

Weekly One Liners 23rd to 29th June, 2025

India to Launch First All-India Household Income Survey in 2026

In a landmark step towards strengthening data-driven policymaking, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has announced that it will conduct the first-ever All-India Household Income Survey in 2026. This move will help understand income distribution, assess technological impacts on wages, and fill existing gaps in welfare and economic inequality data. The survey will be guided by a Technical Expert Group (TEG) chaired by Surjit Bhalla, former Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Why in News?

The Ministry of Statistics has confirmed the launch of a nationwide household income survey in 2026, a first-of-its-kind effort to capture accurate income data from Indian households. It seeks to address longstanding data gaps, particularly in income, wage patterns, and technology's influence on earnings, which are crucial for welfare and economic policies.

Objectives and Aims

- To capture income distribution patterns across Indian households.
- To assess the impact of technology adoption on household wages and earnings.
- To enable better targeting of welfare schemes through accurate income data.
- To align with international best practices in income data collection.

Technical Oversight

- Technical Expert Group (TEG) set up under the leadership of Surjit Bhalla.

The TEG will provide guidance on,

- Survey concepts and definitions
- Sampling design
- Estimation methods
- Incorporating global best practices from countries like the US, Canada, South Africa, and Australia.

Implementation and Strategy

- Survey to be executed by the National Statistical Office (NSO).
- Expected to include diverse income sources – wages, self-employment, remittances, and digital earnings.
- Will improve upon earlier efforts that faced field-level data reliability issues.
- Efforts will be made to ensure transparency, accuracy, and granular regional insights.

Significance

- First dedicated income-centric survey in independent India.
- Will help bridge gaps in existing economic surveys, which primarily focus on consumption or employment.
- Useful for policymakers, economists, and planners to tackle income inequality and improve social safety nets.
- Could lead to restructuring of income-based welfare schemes like PM-KISAN, subsidy targeting, or DBT frameworks.

Global Peace Index 2025: A Deep Dive into Global Stability and Rising Tensions

The **Global Peace Index (GPI) 2025**, now in its **19th edition**, remains the world's leading measure of **national and regional peacefulness**. Developed by the **Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)**, the index offers invaluable insight into the **peacefulness of 163 countries**, covering **99.7% of the global population**. In a world experiencing an uptick in geopolitical instability, the GPI serves as a crucial indicator of current global trends in **conflict, safety, and militarisation**.

What is the Global Peace Index?

The **Global Peace Index** is an **annual quantitative analysis** that evaluates peace based on **23 indicators** across **three main domains**:

- **Societal Safety and Security**
- **Ongoing Domestic and International Conflict**
- **Degree of Militarisation**

Published by the **Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)**—a non-partisan, independent think tank based in Sydney—the GPI has become a widely respected benchmark for governments, researchers, and institutions working towards **sustainable peace and security reforms**.



Top 10 Most Peaceful Countries in 2025

Despite widespread unrest, some nations maintain high levels of peace:

Rank	Country	GPI Score	Region
1	Iceland	1.095	Europe
2	Ireland	1.260	Europe
3	New Zealand	1.282	Oceania
4	Austria	1.294	Europe
5	Switzerland	1.294	Europe
6	Singapore	1.357	Asia
7	Portugal	1.371	Europe
8	Denmark	1.393	Europe
9	Slovenia	1.409	Europe
10	Finland	1.420	Europe

Most Peaceful Nation: Iceland

Iceland has retained its position as the world's most peaceful country since 2008, credited to its **low crime rates, stable politics, and lack of military forces.**

Least Peaceful Countries in 2025

The bottom of the GPI ranking highlights ongoing crises:

Rank	Country	GPI Score	Region
163	Russia	3.441	Eurasia
162	Ukraine	3.434	Europe
161	Sudan	3.323	Africa
160	DRC	3.292	Africa
159	Yemen	3.262	Middle East

Least Peaceful Nation: Russia

Due to the prolonged war in Ukraine, sanctions, and internal political repression, **Russia ranks last**, followed by Ukraine.

India's Performance in Global Peace Index 2025

India ranks **115th out of 163** nations, with a GPI score of **2.229**, reflecting a **0.58% improvement** over the previous year. India's trajectory has shown gradual improvement over recent years:

- 2025: Rank 115
- 2024: Rank 116
- 2023: Rank 126
- 2020: Rank 139
- 2019: Rank 141

Despite **internal unrest, cross-border tensions, and militarisation**, India has seen improvements in **crime perception, political stability, and terrorist impact** indicators.

India vs South Asia

While South Asia remains the **least peaceful region**, India has outperformed several regional neighbours:

Country	GPI Rank
India	115
Bangladesh	123
Pakistan	144
Afghanistan	158

Shubhanshu Shukla Pilots Axiom-4 on SpaceX Falcon 9 to ISS

On **25 June 2025 at 12:01 pm IST**, Group Captain **Shubhanshu Shukla** began his ascent to the International Space Station on board **SpaceX's Falcon 9 Block 5** from **Launch Complex 39A, Kennedy Space Center**. This marks the **second time an Indian** has ventured into space and the **first Indian to live and work onboard the ISS.**

Who Is Shubhanshu Shukla? A Pilot Turned Astronaut

Born on **10 October 1985** in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**, Shukla graduated from the **National Defence Academy** in 2005 and was commissioned into the IAF's Fighter Stream in **June 2006**. By **March 2024**, he had risen to the rank of **Group Captain**, accruing over **2,000 hours of flight time** in combat aircraft like Su-30 MKI, MiG-21/29, Jaguar, and Hawk. He joined **ISRO's Gaganyaan astronaut cadre in 2019**, trained in Russia and Bengaluru, and was named to the **Ax-4 mission crew** in early 2024.

Falcon 9 Block 5 & Crew Dragon: A Trusted Pair

The **Falcon 9 Block 5**, certified by NASA in November 2020, is a reusable, medium-lift rocket noted for its **100% crewed mission success rate** and redundant systems. The mission uses a **new Crew Dragon capsule**, piloted autonomously, ferrying a **four-member international crew** to the ISS.

A Global Crew and Mission Objectives

Axiom-4's command structure includes former NASA astronaut **Peggy Whitson** and mission specialists from **Poland** and **Hungary**, alongside pilot Shukla. Over **14 days**, the crew will conduct **around 60 scientific experiments**, seven of which are **Indian-designed**, spanning microgravity, biology, and materials science.

A Milestone for India's Space Odyssey

This mission represents India's **first government-backed presence on the ISS** and the nation's long-awaited return to human spaceflight since **Rakesh Sharma's 1984 mission**. It also complements the **Gaganyaan programme**, positioning India alongside global spacefaring nations.

Technical Delays and Final Countdown

The launch was postponed multiple times due to **weather, technical, and safety checks** including a **liquid oxygen leak in early June**. Ultimately, the team resolved all issues, and the **final launch window opened on 25 June**.

10 Years of AMRUT: Transforming Urban India

India celebrates 10 years of the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), launched on June 25, 2015, as a flagship scheme to improve urban living standards by ensuring water supply, sewerage, green spaces, and urban mobility. With more than 2 crore tap connections, 1.5 crore sewer links, and ₹2.73 lakh crore worth of projects sanctioned, AMRUT has become a cornerstone of India's urban transformation story.

Why in News?

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) marked a decade of AMRUT and AMRUT 2.0 on June 25, 2025, showcasing key milestones and outcomes in improving water supply, sanitation, stormwater drainage, and urban mobility across Indian cities. The scheme's success demonstrates India's progress towards sustainable and inclusive urban development.

Objectives of AMRUT

- Provide tap water and sewerage connections to every urban household.
- Create green spaces and parks to enhance livability.
- Promote non-motorized transport and reduce urban pollution.
- Empower Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) through reforms and capacity building.

Achievements (2015–2025)**Water Supply**

- **2.03 crore** tap connections provided.
- 3,568 projects worth ₹1.14 lakh crore approved under AMRUT 2.0.
- 10,647 MLD Water Treatment Plant (WTP) capacity sanctioned.
- SCADA technology adopted in 1,487 projects for real-time monitoring.

Sewerage & Septage Management

- 1.50 crore sewer connections achieved.
- 592 projects worth ₹67,607 crore approved under AMRUT 2.0.
- 6,739 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) capacity approved.
- Use of Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) and decentralized networks promoted.

Energy Efficiency

- 99 lakh LED streetlights installed.
- Annual savings: 666 crore kWh and reduction of 46 lakh tonnes of CO₂ emissions.

Green Spaces

- Parks with child- and elderly-friendly features in cities.
- 544 water bodies rejuvenated under AMRUT, covering 9,511 acres.
- Additional 3,032 water bodies approved under AMRUT 2.0 for rejuvenation.

Urban Mobility

- Facilities for non-motorized transport (walkways, cycle paths, BRTS).
- Focus on ferry vessels, footbridges, and multi-level parking.

