

Weekly One Liners 30th June to 6th July, 2025

RailOne App Launched: Indian Railways Unifies Passenger Services Under One Platform

In a significant step toward digital transformation in railway services, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the 'RailOne' mobile application on July 2, 2025. Developed as a comprehensive, one-stop platform, the app provides passengers with unified access to services such as ticket booking, PNR enquiry, journey planning, meal booking, and freight enquiries, enhancing the convenience and digital experience for millions of users.

Why in News?

The RailOne app was launched during the 40th Foundation Day of the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) as a consolidated solution for Indian Railways passengers. This initiative comes amid growing efforts to improve digital accessibility, passenger convenience, and operational efficiency within the Indian Railways system.

Key Features of RailOne App

- One-stop solution for both passenger and freight services.
- Services included,
 - Ticket booking (reserved, unreserved, platform tickets)
 - Train enquiry and PNR status
 - Journey planning
 - Rail help services
 - Meal booking in trains
 - Available on Android Play Store and iOS App Store.

User Experience & Interface

- Clean, simple, and user-friendly interface.
- Single sign-on feature,
 - Users can log in using existing credentials from RailConnect or UTSonMobile apps.
 - Integrated services, reducing the need for multiple apps.
 - Saves device storage and streamlines navigation.

Additional Features

- R-Wallet (Railway e-wallet) integration for smooth transactions.
- Biometric login and numeric mPIN for enhanced security.
- Easy and fast registration with minimal input.
- Guest login via mobile number and OTP for non-registered users making basic enquiries.

Background and Vision

- Launched during CRIS's 40th Foundation Day celebrations.
- Developed by the Ministry of Railways as part of its Digital India push.
- Aimed at unifying Indian Railways' vast service offerings into one cohesive digital platform.

Significance

- Boosts passenger convenience, safety, and transparency.
- Enhances digital connectivity in transport.
- Aligns with Indian Railways' vision for smart travel solutions.

- Reduces friction in travel planning and service access for over 23 million daily passengers.

Cabinet Approves ELI Scheme to Generate 3.5 Crore Jobs Across India

In a major employment-focused reform, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme, aiming to generate over 3.5 crore jobs across sectors with special emphasis on manufacturing. With a substantial outlay of nearly ₹1 lakh crore, the scheme seeks to boost first-time employment, support employers in creating new jobs, and extend social security benefits to India's young workforce.

Why in News?

The ELI Scheme, announced in the Union Budget 2024–25 and approved by the Cabinet on July 1, 2025, is part of a larger employment and skilling package worth ₹2 lakh crore. It is designed to address unemployment challenges, promote formal job creation, and enhance youth employability, especially in the post-pandemic era. The scheme targets job creation from August 1, 2025, to July 31, 2027.

Aim & Objectives

- Create over 3.5 crore formal jobs in 2 years.
- Promote employment in manufacturing and other sectors.
- Support first-time employees and incentivize employers.
- Strengthen social security coverage through EPFO registration.
- Enhance financial literacy and promote savings culture among youth.

Structure of the ELI Scheme

Part A – Incentives to First-Time Employees

- **Beneficiaries:** 1.92 crore new employees registered with EPFO.
- **Benefit:** One-month wage up to ₹15,000 in two installments:
 - First installment after 6 months of service.
 - Second installment after 12 months + completion of financial literacy training.
- **Eligibility:** Salary up to ₹1 lakh/month.
- A portion of the incentive to be locked in savings instruments for future withdrawal.

Part B – Support to Employers

- Covers all sectors; special benefits for manufacturing.
- Incentives to employers for hiring additional employees (with sustained 6-month employment).
- Applicable only for employers registered with EPFO.

Minimum new hires required

- 2 employees (firms with <50 employees)
- 5 employees (firms with ≥50 employees)

Incentive Structure for Employers,

- Employee's EPF Wage Employer Incentive/Month
- Up to ₹10,000 Up to ₹1,000

- ₹10,001 – ₹20,000 ₹2,000
- ₹20,001 – ₹1,00,000 ₹3,000
- For manufacturing, incentives will be extended to the 3rd and 4th years.

Payment Mechanism

- **Part A:** Payments via DBT through Aadhaar Bridge Payment System.
- **Part B:** Payments to employers' PAN-linked accounts.

Significance

- Catalyzes job creation post-COVID-19, especially for youth and first-time entrants.
- Encourages formal employment and EPFO registration.
- Boosts the manufacturing sector and aligns with 'Make in India' vision.
- Enhances employer accountability while promoting a financially aware workforce.
- Supports social and economic mobility for crores of Indians.

Union Cabinet Approves ₹1 Lakh Crore RDI Scheme to Boost Private Sector Innovation

In a major initiative to strengthen India's innovation ecosystem, the Union Cabinet approved the Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme on July 1, 2025, with an outlay of ₹1 lakh crore. The scheme is designed to spur private sector investment in high-impact research and development, particularly in sunrise and strategic sectors, by offering long-term financing at low or nil interest rates. The program will be strategically guided by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), chaired by the Prime Minister.

Why in News?

The approval of the RDI Scheme marks a significant policy move to promote deep-tech innovation, economic self-reliance, and strategic research investment by the private sector. With traditional R&D funding channels often limited for industry players, this scheme provides a transformative financing mechanism to overcome those constraints.



Key Objectives of the RDI Scheme

- Promote private sector-led R&D and innovation in sunrise domains like AI, semiconductors, clean energy, etc.
- Encourage investment in technology acquisition and commercialization.
- Finance high Technology Readiness Level (TRL) projects.
- Support strategic sectors critical for national security and economic competitiveness.
- Establish a Deep-Tech Fund of Funds to stimulate long-term innovation.

Two-Tier Structure

Tier 1 – Special Purpose Fund (SPF)

- Created within the ANRF, this fund will act as the central custodian of funds and allocate capital to second-level fund managers.

Tier 2 – 2nd-Level Fund Managers

- These managers will channel concessional long-term loans to private entities engaged in transformative R&D projects.
- Loans will carry low or nil interest, helping mitigate risk and encourage innovation.

Institutional Oversight

- The ANRF Governing Board, headed by the Prime Minister, will provide strategic direction and supervision.
- The scheme reflects a collaborative model between government and industry for advancing national innovation goals.

Significance of the Scheme

- Unlocks growth and risk capital for private enterprises, especially startups and MSMEs in tech.
- Helps position India as a global innovation hub.
- Strengthens technology self-reliance and supports the Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat missions.
- Aligns with India's goals under the National Deep-Tech Strategy and Vision 2047.

Global Unicorn Index 2025: Top 10 Countries with the Most Billion-Dollar Startups

The **Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2025**, published by the Hurun Research Institute, marks a significant milestone in the global startup ecosystem. This year, the total number of **privately held startups valued at over \$1 billion**, known as **unicorns**, has reached a record **1,523**. These companies, collectively worth **\$5.6 trillion**, represent the forefront of global innovation and entrepreneurship.

Global Growth of Unicorns

Since 2019, the number of countries with unicorns has increased by **120%**, now totaling **52 nations**. Similarly, unicorns are now spread across **307 cities**, showing a **160% year-on-year increase** in geographic diversity. This demonstrates the expanding reach of the startup ecosystem beyond traditional tech hubs.

Top 10 Countries by Number of Unicorns (2025)

The following table presents the top 10 countries with the highest number of unicorns in 2025, along with their most active cities for unicorn activity:

Rank	Country	Total Unicorns	Key Cities (with Global City Rank)
1	United States	758	San Francisco (1), New York (2), Boston (10), Austin (14)
2	China	343	Beijing (3), Shanghai (4), Shenzhen (6), Guangzhou (11)
3	India	64	Bengaluru (7), Mumbai (22), Gurugram (27)
4	United Kingdom	61	London (5)
5	Germany	36	Berlin (13)
6	France	30	Paris (8)
7	Canada	28	Toronto (24)
8	Israel	20	Tel Aviv (24)
9	South Korea	18	Seoul (17)
9	Singapore	18	Singapore (14)

Country Highlights

United States

The United States leads the world with **758 unicorns**, almost half of the global total. It added **55 new unicorns** in the past year. Six of the world's ten most valuable unicorns are based in the US. San Francisco retains its status as the **"Unicorn Capital of the World"** with 199 unicorns, followed by New York (142).

