



GA Capsule for SBI CBO Exam 2025

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National Current Affairs

National Current Affairs of June 2025

Important Current Affairs of June

India to Conduct Population Census 2027 in Two Phases with Caste Enumeration

After a 16-year gap since the last official population count, the Government of India has announced the Population Census 2027, to be conducted in two phases along with caste enumeration. The reference date for most regions will be 00:00 hours on March 1, 2027, while for the Union Territory of Ladakh, and snow-bound areas of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, the reference date will be October 1, 2026. This marks a significant step in reviving the decadal census process, which was postponed in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Why in News?

The Ministry of Home Affairs recently announced that the Population Census 2027 will include caste enumeration and will be conducted in two phases, reaffirming the government's intent to modernize and update demographic data crucial for governance, planning, and social welfare schemes. The notification of the census will be published in the Official Gazette on June 16, 2025, under Section 3 of the Census Act, 1948.

Background of Census in India

- The Census of India is governed by the Census Act, 1948 and Census Rules, 1990.
- The last full population census was conducted in 2011, with over 1.2 billion people enumerated.
- The 2021 Census was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, despite all preparatory work being completed.

Key Features of Census 2027

Conducted in Two Phases

- **Phase I:** House Listing Operations
- **Phase II:** Population Enumeration

Reference Date

- March 1, 2027 for most of India.
- October 1, 2026 for Ladakh and snow-bound areas of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.

Inclusion of Caste Enumeration

- For the first time in decades, caste enumeration will be officially conducted alongside the population count.
- Aimed at gathering granular socio-economic data for evidence-based policy making and social justice programs.

Objectives and Importance

- Update population figures to reflect the current demographic trends.
- Aid in planning public infrastructure, allocating welfare schemes, and electoral management.

- Caste data will help in evaluating the effectiveness of reservation policies and identifying marginalized communities.

Static and Legal Facts

- **Legal basis:** Section 3 of Census Act, 1948
- **Notification Date:** 16 June 2025

Last census phases

- **2011:** House Listing (Apr–Sep 2010), Enumeration (Feb 2011)
- **2021 (Postponed):** Planned for Apr 2020 and Feb 2021

PM Modi Inaugurates Chenab Rail Bridge, Completing Kashmir's Rail Link to India

On June 6, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Chenab rail bridge, the world's highest railway arch bridge, in Jammu and Kashmir. This marks the completion of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL), a 42-year-old project aimed at integrating the Kashmir Valley with the national railway network. The bridge, part of a fully electrified 272-km rail corridor, not only overcomes one of the most difficult Himalayan terrains but also opens new doors for trade, tourism, and economic development in the region.

Why in News?

On June 6, 2025, PM Modi inaugurated the Chenab Rail Bridge, completing the USBRL project. The bridge is now the highest railway arch bridge in the world, surpassing even the Eiffel Tower in height. The project was initiated over four decades ago to connect Kashmir with the rest of India. It enables all-weather, electrified rail connectivity to the Kashmir Valley for the first time.

Aims and Objectives

- Provide seamless all-weather railway connectivity to the Kashmir region.
- Strengthen infrastructure and integration of remote areas with the national mainstream.
- Boost trade, tourism, and employment in Jammu & Kashmir.
- Demonstrate India's engineering and technological prowess.

Project Timeline and Completion

USBRL Total Length: 272 km (Udhampur to Baramulla)

Key milestones

- **Qazigund-Baramulla (118 km):** Commissioned in Oct 2009
- **Qazigund-Banihal (18 km):** June 2013
- **Udhampur-Katra (25 km):** July 2014
- **Banihal-Sangaldan (48.1 km):** Feb 2024
- **Chenab Bridge inaugurated:** June 2025





Highlights of the Chenab Rail Bridge

- **Height:** 359 meters (higher than the Eiffel Tower)
- **Span:** 467 meters (arch span)
- **Design:** Steel and concrete arch

Features

- Designed to withstand high seismic activity and wind speeds
- Built in challenging Himalayan terrain with 36 tunnels and 943 bridges
- Electrified line to promote green, efficient transportation
- Built over Chenab River, a major Indus tributary

National and Regional Significance

- A symbol of national integration and development in Jammu & Kashmir.
- Expected to reduce travel time, improve freight movement, and support security logistics.
- Encourages sustainable tourism in the Kashmir Valley.
- Enhances disaster management response with year-round accessibility.

Major Infrastructure Projects

Chenab Bridge

- **Height:** 359 metres above Chenab River — taller than the Eiffel Tower.
- **Length:** 1,315 metres.
- **Structure:** Steel arch designed to withstand seismic activity and high wind speeds.
- **Significance:** Seamless rail link between Jammu and Kashmir; enhances border area connectivity.

Anji Bridge

- India's first cable-stayed railway bridge.
- Built in challenging Himalayan terrain.
- Facilitates rail link to Katra and Kashmir Valley.

USBRL (Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link)

- **Total length:** 272 km
- **Objective:** Provide all-weather rail connectivity to the Kashmir Valley.
- Strategic for economic development and national security.

Vande Bharat Trains

- New services between Katra and Srinagar.
- Reduced travel time to approx. 3 hours (saves 2-3 hours).
- Enhances tourism, trade, and pilgrimage routes.

Healthcare Boost

- Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence
- **Investment:** ₹350 crore.
- **Location:** Katra (Reasi district).
- First medical college in the region; improves access to quality healthcare.

RBI Announce 55th Monetary Policy Committee Meeting (June 2025)

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** convened its **55th Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** meeting from **June 4 to 6, 2025**, under the chairmanship of **Governor Shri Sanjay Malhotra**. This meeting was of significant importance as it came amid a changing global economic environment and evolving domestic macroeconomic conditions. The key outcomes of the meeting signal a policy recalibration aimed at supporting growth while maintaining price stability.

Key Updates from RBI's 55th Monetary Policy Meeting (June 2025)

1. Policy Rate Cut

- **Repo Rate:** Reduced by **50 basis points (bps)**, from **6.00% to 5.50%**.
- **Reason:** To **support growth** while CPI inflation is well below target.
- This is the **second cut in 2025**, totaling **100 bps** since February.

2. Adjusted Policy Corridor

- **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate:** Cut to **5.25%** (25 bps below repo rate).
- **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate and Bank Rate:** Lowered to **5.75%** (25 bps above repo rate).

3. Shift in Policy Stance

- From **"Accommodative"** to **"Neutral"**.
- RBI indicates it will now take a **data-dependent approach**, reducing scope for further aggressive rate cuts.

Next Meeting Date

August 5-7, 2025
September 29-30, 2025 and October 1, 2025
December 3-5, 2025
February 4-6, 2026

GDP Growth Forecast

GDP at 6.5%, says Governor. There is no change in GDP forecast:

Period	Current Forecast	Earlier Forecast
FY26	6.5%	6.5%
Q1 FY26	6.5%	6.5%
Q2 FY26	6.7%	6.7%
Q3 FY26	6.6%	6.6%
Q4 FY26	6.3%	6.3%





Inflation Forecast (CPI) – Revised Downward

FY26 CPI Inflation now projected at **3.7%**, down from 4.0%.

Period	Current Forecast	Earlier Forecast
FY26	3.7%	4.0%
Q1 FY26	2.9%	3.6%
Q2 FY26	3.4%	3.9%
Q3 FY26	3.9%	3.8%
Q4 FY26	4.4%	4.4%

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

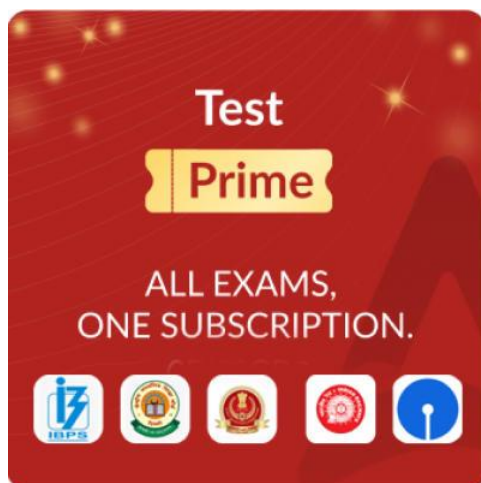
As India marks 11 years of the Digital India initiative, the country reflects on a technological revolution that has redefined governance, transparency, and service delivery. Launched in 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Digital India aimed to transform India into a digitally empowered society and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

Why in News?

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

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

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



2. Aadhaar: World's Largest Digital Identity

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

3. DigiLocker: Making Governance Paperless

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

4. Jeevan Pramaan: Easing Pensioner Lives

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

5. UMANG App: One Nation, One Digital Gateway

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

6. Rural Digital Empowerment

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

Nine years of Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) – Key Facts

- **Launched:** June 2016 by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- **Objective:** Reduce **Maternal and Neonatal Mortality** by providing **free, quality ANC services** to pregnant women in their **2nd and 3rd trimesters**
- **ANC Day:** 9th of every month
- **Coverage (till June 2025):** Over **6.19 crore** pregnant women examined

Major Features

- **Free check-ups,** diagnostics, counselling, nutritional support
- **High-Risk Pregnancy (HRP) identification & referral**
- **Public-Private Partnership:** 6,813 private specialists voluntarily involved
- **Facilities Offering Services:** 20,752

Extended PMSMA (E-PMSMA) – Launched Jan 2022

- **Tracks HRP cases till delivery + 45 days postnatal**
- **HRPs identified:** Over **78.27 lakh** (as of Dec 2024)
- **Name-based tracking,** SMS alerts, 4 sessions/month for HRP





Impact on Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)

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

Related Schemes

- **JSY:** Institutional deliveries via cash benefits – 11.07 crore beneficiaries
- **JSSK:** Free delivery & newborn care – 16.60 crore served
- **LaQshya:** Improves labour room & ICU quality
- **SUMAN:** Respectful maternity care – 90,015 facilities (as of Mar 2025)
- **POSHAN Abhiyaan:** Malnutrition reduction – 6.97 crore Poshan Pakhwadas
- **PMMVY:** ₹5,000 cash support for maternal health

Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 Winners Announced

The **Sahitya Akademi**, India's premier literary institution and an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, has made a significant announcement regarding children's literature in the country. Under the distinguished chairmanship of **Sri Madhav Kaushik**, the Executive Board convened in its recent meeting to finalize the recipients of the prestigious **Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025**.

