, confident youth**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Exercise Tiger Claw 2025**, held from **May 26 to June 10**, marked the **first joint special forces operation** between the **Garud Commandos** of the **Indian Air Force** and the **USAF Special Forces**. Conducted at the **Garud Regimental Training Centre** in **Uttar Pradesh**, the drill aimed to boost **interoperability**, share **best practices in air-based special operations**, and enhance **combat readiness**. This significant step deepens **India-US defence ties**, adding a new dimension to their existing military collaboration through exercises like **Yudh Abhyas**, **Vajra Prahar**, and **Cope India**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Indian Army** has successfully conducted trials of **Rudrastra**, an **indigenously developed VTOL drone** by **Solar Aerospace and Defence Limited (SDAL)**. The trials, held at the **Pokhran range**, validated the drone's ability to execute **deep-cross border strikes** with **precision-guided airburst munitions**. With a total **range of 170 km**, **1.5-hour endurance**, and **real-time live video relay**, Rudrastra enhances India's **stand-off strike capability**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- A major marine emergency has unfolded off **Kerala's coast** as the **Singaporean vessel MV Wan Hai 503**, engulfed in flames since **June 9, 2025**, continues to drift with a dangerous cargo of **fuel and hazardous containers**. The **Indian Coast Guard** has deployed multiple ships, aircraft, and salvage teams to control the fire and **tow the ship away from the shore**. Despite reducing the visible flames, **internal fires still pose significant risks**, underscoring the urgent need for continued **aerial, sea, and technical operations** to avert an **environmental and maritime crisis**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The Indian Army has joined Exercise Khaan Quest 2025 in **Mongolia**, a prestigious multinational peacekeeping operation scheduled from **June 14–28, 2025**. Represented by **40 personnel**—including women soldiers—the contingent will train in **U.N.-mandated drills** such as **civilian evacuation, cordon and search, counter-IED operations, and combat medical care**. This exercise strengthens India's global peacekeeping role, enhances military interoperability, and reflects the country's commitment to international defense diplomacy. ([Click here to read article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- In a **groundbreaking achievement**, **Rohini Gram Panchayat** from **Dhule**, a **100% tribal village**, has bagged the **Gold Award** at the **National e-Governance Awards 2025** for its **digital governance model**. Recognized under the **Grassroots Level Initiatives** category, the Panchayat has provided over **956 online services**, including digital delivery of certificates via **WhatsApp** and streamlined e-services in **health, education, and welfare**. This award underscores the transformative potential of **Digital India** in **rural and tribal regions**, with Rohini emerging as a **national role model** for **technology-enabled governance**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **78th Locarno Film Festival**, scheduled from **August 6–16, 2025**, will bestow its highest honour, the **Pardo d'Onore (Honorary Leopard award)**, upon renowned **American filmmaker Alexander Payne**. Payne, celebrated for his emotionally grounded storytelling in films such as *Sideways*, *Nebraska*, and *The Holdovers*, will also interact with festival audiences through retrospectives and discussions. This tribute places him among a **prestigious list of global cinema icons**, reaffirming his role as a **master of modern humanist cinema**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- The **National Conference on Agri Stack**, held on **June 13, 2025**, marked a significant step in India's **digital agriculture journey**. With the launch of **₹6,000 crore funding**, **DigiLocker-linked DVCs**, **AI-powered chatbots**, and **grievance redressal systems**, the Centre reaffirmed its commitment to **data-driven governance**. States like **Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Karnataka** shared innovative use cases, reflecting collaborative efforts to enhance **scheme delivery, credit access, and farmer identity authentication**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Meet 2025** in **Indore** marked a major milestone in advancing India's **inland aquaculture sector** under the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**. With a growth rate of **9%**, production reaching **147 lakh tonnes**, and an investment