China

China remains second, with **343 unicorns** concentrated in tech hubs like **Beijing**, **Shanghai**, and **Shenzhen**. Notable Chinese unicorns include **ByteDance**, **Ant Group**, and **Shein**.

India

India ranks third globally with **64 unicorns**, led by cities like **Bengaluru**, **Mumbai**, and **Gurugram**. The sectors driving this growth include **fintech**, **gaming**, and **edtech**. Leading unicorns from India are:

- **Zerodha** – \$8.2 billion
- **Dream11** – \$8 billion
- **Razorpay** – \$7.5 billion

United Kingdom

The UK ranks fourth with **61 unicorns**, nearly all concentrated in **London**, which ranks fifth globally among cities by unicorn count. The UK startup scene remains strong in fintech, AI, and digital health.

Germany and France

Germany and France are the top unicorn hubs in continental Europe. Germany's **Berlin** leads with 36 unicorns nationally, while France's **Paris** accounts for the country's total of 30 unicorns. These two nations are establishing Europe as a competitive region in global innovation.

Canada

Canada has risen to seventh place with **28 unicorns**, driven by growth in **clean tech**, **AI**, and **enterprise software**. **Toronto** is the nation's top unicorn city.

Israel

Although Israel dropped one spot this year, it still has a strong presence with **20 unicorns**, primarily located in **Tel Aviv**. Israeli startups excel in **cybersecurity**, **healthtech**, and **agritech**.

South Korea and Singapore

Both countries share the ninth position with **18 unicorns** each. South Korea's unicorns are mostly centered in **Seoul**, while **Singapore** continues to rise as Southeast Asia's dominant startup hub.

Top Cities by Unicorn Count

Among the top cities globally for unicorn headquarters:

- **San Francisco** – 199 unicorns
- **New York** – 142
- **Beijing** – 91
- **Shanghai** – 69
- **London** – 55
- **Shenzhen** – 46
- **Bengaluru** – 36
- **Paris** – 32
- **Palo Alto** – 30
- **Boston** – 27

Key Insights

- The **United States** and **China** together host over **72%** of the world's unicorns.
- **India's** position at number three reflects its growing influence in the global tech scene.
- Europe, led by **Germany**, **France**, and the **UK**, is steadily increasing its unicorn count.
- **Singapore's** rise signals Southeast Asia's emergence as a critical player in the innovation economy.
- Unicorns are expanding beyond traditional tech sectors into **fintech**, **healthcare**, **green energy**, **education**, and **gaming**.

UN Sustainable Development Goals Index 2025: Top 10 Best and Worst Performing Countries

The **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, adopted by all United Nations member states in 2015, set out an ambitious vision for a fairer, greener, and more inclusive world by 2030. However, the **2025 Sustainable Development Report (SDR)**, published by the **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)**, paints a sobering picture: **None of the 17 SDGs are on track to be fully achieved by 2030**, and **only 17%** of the targets are progressing as planned.

While the world has made notable progress in areas like **access to basic services**, **infrastructure**, and **healthcare**, it has regressed in key sectors such as **press freedom**, **corruption perception**, **nutrition**, and **environmental sustainability**.

Global Ranking: A Tale of Two Worlds

Top 10 Countries in SDG Index 2025

Europe, particularly the **Nordic countries**, continues to lead global efforts toward sustainable development. **Finland** has retained the top position, followed closely by **Sweden** and **Denmark**.

Rank	Country	Score (2025)
1	Finland	87.0
2	Sweden	85.7
3	Denmark	85.3
4	Germany	83.7
5	France	83.1
6	Austria	83.0
7	Norway	82.7
8	Croatia	82.4
9	Poland	82.1
10	Czechia	81.9

These countries have demonstrated high performance in areas such as **quality education**, **gender equality**, **climate action**, and **peace and justice**.

Bottom 10 Countries in SDG Index 2025

At the other end of the spectrum, countries facing **conflict**, **political instability**, and **economic challenges** rank lowest in the index.

Rank	Country	Score (2025)
167	South Sudan	41.6
166	Central African Republic	45.2
165	Chad	46.0
164	Somalia	46.1
163	Yemen, Republic	47.7
162	Congo, Dem. Rep.	48.2
161	Sudan	49.1
160	Afghanistan	49.1
159	Niger	50.3
158	Madagascar	51.0

These countries often suffer from limited **fiscal capacity**, **natural disasters**, **violence**, and **lack of basic services**, which severely hinder their ability to make progress on the SDGs.

India's Historic Rise in SDG Ranking

India Breaks into Top 100

In a remarkable improvement, **India has ranked 99th in the 2025 SDG Index**, with a score of **67.0**. This marks **India's first time entering the top 100**, a significant milestone considering its past positions:

- **109th** in 2024
- **112th** in 2023
- **121st** in 2022
- **120th** in 2021

This steady climb reflects India's growing focus on **sustainable development**, particularly in **clean energy**, **digital public infrastructure**, and **financial inclusion**.

India in Regional Comparison

Despite entering the top 100 globally, India still **lags behind several South Asian peers**, indicating both progress and challenges.

Country	Rank (2025)	Score
Maldives	53	Not provided
Bhutan	74	70.5
Nepal	85	68.6
India	99	67.0
Sri Lanka	93	Not provided
Bangladesh	114	Not provided
Pakistan	140	Not provided

While **India has overtaken Bangladesh and Pakistan**, it remains behind **Bhutan, Nepal**, and **Sri Lanka**, suggesting room for regional cooperation and shared learning.

Highlights from Asia and the Global South

Notable Progress in Southeast and South Asia

Some of the most significant improvements since 2015 were made by countries in **Asia**, particularly in **healthcare**, **education**, and **infrastructure**.

- **Nepal** improved by **11.1 points**
- **Cambodia** gained **10 points**
- **Philippines** rose by **8.6 points**

These nations demonstrate that with targeted policies and international support, **lower-income countries can accelerate SDG progress**.

China and the United States: A Mixed Picture

- **China** ranks **49th** with a score of **74.4**
- **United States** ranks **44th** with a score of **75.2**

Despite being two of the world's largest economies, both countries fall short of the top 40, with **challenges in inequality**, **environmental sustainability**, and **health outcomes** affecting their scores.

Challenges Facing the World in 2025

Despite some pockets of improvement, global SDG progress remains **off track**. According to the 2025 SDR:

- **Only 17%** of targets are progressing on schedule.
- **Obesity, corruption, and media suppression** are on the rise.
- Environmental degradation, including **sustainable nitrogen management**, is deteriorating.
- Inequality and gender gaps persist across both developed and developing nations.

The report also highlights the need for **increased global cooperation**, **financial investments**, and **data-driven policies** to meet the 2030 Agenda.

PM Modi Honoured in Ghana with 'Order of the Star'

In a historic diplomatic gesture, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred with Ghana's highest civilian award, the "Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana", during his landmark visit to the country. The honour, bestowed by President John Dramani Mahama, recognizes PM Modi's global statesmanship, commitment to South-South cooperation, and his role in elevating India-Ghana bilateral ties. The Indian Prime Minister dedicated the award to India's youth, its diverse cultural legacy, and the shared democratic values between the two nations.

Why in News?

PM Modi received Ghana's top civilian honour on July 3, 2025, during his first state visit to Ghana. The honour celebrates his leadership and strengthens diplomatic engagement between India and Ghana, especially in sectors like trade, healthcare, education, and digital connectivity.

About the Honour

- **Name of the Award:** Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana
- **Conferred by:** President John Dramani Mahama
- **Reason:** In recognition of PM Modi's distinguished global leadership, diplomatic outreach, and efforts to build South-South cooperation.