Complete List of Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 Winners

Language-Wise Award Recipients

The following table presents the complete list of **24 distinguished winners** of the **Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025**, organized by language with their respective works and authors:

Language	Title and Genre	Author
Assamese	Mahabharathar Padya (Poetry)	Surendra Mohan Das
Bengali	Echhara Gaye Katha Daye (Stories)	Tridib Kumar Chattopadhyay
Bodo	Khanthi Boronn Ang Abhu Duhui (Stories)	Binay Kumar Brahma
Dogri	Nachi Tor (Poetry)	P.L.Parihar "Shaad"
English	Dibakar Sinha Indian Myths and Fables Retold (Stories)	Nitin Kushalappa MP
Gujarati	Trivak (Poetry)	Kirtida Brahmabhatt
Hindi	Ek Kaley Bara (Short Stories)	Sushil Shukla
Kannada	Notebook (Short Stories)	K. Shivalingappa Harisdhal

Language	Title and Genre	Author
Kashmiri	Shure Ta Toturu Gyash (Short Stories)	Ishar Mubaashir
Konkani	Betekaddo Shankar Aani Haar Karyo (Stories)	Nayima Adankar
Maithili	Oudika (Short Stories)	Murari Kanaik
Malayalam	Rangamandalache Yaadravadi (Novel)	Sreejith Moolkodan
Manipuri	Anganganginage Shamahungsida (Play)	Shanta M.
Marathi	Aathamanga (Poetry)	Sudish Sawant
Nepali	Shanti Van (Novel)	Sangmu Lepcha
Odia	Kete Phula Phutachi (Poetry)	Rajkishore Parhi
Punjabi	Jadoo Patka (Novel)	Pal Khadim, Bhagwant Singh, Daryopal Kailash
Rajasthani	Panahravansh Ni Pira (Drama)	Jitendra Sharma
Sanskrit	Balviyaam (Poetry)	Preeti Pujara
Santali	Sona Mou-ag Sandesh (Poetry)	Hansda Murmu
Sindhi	Asman Hari (Poetry)	Heena Agranis "Veer"
Tamil	Ottrai Sirago Orva (Novel)	Vishuguram Sarvanain
Telugu	Kakurla Devatha (Story)	Ganjarotti Sivakumar
Urdu	Quami Sitare (Articles)	Ghazanfar Iqbal

Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2025 Winners

The **Sahitya Akademi**, India's national academy of letters and an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, has made a landmark announcement recognizing the extraordinary contributions of young writers to Indian literature. Under the esteemed leadership of **Sri Madhav Kaushik**, President of the Sahitya Akademi, the Executive Board convened to finalize the recipients of the prestigious **Yuva Puraskar 2025**.

Complete List of Yuva Puraskar 2025 Recipients

Comprehensive Winner's Table

The following table presents the complete list of **23 distinguished winners** of the **Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2025**, organized by language with their respective works and authors:





S.No	Language	Name of the Book (Genre)	Awardee's Name
1	Assamese	Kushiyarama (Short Stories)	Supraksam Bhuyan
2	Bengali	Ekadha Chinish Toliami (Poetry)	Sudeshna Moitra
3	Bodo	Ang Aisu (Poetry)	Amar Khungur Boro
4	English	Siddhartha – The Boy Who Became the Buddha (Novel)	Advait Kolarkar
5	Gujarati	Naranch Tekari (Essays)	Mayur Kharadi
6	Hindi	Phir Uzna (Poetry)	Parvati Tirkey
7	Kannada	Paccheya Jagat (Criticism)	R. Deepkumar
8	Kashmiri	Harfas Harfas Zaagi (Criticism)	Saiba Sehar
9	Konkani	Gaavgaamhas (Short Stories)	Glynis Dias
10	Maithili	Banaras Aa Hum (Poetry)	Neha Jha Maini
11	Malayalam	Ram Oru Anandhi (Novel)	Akhil P. Dharmajan
12	Manipuri	Khoyum Nongdan Coy (Epic)	A. K. Jiten
13	Marathi	Khel Khel Dukhana Dele (Novel)	Pradeep Kokane
14	Nepali	Junko Aansu (Poetry)	Subash Thakuri
15	Odia	Kademsabana (Short Stories)	Subrat Kumar Senapati
16	Punjabi	Girka Hostel (Poetry)	Mandeep Aulakh
17	Rajasthani	Ankhs ni sangmat (Poetry)	Poonam Chand Godara
18	Sanskrit	Panchbhautikshahol - swavasyam (vedant darshanhsaravisesathe) (Criticism)	Dhiresna Kumar Pandey
19	Santali	Ara Sajo te (Poetry)	Fagui Baaskey
20	Sindhi	Pandhyado (Poetry)	Manjham Bachani
21	Tamil	Kuttaaru Kuthuvi (Short Stories)	Latarhinhar
22	Telugu	Maralawatha (Novel)	Prasad Suri
23	Urdu	Maulard Haqeqat, Thereek-e-Azadi, or Hindi Jihad Ka Farmonsuti Kardah Qasaid (Novel)	Neetu Rubabi

QS World Rankings 2026: Top 10 & Best Indian Universities

The **QS World University Rankings 2026**, one of the most respected global indicators of academic excellence, has been officially released. With over **1,500 universities** featured across more than **100 countries**, the rankings reflect the growing competitiveness and evolution of the global higher education landscape.

For the **14th consecutive year**, the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** has secured the **#1 position globally**, affirming its reputation for academic rigor, research excellence, and innovation leadership. MIT continues to lead across indicators such as **academic reputation, faculty/student ratio, and employer reputation**.

In a press release, **QS (Quacquarelli Symonds)** confirmed that nearly **500 institutions** have **improved their positions** compared to the previous year. This improvement is based on metrics like **citations per faculty, international student ratio, and sustainability**.

Among the fastest-rising institutions, **Sunway University** from **Malaysia** stood out, **jumping over 120 places** from its previous ranking. This significant rise underscores Asia's growing prominence in global education, driven by investment in **research infrastructure, international collaborations, and a diverse academic ecosystem**.

The 2026 edition includes institutions from more than **100 regions**, offering insights into the best universities across **North America, Europe, Asia, Australia, Latin America, and Africa**. It continues to serve as a valuable tool for **students, researchers, and policy-makers** alike.

Top 10 Universities in QS World University Rankings 2026

According to the latest rankings, the **top 10 global institutions** are as follows:

Institutions	Overall Rank in 2026	Overall Rank in 2025
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	1	1
Imperial College London	2	2
Stanford University	3	6
University of Oxford	4	3
Harvard University	5	4
University of Cambridge	6	5
ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology)	7	7
National University of Singapore (NUS)	8	8
UCL (University College London)	9	9
California Institute of Technology (Caltech)	10	10





Top Indian varsities in the global list

Institutions	Overall Rank in 2026	Overall Rank in 2025
Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD)	123	150
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB)	129	118
Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM)	180	227
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IITKGP)	215	222
Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore	219	211
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK)	222	263
University of Delhi	328	328
Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG)	334	344
Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IITR)	339	335
Anna University	465	383

PM Modi Conferred with Cyprus' Highest Civilian Honour — Order of Makarios III

In a significant diplomatic gesture, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III, Cyprus' highest civilian honour, on June 16, 2025, by President Nikos Christodoulides. The award is named after Archbishop Makarios III, the first President of Cyprus, and is reserved for global leaders and dignitaries who have made outstanding contributions to international relations and peace.

Why in News?

PM Narendra Modi received Cyprus' top civilian award during his first-ever official visit to the Mediterranean nation. The award, Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III, recognizes his efforts in strengthening India-Cyprus relations and promoting global cooperation. Modi's visit marks a historic milestone, as he is the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Cyprus.

About the Award

- **Name:** Order of Makarios III
- **Country:** Republic of Cyprus
- **Named after:** Archbishop Makarios III, first President of Cyprus.
- **Purpose:** Awarded for meritorious service to the nation and strengthening diplomatic ties.

Categories of distinction

- Grand Collar
- Grand Cross (awarded to PM Modi)
- Grand Commander
- Commander
- Officer
- Knight

PM Modi's Response

"Humbled to receive the 'Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III' of Cyprus. I dedicate it to the friendship between our nations." Shared this on X.

Strengthening Bilateral Ties

PM Modi and President Christodoulides held high-level discussions on,

- Innovation
- Energy cooperation
- Technology collaboration
- Trade and strategic partnerships
- Roundtable with CEOs: PM Modi engaged with top Cypriot and Indian business leaders to boost commercial linkages.
- Discussed India's economic reforms and ease of doing business.

Both nations expressed intent to,

- Expand strategic and economic ties
- Collaborate on sustainable development, innovation, and digital transformation

Historic Visit Highlights

- Modi's arrival marks the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Cyprus.
- Received by President Christodoulides at Larnaca International Airport.
- Received a warm welcome from the Indian diaspora in Limassol.

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:** Niranjan

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.

Cabinet Approvals

- **Cabinet Approves Two Railway Multitracking Projects:** The Cabinet has approved two multitracking railway projects costing ₹6,405 crore—Koderma–Barkakana (133 km) in Jharkhand and Ballari–Chikjajur (185 km) in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh—adding 318 km to the rail network. These will ease travel, lower logistics cost, reduce CO₂ emissions (264 crore kg), and oil imports (52 crore litres). The projects cover 7 districts, benefit 1,408 villages (population ~28.19 lakh), and generate 108 lakh human-days of employment. These strategic projects are aligned with the PM Gati Shakti Master Plan.
- **Cabinet Observes 50 Years Since Emergency:** To mark 50 years of the Emergency (1975–77), the Union Cabinet paid tribute to those who resisted the curtailment of democratic rights, observing a two-minute silence. The resolution reaffirmed India's commitment to constitutional values and democratic resilience, calling for renewed efforts to protect the Constitution and federal spirit.