Financing & Capacity Building

- ₹4,984 crore raised by 13 ULBs via municipal bonds.
- Over 90,000 personnel trained including plumbers, plant operators, and officials.
- Introduction of Technology Sub-Mission and support to 120 start-ups for urban innovation.

AMRUT 2.0 Highlights (Launched October 1, 2021):

- Covers all ULBs, aims for universal water and sewerage coverage.
- Outlay: ₹2.99 lakh crore (₹76,760 crore Central share).
- Promotes water reuse, recycling, and sustainable resource use via initiatives like "Jal Hi AMRIT".

Kerala Sahitya Akademi Announces 2024 Literary Award Winners

The Kerala Sahitya Akademi, the premier literary body of the state, has announced the recipients of its 2024 literary awards, celebrating both emerging talents and veteran writers in Malayalam literature. The awards honour excellence in genres ranging from novels and poetry to drama, biography, and translation, reinforcing the Akademi's commitment to fostering literary culture in Kerala.

Why in News?

The 2024 Kerala Sahitya Akademi Awards were officially declared on June 26, 2025, in Thrissur, recognizing a wide array of Malayalam literary contributions. The awards hold great cultural significance and are considered among the most prestigious recognitions for Malayalam writers.

Key Awardees and Categories

- **Best Novel:** G R Indugopan for Aano
- **Poetry:** Anitha Thampi for Muringa Vazha Kariveppu
- **Short Story:** V Shinilal for Garisappa Aruvi Athava Oru Jalayathra
- **Essay (Sibi Kumar Endowment Award):** M Swaraj for Pookkalude Pusthakam

Akademi Fellowship & Lifetime Contribution Awards

- **Fellowship:** K V Ramakrishnan
- **Lifetime Contribution:** Ezhacheri Ramachandran

Additionally, six authors were honoured with Lifetime Contribution Awards,

- P K N Panicker
- Payyannur Kunhiraman
- M M Narayanan
- T K Gangadharan
- K E N
- Mallika Yunis

Other Categories

- **Drama:** Sashidharan Naduvil
- **Literary Criticism:** G Dileep
- **Scientific Literature:** Deepak V
- **Biography/Autobiography:** Dr K Rajashekharan Nair
- **Travel Writing:** K R Ajayan
- **Translation:** Chinthu Prakash
- **Children's Literature:** E N Sheeja
- **Humour:** Niranjana

Awards Details

- **Regular Awards:** ₹25,000 cash prize, plaque, and certificate.
- **Fellowship & Major Lifetime Awards:** ₹50,000, a two-sovereign gold medal, shawl, citation, and plaque.
- **Other Lifetime Awards:** ₹30,000, plaque, shawl, and certificate.
- Notably, no winner was selected for the Vilasini Award this year.

India's Strategic Autonomy on Display at SCO 2025

At the 2025 Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Qingdao, China, India's Defence Minister made headlines by refusing to sign the joint statement at the Defence Ministers' meeting. The draft omitted any reference to the Pahalgam terror attack, despite highlighting the Jaffar Express hijacking in Pakistan, prompting India to reject the final statement. This firm stance underscored India's unwavering commitment to fighting terrorism and maintaining strategic autonomy, sending a strong signal to the international community.

Why in News?

India's refusal to sign the SCO joint statement in June 2025 marks a significant diplomatic shift. The action spotlights India's consistent zero-tolerance stance on terrorism and its readiness to stand alone within multilateral frameworks when core security concerns are diluted or ignored.

Understanding the SCO: Static & Background Facts

- **Founded:** 2001 (evolved from Shanghai Five, 1996)
- **Members (2025):** India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, Belarus
- **Headquarters:** Secretariat – Beijing, RATS (Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure) – Tashkent

Key Focus Areas

- Counter-terrorism
- Regional security
- Economic cooperation

India's Strategic Calculations

- Refusal to sign reflects zero-tolerance for selective treatment of terror incidents.
- Strong message: Peace and terrorism cannot coexist.

- Contextually significant as it was the first Indian ministerial visit to China post the 2020 LAC standoff.
- India took a principled stand despite diplomatic pressure from dominant SCO players.

Implications for Regional Security

RATS has a record of effective coordination,

- Prevented 20 attacks (2011–2015)
- Facilitated arrests of extremist elements
- India's move raises concerns about the credibility of SCO's counter-terror commitments.
- Highlights fault lines in multilateral cooperation when national interests diverge.

China's Influence & India's Response

- China leveraged its position as 2025 SCO chair, excluded Pahalgam attack.
- Most SCO members back China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), unlike India.

India also resisted,

- BRI endorsements (SCO 2023)
- BRICS currency basket (2023)
- India's approach emphasizes issue-based engagement.

Strategic Autonomy in Action

- India engages in SCO, BRICS, Quad, G20 without being bound by any alliance.
- Strategy: Maximum engagement, minimum entanglement.

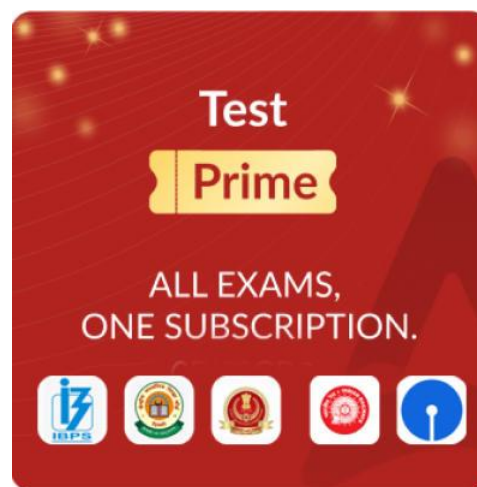
SCO is key for,

- Access to Central Asian energy and markets
- Security cooperation, especially against terrorism

Lessons for Counter-Terrorism Cooperation

True collaboration requires,

- Unified definitions of terrorism
- Honest acknowledgement of all terror acts
- Bilateral rivalries (India-Pakistan) often disrupt multilateral actions.
- Consensus model of SCO may hinder decisive action in critical areas.



Future Outlook

India likely to pursue,

- Selective engagement within SCO
- Active participation in functional areas (e.g., RATS)
- Continued stand on principled foreign policy
- Despite political challenges, SCO remains useful for India's regional interests.