Key Agreements & Announcements

During the joint press conference in Accra, the two leaders unveiled a range of strategic initiatives to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Education & Youth Development

- Doubling of ITEC and ICCR scholarships for Ghanaian students
- Establishment of a Skill Development Centre in Ghana to offer vocational education and training for youth

Agriculture & Food Security

- India pledged support to Ghana's 'Feed Ghana' programme, sharing expertise and resources to boost agricultural productivity

Healthcare

- Proposal to set up Jan Aushadhi Kendras in Ghana, providing affordable generic medicines
- Discussions on vaccine production cooperation

Digital & Financial Integration

- India to offer its Bharat UPI digital payment platform to Ghana, enhancing financial inclusion and digital public infrastructure

Trade Relations

- Agreement to double bilateral trade volume in the next five years through new business and investment avenues

Significance of the Visit

- First Indian PM to visit Ghana in over 30 years.
- Reinforces India's strategic outreach to Africa and the Global South.
- Builds upon historical bonds initiated by Jawaharlal Nehru and Kwame Nkrumah.
- Deepens cooperation based on shared democratic ideals and mutual development goals.

PM Modi Receives Trinidad and Tobago's Highest Civilian Award

On July 4, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured with the Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the country's highest civilian award. The ceremony took place during his two-day visit to the Caribbean nation. This award was given for his global leadership and strong connection with the Indian diaspora. It is an important moment in strengthening India's ties with Trinidad and Tobago.

A Historic First Visit

This is PM Modi's first official visit to Trinidad and Tobago as Prime Minister. It is also the first Indian Prime Ministerial-level visit to the country since 1999. The visit is part of Mr. Modi's five-nation tour, and it highlights the long-standing bond between India and the island nation.

Reason for the Honour

The Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago was given to Mr. Modi to recognize his global leadership, his work in supporting the Indian community abroad, and his help during the COVID-19 pandemic. Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar of Trinidad and Tobago announced the award and said Mr. Modi's visit marks a moment of pride and connection between the two nations.

PM Modi's Response and Gifts

PM Modi said he was honoured to receive the award and accepted it on behalf of 140 crore Indians. As part of the visit, he also gave holy water from the Mahakumbh and a replica of the Ram Mandir to the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, symbolizing cultural and spiritual unity.



Visit to Ghana Beforehand

Before arriving in Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Modi visited Ghana, where he received another top honour – the Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said this honour was given for his strong leadership and contribution to global cooperation.

India and Trinidad & Tobago Sign Six New Agreements to Boost Ties

On July 4, 2025, India and Trinidad & Tobago signed six key agreements in Port of Spain to improve their partnership in many areas. These include work in infrastructure, medicine, culture, and sports. The deals were signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the country. This visit is seen as a big step toward building stronger ties between the two nations.

First Prime Ministerial Visit in Over 25 Years

This is the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Trinidad & Tobago since 1999. PM Narendra Modi met with Trinidad & Tobago's Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and held important talks to improve cooperation. The two leaders discussed future work in agriculture, education, digital payments, and healthcare. They also shared views on major global issues like climate change, cyber security, and disaster response.

Both leaders showed great warmth and respect during the visit. PM Bissessar said that Mr. Modi's visit was a "landmark moment" that will give new energy to the friendship between the two countries.

Six Agreements Signed

The two nations signed six Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs). These deals cover cooperation in,

1. Pharmaceutical standards
2. Quick development projects
3. Cultural exchange
4. Sports promotion
5. Diplomatic training
6. Sharing of official documents and research

The aim of these agreements is to create more jobs, better services, and stronger people-to-people connections between India and Trinidad & Tobago.

PM Modi also announced that people of Indian origin living in Trinidad & Tobago can now apply for OCI (Overseas Citizenship of India) cards, even if they are from the sixth generation. This will help families stay connected with their roots in India.

Meetings with National Leaders

PM Modi also met President Christine Carla Kangaloo, who recently received the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award for her service to the Indian community. Their meeting was friendly and respectful. PM Modi praised her for her public service and leadership. Both leaders also agreed to work together on issues that affect the Global South, such as climate problems and fair international cooperation.

PM Modi also thanked Trinidad & Tobago for its support to India after the Pahalgam terror attack and said both countries stand united against terrorism.

National Affairs

- From **August 2025**, all **post offices in India** will begin accepting **digital payments** using **dynamic QR codes** linked to the **UPI system**, as part of the **Department of Posts' IT 2.0 upgrade**. The move follows a successful pilot in **Karnataka** and aims to promote **financial inclusion**, especially in **rural and semi-urban areas**. Replacing static QR codes, the new real-time dynamic system ensures **secure, seamless, and cashless transactions** at postal counters, aligning with the goals of **Digital India** and a **cashless economy**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated the **National Turmeric Board Headquarters** in **Nizamabad**, **Telangana**, on **June 30, 2025**. This move fulfills a **long-pending demand** of turmeric farmers and aligns with the Centre's ambitious goal of reaching **\$1 billion in turmeric exports by 2030**. The board will focus on **research, branding, marketing**, and ensuring **fair prices** for farmers. Backed by **₹200 crore in funding**, it holds significant value for **agriculture, exports, and rural livelihoods**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Government of India** has introduced **Model Rules for Felling of Trees in Agricultural Lands** to promote **agroforestry**, streamline **tree harvesting permissions**, and support **sustainable agricultural practices**. The upcoming **National Timber Management System (NTMS) Portal** will facilitate online registration of plantations using **geo-tagged data** and enable **ease of doing business** in rural areas. This initiative, guided by **State Level Committees** and monitored by **Divisional Forest Officers**, will enhance **timber production**, empower **farmers**, and support **climate resilience**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **Statistics Day 2025**, the **National Sample Survey Office (NSO)** under **MoSPI** launched the **GoStats mobile app**, a digital tool offering **real-time, on-the-go access** to **official government statistics** like **GDP, inflation, and employment**. With features such as **interactive dashboards, infographics, CSV downloads**, and a **user-friendly design**, the app promotes **data transparency, citizen empowerment**, and supports **Digital India** and **Viksit Bharat** missions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a sweeping reform move, the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** is de-listing **345 Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs)** that have not contested elections since 2019 and are untraceable. While registered under **Section 29A of the RP Act, 1951**, many RUPPs exploit benefits like **tax exemptions, common symbols, and star campaigners** despite being inactive. The ECI lacks explicit **de-registration powers**, but parties are being removed for **non-compliance** and **non-existence**. Legal and electoral reform bodies like the **Law Commission** and the **ECI's 2016 Memorandum** have recommended amending the RP Act to empower de-registration. This clean-up drive supports electoral transparency and curbs misuse of public provisions. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India's **first wooden Gurdwara**, **Sri Nanak Niwas**, constructed in **Fazilka**, Punjab, is a remarkable fusion of **spirituality, architectural brilliance**, and **personal devotion**. Made from **Finnish Deodhar wood**, it was conceptualized and built by **SSP Bhupinder Singh Sidhu** in just **three months**, making it a **beacon of faith** and an example of **inclusive, sustainable religious architecture**. With its **daily rituals, global devotees**, and community role, the shrine stands as a **testament to seva, resilience, and unity**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **C-FLOOD Unified Inundation Forecasting System**, launched by **Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil**, is a **web-based platform** offering **advanced flood predictions** up to the **village level**. Developed jointly by **C-DAC, CWC**, and **NRSC**, the system integrates **hydrodynamic modelling, HPC simulations**, and **satellite data** under the **National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)**. It currently covers three major **river basins—Mahanadi, Godavari, and Tapi**—with plans for wider rollout. The initiative enhances **disaster management** capabilities, enabling **timely evacuations** and reducing risks from **flood disasters** through **scientific forecasting** and **inter-agency coordination**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has officially renamed **NIPCCD** as the *Savitribai Phule National Institute of Women and Child Development*, paying tribute to the legendary reformer. Along with this, a new **Regional Centre in Ranchi** will be launched on **July 4, 2025**, aimed at strengthening training and outreach for key schemes like **Mission Shakti, Mission Vatsalya**, and **Poshan 2.0** in **Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Ministry of Coal will launch the **RECLAIM Framework** to promote inclusive and sustainable mine closures in India. Designed with field-tested tools and methodologies, the framework emphasizes **community engagement, gender equity**, and **representation of vulnerable groups**. It aligns with **Panchayati Raj Institutions** to ensure **local relevance** and foster long-term **livelihood security** and **repurposing of mining lands**. With this, India takes a progressive step toward **just transitions** in the mining sector. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Digital House Address Project** by the **Indore Municipal Corporation** marks a major step in India's **smart city evolution**. By using **QR codes** linked to **GPS** and integrating with the **Digipin system**, Indore has created a **modern, efficient, and scalable** address solution. This **digital transformation** ensures **real-time service access**, enhances **emergency responses**, and lays the groundwork for **data-driven urban planning**. With **low-cost digital plates** and **user-friendly systems**, this initiative holds the potential to be replicated across Indian cities, supporting the vision of **Digital India** and **urban inclusivity**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- With rising **life expectancy** but increasing **age-related diseases** like **Parkinson's and dementia**, the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru** launched **BHARAT** in **2023** — a research project under the **Longevity India Program**. **BHARAT** (Biomarkers of Healthy Aging, Resilience, Adversity, and Transitions) aims to build a **scientific health baseline** specific to **Indians**, addressing the problem of **misdiagnosis** caused by using **Western biomarkers**. The project collects extensive data, including **genomic, proteomic, metabolic, environmental**, and **socio-economic** indicators, to understand **how Indians age** and why **some age healthier** than others. The ultimate goal is to establish the **Bharat Baseline**, enabling **personalized healthcare** and **early disease detection** tailored to India's diverse population. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **July 2, 2025**, the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** revised its toll rule to **cut charges by up to 50%** on **National Highway** sections with **tunnels, bridges, flyovers, and elevated roads**. The new formula bases toll on the **lesser of two values**, easing the cost for drivers. A **senior NHA official** confirmed that this will help both the **public** and the **infrastructure system**. The change is set to **lower travel costs** and **promote the use of highways** with **big structures**. ([Click here to read article](#))