- **Cabinet Approves International Potato Centre in Agra:** A South Asia Regional Centre of the International Potato Centre (CIP) will be set up in Singna, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, to boost food security, farmer income, and employment. It will develop high-yielding, climate-resilient potato and sweetpotato varieties and improve post-harvest and value chain systems across India and South Asia.
- **Pune Metro Rail Phase-2 Approved:** The Cabinet has cleared Pune Metro Phase-2—Corridor 2A (Vanaz—Chandani Chowk) and 2B (Ramwadi—Wagholi)—covering 12.75 km with 13 stations at a cost of ₹3,626.24 crore. These extensions will connect major IT hubs and suburbs, ease traffic on key roads, integrate with other metro lines, and boost ridership to 3.49 lakh daily by 2057.
- **Revised Jharia Master Plan Cleared:** A revised plan worth ₹5,940.47 crore has been approved to tackle fire, subsidence, and rehabilitation in Jharia Coalfield. It includes relocation from vulnerable sites, livelihood grants of ₹1 lakh, credit up to ₹3 lakh, and development of roads, electricity, water, schools, and hospitals. A dedicated fund and skill training will ensure sustainable livelihood for affected families.

Parliament News

State-wise October Month Important Events

Andhra Pradesh

- **Google inaugurated its first Asia-Pacific Safety Engineering Centre (GSEC) in Hyderabad on June 18, 2025,** solidifying India's role in global **cybersecurity and responsible AI development**. Inaugurated by **CM A Revanth Reddy**, the centre will combat **online fraud**, ensure **infrastructure safety**, and develop **AI-driven security solutions** like **real-time scam alerts** and **SynthID watermarking**. With its Hyderabad operations since 2007, Google reaffirmed its commitment to **user safety, job creation, and skilling**. The launch aligns with India's AI transformation strategy and Telangana's vision of becoming a **\$1 trillion economy** by 2035.

Assam

- **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.

Bihar

- **On June 10, 2025, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar** inaugurated the **Bikram Lock Canal Solar Project**, a **2 MW green energy plant** built at **no cost to the state**. Developed under the **Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali Abhiyan**, the project utilizes canal-side land to produce clean energy at ₹3.10 per unit for 25 years. It not only boosts **renewable energy generation**, but also reduces **carbon emissions**, ensures **affordable rural electrification**, and strengthens **sustainable development** in the state.
- In a **historic move**, **Bihar** becomes the **first Indian state** to implement **mobile-based e-voting**, set to launch during the **28th June municipal elections**. Developed by **C-DAC** and the **Bihar State Election Commission**, the **Android-based system** aims to boost **inclusive voting** by enabling **migrant workers, senior citizens, pregnant women, and Divyang voters** to vote remotely. With features like **blockchain technology, live face scan, biometric verification, and audit trails**, the system ensures **digital security, transparency, and tamper-proof voting**, revolutionizing India's democratic process.
- 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**.
- 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.
- 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 Raghapur**—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.





- 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**.

Gujarat

- Justice Neranahalli Srinivasan Sanjay Gowda** officially took charge as a **judge of the Gujarat High Court** on **June 9, 2025**, after his **transfer from the Karnataka High Court**. The oath was administered by **Chief Justice Sunita Agrawal** during a ceremony in Vadodara. At **58 years old**, Justice Gowda has had a distinguished legal career since **1989**, and was appointed a **permanent judge in Karnataka in 2021**. His transfer is part of a **Supreme Court Collegium** initiative to promote **diversity** and **judicial efficiency** by redistributing experienced judges across High Courts.

Himachal Pradesh

- The **Government of India** has approved a **₹2,006.40 crore relief package** for **Himachal Pradesh** under the **National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)** to support **recovery and reconstruction** following the **2023 monsoon disasters**. Over **550 people died** during the floods and landslides. The decision, made by a **high-level committee led by Union Home Minister Amit Shah**, includes **₹1,504.80 crore** as the **Centre's share**. The state had earlier sought **₹9,042 crore** under PDNA. This move reflects a **national commitment to disaster resilience** and follows similar packages to **Uttarakhand and Sikkim**.

Karnataka

- Karnataka has tightened its **tobacco regulations** by enacting the **COTPA (Karnataka Amendment) Act, 2024**, which raises the legal age for purchasing tobacco to **21**, imposes a **statewide ban on hookah bars**, prohibits the sale of **loose cigarettes**, and increases the **fine for public smoking** to **₹1,000**. The **High Court upheld** the ban, citing **Article 47** of the Constitution. These reforms are intended to reduce tobacco addiction and improve **public health** standards across the state.

- The **Karnataka Cabinet** has approved a **15% housing reservation for religious minorities**, increasing it from the earlier **10%**, as part of state housing schemes. **Chief Minister Siddaramaiah** and **DCM DK Shivakumar** defended the move as a **social welfare measure** aimed at addressing **minority housing shortages** and reducing the number of **vacant homes**. However, the **BJP criticized** the decision as **vote-bank politics** and termed it **unconstitutional**. The Cabinet also made decisions regarding **mango farmer compensation**, scheduling a **cabinet meet at Nandi Hills**, and declaring **Apsarakonda-Mughali** a new **marine wildlife sanctuary**.

Kerala

- 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.
- 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**.

Maharashtra

- The **Government of Maharashtra** has rolled out a new digital initiative assigning a **geo-tagged 13-digit unique ID** to all **infrastructure projects** in the state. Launched through the **Infra ID portal**, the system will enhance **transparency**, facilitate **inter-departmental coordination**, and prevent **project duplication**. Beginning with **Wardha district** and key development departments, the full rollout will start **October 1, 2025**, with registration of projects from the **last five years** to be completed by **March 2026**. This move leverages the **MRSAC platform** for real-time tracking and ensures each public asset has a **traceable digital identity**.





- The Maharashtra government's new directive under the **State Curriculum Framework 2024** declares **Hindi as the default third language** from **Classes 1 to 5** in **Marathi and English medium schools**, with the option to study another **Indian language** if **20 students per class** request it. While aligned with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, the move has been criticized by the **opposition and language activists** as a veiled attempt to **reimpose Hindi** despite earlier assurances that it wouldn't be mandatory.

Mizoram

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

Meghalaya

- The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) is establishing its **first regional campus** in **Shillong, Meghalaya**, with funding under the **PM-DevINE** scheme. The **₹100.95 crore** investment aims to transform the region into a **policy and training hub**, promoting **corporate governance**, **entrepreneurship**, and **capacity building**. Situated within the **Knowledge City cluster**, the new campus will support national missions like **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and **Vikshit Bharat @2047**, while fulfilling the government's vision of **inclusive and decentralized development** in the **North East** region.

Madhya Pradesh

- 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.

Odisha

- 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**.

Punjab

- Punjab has recorded a **20% surge in cotton cultivation** in 2025, expanding to **2.98 lakh acres** across the state. This increase aligns with the government's **crop diversification agenda** aimed at reducing reliance on **water-guzzling paddy**. The state is offering a **33% subsidy on cotton seeds**, and over **49,000 farmers** have registered under the initiative. With **Fazilka, Mansa, Bathinda, and Sri Muktsar Sahib** leading in cultivation, Punjab's focus on **sustainable agriculture** and **digital farmer outreach** is showing tangible results.

Tamil Nadu

- An **ancient Shiva temple**, dating back to the **later Pandya period**, was recently discovered in **Udampatti village, Tamil Nadu**. The **foundation and inscriptions from 1217-1218 CE** confirm the site's historical significance. The temple, named **Thennavanisvaram**, was once financially self-sustained and located in a village then known as **Attur**. The detailed **sale deeds** on the stone base shed light on **land ownership**, **water resource management**, and **temple endowments** during **Pandya rule**. This archaeological finding is a critical window into **medieval Tamil heritage**, **Pandya dynasty administration**, and **temple economy systems**.
- Tamil Nadu government** declared **Dhanushkodi** as a **Greater Flamingo Sanctuary** to protect migratory birds, particularly **Greater and Lesser Flamingos**, along the **Central Asian Flyway**. Covering **524.7 hectares**, the sanctuary includes **mangroves, mudflats, and marshes**, forming a rich ecosystem within the **Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve**. With over **10,700 birds from 128 species** recorded, the sanctuary plays a crucial role in **wetland conservation**, **ecotourism**, and **climate resilience**. The move was inaugurated by **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** during the **World Environment Day** celebration.





- The **Prayoga Institute of Education Research**, in collaboration with the **SBI Foundation** and **SBI Funds Management**, launched the **Kriya programme** in **12 government schools** of **Raichur district** on **June 17, 2025**. Aligned with **NEP 2020**, the initiative aims to provide **experiential science learning** for students from **Classes 6 to 10**, encouraging **critical thinking** and **inquiry-based education**. Having already impacted over **11,000 students** in **Karnataka**, the programme marks a key milestone in Prayoga's mission to **transform rural STEM education** through **scalable, research-backed methods**.

Uttar Pradesh

- The **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet**, led by **CM Yogi Adityanath**, has approved **20% horizontal reservation** for **former Agniveers** in various **police recruitment posts** including **Constables** and **Firemen**. The move aligns with the **Agneepath scheme**, offering **age relaxation** and inclusive benefits across categories like **SC, ST, OBC, and General**. Starting in **2026**, this policy ensures continued **employment and recognition** for Agniveers, promoting both **security** and **youth welfare**.
- Uttar Pradesh has topped the nation in **digital public procurement**, registering a cumulative **₹65,227.68 crore** worth of orders on the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** between **FY 2020** and **FY 2025**. In **FY 2024–25** alone, the state processed **72 lakh orders worth ₹5.43 lakh crore**, showcasing its commitment to **e-governance, transparency, and efficient public service delivery**. The **November 2024 reforms**, aligning with **GFR 2017**, enabled **100% GeM adoption**, setting an example for other states under the **Digital India initiative**.
- 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**.
- 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**.