National Affairs

- In a major step toward **mitigating human-wildlife conflict**, Union Minister **Bhupendra Yadav** announced the creation of a **Centre of Excellence** at **WII-SACON**, focusing on the use of **AI-driven solutions**, **public sensitisation**, and **rapid response mechanisms**. Backed by previous advisories (2021) and detailed guidelines (2022), the initiative comes amid rising **fatalities due to tiger and elephant attacks**, particularly in states like **Maharashtra**, **Odisha**, and **Uttar Pradesh**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India is set to **integrate its Rare Donor Registry** with the **e-Rakt Kosh** national blood platform to ensure quicker, safer, and more cost-effective access to **rare blood groups** like **Bombay**, **Rh-null**, and **P-null**. Developed by **ICMR-NIIH**, the registry contains **over 4,000 rare donors**, screened using **advanced DNA testing kits**. The integration will benefit patients with **thalassemia**, **hemophilia**, and **sickle cell disease**, while upgraded **point-of-care tests** have significantly reduced diagnosis costs. The move marks a milestone in India's goal toward a **digitally connected, self-reliant blood management system**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **historic move** to promote **educational equity**, **IIT-Delhi** has introduced a **special PhD admission drive** for **Scheduled Caste (SC)** and **Scheduled Tribe (ST)** candidates. This initiative, which runs until **June 30, 2025**, addresses a persistent **shortfall in reserved seat intake** at the **doctoral level**, as revealed to a **parliamentary committee**. Despite relaxed eligibility norms, the institute has received **fewer applications**, prompting **department-wide changes** to encourage supernumerary admissions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a landmark move to boost the **circular economy**, **CSIR-NIIST** and **NECTAR** have signed an MoU to establish **vegan leather manufacturing units** in **Meghalaya** and the **Northeast region**, utilizing **agro-waste** such as rice straw and fruit residues. This initiative aligns with **Atmanirbhar Bharat**, **Make in India**, and **Swachh Bharat**, focusing on **sustainable production**, **women empowerment**, and **MSME support**. Additionally, CSIR-NIIST's partnership with **GIZ India** will launch a **Centre of Excellence for Building Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPV)**, accelerating India's clean energy transformation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **landmark move** to enhance the **Rath Yatra 2025** experience, **East Coast Railway (ECOR)** launched the '**ECOR Yatra**' mobile app, offering **real-time train info**, **special Rath Yatra train schedules**, **accommodation details**, and **ticket booking options**. Available on the **Google Play Store**, the app—featuring **multilingual support** and linked to **NTES** and **IRCTC**—caters to lakhs of **Puri-bound pilgrims**, ensuring **smooth navigation**, **live updates**, and access to **passenger amenities**, marking a significant leap in **digital railway services** during mass events. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a significant reform aligning with **NEP 2020**, the **CBSE** will allow **Class 10 students** to take **board exams twice a year** starting from **2026-27**. The **first exam is mandatory**, while the **second is optional** for those wishing to **improve scores** in up to **three academic subjects**. This move aims to **reduce exam stress**, offer **flexibility**, and facilitate smoother **Class 11 admissions**. New provisions also cover **compartment students**, **sports quota**, and **snow-bound areas**, making the system more inclusive and progressive. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Government of India launched **Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan (DAJA)** on **June 15, 2025**, marking the **largest tribal empowerment campaign** in India's history, aiming to reach over **5.5 crore tribal citizens** across **31 states/UTs**. Named after **Birsa Munda**, this initiative honors tribal heritage while delivering on **PM Modi's vision of inclusive governance**. In just nine days, DAJA enabled **1.68 lakh Ayushman cards**, **1.38 lakh Aadhaar enrolments**, and **22,000+ Ujjwala Yojana** connections. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)** has rolled out a **2-day 'AI in Governance' training programme** at **IIT Delhi**, aiming to boost the **digital capacity** of **59 government officials**. Conducted under **CB Phase III of Digital India**, the programme includes **interactive sessions**, **policy discussions**, and **group exercises** to foster **responsible AI adoption** in governance. The initiative reflects India's strategic push for **tech-driven governance reforms** and **AI integration** in public administration. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Union Environment Ministry** held a review of **Project Elephant**, confirming the **completion of Phase-I elephant census** in **Northeast India**, where over **16,500 dung samples** were collected. In efforts to reduce **elephant deaths due to railway accidents**, **3,452 km of tracks** were surveyed and **77 high-risk areas** identified. The meeting also highlighted progress in **DNA profiling of captive elephants** and announced the inclusion of **sloth bear** and **gharial** in the **Species Recovery Programme**, showing a broader commitment to **wildlife conservation and conflict mitigation**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India has successfully integrated **wildlife conservation** into infrastructure through the construction of its **first animal overpass corridor** on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway. Built by the **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**, the corridor features multiple **overpasses and underpasses** tailored to the natural terrain, enabling the safe movement of species like **tigers and leopards**. The project sets a national precedent in **eco-sensitive development**, with other states like **Punjab and Maharashtra** adopting similar models. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In an effort to close the gap between tribal welfare policies and their on-ground implementation, the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has launched the **Adi Karmyogi programme**. Announced during the **Adi Anveshan conference**, the initiative aims to **train over 20 lakh stakeholders** and build a **motivated cadre of officials** across India. The move addresses the key insight that the **real obstacle in tribal development lies in poor implementation**, not the absence of schemes. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Indian government has approved the setting up of the **CIP-South Asia Regional Center** in Agra to advance research and innovation in **potato and sweet potato cultivation**. With India being the world's **second-largest producer and consumer of potatoes**, the center will focus on improving yields, developing **climate-resilient varieties**, reducing import dependence on seeds, and **boosting exports**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Emergency** was imposed exactly **50 years ago on June 25, 1975**, marking the beginning of what historians consider **one of the darkest chapters in the history of the Indian republic**. This **21-month period** witnessed the unprecedented suspension of democratic institutions, fundamental rights, and constitutional governance that had defined India since independence. **Indira Gandhi** had initially risen to power on an **electoral landslide in 1971**, but her administration soon faced mounting challenges that would ultimately lead to the constitutional crisis. The convergence of economic hardship, political opposition, and judicial scrutiny created a perfect storm that pushed Gandhi toward authoritarian measures.
- On **June 20, 2025**, **PM Modi** launched multiple **rail projects worth ₹2,750 crore** in **Odisha**, marking a significant push toward **regional connectivity and development**. The **inauguration of the Sonepur–Purunakatak rail line** connected **Boudh district** to India's rail network for the first time. Other highlights include **freight facilities, road over bridges**, and new **weekly train services**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **pre-election welfare boost**, **Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar** has raised **social security pensions** from ₹400 to ₹1,100 per month, benefiting over **1 crore elderly, widows, and disabled citizens** starting **July 2025**. The hike, the first since 2005, coincides with **Assembly elections** later this year and is aimed at strengthening **NDA's political positioning** amid **Opposition welfare promises**. Additional decisions, such as **higher allowances for panchayat leaders** and **enhanced financial powers**, further demonstrate Nitish's strategy to secure support in **rural Bihar**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** has announced two **landmark reforms** aimed at **gender inclusion and grassroots empowerment**. The **transgender community** will now be classified under the **Other Backward Classes (OBC)** category, enabling access to **education, jobs, and welfare benefits**. Additionally, **Anganwadi workers** will receive **50% reservation in supervisor-level positions** within the **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)**, recognizing their contributions in **nutrition and child care**. These initiatives, unveiled during a ceremonial event in Guwahati, mark a **progressive shift** in Assam's welfare and recruitment policy. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **landmark move**, Union Power Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** announced that **Bihar** will get its **first nuclear power plant**, based on **Small Modular Reactor (SMR)** technology, making it one of six states selected under India's **₹20,000 crore Nuclear Energy Mission**. Aimed at tackling Bihar's **power deficit**, this **cost-effective, compact, and scalable** SMR system will boost **energy security, industrial growth, and sustainability**. Complementing this, a **1,000 MW battery storage** project has been approved, alongside praise for Bihar's reforms like **8 million smart meters** and a sharp drop in power losses. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a bold blend of **politics and infrastructure**, **Bihar CM Nitish Kumar** inaugurated a **4.57 km six-lane bridge** over the **Ganges**, linking **Patna to Raghupur**—the political bastion of his rival **Lalu Prasad** and his son **Tejashwi Yadav**. The move, just ahead of elections, signals Kumar's strategic outreach into **opposition territory**, where he was warmly received, highlighting his confidence and the bridge's potential to boost **connectivity, regional development**, and his **political narrative** of progress and inclusion. ([Click here to read article](#))

States in the News

- On **June 20, 2025**, **U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** inaugurated the **91.35 km Gorakhpur Link Expressway**, built at a cost of **₹7,283 crore**, highlighting the state's transformation from **BIMARU status** to an **'Expressway State'**. Connecting **Azamgarh, Gorakhpur, Sant Kabir Nagar, and Ambedkar Nagar**, the expressway strengthens **infrastructure, boosts trade**, and paves the way for **investment and regional upliftment**. The initiative reflects the **double-engine government's** focus on **inclusive development**, positioning U.P. as a **national growth engine**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- In a **historic stride towards educational equity**, Tripura has been declared **fully literate** under the **ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram**, joining **Mizoram** and **Goa** in achieving over **95% literacy** among individuals aged **15 and above**. The success is attributed to robust **community participation**, widespread **door-to-door mobilization**, and digital tools like the **ULLAS app**. Launched in **2022**, the ULLAS scheme aligns with **NEP 2020** and supports **Viksit Bharat @2047** by empowering youth and adults with **foundational skills** and **lifelong learning** opportunities. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a landmark conservation effort, **Kerala** has inaugurated **India's first butterfly sanctuary** by officially renaming the **Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary**. Located in the **Western Ghats**, the sanctuary now harbours over **266 species of butterflies**, including several **rare, endemic, and endangered** varieties. This initiative follows 25 years of **persistent efforts by forest officials, researchers, and nature lovers**. Featuring **seasonal butterfly migrations**, active **research partnerships**, and ongoing species discoveries, the **Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary** is poised to become a cornerstone of **biodiversity conservation and eco-tourism** in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Madhya Pradesh government has made **digital attendance mandatory** for all government school teachers starting **1 July 2025** via the '**Humare Shikshak**' platform. Integrated with the **Education 3.0 portal**, the system ensures **real-time tracking**, with penalties such as **casual leave deductions** for non-compliance. Aimed at improving **transparency, record-keeping, and administrative efficiency**, this move impacts lakhs of education department employees across the state. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Ambubachi Mela 2025**, held at **Kamakhya Temple** in **Assam**, commemorated the **menstrual cycle of Goddess Kamakhya** from **June 22 to June 25**, with temple doors reopening on **June 26**. This unique festival challenges menstrual taboos by celebrating womanhood and promoting **menstrual hygiene awareness**. Considered one of the **51 Shakti Peethas**, the temple has deep mythological roots, and its rituals reflect **Assam's progressive approach** to menstruation. With massive turnout and government support, the event strengthens both spiritual devotion and **social messaging** around **feminine power and dignity**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Bonalu festival 2025** began with great **fervour and tradition** at **Golconda Fort** in **Hyderabad**, where devotees gathered at the **Sri Jagadamba Mahankali temple** to offer **Bonams** and participate in age-old rituals. The Telangana government actively supported the event with a **₹20 crore fund** for **2,783 temples**, while prominent **political leaders** and thousands of **devotees** celebrated the **region's folk heritage**. The festival will continue across **Secunderabad and Old City** in the coming weeks, reflecting Telangana's deep-rooted **cultural pride**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Salkhan Fossils Park** in **Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh**, has been added to **UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites**, recognizing its **1.4 billion-year-old stromatolite and algae fossils**—some of the **oldest known evidence of life on Earth**. The park's nomination was backed by a scientific study conducted by the **Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences** and is supported by the **UP eco-tourism board** under **CM Yogi Adityanath**. This move is expected to significantly enhance the state's **eco-tourism potential**, bring **international recognition**, and contribute to **scientific research**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Kerala** has secured the top rank in the **Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) 2020–2025**, becoming the only state rated **"Very Good"** with a score of **76.22%**. **Eravikulam National Park** emerged as the **best-managed protected area** in India with a **92.97%** score, followed closely by **Mathikettan Shola NP**. The evaluation covered **438 National Parks and Sanctuaries**, assessing their **biodiversity conservation, management performance, and ecological sustainability**. The recognition underscores Kerala's leadership in **wildlife protection, habitat management, and community-led conservation** efforts. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Bihar government** has constituted a **nine-member trust** named **Shree Janaki Janm Bhumi Punaura Dham Mandir Nyas Samiti** to oversee the **construction of a grand Maa Janaki temple** at **Punaura Dham, Sitamarhi**, believed to be the **birthplace of Goddess Sita**. Chaired by the **Chief Secretary**, the trust includes top officials and religious representatives. Announced after **Chief Minister Nitish Kumar** unveiled the temple's **final design** on June 22, the project aims to boost **religious tourism**, enhance **infrastructure**, and position Sitamarhi as a major **spiritual destination** modeled on the **Ram temple in Ayodhya**. ([Click here to read article](#))