States in the News

- The **Union Cabinet's approval** of the **₹1,853 crore** project to upgrade the **Paramakudi–Ramanathapuram road** in **Tamil Nadu** marks a significant step toward **infrastructure modernization**. Developed under the **Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM)**, the project will convert **46.7 km of NH-87** into a **four-lane corridor**, improving connectivity between key towns and religious destinations like **Rameshwaram**. This initiative is expected to **decongest traffic, boost tourism, enhance road safety**, and generate over **18 lakh employment person-days**, making it a cornerstone for **regional development** and **economic integration** in the state. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Bihar Cabinet**, chaired by **CM Nitish Kumar**, approved major schemes including the **Mukhya Mantri Pratigya Yojana** for internship support, offering up to **₹6,000/month**, and the **Kalakar Pension Yojana** granting **₹3,000/month** to senior artists. Additionally, **₹882.87 crore** was sanctioned for the **integrated development** of the **Punaura Dham temple** in **Sitamarhi**. The Cabinet also amended the **Bihar Factory Rules** to enable **women's participation** in hazardous industries. These moves aim to boost **employment**, support **cultural heritage**, and enhance **religious tourism** ahead of the **2025 Assembly elections**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Gujarat Chief Minister **Bhupendra Patel** launched the **Jan Suraksha Santrupti Abhiyan** to **expand the reach** of key **government welfare schemes** such as **PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY, and Jan Dhan Yojana**. Running from **July 1 to September 30, 2025**, the campaign targets **100% coverage** of eligible individuals, with added focus on **KYC updates, digital fraud awareness, and financial inclusion**. With **1.93 crore Jan Dhan accounts** and over **₹21,000 crore disbursed** in Gujarat alone, the campaign underscores a robust effort to ensure **equity in public service delivery**, making it a cornerstone in India's **social welfare architecture**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **PM MITRA Textile Park** in **Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu**, is a landmark initiative under India's textile growth strategy. With a **₹1,900 crore** investment from the **Central Government**, this **1,052-acre** facility will offer advanced infrastructure, including **ZLD effluent treatment, worker dormitories, and industrial workspaces**. Expected to attract **₹10,000 crore** in private investments and generate **over one lakh jobs by 2026**, the park will significantly enhance **export-oriented and sustainable textile manufacturing** in the region. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Government of India** is poised to transform **Jammu and Kashmir's fisheries and livestock sectors** with a proposed **₹100-crore Integrated Aqua Park** under **PMMSY Phase-II**. Union Minister **Rajiv Ranjan Singh** also inaugurated a **50,000-litre UHT Milk Plant** in Jammu, underscoring the focus on **rural income generation, cold-water aquaculture, and dairy productivity**. The region has seen **800% growth in trout production** and substantial increases in **milk output**, aided by strategic investments and seed imports from **Denmark**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Karnataka Cabinet** has decided to rename **Bengaluru City University** after former Prime Minister **Dr. Manmohan Singh**, acknowledging his significant role in the city's **infrastructure development**. From laying foundations for the **Bengaluru Metro and Elevated Highway** to inaugurating the **Kempegowda International Airport**, Singh's contributions to the city are deeply embedded in its progress. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu**, visited **Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh**, to **inaugurate and lay foundation stones** for several major projects at **Mahayogi Gorakhnath University**. She opened a new **Auditorium, Academic Block, and Panchkarma Kendra**, and laid the foundation stone for a **Girls' Hostel**, aimed at boosting **women's education**. Praising the University's efforts to integrate **modern Allopathy and traditional Ayurveda**, she highlighted its role in **holistic medical education**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Gujarat** has become the **third state** in India, after **Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh**, to cross **one crore stock market investors**, as per **NSE data**. Together, these states account for **36% of India's investor base**, showing rising **financial participation**. As of **May 2025**, India has nearly **11.5 crore investors**, with **11 lakh** new additions in May alone, reflecting renewed growth after a **slowdown**. **North India** leads regionally with **4.2 crore investors**, followed by **West, South, and East India**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Puri** will become the **sixth municipal corporation** in **Odisha**, as announced by **Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi** on **July 5, 2025**, ahead of the **Bahuda Yatra**. The decision is aimed at providing better services in the city, which welcomes **lakhs of visitors** every year. Areas around **Puri city** will be added to the corporation, and the **government** has also planned a **Jagannath Museum, Library, and Research Centre** to promote **Odia culture**. This move supports the state's **vision to make Puri a major tourist and spiritual centre by 2036**. ([Click here to read article](#))

International Affairs

- India has restricted **jute imports from Bangladesh** through all land and sea ports except **Nhava Sheva** to protect its domestic industry from **subsidized and dumped products**. The move follows growing concerns over **rural unemployment, depressed prices, and underutilized jute mills**. India also blocked any **re-export routes** via **Nepal or Bhutan**, ensuring that unfair trade practices cannot harm Indian economic interests. This is the second such action after similar apparel restrictions in May 2025. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **G7's decision to exempt U.S. multinational companies** from the **global minimum tax** marks a pivotal shift in international tax diplomacy. This **"side-by-side" taxation model**, driven by **President Trump's legislative push**, allows American corporations to be taxed solely by the **U.S.**, insulating them from external levies. While this benefits domestic businesses, it raises **concerns over OECD consensus, potential retaliatory taxes, and uneven competition** in the global economy. The deal's final acceptance now hinges on **OECD's approval**, making it a key development in **international economic governance**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **QUAD nations—India, Japan, the US, and Australia—**have launched their first-ever **'At Sea Observer Mission'**, marking a strategic leap in **maritime cooperation** under the **Wilmington Declaration**. The mission, carried out aboard the **USCGC Stratton**, features **cross-deck participation** of officers, including women, from each country. It aims to enhance **interoperability**, promote a **rules-based Indo-Pacific**, and align with India's **SAGAR vision and Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative**. As maritime challenges intensify, this initiative strengthens collective readiness, fosters mutual trust, and sets a blueprint for future **QUAD coast guard collaborations**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India and the **UAE** have initiated **strategic cooperation** in the production of **green steel** and **high-grade aluminium** under the **India-UAE CEPA** framework. The meeting between **Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy** and **UAE Economy Minister Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri** highlighted joint goals in **sustainable manufacturing**, **resource security**, and expanding trade in **automotive and strategic sectors**. Key Indian **CPSEs** like **SAIL**, **NMDC**, and **MECON** are set to anchor this partnership, with plans for a **joint working group** to streamline collaboration and contribute to India's **\$5 trillion economic vision**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Pakistan** has assumed the **Presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** for **July 2025** as part of its **non-permanent membership**. Ambassador **Asim Iftikhar Ahmad** and Foreign Minister **Ishaq Dar** will lead key **debates** focused on **multilateralism**, **peaceful dispute resolution**, and **OIC cooperation**. The presidency aligns with Pakistan's additional leadership of the **Taliban Sanctions Committee** and comes at a crucial time of **global instability**, positioning Pakistan to play a central role in fostering **peace**, **dialogue**, and **inclusive diplomacy**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Zohran Mamdani's** victory in the **NYC Democratic Mayoral Primary** marks a **major political upset**, defeating former **Governor Andrew Cuomo** by a **12-point margin** after a **ranked choice vote**. His **progressive platform**, including **free public services**, **rent freeze**, and **higher taxation on the wealthy**, resonated with working-class voters. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **Tuesday, July 1, 2025**, **Pakistan** assumed the role of **President of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** for the month of **July**. This rotating presidency is a key responsibility, as the **UNSC** is the **primary body** for maintaining **global peace and security**. Pakistan stated it will lead with "**purpose, humility, and conviction**", focusing on fairness and cooperation. As a **non-permanent member** of the Council since **January 2025**, Pakistan was elected with strong support—**182 out of 193 votes**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **major diplomatic shift**, **Russia** has become the **first country** to officially **recognise the Taliban government** in **Afghanistan** since it took power in **August 2021**. On **July 3, 2025**, Russia removed the **Taliban** from its **list of banned organisations** and accepted the credentials of **Afghan Ambassador Gul Hassan Hassan**. The move aims to boost **bilateral cooperation**. The **Taliban** hailed the recognition as a **historic step** and urged **other nations** to follow Russia's example. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **European Union (EU)** on **July 2, 2025**, shared its **2040 climate goal** to cut **greenhouse gas emissions by 90%**, aiming for **carbon neutrality by 2050**. To gain wider support, the plan allows using **international carbon credits** from **2036**, up to **3%**. This has raised concerns among **climate**