West Bengal

- The **Calcutta High Court** has permitted a **15-year-old** boy to adopt his **stepfather's surname**, upholding the rights of **custodial parents** and recognizing **modern family dynamics**. Though the **Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC)** opposed the change, the court ruled that **surname** falls within the scope of **Section 454** of the **Kolkata Municipal Corporation Act**, which allows for name alterations. However, the court denied the plea to change the **biological father's name** due to the lack of a **legal adoption order**. **Justice Kaushik Chanda** emphasized that statutory time limits can be interpreted **flexibly** when justified by circumstances.
- In a landmark decision, the **Calcutta High Court** has ordered the **Centre** to **resume MGNREGA operations in West Bengal** starting **August 1, 2025**, after a **three-year suspension** due to alleged irregularities. The court stressed the need to separate **past misconduct** from the **future right to livelihood**, restoring work opportunities to over **25 million rural workers**. The scheme's revival is seen as a **victory for civil rights**, with advocates hailing it as a turning point for **rural employment, economic justice, and public accountability** in India's flagship **social welfare** programme.

Union Territories:

- In a **historic decision**, **President Droupadi Murmu** promulgated three major regulations for **Ladakh** on **June 3, 2025**. The **Ladakh Reservation (Amendment) Regulation** ensures **85% reservation** in public jobs for locals. The **Ladakh Official Languages Regulation** recognizes **English, Hindi, Urdu, Bhoti, and Purgi** as **official languages**, while promoting native tongues like **Shina, Brokskat, and Balti**. Additionally, the **Hill Councils Amendment** mandates **33% reservation for women** in **Leh and Kargil**. These steps enhance **local empowerment**, promote **linguistic and cultural heritage**, and boost **women's representation** in governance.
- On **June 9, 2025**, **Puducherry** became the **19th legislature** in India to adopt the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)**, a digital platform for **paperless legislative functioning**, inaugurated by **Union Minister Dr. L. Murugan**. The initiative supports the **Digital India** vision, enabling **real-time legislative transparency, livestreaming**, and saving paper, with **100% central funding**. NeVA represents a step toward **"One Nation, One Application"**, furthering **eco-friendly governance, citizen access, and institutional efficiency**.





- The **Delhi Government** is set to begin **cloud-seeding trials** by late June 2025, marking a significant move in **weather modification** technology to potentially combat **pollution** and **water scarcity**. The ₹3.21 crore pilot project, involving **five aerial trials** with seeding agents like **silver iodide and salts**, is being conducted with support from **IIT Kanpur, IMD, and multiple national agencies**. The trials will assess **rainfall induction** efficiency, and environmental safety, while avoiding restricted air zones in the city.

June Month Launches & Inaugurations:

- The Government of India has launched the **SPMEPCI scheme** to accelerate the growth of the **domestic electric vehicle industry** by offering import duty concessions and supporting local manufacturing. By allowing **brownfield investments** and capping imports with rollover provisions, the government aims to attract major global players and bolster India's **clean mobility agenda**. However, Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy confirmed that **Tesla is not planning** to manufacture cars in India, underlining the challenge of securing foreign investment in the EV space.
- The **DHRUVA policy**, launched by India's **Department of Posts**, introduces a **nationwide, geo-coded digital address system** designed to modernize how address data is used, stored, and shared. Recognising address information as foundational public infrastructure, DHRUVA ensures **secure, standardised, and consent-based address management**. It leverages the **Address-as-a-Service (AaaS)** model to benefit sectors ranging from governance to logistics. By integrating this digital approach, India strengthens its **digital public infrastructure** to support **inclusive growth, user privacy, and service innovation**.
- On **June 6, 2025**, **Amit Shah** inaugurated the **Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag (BBA)** to integrate **Indian languages into administrative and governance processes**, minimizing the dominance of English. Backed by ₹56 crore in funding and supported by **C-DAC**, this platform will ensure real-time translation and allow communication in **mother tongues**, especially with **Region C States**. The initiative resonates with the **NEP 2020 vision** and strengthens **linguistic inclusivity and national unity**.
- The **Election Commission of India** has introduced a **technology-based system** to automate the creation of **Index Cards and Statistical Reports**, replacing earlier manual methods. This change, under the guidance of **CEC Gyanesh Kumar**, will significantly **accelerate post-poll data dissemination**, offering detailed insights into **electoral demographics, voting patterns, and party performance**. Aimed at researchers and policymakers, this initiative

- reinforces **transparency, data accessibility, and academic engagement** with India's democratic processes.
- On **World Environment Day 2025**, **PM Narendra Modi** launched the '**Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0**' campaign in **Delhi**, aiming to plant **10 crore trees** across India by **September 30**. The initiative, blending **environmental consciousness** with **cultural values**, encourages individuals to **plant a tree in their mother's name**. Additionally, the Prime Minister flagged off **200 electric buses** in the capital to promote **clean urban transport** and tackle **air pollution**. These actions reflect India's strengthened commitment to **sustainable development, climate action, and green mobility**.
 - The **Delhi government** has announced India's **first electronic waste (e-waste) eco park** in **Holambi Kalan, North Delhi**, aiming to promote a **circular economy** and **sustainable urban living**, with **Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa** confirming plans to issue a **global tender** for advanced **green technology partnerships**.
 - The **Government of India** has launched the **Ayush Nivesh Saarthi Portal**, a digital platform developed by the **Ministry of Ayush** and **Invest India** to attract and assist **domestic and international investors** in the **Ayush sector**—covering **Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy**. The portal provides **investment policies, project listings, benefits, and real-time support**, aiming to boost **FDI**, support **startups**, and capitalize on the sector's **17% annual growth** between 2014 and 2020.
 - The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has introduced a **cap of 10 projects per Engineer** for consultancy firms working on **national highway construction and maintenance projects**. This move aims to improve **supervision quality**, prevent overburdening of engineers, and ensure **contract compliance** under project modes like **HAM and EPC**. Effective after **60 days**, the rule mandates monthly site visits and inputs into **progress reports**, significantly boosting the quality and safety of India's highway infrastructure.
 - The **DhartiAaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan**, launched by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, is India's **largest tribal empowerment campaign**, covering over **549 tribal districts, 2,900+ blocks, and 1 lakh villages**. The campaign ensures **benefit saturation** by delivering key services such as **Aadhaar enrolment, Ayushman Bharat cards, PM-Kisan registration, Jan Dhan accounts, pensions, and skill development** at the doorstep of tribal households. Implemented as part of **Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh**, and supported by programs like **PM-JANMAN** and **DAJGUA**, the initiative marks a major step in **inclusive governance and last-mile delivery**.





- Maruti Suzuki India has inaugurated **India's largest automobile in-plant railway siding** at its **Manesar plant**, marking a major step towards **green logistics**. Aligned with the **PM Gati Shakti Master Plan**, the ₹452 crore facility is part of the **126 km Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor**. It will **dispatch 4.5 lakh vehicles annually**, cut **1.75 lakh tonnes of CO₂ emissions**, and **save 60 million litres of fuel** per year. With this, MSIL aims to **increase rail-based dispatches to 35% by FY2030–31**, supporting India's vision of a **net-zero emission economy by 2070**.
- The **Government of India** has introduced a **₹3,000 FASTag Annual Pass**, starting **August 15, 2025**, for **private vehicles** like cars, jeeps, and vans. Valid for **one year or 200 trips**, this initiative aims to **reduce toll-related disputes**, especially where plazas are closely spaced, and encourage a **digital-first tolling system**. The pass can be activated through the **Rajmarg Yatra App** or official **NHAI/MoRTH platforms**, offering an **affordable, hassle-free travel experience** across **National Highways**.
- On **June 18, 2025**, the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** unveiled a **new SOP** to deliver **Elector Photo Identity Cards (EPICs)** within **15 days** of any electoral roll update. Powered by the **ECINet platform** and integrated with the **Department of Posts**, the system provides **real-time tracking** and **SMS notifications** to voters. This tech-driven step aims to improve **voter convenience**, ensure **timely delivery**, and bolster **digital transparency** in India's electoral services.
- To mark **World Sickle Cell Day** on **June 19, 2025**, **AIIMS Mangalagiri** organized an **awareness rally** in collaboration with the **Departments of Health and Tribal Welfare**. The event featured participation from **students, tribal members, and medical professionals**, aiming to boost awareness about **sickle cell disease**, a **hereditary blood disorder** that disproportionately affects **tribal populations** in India.
- The **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** has launched "**Pratibha Setu**", a revamped platform that allows employers to access details of **non-recommended candidates** who cleared all stages of UPSC exams but were not on the final merit list. This move provides **career alternatives to top-tier aspirants** and strengthens the interface between **government-selected talent and private sector demand**. With secure login access for verified recruiters and opt-in participation from candidates, **Pratibha Setu** represents a **forward-looking employment reform** initiative.
- During his visit to **Bhubaneswar on June 20, 2025**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated **₹18,600 crore worth of development projects**, flagged off new **rail and bus services**, and launched the **Odisha Vision Document**, aiming for a **\$1.5 trillion economy by 2047**. Emphasizing **cultural revival, women empowerment, and infrastructure growth**, the PM also rolled out the **Baraputra Aitihya Gram Yojana** and **felicitated Lakhpati Didis** under the SHG initiative. The event signaled the government's commitment to holistic, inclusive progress in Odisha.
- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development**, under **Annpurna Devi**, launched the **Gender Budgeting Knowledge Hub** on **June 20, 2025**, during a **national consultation in New Delhi**. The platform will act as a **digital repository** for **gender budgeting resources**, aiding ministries, states, and policymakers in integrating **gender equality** in planning and budgeting. The Centre's allocation for **FY 2025–26** stands at **₹4.49 lakh crore**, a **4.5x increase** from 2014–15. The consultation reviewed **20 years of gender budgeting** in India and proposed **training manuals and sector-specific strategies** to further strengthen **inclusive fiscal governance**.
- **Yoga Sangam 2025**, an initiative by the **Ministry of Ayush**, marks a transformative celebration of the **11th International Day of Yoga (IDY)** with the theme "**Unity Through Breath**". This nationwide event will mobilize participation at **over one lakh locations**, including **schools, offices, villages, and metros**, symbolizing a **collective movement for health and harmony**. Emphasizing **synchronized breathing and community connection**, it redefines yoga as both a **wellness practice** and a **national unifier**.
- 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.
- 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**.