push of **₹38,572 crore**, the event showcased the sector's transformative potential. The discussions emphasized the use of **technology like RAS, Biofloc, and drones**, expansion of **coldwater and saline fisheries**, and development of **brood banks and skilling programs**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- Mumbai** ranks **6th globally** and **1st in Asia-Pacific** in terms of **under-construction data centre capacity**, with **335 MW** in development as per **Cushman & Wakefield's 2025 report**. This expansion will increase its **operational capacity by 62%**, driven by rising demand from **hyperscalers, AI, and cloud computing**. Mumbai's strengths—such as **12 submarine cable stations**, a robust **digital backbone**, and sustained interest from **global operators**—underscore its emergence as a **data infrastructure powerhouse**, despite **land and power constraints**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **DARPG's 34th CPGRAMS report** for **May 2025** showcases a strong push in **public grievance redressal**, with **78,123 complaints resolved** and a significant rise in **user registrations and feedback collection**. **Uttar Pradesh** led in both grievances received and disposed, while the **Sevottam Scheme** continues to train officials to improve service delivery. With nearly **2 lakh pending grievances** and over **28,000 officers trained**, the CPGRAMS platform remains central to India's **e-governance** efforts, ensuring **transparency, accountability, and citizen empowerment**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's position in the **Global Gender Gap Report 2025** has worsened, falling to **131st out of 148 countries**, with a **gender parity score of 64.1%**. While there were marginal improvements in **economic participation and education**, the decline in **female political representation** significantly impacted the score. India now ranks among the **lowest in South Asia**, even trailing behind **Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka**. Despite global progress in **closing the gender gap to 68.8%**, India's challenges highlight the **urgent need for structural reforms** to uplift women in politics and leadership. ([Click here to read article](#))

Sports News

- Portugal** lifted their **second UEFA Nations League title** after a dramatic **2-2 draw** against **Spain**, winning **5-3 in the penalty shootout** on **June 8, 2025**. Despite twice trailing in regulation time, Portugal showed exceptional **resilience**. **Ronaldo's equaliser** and **Neves' final penalty** were crucial in the win. With this victory, Portugal became the **first nation to win the tournament twice**, adding to their **legacy of international football success**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Carlos Alcaraz's** spectacular **comeback victory** against **Jannik Sinner** at the **2025 French Open final** stands out as one of the most remarkable moments in recent **tennis history**. The match lasted **5 hours and 29 minutes**, making it the **longest French Open final** in the **Open Era**. Alcaraz's ability to **save three match points** and turn the tide showcased his **resilience** and **exceptional skill**, earning him his **second consecutive French Open crown** and **fifth Grand Slam title** overall. The intense **rivalry with Sinner**, combined with the **record-breaking** nature of the match, emphasizes the exciting **new era of men's tennis** dominated by **young, talented players**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Anahat Singh**, India's **top-ranked female squash player**, had an **outstanding 2024–25 season**, earning her the **PSA Women's Challenger Player** and **Young Player of the Season** awards. With **nine tournament titles**, including victories at the **Indian Open** and **British Junior Open**, and a **29-match winning streak**, Anahat rose to **World No. 56**. She made her **senior World Championship debut**, defeating **World No. 29** before falling in the second round. Sharing the spotlight with Egypt's **Amina Orfi**, Anahat's success marks a new era for **Indian squash** on the global stage. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **2025 Indonesia Open**, held in **Jakarta**, saw emotional victories and historic firsts. **Anders Antonsen** finally lifted the **men's singles title**, overcoming past disappointments, while **An Se-young**, the **world number one**, claimed her **second women's singles crown** with a thrilling comeback. **France** celebrated its **first-ever Super 1000 win in mixed doubles**, while **China and South Korea** excelled in the doubles formats. The tournament reinforced badminton's growing global appeal and spotlighted the sport's emotional intensity and competitive excellence. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Indian Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram** won the **6th Stepan Avagyan Memorial Chess Tournament** in **Jermuk, Armenia**, scoring **6.5/9** and edging out **R. Praggnanandhaa** on the **Sonneborne-Berger tiebreak system**, thanks to stronger opponents defeated, marking another high point in Aravindh's **unbeaten 2025 run** after his **Prague Masters** win. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **MS Dhoni** joins a prestigious group as one of **seven inductees** into the **ICC Hall of Fame 2025**, alongside cricketing legends **Matthew Hayden (Australia)**, **Daniel Vettori (New Zealand)**, **Hashim Amla** and **Graeme Smith (South Africa)**, **Sana Mir (Pakistan)**, and **Sarah Taylor (England)**, celebrating their **iconic impact on world cricket**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Nicholas Pooran**, former **West Indies white-ball captain**, shocked the cricket world by announcing his **retirement from international cricket** at just **29**, leaving behind a legacy as **West Indies' most capped T20I player** with **106 matches**, **2275 runs**, and a strike rate of **136.39**, alongside an impactful **ODI record of 1983 runs in 61 games**, though he **never played Test cricket**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Wimbledon 2025** will offer a **record prize pool of £53.5 million (~\$73 million)**, with the **men's and women's singles champions** each receiving **£3 million (~\$4 million)**. This **7% increase** from 2024 reflects both the **financial boom in tennis** and a response to **player demands** for greater equity. First-round losers will earn **£66,000**, a **10% rise** from last year. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Football superstar **Cristiano Ronaldo** has been named the **Global Ambassador** for the **Esports World Cup 2025**, underscoring the growing synergy between **traditional sports** and **competitive gaming**. Hosted in **Riyadh**, the tournament will see **2,000 players** from over **100 nations** compete in **25 global tournaments** across **24 major games**, including **FATAL FURY**, where Ronaldo features as a **playable character**. With a record **\$70 million prize pool**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- In a significant shift, the **Centre has capped MGNREGS expenditure at 60%** for the **first half of FY 2025–26**, bringing the scheme under the **MEP/QEP framework** for the first time. This move comes amid **pending liabilities of ₹21,000 crore**, and may affect the scheme's **employment generation capacity**. With an **annual allocation of ₹86,000 crore** and an ambitious **labour target of 198.86 crore persondays**, the decision marks a major policy shift in how the **demand-driven MGNREGS** is financially managed. While it aims at **fiscal control**, concerns remain about potential **job shortfalls** in rural areas. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Punjab Udyog Kranti**, launched on **June 10, 2025**, marks a significant shift in **industrial governance** in India. With its **12 bold reforms**, including the **FastTrack Punjab Portal**, **deemed approvals in 45 days**, and **colour-coded stamp papers**, Punjab aims to eliminate bureaucratic red tape and foster a **business-friendly environment**. Chief Minister **Bhagwant Mann** and AAP leader **Arvind Kejriwal** have positioned Punjab as a **national leader in industrial policy reform**, making it a potential magnet for **investment, innovation, and employment generation**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Science and Technology News