groups about weakening the effort. Key EU leaders like **Wopke Hoekstra** and **Ursula von der Leyen** defended the plan as **ambitious yet flexible**. The final decision will come after **discussions in July** and a **vote in September**, with hopes of passing it before **COP30 in Brazil**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- In a key move to boost **India-Sri Lanka cultural and educational ties**, **General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU)** in **Colombo** has launched a **Hindi Language Learning Programme** in partnership with the **Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC)**, the cultural arm of the **High Commission of India**. The initiative was inaugurated by **Indian High Commissioner Santosh Jha** and **KDU Vice Chancellor Rear Admiral HGU Dammika Kumara**, in the presence of **military officials, faculty, and students**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- Adani Green Energy Ltd** has made history by becoming the first Indian company to cross **15 GW of installed renewable energy capacity**, marking a key achievement in India's clean energy journey. With flagship projects like **Khavda**, the world's largest renewable plant under development, and plans to touch **50 GW by 2030**, **AGEL** is setting the pace for a sustainable energy transition. In **FY25** alone, it added **3,309 MW**, a national record. The company's progress reflects India's broader ambition to be a global green energy leader. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **external debt** rose to **\$736.3 billion** in **FY25**, registering a **10% growth** over the previous year, with the **external debt-to-GDP ratio** climbing to **19.1%**. Major contributors include **non-financial corporations** and **government borrowings**, while **US dollar-denominated loans** dominate the composition. Despite a decline in the short-term debt share, its **ratio to forex reserves** increased, raising questions about vulnerability to external shocks. The **RBI** also noted a **valuation effect** of **\$5.3 billion** due to currency movements. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has rolled out new security measures for the **Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS)** to curb increasing cases of fraud, especially in rural areas. Effective from **January 1, 2026**, the revised framework mandates strict **KYC at onboarding**, **reactivation checks**, a **one-operator-one-bank policy**, and **continuous monitoring** of transaction patterns by acquiring banks. These steps aim to enhance the security, traceability, and accountability of **AePS operators** and are legally backed by the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India's **farm sector** has demonstrated **strong economic growth**, with its **Gross Value of Output (GVO)** rising to **₹29.49 lakh crore in FY24**, a **54.6% increase** since FY12, as per the **NSO report** released on **June 27, 2025**. This reflects the **resilience of Indian agriculture**, supported by various **government schemes** and a **diversified rural economy**. The data offers critical insight for **policymakers, economists, and agricultural planners**, reinforcing the importance of sustained **agri-investment** and **reform-oriented planning**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Karnataka Bank witnessed a **leadership transition** as both its **Managing Director & CEO** and **Executive Director** resigned citing **personal reasons** and **relocation issues**. The bank quickly formed a **search committee** and appointed a **Chief Operating Officer (COO)** to maintain **operational stability**. It addressed investor concerns over financial audits and reassured that it remains **well-capitalized** and committed to its **transformation journey**. This change highlights the importance of **succession planning, regulatory compliance, and strategic governance** in the Indian banking sector. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **gross GST collections** surged to a **record ₹22.08 lakh crore in FY25**, marking a **9.4% growth** from the previous year and **doubling** the revenue seen in FY21. With **average monthly collections** rising and the **taxpayer base expanding** to over **1.51 crore**, the GST system has significantly contributed to **fiscal consolidation** and **tax transparency**. Celebrating **eight years of GST**, this achievement showcases India's success in building an **efficient, unified tax framework** that supports its economic ambitions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has taken a major step towards supporting **India's clean energy transition** by launching a **Solar Rooftop Programme** that will **solarize 4 million homes by FY27**. This aligns with India's **Net Zero 2070** targets and showcases SBI's expanded role beyond banking — from **agricultural support** and **CSR outreach** to **sustainable infrastructure development**. With over **₹610 crore in social investments**, a vision for **green technology finance**, and a deep commitment to **environmental sustainability**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Reliance Defence** and **Coastal Mechanics Inc.** have announced a strategic joint venture to set up a **defence MRO facility in Nagpur**, targeting India's **₹20,000 crore upgrade market**. The venture aims to modernize critical air and land platforms like **Jaguar, MiG-29, Apache helicopters, and L-70 guns**, enhancing asset longevity. With India's **defence production hitting ₹1.46 trillion in FY25** and **exports touching ₹24,000 crore**, this initiative supports the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** vision and may offer **future US defence contract access** through the FMS route. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **gross non-performing assets (GNPAs)** fell to a **multi-decade low of 2.3%** in March 2025, according to the RBI's **Financial Stability Report**. This improvement stems from increased **loan write-offs**, reduced **slippage ratios**, and sustained **regulatory efforts**. Despite this progress, the central bank warns that GNPAs may **rise to 2.6% by FY27**. The **agriculture sector** continues to report the highest bad loan levels, while **public sector banks** face stress in **credit card loans**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The RBI's **sectoral credit report** for May 30, 2025, shows a **slowdown in bank credit growth** across key segments. **Industrial credit** rose by only **4.9%**, while **personal loans, services sector lending, and NBFC loans** also experienced declines. However, **medium enterprises** and **renewable energy** sectors showed strong growth. This trend underscores **cautious lending practices, reduced investment appetite, and changing sectoral dynamics** in the Indian economy. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Indian **commercial vehicle industry** is expected to register **3–5% growth in FY26**, as per **ICRA**, driven by a revival in **construction, infrastructure, and mining activity**. While **M&HCV and LCV truck sales** may see moderate improvement, the **bus segment** is forecasted to post the strongest gains at **8–10%**. However, **high inventory levels, geopolitical issues, and a shift toward pre-owned vehicles** are restraining factors. The outlook suggests **gradual recovery** but with **sector-specific risks**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **UPI ecosystem** recorded **18.40 billion transactions worth ₹24.04 lakh crore in June 2025**, reflecting a **minor monthly dip but strong yearly growth**. Experts attribute this moderation to **seasonal effects** and believe UPI is now reaching a **mature scale**, preparing for its next expansion through **innovative use cases** like **IoT-based payments, embedded credit, and B2B transactions**. With an average of **613 million daily transactions**, UPI remains a **cornerstone of India's digital economy**. ([Click here to read article](#))