- In a significant discovery for Indian wildlife conservation, the **Asiatic wild dog (dhole)** has been **confirmed to have returned to Assam's Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Landscape**, once thought to be devoid of the species. A 2022 camera-trap survey by the **Wildlife Institute of India** detected the elusive predator in the **Amguri animal corridor**, highlighting the area's ecological value. The finding sheds light on the need to **protect forest linkages** that support a wide variety of endangered and lesser-known species. ([Click here to read article](#))

International Affairs

- In a landmark shift in global finance, **gold has risen to become the second-largest reserve asset** after the **U.S. dollar**, according to a **European Central Bank (ECB)** report. Central banks, especially from **emerging economies**, increased gold holdings as a **hedge against inflation, geopolitical risks, and currency sanctions**. Gold's share in reserves grew to **19% in 2024**, surpassing the euro's 16%. Although demand was strong post-2022 due to the **Russia-Ukraine conflict** and market instability, analysts now foresee a **slowdown in gold-buying momentum**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **historic shift toward civilian leadership**, South Korea's President **Lee Jae Myung** has named **Ahn Gyu-back** as the nation's **first civilian Defence Minister in 64 years**, alongside a sweeping **Cabinet overhaul**. This move follows the **removal of former President Yoon Suk Yeol**, who was **impeached** for a failed **martial law** attempt. ([Click here to read article](#))
- From **24 June 2025**, the **IAEA**, in partnership with **Romania**, launched **ConvEx-3**, the **largest-ever international nuclear emergency drill**, simulating a severe accident at the **Cernavodă Nuclear Power Plant** to test **global response systems**. Involving **75+ countries** and **10 major international bodies** like **WHO** and **INTERPOL**, the 36-hour exercise focuses on **real-time decision-making, emergency communication, and cross-border coordination**, underpinned by the **Early Notification and Assistance Conventions**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Iran's **Parliament** has officially **suspended cooperation with the IAEA** following **U.S. airstrikes on its nuclear sites**, despite Iran being a **member of the IAEA and NPT**. This move reflects growing distrust toward **Western institutions**. The **Embassy of Iran in India** issued a strong statement **thanking Indian citizens and civil society** for their support during Iran's 12-day war with **Israel**. This decision marks a turning point in **Iran's nuclear diplomacy** and has implications for **international atomic oversight and regional stability**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Kataragama Esala Festival 2025** began in **Sri Lanka** with a **flag hoisting ceremony**, welcoming devotees from various **faiths** and regions. Celebrated around the **Maha Devala temple** dedicated to **Lord Skanda**, the festival honors **interfaith traditions**, drawing **Hindus, Buddhists, and Muslims** alike. A central aspect of the festival is the **Pada Yatra**, a 500-km pilgrimage on foot. Key events include the **fire-walking ceremony** on **July 7** and the grand **Maha Perahera procession** on **July 10**, highlighting the festival's **spiritual intensity and cultural richness**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Books and Authors

- "*Woman! Life! Freedom!*" by **Chowra Makaremi**, to be released captures the **2022 Iranian uprising** that erupted after the death of **Mahsa Amini**. With a fusion of **anthropology, family narrative, and collective emotion**, the book portrays Iran's **resistance, street protests**, and the feminist slogan that became a global chant. Illuminated by the **orange glow of rebellion**, it reflects on Iran's **long history of power, protest, and resilience**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The 90th birthday celebration of **V.V. Kumar**, marked by the release of a tribute book, was a poignant reminder of Indian cricket's rich heritage and the many **unsung heroes** who shaped its course. With just two Test appearances, Kumar's true greatness was reflected in his **stellar domestic record**, his **skillful leg-spin**, and his influence as a teammate. The book, a collaborative effort of former cricketers and journalists, is a fitting homage to a **cricketing legend** who deserves renewed recognition. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On the 50th anniversary of the Emergency**, Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** released *The Emergency Diaries*, a book chronicling **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** formative role in resisting the **authoritarian regime of Indira Gandhi**. As a **young RSS Pracharak**, Modi engaged in underground activities, promoting **democratic values** amidst censorship, arrests, and suppression. The book draws from **first-hand narratives and archival records** to emphasize the **need to preserve constitutional freedoms**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In his newly released memoir "*The One: Cricket, My Life and More*", **Shikhar Dhawan** shares a **raw and honest account** of his **cricketing journey, personal struggles, and life beyond the sport**. Published by **HarperCollins India** on **June 26, 2025**, the book features reflections from **fellow teammates** and captures Dhawan's **resilience, reinvention, and mental health battles** during critical phases of his life. More than a sports biography, it's a **story of self-discovery and emotional honesty** that resonates far beyond the boundary ropes. ([Click here to read article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- India's **net direct tax collection** declined by **1.39%** to ₹4.59 lakh crore in **Q1 FY2025-26**, largely due to slower **advance tax** growth and a drop in **corporate tax receipts**. While **gross direct tax** grew by **4.86%**, a significant rise in **refund issuances (58%)** eroded the net collection base. **Corporate advance tax** rose modestly by **5.86%**, while **non-corporate advance tax** dipped by **2.68%**. These trends highlight early fiscal pressures and the need for close monitoring of **tax compliance** and **economic recovery** in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- From **July 2025**, the **National Automated Clearing House (NACH)** will transition to **NACH 3.0**, offering a more secure, efficient, and transparent framework for recurring financial transactions such as **salary credits**, **SIPs**, **EMIs**, and utility payments. With improved features like **PGP encryption**, **real-time alerts**, and **optimized file handling**, the new system by **NPCI** is poised to enhance **customer experience**, **minimize errors**, and handle increased transaction volumes. For both banks and consumers, NACH 3.0 marks a **significant leap** in digital financial infrastructure. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The RBI's **final guidelines on project finance** have brought regulatory clarity and operational relief to major infrastructure NBFCs, especially **PFC** and **REC**. With **reduced provisioning norms**, **non-retrospective enforcement**, and added flexibility in handling project delays, the new norms ensure **financial stability** without disrupting ongoing infrastructure projects. **Motilal Oswal's buy ratings** on both companies reflect their **strong balance sheets**, **positive growth outlook**, and **attractive dividend yields**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India is preparing to **revise its Consumer Price Index (CPI)** framework by **changing the base year to 2024** and **expanding the CPI basket** to reflect **modern consumption patterns**. This revamp is based on the findings of the **Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2023–24**, which covered around **407 items**. The **new CPI series** is **expected by early 2026**, replacing the current **2012-based series**. The **Economic Survey 2023–24** also recommended exploring the **removal of food from inflation targeting**, considering its **volatile supply-side price movements**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **private sector in India** saw a significant surge in **economic activity** in **June 2025**, with the **Flash Composite PMI** reaching **61**, the highest in over a year. This growth was led by **manufacturing**, supported by **new domestic and international orders**, **rising employment**, and **increased tech investments**. While **input and output prices** continued to rise, they did so at a **moderated pace**, indicating improved cost management. **Capacity pressures** and **backlogs** remained high, prompting companies to hire more, particularly in the manufacturing sector. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **state capital expenditure** is set to reach a record **₹10.2 lakh crore** in **FY26**, with **Uttar Pradesh**, **Gujarat**, **Maharashtra**, **Madhya Pradesh**, and **Karnataka** leading the charge. Together, they are expected to contribute nearly **50% of total state capex**, marking a significant shift towards **infrastructure-led growth**. The report highlights improved **revenue receipts**, **fiscal discipline**, and a clear **focus on asset creation**, making India's regional economies key players in driving national development during uncertain global conditions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a major step toward **digital governance** and **financial accessibility**, Union Labour Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** announced that the **EPFO** has increased the **auto-settlement limit** for advance withdrawal claims from **₹1 lakh** to **₹5 lakh**, enabling disbursement within **three working days** without human intervention. Aimed at speeding up fund access during **urgent needs**, this reform supports claims for **illness**, **education**, **marriage**, and **housing**, and has driven a **161% surge** in auto-settled claims in FY 2024–25, reflecting EPFO's push for **transparency**, **automation**, and **member-centric service delivery**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **groundbreaking milestone** for India's **clean energy transition**, the **Adani Group** commissioned the country's **first off-grid 5 MW green hydrogen plant** in **Kutch, Gujarat** on **June 23, 2025**. Developed by **Adani New Industries Limited (ANIL)**, the plant runs entirely on **solar energy**, featuring **Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)** and a **fully automated electrolyser**, ensuring continuous, **zero-emission hydrogen production**. Supporting India's **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, this project showcases the **technical viability** of decentralized, renewable-powered hydrogen generation and sets a benchmark for **sustainable industrial applications**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **June 24, 2025**, **S&P Global Ratings** upgraded India's **GDP growth forecast** to **6.5%** for **FY 2025-26**, citing strong **economic resilience** amid global uncertainties. The optimistic outlook hinges on **normal monsoon rains** supporting agriculture and **lower crude oil prices** easing inflation and import costs. This revision underscores confidence in India's **fundamentals** and **policy framework** driving sustained growth despite external challenges. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced a major operational change by **extending the call money market timings to 7 PM** starting **July 1, 2025**. Additionally, **market repo and Tri-Party Repo (TREP)** timings will be extended till **4 PM** from **August 1, 2025**. This decision follows recommendations from a **Working Group led by Radha Shyam Ratho** and is aimed at improving **liquidity management**, aligning with **global market practices**, and enhancing **operational flexibility** for **banks and financial institutions**. Trading hours for **government securities**, **foreign exchange**, and **interest rate derivatives** remain unchanged. ([Click here to read article](#))