- Snap Inc. has announced the **launch of its first consumer-ready smart glasses**, called **Specs**, in **2026**, marking its serious entry into the **wearable augmented reality (AR)** market. This move challenges **Meta**, whose Ray-Ban smart glasses are gaining popularity. Snap's new product will be **lightweight**, **AR-integrated**, and supported by the **Lens Studio** platform in collaboration with **Niantic Spatial**. With **over \$3 billion invested** and five previous developer-only versions, Snap aims to expand its ecosystem and reduce dependence on digital ads. ([Click here to read article](#))

Important Days News

- The **International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations**, to be observed **annually on 10 June**, was established by the **United Nations in 2024** to promote **intercultural dialogue, global solidarity, and peaceful coexistence**. The **2025 celebration** featured a **UNESCO event in Paris** focused on the **Silk Roads' cultural legacy** and youth engagement. The event included thematic panels, expert speakers, and cultural performances, emphasizing the role of dialogue in **eliminating prejudice, enhancing mutual respect, and building inclusive societies**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Quality Council of India (QCI)** celebrated **World Accreditation Day 2025** at **India Habitat Centre, New Delhi**, under the theme **"Accreditation: Empowering SMEs"**, highlighting its commitment to **quality standards, global alignment** through **NABL and NABCB**, and launching the **revamped NABL Portal** to boost **digital access, transparency, and support for MSMEs** in the **accreditation process**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **International Day of Play**, observed annually on **June 11**, celebrates the **essential role of play** in promoting **child development, mental well-being, and social connection**, with the **2025 theme "Choose Play – Every Day"** urging individuals, communities, and governments to **prioritize daily play** across homes, schools, and public life for **healthier, happier societies**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **International Albinism Awareness Day 2025**, observed on **June 13**, is a **UN-recognized global event** aimed at protecting the **rights and dignity** of individuals affected by **albinism, a genetic disorder** marked by the **lack of melanin** in the body. The day serves to fight **stigma**, promote **equality**, and raise awareness of **visual impairments, sun sensitivity, and genetic inheritance** patterns associated with the condition. Established in **2014**, this initiative is rooted in **human rights, public education, and the celebration of diversity**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Blood Donor Day 2025**, observed globally on **June 14**, honours voluntary blood donors and raises awareness about the importance of **safe, regular blood donations**. With the theme **"Give Blood, Give Hope,"** this year's observance highlights how each unit of donated blood brings healing and hope to those in need. Established by the **WHO in 2004**, the day also commemorates the birthday of **Karl Landsteiner**, who discovered the **ABO blood group system**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Day Against Child Labour 2025** was observed on **June 12**, emphasizing the urgent need to eliminate child labour globally. With **138 million children** still affected, this year's theme — **"Progress is clear, but there's more to do: let's speed up our efforts!"** — serves as a powerful reminder that global efforts must intensify. Initiated by the **ILO in 2002**, the observance aims to promote **child rights, ensure education, and reduce poverty-driven exploitation**, while in India, various national policies and acts are already supporting the cause. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2025**, observed on **June 15**, aims to address the often-overlooked issue of **abuse against older adults**, including physical, emotional, financial, and sexual mistreatment. Launched by **WHO and INPEA** in 2006 and later recognised by the **United Nations**, the day is marked with global advocacy and community action. Wearing **purple**, sharing resources, and checking in on elders are simple yet powerful ways to participate. ([Click here to read article](#))