- The **Reserve Bank of India** has announced that, effective **January 1, 2026**, **prepayment penalties will no longer be applicable on floating rate loans** availed by **micro and small enterprises (MSEs)**. This move aims to support **financial inclusion, credit affordability, and lender accountability** by eliminating unjust clauses and promoting borrower freedom. It builds on RBI's continuing efforts to streamline loan frameworks and promote healthy competition in India's credit landscape. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has increased the **Cost Inflation Index (CII)** to **376** for **FY2025–26**, allowing for higher **tax relief on long-term capital gains (LTCG)**. While the **Finance Act 2024** reduced the availability of **indexation benefits**, a **grandfathering clause** allows continued relief for taxpayers selling assets bought before **July 23, 2024**. Eligible individuals and **Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs)** can choose between a **20% indexed tax** or a **12.5% flat tax**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has taken a critical step in advancing **digital security** by mandating all financial institutions to adopt the **Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)** developed by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**. This **AI-supported system** allows **real-time detection** of high-risk mobile numbers linked to **cybercrime and financial fraud**, drawing data from platforms like the **NCRP** and **Chakshu**. With major institutions like **PhonePe, HDFC Bank, and Paytm** already on board. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Fintech startup **slice** has made headlines by launching **India's first UPI-powered bank branch** in **Bengaluru**, marking its transition into full-fledged banking. The new **slice UPI credit card** offers **zero joining fees**, up to **3% cashback**, and **easy EMI conversion**. With an integrated **UPI ATM**, slice provides both **cash withdrawal and deposit** services while focusing on expanding **credit access** and boosting **financial inclusion**. Backed by its own **banking infrastructure**, slice is creating a new benchmark in **digital-first banking** and aims to transform how over **300 million Indians** experience **credit and banking services**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Reliance Jio** has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the **world's largest Fixed Wireless Access (FWA)** provider, surpassing **T-Mobile**. Through its **affordable Jio AirFiber broadband**, launched in **September 2023**, and rapid **5G expansion**, Jio now serves over **20 million users**. This has revolutionized **internet accessibility** across India, especially in **rural and underserved regions**, promoting **digital inclusion**, and laying a **blueprint for global telecoms** seeking to expand in developing markets. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **state-wise GST collection for June 2025** saw **Maharashtra** leading with ₹30,553 crore, followed by **Karnataka** (₹13,409 crore) and **Gujarat** (₹11,404 crore), reflecting strong **industrial, commercial, and service sector** activities. Southern states like **Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh** showed robust contributions, while **Delhi, West Bengal, and Odisha** drove revenues in the east and north. Smaller and northeastern states had modest collections, underlining their **developing economic bases** but highlighting strategic potential in **logistics, tourism, and regional consumption**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **State Bank of India (SBI)**, India's **largest bank**, has launched two **Global Trade Finance Centres**—one in **Kolkata** and the other in **Hyderabad**—to boost **import and export services**. These centres aim to support **businesses** by making **inland and cross-border trade** faster and more efficient. With over **800 trained staff**, the centres will use **digital tools** like **AI, ML, blockchain, and document digitization** to replace traditional **paper-based processes**. This shift will offer **quicker, safer, and more reliable services**, giving **customers a better experience** with reduced delays and improved accuracy. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **SAIL** has inaugurated its **first international Representative Office** in **Dubai, UAE**, marking a key step in its **global expansion**. The move aims to strengthen **India's steel exports** and enhance trade ties with the **Middle East and North Africa (MENA)** region. **Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy** and top officials attended the event. **Dubai** was chosen for its **strategic location, strong infrastructure, and access to emerging steel markets**, supporting SAIL's goal to become a **globally competitive steelmaker**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** recorded **229.33 crore Aadhaar authentication transactions** in **June 2025**, a **7.8% increase** from last year, signaling Aadhaar's growing role in **digital identity verification**. Cumulatively, Aadhaar has now enabled over **15,452 crore transactions** since launch. A notable highlight is the rise in **AI-powered Face Authentication**, which hit **15.87 crore transactions** in June 2025, up from **4.61 crore** in June 2024. This **secure, real-time** modality, developed by UIDAI, has now crossed **175 crore face authentications**, driving **digital inclusion** and **ease of access** to public services. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Microsoft** has closed its **Pakistan office after 25 years** as part of its **global restructuring plan**. The decision was made on **July 4, 2025**, and came along with **9,100 job cuts** worldwide. The company is moving to a **cloud-based model** and depending more on **local partners**. Experts like **Jawwad Rehman** and leaders like **Arif Alvi** called the move a **troubling sign** for **Pakistan's economy** and blamed **instability** for losing business opportunities to countries like **Vietnam**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- On **June 30, 2025**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** directed all banks—including **NBFCs** and **UPI platforms**—to start using the **Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)**, made by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**. The **FRI** detects **fraud-prone mobile numbers** using data from platforms like **NCRP**, **Chakshu**, and **bank reports**. Banks like **HDFC**, **ICICI**, and apps like **PhonePe** and **Paytm** are already using it. This step will **strengthen India's digital banking safety**, offer **real-time protection**, and help **stop cyber-enabled financial frauds**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In **FY25**, **India** added **\$297 billion** to the global economy, making up **6.7%** of global **GDP growth**, according to **SBI Research**. Out of this, the **State Bank of India (SBI)** contributed **\$44 billion**, which is **1.1%** of global growth and **16%** of India's total. SBI also added **₹1.38 lakh crore** in value to India's **financial services**. This highlights the **growing importance of India** and its key institutions in the **world economy**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Mashreq**, a top **UAE bank**, has received **IFSCA's in-principle approval** to open an **International Banking Unit (IBU)** in **GIFT City, Gujarat**, becoming the **first UAE-based bank** to do so. The branch, expected to start by **Q4 of 2025**, will offer **foreign currency loans, trade finance**, and **risk management services**. With support from the **UAE Central Bank** and **Indian SEZ bodies**, this step will **boost UAE-India financial relations**, improve **international banking services**, and show **confidence in India's financial hub**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has appointed **Kesavan Ramachandran** as **Executive Director (ED)** effective **July 1, 2025**. With over **three decades of experience** in key areas such as **risk monitoring, currency management**, and **banking supervision**, Ramachandran's appointment reinforces RBI's commitment to **regulatory excellence**. He will oversee the **Prudential Regulation Division** under the **Department of Regulation**, a vital post for maintaining **financial stability** amid evolving challenges in the sector. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Air Marshal S. Sivakumar**, a senior officer of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, has taken charge as the new **Air Officer-in-Charge Administration (AOA)** at **Air Force Headquarters, New Delhi**. A member of the **IAF since June 1990**, he belongs to the **Administration branch** and holds an **MBA in Human Resource Management** from **Pondicherry University** and an **MPhil in Defence and Strategic Studies** from **Osmania University**. With over **35 years of service**, he has held key roles in **air traffic control, base operations**, and **UN missions in Congo**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Sunil Kadam** has been appointed as an **Executive Director (ED)** at the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**, the country's main **stock market regulator**. With nearly **30 years of experience** at SEBI, Kadam brings deep expertise in ensuring that **India's financial markets** operate **smoothly and securely**. His appointment is seen as a major boost to SEBI's efforts in maintaining **market integrity** and **investor protection**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Kho Kho Federation of India** has announced a new **leadership team** to boost the sport's growth **nationally and internationally**. The body includes **eight Vice Presidents** from different states, bringing **regional expertise**, and **four Joint Secretaries** to improve **coordination and administration**. This move aims to promote **inclusive development** and strengthen **India's indigenous sport, Kho Kho**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- The **Government of India** has approved the **reappointment** of **Ravi Agrawal**, a **1988-batch IRS officer**, as **Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** till **June 2026**. The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** issued the extension on a **contract basis**, reflecting continuity in India's **direct tax policy leadership**. Agrawal took over in **June 2024**, following the retirement of **Nitin Gupta**, and has played a vital role in **tax administration, policy formulation**, and advising the **Finance Ministry**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a major reshuffle in India's national security apparatus, **Senior IPS Officer Parag Jain** has been appointed as the new **Chief of RAW (Research and Analysis Wing)**, following the retirement of **Ravi Sinha** on **June 30, 2025**. Jain's elevation comes after his pivotal role in **Operation Sindoor**, India's covert and strategic counteroffensive launched in response to the **Pahalgam terror attack** on **April 22, 2025**, which killed 26 civilians. The operation, involving **precision strikes, real-time intelligence**, and **multi-agency coordination**, targeted **Pakistan-backed terror infrastructure** and concluded with a **ceasefire** on **May 10, 2025**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Defence News