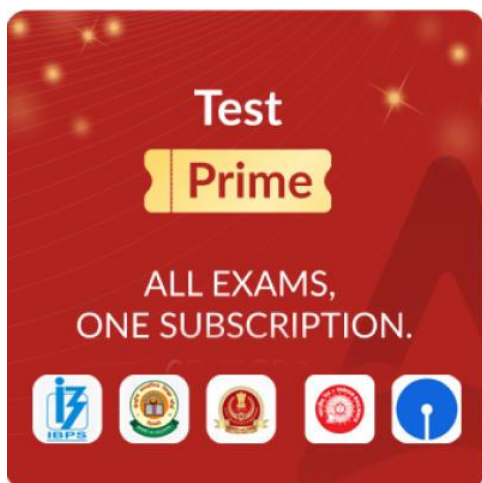
- In May 2025, credit card spending in India jumped by **14.5% year-on-year**, reaching **₹1.89 trillion**, as per RBI data. The increase was driven by the issuance of **760,000 new credit cards**, with **HDFC Bank** and **SBI Cards** leading the growth. The total number of cards in circulation rose to **111.19 million**, indicating enhanced **consumer confidence**, a growing shift toward **digital payments**, and rising **retail credit penetration**. This trend reinforces the role of **private banks** in driving the country's **digital consumption economy**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a major boost to **Brand India**, the **Tata Group** has become the first Indian brand to cross the **\$30-billion** mark in brand value, as per **Brand Finance 2025** rankings. It is followed by **Infosys** and **HDFC**, while **Adani Group** has emerged as the **fastest-growing brand**. **Taj Hotels** remains the **strongest brand** with an AAA+ rating. The rankings reflect India's expanding global presence, with **new entrants** like **Zomato** and **Birla Opus** making their mark. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has posted a **42% rise in surplus** to ₹1,552 crore and a **19% increase in revenue** to ₹3,270 crore in **FY25**, marking a strong financial performance. Despite challenges like **UPI outages** and the absence of **Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)**, NPCI continues to lead India's **digital payments ecosystem**, managing platforms such as **UPI**, **RuPay**, and **IMPS**. With over **18 billion UPI transactions** in May 2025 alone, NPCI is on track to surpass global giants like **Visa** in daily volume. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In **April 2025**, India's foreign direct investment (**FDI**) rose sharply to **\$8.8 billion**, signaling increased **investor confidence** in its **economic fundamentals**. Sectors like **manufacturing**, **business services**, and **telecommunication** drew major attention. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** also reported strong **foreign portfolio investment (FPI)** inflows, rising **non-resident Indian (NRI)** deposits, and an appreciating **Indian rupee**. Notably, India attracted **\$114 billion in greenfield investments** over five years in the **digital economy**, solidifying its position as a **leading destination in the Global South**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** has emerged as a **model digital payment system**, as acknowledged in a recent **IMF report**. The study underscores how **interoperability**, supported by **low mobile data costs**, **widespread banking access**, and the **Aadhaar-based digital identity system**, helped the platform scale rapidly. The **IMF recommends other nations** seeking a similar transition to adopt a **holistic digital ecosystem**, not just standalone payment platforms. This recognition places **India's fintech leadership** on the global stage and encourages further investment in **inclusive digital infrastructure**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** and **ICAR-NIRCA** have initiated a **training program** for **farmers and FPOs** in **East Godavari**, focusing on **post-harvest technologies** for **turmeric and chilli**. The initiative, launched on **June 25, 2025**, highlights the need for **moisture and microbial control** in spice crops and aims to **enhance value**, **reduce losses**, and improve **export readiness** through **scientific practices and technology adoption**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a strategic move to expand their fuel retail presence, **Adani Total Gas Ltd (ATGL)** and **Reliance BP Mobility Ltd (Jio-bp)** have agreed to **dispense each other's fuels at select retail outlets**. The initiative aims to enhance infrastructure usage and customer convenience while increasing the market share of private players in a sector largely led by public oil companies. This partnership builds upon their earlier collaboration and reflects the growing synergy between India's corporate giants in the energy sector. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **IFFCO**, India's leading fertiliser cooperative, is set to launch its **first overseas nano fertiliser plant** in **Brazil** through a joint venture with **NANOFERT**. The facility will produce **4.5 million litres of nano nutrients** annually, helping boost yields of crops like **corn, soybean, and sugarcane**. With **field trials confirming 7–10% yield increases** and **20% fertiliser use reduction**, this initiative strengthens India's **global agri-tech leadership** and promotes **sustainable farming**. Future expansions include **nano zinc and copper** variants. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India** has launched its **first maritime sector NBFC**, the **Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL)**, inaugurated by **Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal**. Aimed at **bridging financial gaps** in the maritime ecosystem, SMFCL will finance **ports, MSMEs, and startups**. The minister also unveiled the **SAGAR SETU platform** for operational efficiency, a **standardised tariff template** for major ports, and the **Gateway to Green** report to advance **green hydrogen adoption**. An **MoU with CDAC** was signed to set up a **Digital Centre of Excellence**, reinforcing India's push for **digital maritime transformation**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** has achieved a landmark milestone by **surpassing Visa** in **daily digital transaction volume**, crossing **650 million transactions per day** as of June 2025. Experts forecast UPI to handle **439 billion transactions annually by FY29**, accounting for **over 90% of India's digital retail payments**. Its **zero-cost, real-time payment infrastructure**, combined with **innovations** like UPI-based credit and growing **global presence**, cements UPI's rise as the **world's most used payment system by volume**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **JioBlackRock Broking Pvt. Ltd.** has received **SEBI approval** to start operations as a **brokerage firm**, marking a significant milestone in the joint venture between **Jio Financial Services Ltd.** and **BlackRock Inc.** The brokerage arm complements the group's existing **asset management** and **investment advisory** services, furthering its mission to **democratise investing in India**. Through **technology-led, cost-efficient, and digital-first platforms**, JioBlackRock aims to serve **retail and self-directed investors**, delivering a full spectrum of financial solutions under one roof. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has levied a ₹1 crore **penalty** on **Edelweiss Life Insurance** for violating **corporate governance** standards. The violations include improper **outsourcing oversight** and failure to obtain **mandatory bank account details** of policyholders. IRDAI's action emphasizes the importance of **regulatory compliance, policyholder protection**, and adherence to the **Companies Act, 2013**. This move sends a strong signal to the insurance sector about maintaining **transparency, due diligence, and accountability** in business operations. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has **exported its first consignment** of **rose-scented litchi** from **Pathankot, Punjab**, to **Qatar and the UAE**, demonstrating its rising presence in the **premium horticulture market**. Supported by **APEDA** and the **Punjab Horticulture Department**, this initiative showcases India's growing **agricultural export** capabilities. With exports of **fruits and vegetables touching USD 3.87 billion** in FY 2024–25, this move reinforces India's ambition to lead in **high-quality fresh produce** globally. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **coffee export sector** has grown **125%** over the past decade, reaching **\$1.8 billion** in 2024–25, fueled by initiatives from the **Coffee Board of India**. The board introduced **digital export permits**, offered **financial incentives** for **value-added and specialty coffee**, and encouraged **shade-grown, sustainable coffee farming**. India is now the **5th largest exporter**, with top markets in **Europe, Japan, and the Middle East**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India reported a **current account surplus of \$13.5 billion** in Q4 FY25, turning around from a deficit in the previous quarter. According to **RBI data**, the positive balance was driven by **robust services exports**, particularly in IT and business sectors, along with **higher remittances** from Indians abroad. The merchandise trade deficit narrowed sequentially, while net **primary income outflows declined**. Although **FDI inflows moderated**, the surplus strengthens India's external stability and reflects improved economic fundamentals. ([Click here to read article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- Sivasubramanian **Ramann**, former **SIDBI Chairman**, has assumed charge as the **Chairperson of PFRDA** for a five-year term starting June 20, 2025. With a deep background in **finance, audit, and regulation**, he brings leadership from institutions like **SEBI, NeSL, and CAG**. His appointment comes at a crucial time when **India's pension sector** is undergoing transformation through schemes like the **NPS Vatsalya**. The **PFRDA**, established in 2003, is tasked with promoting pension access and financial security, especially as India faces a rising **ageing population**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** has introduced **State-wise health insurance policies** that tailor **premiums** based on **regional healthcare dynamics** like **hospital infrastructure, treatment costs, and disease prevalence**. The initiative targets the **'missing middle'**—segments often uninsured due to high costs. With a premium variation of **10–15% across states**, the plan comes in **individual and floater variants**, aiming to boost **affordability and accessibility**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **June 23, 2025**, the **IOC** marked its **131st anniversary** with a historic first as **Kirsty Coventry**, a **two-time Olympic gold medallist** from **Zimbabwe**, was inaugurated as the **first female and first African IOC President**. The ceremony at **Olympic House, Lausanne**, saw her receive the symbolic **Olympic key** from outgoing president **Thomas Bach**, beginning her **eight-year term**. Coventry's rise—from champion swimmer to global sports leader—reflects her enduring commitment to **inclusivity, athlete empowerment**, and shaping a more representative **Olympic movement**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- China's **Zou Jiayi**, an experienced official with a strong international finance background, has been appointed as the next **President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**. She will assume office on **January 16, 2026**, succeeding founding president **Jin Liqun**. The announcement was made during the **10th Annual Meeting of the AIIB Board of Governors**. ([Click here to read article](#))