Important Festival

- **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.
- **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.
- **The 3rd Lavender Festival at Bhaderwah, Jammu & Kashmir**, showcased the growing success of the CSIR-Aroma Mission. Held from June 1–2, 2025, and attended by over 1,200 participants, the event featured field visits, live distillation demonstrations, and success stories of farmers and startups. With over ₹10.5 crore in turnover from lavender-based products and more than 9,000 trained individuals, the festival underscored the socio-economic upliftment, women entrepreneurship, and industrial development spurred by lavender farming.
- **Sri Lanka** is celebrating the revered Poson Poya festival, marking over 2,000 years since the arrival of Buddhism with Arahat Mahinda's first sermon to King Devanampiyatissa. Devotees have gathered at Mihintale and Anuradhapura, where the festivities are marked with lanterns, almsgiving, and cultural programs. President Anura Kumara Disanayake emphasized national unity and moral revival, while the Indian High Commission joined the occasion with an exhibition on Buddhist heritage. Free and special train services are also aiding pilgrim movement during the sacred week.
- **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.

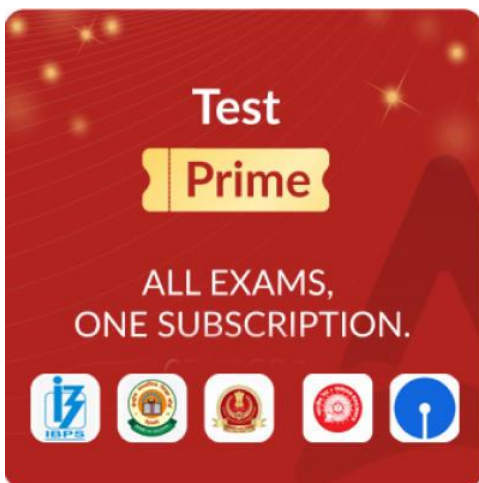
Miscellaneous National News

- The Government of India commemorated **60 years of Integral Humanism**, a philosophy by **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya**, with a national symposium addressed by **Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan**. The Minister emphasized agriculture as the backbone of the Indian economy, advocated for environmental consciousness through a **tree plantation drive**, and promoted **women's empowerment** via schemes like **Lakshpati Didi Yojana**. He reiterated that Deendayal Ji's ideology offers a uniquely Indian framework for development grounded in **cultural ethos, balanced economics, and social harmony**.
- The **Government of India** has permitted **Central Government employees** who retired under the **National Pension System (NPS)** with a minimum of **10 years of service** to claim **additional pension benefits** under the **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)**. The scheme, introduced in **January 2025**, offers a **50% assured pension**, a **lump sum payout**, and **monthly top-ups** to bridge the gap between UPS and NPS returns. The last date to apply is **June 30, 2025**. This move benefits nearly **23 lakh employees** and enhances **social security** for NPS retirees.
- The **Ministry of Coal**, under the leadership of **Shri G. Kishan Reddy**, launched **C CARES Version 2.0**, a **digital platform** by **CMPFO** for **coal workers' Provident Fund and pension services**. Developed by **C-DAC** in collaboration with **SBI**, it includes **real-time tracking**, **direct benefit transfers**, and a **mobile app** for member access. Initially deployed in **five regional offices**, it will expand **nationwide from July 2025**. The portal advances **transparency, efficiency**, and aligns with **Digital India** and **worker welfare goals**.
- At **Urban Adda 2025**, held in **New Delhi**, a powerful collective of **policymakers, activists, and urban planners** advocated for **gender-inclusive urban design**. The event illuminated the daily challenges women face in Indian cities — from **unsafe commutes to infrastructure exclusion** — and highlighted success stories like the **training of women as ferry pilots and public bus drivers**. Speakers emphasized that **urban mobility systems** must intentionally include women, and that only a **structural shift from intent to action** will ensure **equity in city design** and **livelihood access** for all.





- The **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** successfully observed **Swachhata Pakhwada 2025** between **May 1–15**, conducting **188 activities** across its headquarters and affiliated organizations. The campaign emphasized **cleanliness, health awareness, waste management, and community participation**, aligning with the **Swachh Bharat Mission**. Key activities included the installation of **e-waste and sanitary facilities, CPR training, cleanliness drives, and Nukkad Natak**s.
- India's **water management system** is under immense strain from **pollution, climate change, and governance gaps**, necessitating a transition to the **Source to Sea (S2S) approach**. In 2025, the UN spotlighted **glacier preservation and ocean science**, emphasizing integrated water policies that consider the full water continuum from **mountains to oceans**. Despite early global momentum, **India has not fully embraced S2S**, although some pilot initiatives are emerging. Experts urge alignment of **SDG Goals 6.5 and 14.1**, stakeholder participation, and nested governance to ensure **sustainable and climate-resilient water futures**.
- The long-awaited **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL)** project, envisioned nearly **three decades ago**, has reached completion with the operationalisation of its final segment — the **Sangaldan to Katra stretch**. This milestone marks the **full integration of the Kashmir Valley into India's rail network**, highlighted by **iconic engineering feats** like the **Chenab and Anji bridges** and the **longest railway tunnel in the country**.
- India has pledged **\$20 billion** to advance its **maritime infrastructure**, with a focus on building **three Green Hydrogen Hub Ports**, enhancing **global trade corridor connectivity**, and promoting **multimodal logistics**. Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** made the announcement at the **Nor-Shipping Conference**, highlighting India's commitment to a **green maritime future**, stronger **seafarer partnerships**, and **sustainable port development**.
- India's **digital public infrastructure** continues to expand as **UIDAI** reported over **211 crore Aadhaar authentication transactions in May 2025**, with **15.49 crore** via **face authentication** and **37 crore** e-KYC verifications. These figures underscore Aadhaar's central role in **government welfare, financial services, and citizen-centric governance**. Leveraging **AI/ML technologies**, Aadhaar's authentication capabilities are enabling **seamless, secure, and real-time identity verification**, driving forward the goals of **Digital India and inclusive development**.
- A new climate study warns that **India's urban centres** are on track to face **twice as many heatwave days by 2030**, especially in **Mumbai, Delhi, and Chennai**. Released during a key **climate symposium in New Delhi**, the study links these projections to **climate change**, urban heat islands, and land-use changes. It highlights a **43% surge in extreme rainfall intensity**, affecting nearly **80% of Indian districts**. Experts urge the formation of **Climate Risk Observatories (CROs)**, **risk financing tools**, and **district-level climate champions** to combat the worsening climate crisis.
- The **Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD)** and **Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS)** signed an **MoU in New Delhi** to integrate **multilingual AI solutions** into Indian Railways' digital services, using **BHASHINI's language technologies** like **ASR, TTS, Text Translation, and OCR** to make platforms like **NTES and RailMadad** accessible in **22 Indian languages**, enhancing **linguistic inclusion** and **AI-driven public service transformation**.
- **Bengaluru** has been officially recognized as the '**Leopard Capital**' of India, with an estimated **80–85 wild leopards** found across **Bannerghatta National Park** and surrounding zones, surpassing **Mumbai's 54**. A **year-long camera trap survey** by **Holématti Nature Foundation**, led by **Dr. Sanjay Gubbi**, also recorded **34 mammal species**, many listed as **Endangered or Schedule I** under Indian law. The study recommends **expanding conservation reserves, safeguarding wildlife corridors**, and minimizing human-wildlife conflict. This highlights Bengaluru's **unique position as an urban wildlife haven** and calls for proactive ecological stewardship.
- The **ESIC Sanath Nagar Campus in Hyderabad** has evolved into a **national Centre of Excellence**, offering **advanced medical services, super-specialty care, and medical education** under the **Modi government's eleven-year governance**. Accredited by **NABH, NABL, and ISO**, the campus delivers **digital diagnostics, cutting-edge surgeries, and innovative IT-enabled patient services**. With over **1,000 beds**, including **ICU and dialysis units**, and robust **educational infrastructure**, it stands as a **beacon of accessible, high-quality public healthcare in India**.