- Rear Admiral **V Ganapathy** has taken over as the new **Commandant of the Military Institute of Technology (MILIT)**, **Pune**, India's top **tri-services training institute**. His appointment is significant in light of the **armed forces' modernization**, the push for **jointness**, and the growing need for **cutting-edge defence technology education**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- INS Udaygiri**, India's latest **stealth frigate**, was inducted into the **Indian Navy** on **July 1, 2025**. Built in a record **37 months** under **Project 17A**, the warship showcases **advanced stealth design, indigenous weapon systems**, and **multi-mission capabilities** suited for **blue-water operations**. With contributions from over **200 MSMEs**, this induction highlights India's push for **defence indigenisation** and the growing strength of its **naval shipbuilding ecosystem**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India has **commissioned INS Tamal**, a state-of-the-art **stealth guided missile frigate**, in **Russia**, representing the **last foreign-built major warship** for the Indian Navy. Built under **Project 1135.6**, Tamal underscores the shift toward **defence indigenisation**, integrating systems like **BrahMos missiles** and **HUMSA-NG sonar**. The vessel enhances India's **blue-water capabilities** and reinforces the **Indo-Russian defence partnership**, having become the **51st ship** built under the collaboration. The **Western Fleet** now gains a powerful asset, while future warships will be **constructed domestically**, propelling India closer to its **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** vision. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Sub Lieutenant Aastha Poonia**, from **Meerut**, has become the **first woman** to be trained as a **fighter pilot** in the **Indian Navy**. She received the **"Wings of Gold"** at a ceremony on **July 3, 2025**, in **Visakhapatnam**. She will now train to fly fighter jets like the **MiG-29K** and **Rafale M** from aircraft carriers like **INS Vikramaditya** and **INS Vikrant**. This achievement reflects the **Indian Navy's push for gender equality**, and its aim to **promote women's roles in defense and combat aviation**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- Radhanath Swami**, an **American-born Hindu monk** and key figure in **ISKCON**, was **honoured by New York City** at an interfaith event for his extensive contributions to **spiritual leadership, community service, and interfaith harmony**. Born **Richard Slavin**, he embraced **Bhakti Yoga** in India in the 1970s and has since become a global **spiritual teacher**. The ceremony, titled **"Foundation of Future,"** was attended by civic leaders and spiritual figures. ([Click here to read article](#))
- S.R.N. Mehta CBSE School** in **Kalaburagi** won **first prize** in the **NASA-NSS Space Settlement Design Contest 2025**, announced on **July 5, 2025**. Their project **IRA**, designed by **11 students**, was presented at the **ISDC-2025** in **Orlando, USA**, and appreciated by top **space experts**. The students also visited the **NASA Kennedy Space Center** and returned to **India** on **June 30**. This win is a proud moment for the **school, city, and India**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- India hosted the **first ASEAN-India Cruise Dialogue** in **Chennai**, welcoming over 30 delegates from **ASEAN nations and Timor Leste** to strengthen **maritime cooperation**, promote **sustainable cruise tourism**, and integrate efforts under **Sagarmala, Act East Policy, and Viksit Bharat 2047**. With a target to increase **cruise passenger traffic** and develop **cultural cruise circuits**, this initiative underscores India's ambition to become a **regional cruise tourism hub** and deepen its **Indo-Pacific partnerships** through the **blue economy**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **first National Conference of Urban Local Bodies Chairpersons** was inaugurated on **July 3, 2025**, by **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla** in **Manesar, Gurugram**. The two-day event serves as a platform to discuss the **critical role of ULBs in democratic governance, inclusive growth, women empowerment, and India's Vision 2047**. With a focus on innovation, collaboration, and strengthening grassroots institutions, the event is poised to enhance **urban governance and participatory democracy**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- India has achieved a **remarkable 78% reduction in the under-five mortality rate**, as reported by the **UN IGME 2024**, outpacing the **global average decline of 61%**. It also recorded a **70% drop in neonatal mortality**, attributed to its robust **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)**. The country's focus on **inclusive, cost-effective vaccination and outreach to underserved communities** has significantly lowered the percentage of **zero-dose children**. This milestone strengthens India's path toward **SDG-3**, enhances global health leadership, and showcases the power of **public health interventions**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Sports News

- On **July 1, 2025**, the **Union Cabinet approved the National Sports Policy** to transform India into a **global sports powerhouse**. The policy emphasizes **athlete-centric development, mass fitness participation, sports tourism, and transparent governance**. It envisions a robust ecosystem driven by **education integration, corporate involvement, and the manufacture of sports goods**, aligning sports with **economic growth and social well-being**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh** won the **rapid title** at the **SuperUnited Rapid & Blitz 2025** in **Zagreb, Croatia**, on **July 4**, scoring **14 points**. He now leads the **Grand Chess Tour** ahead of **Jan-Krzysztof Duda (11 points)** and **Magnus Carlsen (10 points)**. The **blitz section begins on July 5**, and the **overall winner** will be decided by the combined scores of both formats. ([Click here to read article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- The **Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** has approved major reforms during its 196th meeting, including the **relaunch of SPREE** to facilitate **fresh registrations** and the **Amnesty Scheme – 2025** to resolve long-standing **legal disputes**. With a focus on **voluntary compliance, healthcare integration through AYUSH, and collaborations with charitable hospitals**, these initiatives aim to **expand medical coverage, reduce litigation, and promote a holistic social security framework** for workers and employers alike. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Government of India** has kept **interest rates** for all major **small savings schemes** such as **PPF, NSC, Sukanya Samridhi**, and **Kisan Vikas Patra** unchanged for the **July–September 2025 quarter**. This marks the **sixth straight quarter** of no change. The move ensures **predictable returns**, supports **household savings**, and strengthens confidence in **government-backed instruments**, especially for **risk-averse investors** amid **economic volatility**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** has unveiled **SPREE 2025**, a time-bound scheme running from **July 1 to December 31, 2025**, to promote **registration of employers and employees** under the **ESI Act**. The initiative removes the fear of **retrospective penalties** and allows for **digital self-registration** without prior inspections or contribution demands. Targeting **contractual and informal workers**, the scheme aims to boost **universal social protection**, aligning with the government's **labour welfare vision**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Science and Technology News

- In a strategic step towards enhancing India's **sovereign space capabilities**, **SatSure** and **Dhruva Space** have joined hands to offer **end-to-end Earth Observation (EO) solutions**. This collaboration will unify upstream and downstream segments of the **space value chain**, integrating **KaleidEO's payloads** with **Dhruva Space's satellite platform infrastructure**. With a focus on **indigenous innovation**, the alliance will provide **full-stack space solutions**, addressing the demands of **commercial and strategic users** alike. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Ladakh recently concluded its **first Astro Tourism Festival**, held in **Leh** and organized by the **Tourism Department** in collaboration with the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics**. The two-day event featured **night sky observations**, **expert-led sessions**, and educational outreach programs, aiming to transform Ladakh into a hub for **astro tourism**. With ideal conditions like **clear skies**, **high altitude**, and **low light pollution**, this initiative not only promotes **scientific awareness** but also aligns with sustainable tourism development. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Indian researchers have **engineered a next-generation energy storage material** using **lanthanum-doped silver niobate nanoparticles**, showing **superior performance in supercapacitor devices**. The material demonstrated **118% energy retention** and **100% coulombic efficiency**, making it a promising solution for **clean energy storage**. This **eco-friendly innovation**, led by Dr. Kavita Pandey's team at **CeNS, Bengaluru**, paves the way for future **high-density, fast-charging supercapacitors** in portable electronics and **renewable energy systems**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Nvidia** has become the **world's most valuable company**, reaching a **market capitalisation of \$3.92 trillion**, surpassing **Apple's** previous record. Fueled by the **AI boom**, Nvidia's dominance in **AI chip technology** has driven massive growth, with its stock rising **68% since April**. Its value now exceeds the **entire stock markets of Canada, Mexico**, and even the **UK**, highlighting investor confidence in Nvidia and the future of **artificial intelligence**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Hyderabad-based Ananth Technologies** will launch **India's first private satellite broadband service** by **2028**. It has received approval from **IN-SPACE**, India's space regulator. The company will send a satellite to **geostationary orbit** over **35,000 km above Earth** to provide **broadband internet** directly from space. This **₹3,000-crore project** aims to improve internet access, especially in **remote areas**, and will compete with international players like **Starlink, OneWeb**, and **Amazon Kuiper**. This marks a **big change** in India's space and telecom sectors, allowing **private companies** to grow and serve more people. ([Click here to read article](#))