- UGRO Capital has named **Anuj Pandey** as its new **Chief Executive Officer**, underscoring a strategic focus on risk governance and leadership continuity. Pandey, a founding member and former Chief Risk Officer, brings over two decades of diverse experience from global institutions like Barclays and ABN AMRO. He will report to **Shachindra Nath**, who continues to steer UGRO's long-term vision and partnerships. This move is expected to strengthen UGRO's operational depth and support its mission to expand MSME lending in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Amitabh Kant**, a key figure in India's economic transformation and global diplomacy, has been appointed **Senior Adviser to Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd**, a Canadian multinational. With a track record of spearheading national initiatives like **Digital India** and the **Aspirational Districts Programme**, Kant's expertise will help guide Fairfax's India investments, especially as the firm aligns with the nation's **Viksit Bharat 2047** vision. His experience in **governance, urban development, and policy innovation** makes this a strategic move for both parties. ([Click here to read article](#))

Defence News

- **INS Tamal**, a **stealth multi-role frigate**, will be commissioned on **July 1, 2025**, in **Kaliningrad, Russia**, becoming the **last imported warship** of the **Indian Navy**. Built at **Yantar Shipyard**, the vessel features **BrahMos missiles**, advanced **stealth design**, and increased **indigenous systems**. It is part of the **Krivak class** and will serve with the **Western Fleet**. With **two sister ships** under construction in **Goa Shipyard**, India now pivots firmly toward **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and **Make in India** in the defence sector. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has taken a strategic step by offering **28 indigenous weapon systems** for **emergency procurement** by the Indian armed forces. These include advanced **missiles, rockets, grenades, and anti-drone technologies**, which were critical in **Operation Sindoor**—India's military response to the **Pahalgam terror attack**. The systems have been categorized for the **Army (14), Navy (8), and Air Force (6)**. Backed by a list of approved vendors from both **PSUs and private firms**, this move supports the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** mission and ensures swift **operational readiness** under geopolitical stress. ([Click here to read article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- India Post Payments Bank (**IPPB**) has been honored with the **Digital Payments Award 2024–25** by the **Ministry of Finance**, marking its leading role in expanding **digital financial inclusion** across India. Topping the **Payments Bank Performance Index**, IPPB has leveraged its massive **postal network**, tech-enabled **doorstep banking**, and over **2 lakh field agents** to deliver banking services in even the most remote areas. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **JCB Prize for Literature**, once hailed as **India's richest and most inclusive literary award**, has been **discontinued** after seven successful editions. Established in **2018**, the award not only recognized **fiction in English** but also celebrated **translated works**, thus amplifying the reach of **regional Indian literature**. With prize money of up to **Rs 25 lakh for authors** and **Rs 10 lakh for translators**, it significantly contributed to India's literary landscape. The closure, following the **deregistration of the JCB Literature Foundation**, has **shocked the literary community**, raising concerns about support for **regional languages and emerging writers**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- The **Indian Conservation Conference (ICCON) 2025**, hosted at the **Wildlife Institute of India** in Dehradun from **25–27 June**, is India's leading forum for **biodiversity conservation and environmental policy**. Inaugurated by Union Minister **Bhupender Yadav**, the event convenes **over 500 delegates** from across India and the **Global South**, highlighting platforms like **TechBridge for wildlife innovation**. Organised by the **MoEFCC**, ICCON 2025 promotes **interdisciplinary dialogue**, supports **youth and equitable participation**, and reaffirms India's role as a **leader in global conservation science**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- India has made a **historic entry into the top 100** of the **2025 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index**, ranking **99th** with a **score of 67**. This progress, highlighted in the **Sustainable Development Report 2025**, reflects India's improved performance in areas like **healthcare, digital access, and basic infrastructure**. Despite only **17% of global SDG targets** being on track, **East and South Asia** remain the fastest-progressing regions. India's leap is a strong signal of its commitment to **Agenda 2030**, sustainable growth, and **global development leadership**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **WMO's 2024 climate report** warns that **Asia is warming at nearly twice the global rate**, with **record heat, sea-level rise, and weather extremes** wreaking havoc. In **2024**, the continent experienced **unprecedented heatwaves, glacial loss, cyclonic storms, and floods**, affecting **millions across India, China, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and beyond**. The **report calls for urgent action**, emphasizing the growing risks to **lives, infrastructure, agriculture, and water security**. It underlines the importance of **early warning systems, adaptation policies, and climate-resilient development** in the face of escalating climate challenges. ([Click here to read article](#))

- NITI Aayog's latest *Future Front* report titled "**India's Data Imperative**" brings attention to the urgent need for improving data quality across India's governance ecosystem. Launched in the presence of key government officials, the report outlines data-related challenges like fragmentation, poor accuracy, and lack of standardization, while offering actionable tools for improvement. It underlines the role of quality data in delivering efficient public services and building trust in digital governance frameworks. ([Click here to read article](#))