Obituaries News

- **Eminent scholar and Marathi literary figure Daji Panshikar**, aged **92**, passed away in **Thane** after a brief illness. Renowned for his deep understanding of the **Mahabharata, Bhavarth Ramayan, and Eknaathi Bhagwat**, he was a leading voice in **cultural commentary, epic interpretation, and spiritual education**. Panshikar also made significant contributions to **Maharashtra's theatre scene** through the **Natyasampada Natya Sanstha**. His passing has drawn tributes from leaders like **CM Devendra Fadnavis**, who hailed him as a **torchbearer of Indian cultural heritage**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The death of **Vijay Rupani**, former Chief Minister of Gujarat, in the **Air India 171 crash** has sent shockwaves across India's political landscape. A stalwart of the **BJP**, Rupani held significant roles including **Chief Minister (2016–2021)** and **national vice-president** of the party. Known for his **humility and discipline**, Rupani's career spanned decades — from being jailed during the **Emergency** to guiding Gujarat during sensitive periods. His demise not only ends a chapter in **state and national politics**, but also leaves behind a legacy of quiet strength and public service. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Ustad Ghulam Nabi Shah**, famously known as **Hamle Bulbul**, passed away on **June 11, 2025**, in **Dangi wacha Rafiabad**, his ancestral village. He was a legendary figure in **Kashmiri folk music**, with over **three decades of service** in the **Department of Information, J&K**. Known for his **mastery in sarangi, Bacha Nagma, and glass dance**, he was instrumental in **promoting and preserving Kashmiri culture** both nationally and internationally. Recipient of the **Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Abdullah Award**, his death marks the end of a **golden era** in Kashmir's rich artistic tradition. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Bill Atkinson**, a key architect of Apple's early software innovations, passed away on **June 5, 2025**, at the age of **74**. Known for creating **QuickDraw**, a core graphics engine for the **Apple Lisa and Macintosh**, and for introducing GUI elements like **pull-down menus**, Atkinson's contributions were pivotal in shaping user-friendly computing. His work laid the groundwork for the **modern desktop environment**, influencing operating systems worldwide. His death marks the end of a transformative chapter in **technology history**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Static Takeaways

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
1	SBI	MD - Challa Sreenivasalu Setty
2	RBI	Governor - Sanjay Malhotra
3	Federal bank	MD - KVS Manian
4	Muthoot Group	MD - George Alexander Muthoot
5	Asian Development Bank	HQ - Manila
6	Sun Pharma	MD - Kirti Ganorkar
7	Thomas Cook India Limited	MD - Mahesh Iyer
8	Israel	PM - Benjamin Netanyahu Capital - Jerusalem
9	Sri Lanka	President - Anura Kumara Dissanayake Capital - Colombo
10	USA	President - Donald Trump Capital - Washington D.C.
11	Iran	Capital - Tehran
12	Punjab	CM - Bhagwat Mann Governor - Gulab Chand Kataria Capital - Chandigarh
13	Gujarat	CM - Bhupendra Patel Governor - Acharya Devvrat Capital - Gandhinagar
14	Maharashtra	CM - Devendra Fadnavis Governor - Radhakrishnan Capital - Mumbai
15	Bihar	CM - Nitish Kumar Governor - Arif Khan Capital - Patna
16	Tamilnadu	CM - Stalin Governor - R N Ravi Capital - Chennai