Important Days News

- **National Doctor's Day 2025**, observed on **July 1**, commemorates the **contributions of doctors and healthcare professionals** across India. Established in **1991** in honour of **Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy**, the day is a tribute to their **selfless service** and commitment to public health. The **theme for 2025**, "*Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers?*", emphasises the **mental health and emotional well-being** of doctors, urging society to care for those who care for others. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Asteroid Day**, observed on **June 30**, commemorates the **Tunguska explosion** of 1908 and aims to **raise awareness about asteroid threats and planetary defence**. Supported by the **UN** and **global scientists**, the day encourages us to learn from past impacts and prepare for future ones—with missions like **NASA's DART** and events like the **2029 Apophis flyby** highlighting our growing readiness. ([Click here to read article](#))



- On **July 1, 2025**, **SBI** celebrates **70 years** since its formation in 1955 after the nationalisation of the **Imperial Bank of India**. With origins tracing back to **1806**, SBI has grown into **India's largest and most trusted bank**, boasting ₹61 trillion in assets, 50+ crore customers, and a global footprint. Its **consistent profits, digital leadership**, and diverse subsidiaries make it a symbol of **India's financial evolution**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- National Chartered Accountants Day 2025**, celebrated on **July 1**, marks **76 years** of ICAI's legacy. This day recognises the **immense contribution of Chartered Accountants (CAs)** in building a financially disciplined and economically strong India. From auditing and taxation to business advisory and global competitiveness, CAs play a **multifaceted role**. The observance honours their **ethics, expertise, and service** to the nation's growth and governance. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Goods and Services Tax (GST) Day**, observed on **July 1**, marks the anniversary of India's landmark **economic reform** launched in **2017**, which **unified multiple indirect taxes** into a **single, destination-based tax system**. Proposed in **2000** and implemented after years of deliberation, **GST** features a **dual model** (CGST, SGST, IGST), **Input Tax Credit (ITC)**, **online compliance via GSTN**, **anti-profiteering measures**, and **exemptions for small businesses and essential sectors**. With a **five-tier rate structure (0%, 5%, 12%, 18%, 28%)** and **compensation cess** on sin goods, **GST** has streamlined taxation, boosted **transparency**, and **enhanced compliance** across India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- World Sports Journalists Day 2025**, observed on **July 2**, celebrates the **unsung heroes of the sports world** who inform, inspire, and ignite global passion through their storytelling. With the theme **"Championing Fair Play: Reporting with Integrity and Impact,"** the day promotes **ethical journalism**, **media freedom**, and honors the vital role of **sports reporters** in shaping public engagement with sports. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **July 5, 2025**, the **International Day of Cooperatives (CoopsDay)** is being celebrated worldwide during the **UN's International Year of Cooperatives (IYC2025)**. The theme, **"Cooperatives: Driving Inclusive and Sustainable Solutions for a Better World"**, highlights how **cooperatives** improve lives in areas like **health, farming, energy, and finance**. With over **3 million cooperatives** serving **12% of the global population** and supporting **280 million workers**, their role is vital. In **India**, where the cooperative movement has deep roots, co-ops like **AMUL** and **IFFCO** continue to empower communities. The 2025 event also supports wider global goals, reminding everyone that **people-centered growth** is the key to a better future. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 4th July** is observed as the **Punyatithi (death anniversary)** of **Swami Vivekananda**, the **Father of Modern Indian Nationalism** and a renowned **spiritual leader**. Born in **1863** as **Narendranath Datta**, he became a disciple of **Ramakrishna Paramhansa** and later gained global fame for his **1893 Chicago speech** starting with **"Sisters and Brothers of America."** His teachings of **unity, service, and divinity in every being** continue to inspire. A champion of **Vedanta, Yoga, and education**, Vivekananda believed in combining **spirituality with nation-building** and left a lasting legacy before his death on **4th July 1902** at **Belur Math**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Obituaries News

- Dr. BV Pattabhiram**, a renowned **hypnotist, psychologist, and motivational speaker**, passed away at **75** in **Hyderabad** due to **cardiac arrest**. A pioneer in **hypnosis and mental wellness**, he conducted life-changing **workshops** across **India and the world**, helping thousands conquer **stress and self-doubt**. He held advanced degrees in **psychology and philosophy**, founded **India's first magic school**, and earned global recognition, including an **honorary doctorate** and **citizenship awards**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Julian McMahon**, a **56-year-old Australian actor**, known for his roles in **'Fantastic Four', 'Nip/Tuck', and 'Charmed'**, passed away in **Florida** after a long **cancer battle**, as confirmed on **July 5, 2025**. His wife, **Kelly McMahon**, praised his love for life and fans. He began as a **model**, became a top TV and movie star, and ended his career with Netflix's **'The Residence'** and a film at the **2024 Cannes Film Festival**. He was also the **son of former Australian Prime Minister Billy McMahon**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- Warren Buffett**, the legendary investor and CEO of **Berkshire Hathaway**, has donated **\$6 billion** in **Class B stock** to five major **philanthropic foundations**, including the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Trust**. The move brings his **total charitable contributions** since 2006 to around **\$60 billion**. This donation highlights his ongoing commitment to **giving away 99.5% of his fortune**. The **foundations** receiving the donations are known for their work in **global health, education, poverty reduction, and social equity**, making this announcement a significant event in the **world of philanthropy and social impact**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **pioneering step** towards eradicating **tuberculosis (TB)**, **Puducherry** has become the **first Union Territory** in India to link **TB screening** with the **Family Adoption Programme**. Under this **National Medical Commission** initiative, **medical students** adopt 3–5 families and monitor their health over three years. In Puducherry, this outreach now includes **routine TB checks** for all family members. If symptoms are detected, students help with **diagnosis and treatment**, enhancing **early detection** and **access to care**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- In a **landmark breakthrough** in **archaeology** and **genetics**, scientists have successfully sequenced the **first complete genome** of an **ancient Egyptian**, marking a major step in understanding **early human populations**. Published on **July 2, 2025**, in the journal **Nature**, the study details DNA extracted from a man buried in **Nuwayrat**, around **4,500**

years ago during Egypt's **Old Kingdom** period. The individual, likely a **physically laboring male** aged **44–64 years**, had **brown eyes, brown hair, dark skin**, and lived a relatively **affluent life**, as suggested by the **tomb style**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Static Takeaways

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
1	RBI	Governor - Sanjay Malhotra
2	NVIDIA	CEO - Huang Tsang
3	SBI	MD - Challa Sreenivasalu Setty
4	Karnataka Bank	MD - Srikrishanan Sarma
5	Adani Green Energy LTD.	CEO - Amit Singh
6	SLICE	CEO - Rajan Bajaj
7	Reliance Jio	Chairman - Akash Ambani
8	SAIL	CEO - Amarendu Prakash
9	India	PM - Narendra Modi Capital - New Delhi
10	Japan	PM - Shigeru Ishiba Capital - Tokyo
11	USA	President - Donald Trump Capital - Washington D.C.
12	Australia	PM - Anthony Albanese Capital - Canberra
13	UAE	Head - Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nayhen Capital - Abu Dhabi
14	Odisha	CM - Mohan Majhi Governor - Kambhupati Capital - Bhubneshwar
15	Gujarat	CM - Bhupendra Patel Governor - Acharya Devvrat Capital - Gandhinagar
16	UP	CM - Yogi Adityanath Governor - Anandiben Patel Capital - Lucknow
17	Karnataka	CM - Siddharamaia Governor - Thaeer Chand Gehlot Capital - Bengaluru
18	J & K	CM - Omar Abdullah L. Governor - Manoj Sinha Capital - Jammu
19	Bihar	CM - Nitish Kumar Governor - Arif Khan Capital - Patna
20	Tamil Nadu	CM - Stalin Governor - R N Ravi Capital - Chennai