- India has initiated a strategic shift in its rare earth export policy by asking IREL to suspend a 2012 export agreement with Japan, aiming to develop domestic processing and reduce dependence on China. With rising demand for neodymium in electric vehicles and China's tightening grip on the market, India is investing in local capacity building, infrastructure, and incentives to create a self-reliant rare earth ecosystem. The move is also crucial for safeguarding national interests in defence, renewable energy, and critical technology sectors.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved two strategic multitracking projects under Indian Railways, totaling ₹6,405 crore, to enhance connectivity and freight movement across Jharkhand, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh. Spanning 318 km, the Koderma–Barkakana and Ballari–Chikjajur doubling lines will improve logistics efficiency, benefit over 28 lakh people, and cut carbon emissions, aligning with India's sustainability goals and economic self-reliance vision.
- India took a major step toward strengthening its textile exports with the first meeting of the Task Force on Textiles Exports, chaired by Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal on June 10, 2025. The meeting addressed issues across the textile value chain, from ESG infrastructure and e-commerce expansion to fibre innovation and regulatory simplification. Stakeholders unanimously supported forming issue-specific sub-task forces to craft actionable strategies. The initiative is a cornerstone of India's export and sustainability goals under the Viksit Bharat 2047 roadmap.
- Visakhapatnam will host the 11th International Day of Yoga (IDY 2025) on June 21, celebrating 10 years of this global wellness event. Senior officials from the Ministry of Ayush and the Andhra Pradesh Government recently reviewed preparations at key venues. The state's ambitious "Yogandhra" initiative targets yoga outreach to 2 crore people and aims to train 20 lakh certified practitioners. With more than 1 lakh locations participating across the state and 5 lakh attendees expected in Visakhapatnam alone, IDY 2025 promises to exemplify India's commitment to "Yoga for One Earth, One Health."
- At the Institutional Arbitration Conference held in New Delhi on June 14, 2025, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal emphasized India's ambition to become a global arbitration hub. Highlighting the need for alternative dispute resolution (ADR) methods such as arbitration, mediation, and conciliation, the Minister stressed reduced court burden and investor convenience. ONGC Chairman Arun Kumar Singh and other stakeholders underlined the importance of time-bound, corporate-style arbitration.
- PM Narendra Modi's visit to Cyprus in June 2025 marks a strategic recalibration in India's foreign policy. As Turkey strengthens its alliance with Pakistan, India's outreach to Cyprus — a nation that has consistently backed India on the global stage — is both symbolic and strategic. Cyprus' role in the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), its geographical proximity to West Asia, and its upcoming presidency of the EU Council in 2026 amplify its significance. The visit underscores India's commitment to counter-terror diplomacy, multilateral engagement, and trade connectivity in a rapidly evolving global order.
- India has initiated Operation Sindhu to evacuate its nationals from Iran amid the growing threat of conflict with Israel. Over 100 Indian students have already been safely evacuated via Armenia, reflecting the government's swift and well-coordinated response. The operation emphasizes India's commitment to the safety of its citizens abroad, effective diplomacy, and robust crisis management strategies.
- Anantha Chandrakasan, a Chennai-born academic and MIT's School of Engineering Dean, has been appointed as the first Indian-born Provost of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Taking office on July 1, 2025, he will oversee MIT's academic and financial strategy. A renowned engineer and researcher, Chandrakasan leads MIT's Energy-Efficient Circuits and Systems Group, and has been instrumental in promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, and inclusion through programs like SuperUROP and Rising Stars.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first visit to Croatia signals a strategic shift in India's foreign policy, emphasizing deeper connectivity with Central and Eastern Europe. With its Adriatic Sea access, membership in EU and NATO, and involvement in initiatives like 3SI and IMEC, Croatia offers India key trade and geopolitical advantages. The visit also revived historic cultural ties, notably through the Sanskrit grammar work of Croatian scholar Filip Vezdin. This outreach reinforces India's presence in the region and counters rival global influences like the BRI, while enhancing prospects for UNSC support.
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has rolled out transformative reforms during the June 2025 bye-polls, introducing innovations like mobile deposit facilities, real-time VTR updates, and 100% webcasting. These initiatives, implemented across five Assembly Constituencies, enhance voter convenience, transparency, and polling efficiency. With the Special Summary Revision of electoral rolls also carried out for the first time in two decades, these reforms set a precedent for future state elections, especially the upcoming Bihar Assembly Elections.





- India is set to export its **first-ever locally manufactured locomotive** to **Guinea**, with **PM Narendra Modi** inaugurating the flag-off ceremony from **Marhowrah, Bihar**, on **June 20, 2025**. The deal includes **150 high-tech locomotives worth ₹3,000 crore**, made for Guinea's **SimFer Simandou mining project**. Manufactured under the **Make in India** initiative, these locomotives feature **world-class safety, comfort, and performance**. The project, awarded through **global competitive bidding**, highlights India's rising capabilities in **railway manufacturing**, its diplomatic outreach to Africa, and the realization of the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** vision.
- The Government of India is set to notify the **Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2025**, mandating the use of **Indian Standard Time (IST)** across all legal, commercial, and digital activities. This initiative, backed by the **Department of Consumer Affairs, CSIR-NPL, and ISRO**, aims to enhance **digital security, traceability, and operational efficiency** by eliminating reliance on foreign time sources. It includes setting up **five Regional Reference Standard Laboratories (RRSLs)** with atomic clocks and secure synchronization protocols. The move is a major leap towards **One Nation, One Time**, securing national digital infrastructure under a **trusted, standardized ecosystem**.
- In a major step towards uniting the world through the ancient practice of yoga, the **Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY)** launched '**Yoga Bandhan**', a flagship international program under the Ministry of Ayush. As a Signature Event leading up to the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2025, the initiative brought together yoga ambassadors from 15 countries to strengthen global partnerships in yoga education, diplomacy, and wellness, reflecting India's continued leadership in promoting cultural unity and holistic health worldwide.
- The Centre has notified the schedule for the 2027 decennial census, which will include caste enumeration. This will be India's first caste-based census in 16 years, since the last socio-economic caste data was gathered in 2011. The announcement follows a high-level review chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- 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**.
- 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**.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.





National Current Affairs of May 2025

Cabinet Approvals

- 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**.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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**.
- 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.

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved the **National Scheme for Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Upgradation** and the setting up of **five National Centres of Excellence for Skilling** as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**. Announced under **Budget 2024-25 and 2025-26**, the scheme has a total outlay of **₹60,000 crore**, with contributions from the **Centre, States, and industry**, and co-financing from the **Asian Development Bank** and the **World Bank**. The scheme aims to upgrade **1,000 government ITIs** using a **hub-and-spoke model** and to strengthen **five National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs)** located in **Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kanpur, and Ludhiana**. It also involves setting up **five National Centres of Excellence** within these NSTIs and training **50,000 trainers**. Over a five-year period, the initiative will skill **20 lakh youth** in sectors like **electronics, automotive, and renewable energy**. It introduces a **need-based investment model** and a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** structure for **outcome-driven implementation**. The goal is to make ITIs **aspirational** and support the vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**.
- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved the **expansion of academic and infrastructure capacity (Phase-B construction)** for five new **Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)** in **Andhra Pradesh (IIT Tirupati)**, **Kerala (IIT Palakkad)**, **Chhattisgarh (IIT Bhilai)**, **Jammu & Kashmir (IIT Jammu)**, and **Karnataka (IIT Dharwad)**. The expansion from **2025-26 to 2028-29** involves an investment of **₹11,828.79 crore**. It includes creation of **130 faculty posts** and development of **five research parks**. Student capacity will increase by **6,500**, reaching **13,687** from **7,111**. The initiative supports **higher education access, employment generation, and local economic stimulation**, while benefiting students across India through **pan-India admissions**. As per **Budget 2025-26**, student capacity across all **23 IITs** has doubled from **65,000 to 1.35 lakh** over the last decade.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved fresh **coal linkages to Thermal Power Plants (TPPs)** under the **Revised SHAKTI policy**. Two new windows have been introduced: **Window-I** (coal at **notified prices** for central/state sector plants) and **Window-II** (coal at **premium price** through auction, without **PPA requirement**, for up to **25 years**). The policy enhances **flexibility in coal procurement**, encourages **new capacity**, and promotes **domestic coal use**. It will be implemented by **Coal India Limited (CIL)** and **Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL)**. Benefits include **streamlined procedures, pithead plant promotion, coal source rationalization, and increased market participation**. An **Empowered Committee** will oversee implementation. The policy involves **no extra cost** to coal companies and supports the goals of **ease of doing business** and **energy security**.





- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved the establishment of a **sixth semiconductor unit** under the **India Semiconductor Mission**. This joint venture between **HCL and Foxconn** will be set up near **Jewar airport** in the **YEIDA region**. The plant will manufacture **display driver chips** for **mobile phones, laptops, automobiles**, and other devices. It is designed for **20,000 wafers per month**, with an output of **36 million units per month** and an investment of **₹3,700 crore**. Five other semiconductor units are already under construction. India's **semiconductor ecosystem** is growing, with companies like **Applied Materials** and **Lam Research** now operating in India. Major suppliers like **Merck, Linde, Air Liquide**, and **Inox** are also preparing to support the industry. **270 academic institutions** and **70 startups** are working on chip design, with **20 products taped out** by **SCL Mohali**. This initiative supports **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and meets the rising demand for semiconductors in India's expanding **electronics manufacturing sector**.
- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has greenlit two major initiatives aimed at strengthening India's technological and agricultural sectors. First, under the **India Semiconductor Mission**, a **sixth semiconductor manufacturing unit** will be established as a joint venture between **HCL and Foxconn** near **Jewar airport in Uttar Pradesh's YEIDA region**. The ₹3,700 crore plant will produce **display driver chips** for mobile phones, laptops, and vehicles, with a design capacity of **36 million units per month**. This move supports India's push toward **semiconductor self-reliance**, backed by innovation from academic institutions, startups, and global supply chain partners.
- In parallel, the Cabinet approved the continuation of the **Interest Subvention (IS) component** under the **Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS)** for **FY 2025–26**. The scheme provides **affordable short-term credit** to farmers through **Kisan Credit Cards (KCC)** with subsidized interest rates. Loans up to ₹3 lakh are offered at 7%, with a **1.5% subvention** to banks and an additional **3% Prompt Repayment Incentive** for timely repayments, effectively lowering the rate to **4%**. Covering over **7.75 crore farmers**, the scheme remains vital to ensuring **inclusive agricultural growth**, especially with enhancements like the **Kisan Rin Portal** driving digital transparency and efficiency.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved two key multitracking **railway infrastructure projects** — the **Ratlam-Nagda 3rd & 4th lines** and **Wardha-Balharshah 4th line** — to boost capacity and speed across Indian Railways. With a combined investment of around ₹3,399 crore, the projects will span about **176 km** across Madhya Pradesh and

Maharashtra, enhancing connectivity for over **19.74 lakh people** in **784 villages**. These **PM Gati Shakti-aligned projects** will significantly increase freight movement (by 18.40 MTPA), reduce logistics costs, and cut oil imports by 20 crore litres, thereby avoiding 99 crore kg of CO₂ emissions — equivalent to planting 4 crore trees. The construction phase will also generate around **74 lakh human-days of employment**, aligning with the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** vision by improving regional development, self-employment, and operational efficiency in the rail network.