Sports News

- **Carlos Alcaraz** captured his **second Queen's Club title** with a three-set victory over **Jiri Lehecka**, building momentum ahead of his **Wimbledon 2025** title defence. The 22-year-old Spaniard, now on an **18-match winning streak** on grass, has claimed **five titles** in 2025. Lehecka, who pushed him in a tough second set, showed signs of promise but couldn't sustain the momentum in the decider. Alcaraz, **seeded number two** at Wimbledon, is considered a strong favourite as he eyes a **hat-trick of Wimbledon titles**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Oklahoma City Thunder** won their **first NBA championship** since relocating from **Seattle**, defeating the **Indiana Pacers** 103–91 in **Game 7** of the **2025 NBA Finals**. **Shai Gilgeous-Alexander**, the league MVP, starred with **29 points and 12 assists**, earning **Finals MVP** honors. The game was marked by the early **Achilles injury** to **Tyrese Haliburton**, which derailed the Pacers' momentum. Supported by **Jalen Williams** and **Chet Holmgren**, the Thunder dominated the third quarter to seal the title, showcasing the power of their **youth-driven rebuild**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **June 20, 2025**, the **Paralympic Committee of India (PCI)** unveiled the **logo and mascot 'Viraaj'** for the upcoming **2025 World Para Athletics Championships**. The event, to be held in **New Delhi** from **September 27 to October 5**, marks **India's debut as host**. The mascot, a **prosthesis-equipped elephant**, symbolizes resilience and inclusivity. With **over 100 nations** expected and **186 medal events**, the championship reflects India's rising stature in **accessible sports infrastructure** and **global event management**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Jasprit Bumrah** made history by becoming the **first Asian bowler to reach 150 Test wickets** in **SENA countries** (South Africa, England, New Zealand, and Australia), following his five-wicket haul against **England at Headingley**. With a total of **210 Test wickets** and **14 five-fors**, Bumrah has now surpassed some of India's greatest bowlers in terms of overseas effectiveness. His achievement is significant in traditionally tough **pace-friendly conditions**, and it underlines his role as **India's pace leader in Test cricket**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Rishabh Pant's twin centuries** at **Headingley** have not only placed him in elite company but also marked a new high in **India's Test cricket** history. Scoring **252 runs across both innings**, Pant became the **highest-scoring Indian wicketkeeper** in a Test and just the **second in the world** after **Andy Flower** to hit tons in both innings. The match also saw **India record five Test hundreds**, showcasing a collective batting dominance. Pant's exploits further cemented his place as one of the most prolific wicketkeepers in the modern game. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Lalit Upadhyay**, a **two-time Olympic bronze medalist**, has **retired from international hockey**, ending a **remarkable career** marked by perseverance, resilience, and excellence. With over **179 caps**, **40+ goals**, and victories in major tournaments like the **Asian Champions Trophy** and **Asia Cup**, Lalit was a key figure in India's hockey revival. Rising from **humble beginnings in Varanasi**, he overcame early controversies and went on to earn accolades like the **Arjuna Award** and a **DSP post** in Uttar Pradesh. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Neeraj Chopra**, India's **Olympic gold medallist**, continued his stellar 2025 season by winning the **men's javelin title** at the **Ostrava Golden Spike** in the **Czech Republic** with a throw of **85.29m**, defeating top international rivals just days after his **Paris Diamond League** win. This marks his **fifth outing** of the season, strengthening his preparations for the **World Athletics Championships** and **Asian Games**, and making the victory even more meaningful under the mentorship of **Jan Železný**, the event director and his **coach**. ([click here to read article](#))
- **Indian cricketer Rinku Singh**, celebrated for his explosive batting and international recognition, is set to be appointed as a **District Basic Education Officer** in **Uttar Pradesh** under the **International Medal Winner Direct Recruitment Rules, 2022**. This policy aims to **honour sportspersons** who have achieved excellence on the global stage. Alongside this career development, Rinku's highly anticipated **wedding with MP Priya Saroj**, initially scheduled for **November 2025**, has now been postponed to **February 2026** due to his **cricketing commitments**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India will **host the 2029 World Police & Fire Games (WPFG)** in **Gujarat**, making it a landmark achievement in **international sports diplomacy**. The event will be held across **Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, and Ekta Nagar**, following a successful pitch in **Birmingham, USA**. With participation from **70+ countries**, the WPFG will highlight India's **sports infrastructure, logistical strength, and cultural hospitality**, further boosting **Gujarat's global standing** as a premier sporting hub. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The ICC has introduced a **stop clock** in **Test cricket** for the **2025–27 World Test Championship (WTC)** cycle to curb **slow over rates**. Fielding teams must begin a new over within **60 seconds**; failure to comply three times results in a **five-run penalty** to the batting side. Two warnings are allowed, resetting after **80 overs**. The ICC also updated rules on **deliberate short runs**, allowing fielding teams to choose which batter faces the next ball. The **ban on saliva** remains, and umpires are no longer required to change the ball if saliva is applied. ([Click here to read article](#))
- R. Praggnanandhaa** has won the **UzChess Cup Masters 2025** in **Tashkent**, marking his **third major classical chess title** this year. His victory propelled him to a **live rating of 2778.3**, placing him at **World No. 4** and making him **India's top-ranked chess player**, ahead of **D. Gukesh** and **Arjun Erigaisi**. The tournament concluded with dramatic tiebreaks, where Praggnanandhaa's resilience and strategic brilliance secured the crown. **Viswanathan Anand** lauded his mental strength, calling it a remarkable triumph in a high-pressure scenario. ([Click here to read article](#))
- SECI has issued a **landmark green ammonia tender** for **724,000 tonnes/year** under the **SIGHT Scheme** to decarbonize India's **fertilizer sector**, a major consumer of **fossil-based hydrogen**. Backed by **₹1,533.4 crore incentives**, **long-term contracts**, and a **Payment Security Mechanism**, the initiative provides both market confidence and environmental benefits. By replacing conventional ammonia with **green hydrogen-derived ammonia**, the project addresses climate goals, **import dependency**, and industrial sustainability. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **June 25, 2025**, **Andhra Pradesh** launched '**Vidya Shakti**', a **remedial learning initiative** aimed at supporting **slow learners** in **government schools** through **after-school sessions** in **Math, Science, and English**. Implemented across **4,424 schools** and **576 KGBVs**, the tech-enabled program focuses on **bridging learning gaps**, **reducing dropouts**, and **boosting enrolment**, with teacher training supported by **IIT-Madras Pravartak**. Backed by education leaders, 'Vidya Shakti' signals a major push for **inclusive, digitally-driven education reform** in the state. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Top National Players Stipend Scheme (TNPSS)** launched by the **All India Chess Federation (AICF)** on **June 25, 2025**, marks a significant step in developing grassroots chess in India. With direct financial support ranging from **₹60,000 to ₹1.5 lakh per quarter** for **78 top-performing young players** across **Under-7 to Under-19 categories**, the scheme aims to **encourage national-level participation**, **recognize talent**, and **remove financial hurdles** in player development. This initiative underscores India's growing ambition to become a **global chess powerhouse**, while promoting **gender parity** and sustained investment in youth sports. ([Click here to read article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- Under the **Yuva Nidhi** scheme, the **Karnataka government** has disbursed **₹11.70 lakh** to **39,132 unemployed youths** in **Yadgir district** via **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**. Graduates receive **₹3,000/month** and diploma holders **₹1,500/month** for up to **two years**, post a six-month grace period after course completion. Beneficiaries must report job status monthly on the **Seva Sindhu portal**, ensuring **transparency and accountability**. This initiative reflects the state's commitment to **youth empowerment, welfare, and inclusive governance**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Indian Railways** has introduced a new welfare initiative offering **₹1 crore accident compensation** to its employees, **without requiring any insurance premium**. Under the scheme, employees only need to maintain a **Salary Package Account** with one of the **partner banks**, like **SBI**. The move was publicized after the family of **loco pilot Sushil Lal** received the first benefit under this policy. Aimed at **boosting financial security**, the scheme will be widely promoted through **railway unions and awareness campaigns**, ensuring all employees are covered under this life-saving program. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a key step toward **gender empowerment and inclusive growth**, the Government is launching **NAVYA**, a pilot skilling initiative for **adolescent girls** under the **Viksit Bharat@2047** vision. Rolled out in **27 districts across 19 states**, NAVYA will provide vocational training in **non-traditional job roles** to girls aged **16–18** with a **minimum Class 10 education**. The programme reflects a **collaborative effort** between the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** and the **Ministry of Skill Development**, using frameworks like **PMKVY**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Science and Technology News

- Bharti Space Ltd** has invested **₹313 crore** in **Eutelsat's €1.35 billion capital raise**, signaling a major move in the **global satellite internet race**. As the **French government becomes the largest shareholder**, Eutelsat plans to expand its **hybrid satellite fleet**—including **600+ LEO satellites**—to build a **sovereign European space network**. Bharti's stake will dilute, but it remains invested in **both Eutelsat-OneWeb and Starlink ventures** in India. ([Click here to read article](#))