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the development of a **4-lane Badvel-Nellore highway** spanning **108.134 km** in Andhra Pradesh at a cost of **₹3,653.10 crore** under the **DBFOT model**. This strategic corridor will enhance connectivity between key industrial nodes like **Koppaathy (VCIC), Orvakal (HBIC), and Krishnapatnam (CBIC)**, while significantly improving logistics and access to **Krishnapatnam Port**. The project will reduce travel distance by **33.9 km**, cut travel time by an hour, and lower both fuel use and vehicle operating costs. It is also set to generate around **43 lakh man-days of employment**, spurring **economic growth and job creation** in the region, and aligning with the government's **infrastructure and Atmanirbhar Bharat** vision.

Parliament News

Most Important News of the Month

Operation Sindoor: India Strikes Back in Pakistan and PoK

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





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

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

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

Objective: Neutralize Terror Infrastructure and Re-establish Deterrence

Restoring Strategic Deterrence Post-Balakot

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

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

Top-Level Military Coordination and Strategic Planning

Prime Minister Modi Leads Consultations with Defence Chiefs

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

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

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

Ground-Level Execution and Strategic Messaging

No Escalation—Only Accountability

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

Air and Ground Coordination Involved

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

Pakistan's Response: Vows to Retaliate

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

Public and Political Reaction in India

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

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

What Lies Ahead: Strategic Calculations Continue

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

Maintaining Vigilance

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

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

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

Why in News?

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

Key Projections by IMF

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





Static Background

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

Current Top Economies (2025 Projections)

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

Highlights & Significance

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

Comparison with Major Economies (2025)

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

Pulitzer Prize 2025: Full List of Journalism Winners

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

Pulitzer Prizes 2025: Complete List of Journalism Winners

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

The New York Times Wins Four Pulitzer Prizes

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

Doug Mills Captures a Defining Moment

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

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

The Washington Post Recognized for Breaking News Reporting

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

Wall Street Journal Wins for Investigating Elon Musk

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

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

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

Reuters Awarded for Fentanyl Crisis Investigation

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

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

The New Yorker Secures Three Prizes Across Categories

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

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





Other Major Winners in Journalism

- **Public Service:** Kavitha Surana, Lizzie Presser, Cassandra Jaramillo, and Stacy Kranitz won for their reporting on **maternal deaths** linked to unclear **abortion laws**.
- **Explanatory Reporting:** NYT reporters **Azam Ahmed**, **Christina Goldbaum**, and **Matthieu Aikins** were recognized for work on how **U.S. support of militias** harmed efforts in Afghanistan.
- **Local Reporting:** Baltimore Banner and NYT journalists highlighted the **fentanyl epidemic** among **older Black men** in **Baltimore**.
- **International Reporting:** Declan Walsh and NYT staff were honored for uncovering **foreign interference** in **Sudan's conflict**.
- **Feature Writing:** Mark Warren from *Esquire* wrote a moving profile of a **pastor-mayor's suicide** following online exposure.
- **Criticism:** Alexandra Lange from *Bloomberg CityLab* won for writing on **urban spaces** designed for **families**.
- **Editorial Writing:** *Houston Chronicle's* editorial team received the award for a series on **deadly train crossings**.
- **Illustrated Reporting & Commentary:** Ann Telnaes, a former *Washington Post* cartoonist, won for her bold illustrations targeting **powerful figures** and institutions.

Lakkundi Group of Monuments Proposed for UNESCO Tentative List

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

Why in News?

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

Location & Historical Context

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

UNESCO Tentative Listing Criteria Me

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

Important Structures in the Proposal

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

Surrounding Temples

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

Architectural Importance

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

Process & Future Steps

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

President Murmu Invokes Article 143 Over Governors' Bill Assent Powers

In a rare constitutional move, President Droupadi Murmu has invoked Article 143 of the Constitution to seek the Supreme Court's advisory opinion on a range of legal questions concerning the powers and conduct of Governors and the President in relation to State legislation under Articles 200 and 201. This Presidential Reference stems from a recent Supreme Court judgment criticizing delays by the Tamil Nadu Governor in granting assent to Bills passed by the State Legislature.

Why in News?

On May 13, 2025, President Murmu referred 14 constitutional questions to the Supreme Court after a two-judge Bench judgment (April 8, 2025) deemed the Tamil Nadu Governor's delay in Bill assent as unconstitutional. The move is significant as it seeks to resolve long-standing ambiguities regarding the discretionary powers of Governors and the President, and the limits of judicial intervention under Article 142.





Key Questions Raised in the Presidential Reference

1. What are the Constitutional options before a Governor when a Bill is presented to him under Article 200 for assent?
2. Is the Governor bound by the aid and advice tendered by the Council of Ministers?
3. Is the exercise of Constitutional discretion by the Governor under Article 200 justiciable?
4. Is Article 361 of the Constitution (immunity given to President and Governors from legal action while in office) an absolute bar to judicial review in relation to the actions of a Governor under Article 200?
5. In the absence of any Constitutionally prescribed time limit or manner of exercise of powers by a Governor, can time limits be imposed and manner of exercise of powers be prescribed through judicial orders?
6. Is the exercise of Constitutional discretion by the President under Article 201 (dealing with Bills reserved by a Governor for consideration by the President) justiciable?
7. Can judicial orders impose timelines and manner of exercise of powers by the President under Article 201?
8. Is the President required to take advice from the Supreme Court when a Bill is reserved by a Governor for the President's assent?
9. Are decisions of the Governor and the President under Articles 200 and 201, respectively, justiciable at a stage prior to even the Bill in question becoming a law. Is it permissible for the courts to undertake judicial adjudication over the contents of a Bill, in any manner, before it becomes law?
10. Can the Constitutional powers of the President/Governors be substituted by a judicial order exercising Article 142?
11. Is a law made by the State Legislature a law in force without the assent of the Governor?
12. Is it not mandatory for a Supreme Court Bench to examine if a case involved substantial questions of law regarding interpretation of the Constitution and refer the case to a Bench of a minimum five judges under Article 145(3)?
13. Is Article 142 limited to matters of procedural law or does it extend to issuing directions "contrary to or inconsistent with existing substantive or procedural provisions of the Constitution"?
14. Is there a bar on the Supreme Court from deciding between the Centre and States other than by way of filing an original suit under Article 131?

Background and Trigger

- The issue arises from a petition by the Tamil Nadu government against Governor R.N. Ravi's delay in acting on 10 re-passed Bills.
- The Supreme Court, invoking Article 142, held the Governor's inaction illegal and deemed the Bills to have received assent.
- This verdict prompted the Presidential Reference to test the validity and scope of Article 142 and assess the boundaries of judicial overreach.

Static & Legal Provisions Discussed

- **Article 200:** Governor's options on State Bills — assent, withhold assent, or reserve for President.
- **Article 201:** Bills reserved for the President's consideration.
- **Article 143:** President's power to refer legal questions to SC for advisory opinion.
- **Article 142:** Supreme Court's power to do complete justice.
- **Article 145(3):** Cases involving interpretation of the Constitution must be heard by at least a 5-judge Bench.
- **Article 361:** Immunity to President and Governors from legal proceedings during tenure.

Significance of the Reference

- Clarifies constitutional roles of President and Governors in the lawmaking process.
- May set binding timelines for assent to prevent legislative paralysis.
- Addresses the balance of power between executive discretion and judicial activism.
- Influences future Centre-State relations and cooperative federalism.

Ashwini Vaishnaw Inaugurates First 3nm Semiconductor Design Hubs in Noida and Bengaluru

In a landmark moment for India's semiconductor ambitions, Union Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated the country's first 3nm chip design centres in Noida and Bengaluru. Set up by Renesas Electronics India, these state-of-the-art facilities represent a transformative leap in India's chip design capabilities, aligning with the nation's vision of becoming a global semiconductor powerhouse under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat mission.

Why in News?

India has entered a new frontier in semiconductor design with the inauguration of its first 3nm chip design centres. The move highlights the country's growing prowess in advanced chip technology and supports its efforts to build a robust, end-to-end semiconductor ecosystem. This also supports India's ambition to meet rising global and domestic demand for electronics through self-reliance and innovation.

Key Objectives and Highlights

- **Launch of 3nm Chip Design Centres:** Two facilities were inaugurated in Noida and Bengaluru by Union Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- **First-of-its-kind in India:** These centres are the first in India to design chips at the advanced 3nm node—marking significant technological progress from earlier 5nm and 7nm designs.
- **Powered by Renesas Electronics India Pvt. Ltd.:** A leading global embedded semiconductor solutions provider.





Government's Semiconductor Push

- **Holistic Strategy:** India's approach includes chip design, fabrication, ATMP (Assembly, Testing, Marking, and Packaging), and supply chain development.
- **Global Recognition:** Industry optimism has grown, evidenced by support from companies like Applied Materials and Lam Research.
- **Academic Support:** Over 270+ institutions have received EDA software tools and will now receive semiconductor learning kits to foster hands-on learning.
- **Skill Development:** A new semiconductor learning kit is being launched to develop industry-ready engineers.

Strategic Importance

- **Geopolitical and Economic Value:** The chip centres align with India's strategic interests and Indo-Japan collaboration.
- **Sustainable Growth:** The initiative aims to build a self-reliant chip ecosystem, supporting manufacturing in smartphones, medical devices, automobiles, defense, and more.

Renesas' Role and Vision

- **Global Expertise:** Renesas excels in embedded systems and system-level innovation.
- **India Strategy:** Plans to expand design capabilities from architecture to testing in India.
- **Partnership with Academia and Startups:** Through schemes like Design Linked Incentive (DLI) and Chips to Startup (C2S).