- **Dangeti Jahnvi**, a young space enthusiast from **Palakollu, Andhra Pradesh**, has made history as the **first Indian** to complete **NASA's International Air and Space Program**, marking a breakthrough for **India in global space missions** and for **women in STEM**. Selected for the upcoming **2029 Titan's Orbital Port Space Station mission**, she will be among the first Indians to join **commercial space operations**. Backed by a strong academic foundation in **Electronics and Communication Engineering**, Jahnvi is also a passionate **STEM educator, ISRO outreach speaker, and analog mission trainee**, reflecting her deep commitment to **space research, education, and global collaboration**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's quantum revolution is taking shape with the announcement of the **Amaravati Quantum Valley**, the country's **first quantum computing hub**, set to launch by **January 2026**. Spearheaded by the **ITE&C Department of Andhra Pradesh**, the initiative aims to foster **research, innovation, and job creation** across critical sectors like **healthcare, logistics, agri-tech, and cybersecurity**. In collaboration with major players like **IBM, LTIMindtree, and TCS**, and aligned with the **National Quantum Mission**, the project will integrate **quantum AI, secure communication (QNu Project)**, and advanced computing to drive national productivity and future-ready skills. ([Click here to read article](#))
- A **new scientific study** from **Yunnan, China** has revealed the existence of **two novel henipaviruses** in **bat populations**, raising concerns due to their genetic similarity to the **deadly Nipah and Hendra viruses**. Found in the **kidneys of bats**, the viruses could **spread to humans** through **urine-contaminated fruits or water**, potentially triggering **neurological or respiratory diseases**. Experts have flagged this discovery as a **public health warning**, urging for **heightened surveillance of zoonotic pathogens**, especially in rural regions where **human-wildlife interactions** are more frequent. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Shubhanshu Shukla**, an **Indian Air Force officer**, became the **634th astronaut** to enter **space**, marking a significant chapter in **India's space journey**. Part of the **Axiom-4 mission**, he successfully **docked at the ISS** on **June 26, 2025**, alongside astronauts from the **USA, Poland, and Hungary**. The 14-day mission will focus on **scientific research, international collaboration, and showcasing India's growing contribution to human spaceflight**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Observed every year on **June 23**, **International Olympic Day** celebrates the founding of the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** in **1894** by **Baron Pierre de Coubertin**, promoting **Olympic values** of **excellence, friendship, and respect**. First celebrated in **1948**, it has grown into a global movement to inspire **physical activity, sportsmanship, and healthy lifestyles**. The **2025 theme, "Let's Move?"**, launched by the **IOC and WHO**, calls on everyone to combat **inactivity** through simple, inclusive forms of **movement**, encouraging a more **active and balanced life** for all. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **International Widows Day**, observed annually on **June 23**, highlights the **challenges faced by widows** globally, including **discrimination, poverty, and social exclusion**. Launched by the **Loomba Foundation** in **2005** and recognized by the **UN in 2010**, the day promotes **legal rights, economic empowerment, and social inclusion** for widows. The anticipated **2025 theme, "Empowering Widows Through Legal Rights and Inclusive Development"**, underscores the need for **legal reforms, vocational support, and gender equality** to advance **SDG 1, 5, and 8**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **The International Day of Women in Diplomacy (IDWD)**, observed on **June 24**, celebrates the vital role of **women in diplomacy** and calls for **gender equality** in global governance. Established by the **UNGA in 2022**, the **2025 theme—"Eliminating Structural Barriers to Women's Leadership in Diplomacy"**—urges reforms like **gender-balanced ministries, anti-harassment policies, and leadership quotas**. Despite progress, only **25 countries** have female heads of state, and just **22.9%** of cabinet positions are held by women. The day supports **SDG 5, 16, and 17**, promoting **inclusive peacebuilding, diverse leadership, and institutional change**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **June 25**, the world marks the **Day of the Seafarer**, honoring the vital role of **seafarers** in sustaining **global trade and economies**. This year's theme, **'My Harassment-Free Ship'**, led by the **International Maritime Organization (IMO)**, calls for a zero-tolerance stance against **bullying, harassment, and discrimination** at sea. The campaign urges a cultural shift across the maritime industry, championing **safety, equality, and dignity** for all, and empowering seafarers to demand and create respectful, **inclusive workplaces** on every vessel. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **International Day of Deafblindness**, observed annually on **June 27**, commemorates the birth of **Helen Keller**, the first **deafblind person** to earn a degree and a global symbol of disability rights. Recognized by the **UN through Resolution A/RES/79/294**, the day highlights **deafblindness as a distinct disability** requiring **specialized support, interpreter-guides, and inclusive policies**. It aims to raise **awareness, promote independence, and ensure equal access** to services for the deafblind community worldwide. ([Click here to read article](#))

Important Days News

- Every year on **June 23**, the world marks **United Nations Public Service Day** to honor the **contributions of public servants** and promote **effective, inclusive governance**. Established by **UNGA Resolution 57/277** in **2002**, the day celebrates **innovation, encourages youth participation** in governance, and underscores the role of **public institutions** in achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **International Day of Deafblindness**, observed on **June 27**, honors the birth anniversary of **Helen Keller** and recognizes **deafblindness as a unique disability** involving combined vision and hearing loss. Proclaimed by the **UN General Assembly in Resolution A/RES/79/294**, the day calls for **inclusive support systems, policy recognition**, and access to **specialized interpreters**, aiming to ensure the **rights, independence, and visibility** of the deafblind community globally. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **International Day of the Tropics 2025**, observed on **29 June**, marks its **9th annual celebration** to recognize the **importance of tropical regions** in achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. Initiated by the **United Nations** through **Resolution A/RES/70/267**, this day highlights the **biodiversity, cultural richness, and development challenges** of the **tropical zone**, which covers **40% of the Earth's surface** and hosts **80% of global biodiversity**. It serves as a **global platform** to raise **awareness**, promote **sustainable practices**, and address issues like **climate change, deforestation, and urbanization** affecting these vital regions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India celebrates **National Statistics Day** every year on **29th June** to honor **Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis**, the **father of Indian statistics**, for his contributions like the **Mahalanobis Distance, Five-Year Plans**, and founding the **Indian Statistical Institute (ISI)** and **National Sample Survey (NSS)**. First observed in **2007**, the day promotes **data-driven**

decision-making, statistical literacy, and emphasizes the role of **statistics in governance, policy formulation**, and **inclusive development**, while encouraging **youth participation** and strengthening **data systems** for India's future. ([Click here to read article](#))

Obituaries News

- Renowned Indian **left-arm spinner Dilip Doshi** passed away in **London** at the age of **77** due to **heart-related issues**. A **late bloomer** in international cricket, Doshi made a significant impact with **114 Test wickets** and six five-wicket hauls. Known for his **classical spin action**, resilience (notably playing with a **broken toe** in the 1981 **Melbourne Test**), and candid reflections in his autobiography *Spin Punch*, he was a respected figure in cricketing circles. His **legacy lives on** through his contributions to Indian spin bowling and his son **Nayan Doshi's** cricketing career. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Shefali Jariwala, **famous** for her breakout performance in *Kaanta Laga* and a **popular contestant** in *Bigg Boss 13*, passed away **suddenly** at age 42 in Mumbai. She was taken to **Bellevue Hospital** but could not be saved. While the **cause of death** is currently unknown, her body has been sent to **Cooper Hospital** for postmortem, and **police are investigating**. Known for her **grace, resilience, and screen presence**, Shefali's death has left the **Bollywood industry** and her fans in **shock and mourning**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Static Takeaways

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
1	RBI	Governor - Sanjay Malhotra
2	Reliance Group	Chairman - Mukesh Ambani
3	Adani Group	Chairman - Gautam Adani
4	TATA Group	Chairman - Chandrasekhar
5	SIDBI	Chairman - Manoj Mittal
6	Bharati Space	CEO - Sumil Mittal
7	NASA	Head - Janet Petro
8	SpaceX	CEO - Elon Musk
9	ISRO	Chairman - V. Narayanan
10	AIIB	President - Zou Jiayi
11	International Cricket Council	Chairman - Jay Shah
12	Romania	President - Ilie Bolojan Capital - Bucharest
13	Ukraine	President - Zelenskyy Capital - Kyiv
14	Russia	President - Vladimir Putin Capital - Moscow
15	USA	President - Donald Trump Capital - Washington D.C.

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
16	Sri Lanka	President - Anura Kumara Disenayake Capital - Colombo
17	South Korea	President - Lee myung Capital - Seoul
18	Tripura	CM - Manik Saha Governor - N Indrasena Reddy Capital - Agartala
19	Gujarat	CM - Bhupendra Patel Governor - Acharya Devvrat Capital - Gandhinagar
20	Odisha	CM - Mohan Majhi Governor - Hari Babu Kambhupati Capital - Bhubneshwar
21	MP	CM - Mohan Yadav Governor - Mangubhai Patel Capital - Bhopal
22	UP	CM - Yogi Adityanath Governor - Anandiben Patel Capital - Lucknow
23	Kerala	CM - Pinarayi Vijayan Governor - Arlekar Capital - Thiruvananthpuram
24	Karnataka	CM - Siddharamaiya Governor - Thawar Chand Gehlot Capital - Bengaluru
25	Assam	CM - Hemanta Biswa Sarma Governor - Lakshman Prasad Acharya Capital - Dispur
26	Bihar	CM - Nitish Kumar Governor - Arif Khan Capital - Patna

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