Operation Olivia: A Marine Conservation Success by the Indian Coast Guard

In a major boost to marine conservation, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), through its annual mission Operation Olivia, has successfully protected nearly 6.98 lakh Olive Ridley turtles that nested at the Rushikulya river mouth in Odisha in February 2025. The operation underscores India's commitment to preserving marine biodiversity by ensuring safe nesting habitats for this vulnerable species during its annual breeding season.

Why in News?

The Indian Coast Guard announced on May 19, 2025, that its initiative Operation Olivia had recorded the protection of 6.98 lakh Olive Ridley turtles during the nesting season at the Rushikulya river mouth in Odisha. This marks a record achievement in marine conservation under the initiative.

Aim and Objective

- **Primary Goal:** To ensure safe nesting of Olive Ridley turtles by minimizing threats such as illegal fishing and habitat destruction.
- Promote community participation, NGO collaboration, and the use of sustainable fishing tools like Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs).

Background and Implementation

- Launched in the early 1980s, Operation Olivia is conducted annually from November to May.
- Focuses on nesting beaches in Gahirmatha, Rushikulya river mouth, and other coastal Odisha regions—key breeding grounds for the Olive Ridley turtle.

Key Achievements in 2025 Season

- Protected 6.98 lakh Olive Ridley turtles at Rushikulya river mouth in February 2025.
- Over 5,387 surface patrol sorties and 1,768 aerial surveillance missions conducted since inception.
- Detained 366 boats involved in illegal fishing activities.
- Established MoUs with NGOs for conservation and education programs.

Community and Tech Initiatives

- Promoted Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) among local fishermen.
- Supported sustainable practices and raised awareness through community engagement.
- Collaborated with states like Karnataka to begin geo-tagging turtles to monitor movement.

Significance

- Enhances India's commitment under Convention on Migratory Species and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).
- Reinforces sustainable development goals (SDG 14 – Life Below Water).
- Demonstrates successful multi-agency collaboration for biodiversity conservation.

WHO Adopts First-Ever Global Pandemic Treaty

In a landmark development, the World Health Organization (WHO) adopted the world's first global pandemic treaty during its annual World Health Assembly in Geneva on May 20, 2025. The agreement, passed by a vote of 124 in favor, none against, and 11 abstentions, aims to create a more equitable and coordinated global health response to future pandemics. The absence of the United States — a former WHO member — raises concerns about implementation and funding.

Why in News?

On May 20, 2025, WHO member states voted to adopt the first global pandemic treaty. It comes after three years of negotiations since the devastating impact of COVID-19. The treaty marks a major milestone in global health governance, even as the United States remains absent, having withdrawn from WHO earlier in 2025.





Aim and Objectives

- Ensure equitable access to diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics.
- Strengthen international coordination and global health infrastructure.
- Promote One Health approach, recognizing the interconnectedness of human, animal, and plant health.
- Establish a system for pathogen access and benefit sharing.
- Encourage geographically diverse R&D and local manufacturing.
- Facilitate technology and knowledge transfer.

Key Highlights

- **Voting Outcome:** 124 countries supported the treaty; 11 abstained; none opposed.
- **No External Control:** The treaty respects national sovereignty — WHO cannot mandate lockdowns or vaccination rules.
- **Financial Mechanism:** A new fund will support pandemic response preparedness globally.
- **Equity Focus:** Responds to COVID-era inequality, where richer countries hoarded medical resources.

Controversial Issues Addressed

- Intellectual Property Rights
- Pathogen sharing
- Sovereignty vs. global coordination

Background

- The idea was mooted during the second special session of the World Health Assembly in December 2021, following the second COVID wave.
- Drafting was led by the Intergovernmental Negotiation Body (INB) over 13 rounds of meetings.
- The final draft was completed in April 2025.

Significance

- Ensures the world is better prepared for future pandemics.
- Demonstrates the power of multilateral collaboration in global crises.
- Highlights a shift from reactive to proactive health policy at the global level.
- The treaty is a public health victory, addressing global inequity in healthcare.

PM Modi Inaugurates 103 Amrit Stations Across 18 States Under ₹1,100 Crore Plan

On May 22, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 103 redeveloped Amrit Stations across 86 districts in 18 states, marking a major milestone under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Developed at a cost of over ₹1,100 crore, these modernized stations aim to transform the passenger experience by enhancing comfort, connectivity, and convenience while celebrating India's rich cultural and architectural heritage. This initiative is part of a broader national effort to modernize over 1,300 railway stations and uplift infrastructure in line with India's growing transit needs.

Why in News?

On May 22, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 103 redeveloped Amrit Stations located in 86 districts across 18 states as part of the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. The project was completed at a cost of over ₹1,100 crore. This marks a significant milestone in modernizing India's railway infrastructure while celebrating regional architecture and cultural heritage.

Key Objectives and Aims

- To modernize railway stations with world-class infrastructure.
- To improve passenger amenities with a focus on Divyangjan-friendly facilities.
- To preserve and highlight regional architectural styles and cultural heritage.
- To ensure sustainability and energy efficiency in station design.
- To enhance connectivity, safety, and travel comfort for millions.

Event Highlights

- PM Modi inaugurated Deshnok Station in Bikaner, Rajasthan.
- Flagged off Bikaner-Mumbai Express Train.
- Laid foundation stones for rail, road, and state infrastructure projects worth ₹26,000 crore.

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme – Background

- Launched by the Indian Railways to redevelop 1,300+ stations across India.
- Focus on integrating modern facilities with the cultural identity of each region.
- Designed to meet future growth in passenger traffic and improve operational efficiency.

Key Infrastructure Projects Inaugurated/Dedicated

- Railway Electrification Projects (Total ~999 km)
- Churu–Sadulpur (58 km) – Foundation stone laid.
- Suratgarh–Phalodi (336 km)
- Phulera–Degana (109 km)
- Udaipur–Himmatnagar (210 km)
- Phalodi–Jaisalmer (157 km)
- Samdari–Barmer (129 km)

Road Infrastructure Projects

- Three vehicle underpasses and widening of national highways.
- Seven roadway projects in Rajasthan worth ₹4,850 crore.
- Roads extend up to the Indo-Pak border, strengthening defence infrastructure and logistics movement.

State Development Initiatives

- 25 key state projects in Rajasthan inaugurated/foundation laid.
- Focus areas: health, water, connectivity, electricity, and infrastructure.





Supreme Court Mandates Three Years of Legal Practice for Judicial Service Entry

In a landmark judgment delivered on May 20, 2025, the Supreme Court of India mandated a minimum of three years of legal practice as a prerequisite for applying to the Civil Judge (Junior Division) post. The ruling, led by a bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, aims to enhance the quality of the judiciary by ensuring that candidates have hands-on experience in litigation before assuming judicial roles.

Why in News?

The decision is significant because it restores a legal practice requirement that had been waived by several High Courts, allowing fresh law graduates with no courtroom experience to become judges. The Supreme Court found this practice ineffective over the past two decades and deemed it detrimental to judicial efficiency and public trust.

Background

- Earlier, several High Courts permitted direct recruitment of fresh law graduates into the judiciary.
- The SC reviewed affidavits submitted by High Courts, which reported negative outcomes of appointing inexperienced candidates.

Key Judgments and Directions

- All High Courts and State Governments must amend service rules.
- Minimum three years of practice as an advocate is now mandatory for applying to the Civil Judge (Junior Division) post.
- The period of practice will be counted from the date of provisional enrollment with the Bar Council.

Certification Requirements

Candidates must provide proof of practice certified by,

- Principal Judicial Officer of the court, or
- Advocate with at least 10 years' experience, endorsed by a judicial officer.

Additional Considerations

- Experience as a law clerk to a judge or judicial officer will be counted toward the three-year requirement.
- The rule will apply to future recruitment cycles only and not those already underway.

Objectives and Significance

- Ensures that newly appointed judges have practical exposure to court proceedings.
- Strengthens the judiciary by appointing officers who understand the realities of litigation.
- Aims to reduce errors and inefficiencies stemming from inexperience.

From 7,516 km to 11,099 km: India's New Coastal Length Explained

In a landmark update to its geographical metrics, the Government of India has revised the length of its coastline from 7,516.6 km to 11,098.8 km — a nearly 50% increase — without gaining any new land. This revision, announced in the Ministry of Home Affairs' 2023–2024 annual report, stems not from any territorial expansion but from enhanced mapping technologies that now allow for far more accurate measurement of coastal features. The update marks a significant evolution in India's geospatial understanding and has major implications for coastal security, climate planning, and economic zone regulation.

Why in News?

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs in December 2024 announced a revision in the official length of India's coastline. No new land added — the revision is purely due to improved measurement techniques. The updated figures will now be reviewed every 10 years using advanced mapping tools. Old coastline length is about 7,516.6 km and New coastline length 11,098.8 km.

Key Highlights

- **Announced by:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), in the 2023–24 Annual Report
- **Measured by:** Survey of India and the National Hydrographic Office (NHO)

New methodology: Used high-resolution digital tools including,

- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Satellite altimetry
- LIDAR-GPS
- Drone-based imaging
- **Base scale used:** 1:250,000 (compared to earlier 1:4,500,000)
- **Reference line:** High Water Line (HWL) from 2011 electronic navigation charts

Understanding the Coastline Paradox

- Concept first identified by Lewis Fry Richardson, expanded by Benoît Mandelbrot
- A coastline's length increases with finer measurement scales
- Coastlines behave like fractals — highly detailed at every zoom level
- Example: Britain's coastline can vary from 2,400 km to over 3,400 km depending on scale

Why This Matters

- **Maritime security:** Longer coastline = longer area to protect
- **Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs):** Can be extended based on new boundaries
- **Disaster management:** Better planning for cyclones, floods, and sea-level rise
- **Climate modelling:** Improved input data for accurate coastal impact projections
- **Textbook changes:** School geography curricula need updates





Static GK Facts

- India has 11 coastal States and 2 Union Territories (Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep)
- Last coastal state to join India:** Goa (1961)

LIC Creates History with Guinness World Record in Insurance Sales

In a historic achievement, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), India's largest public sector life insurer, has been awarded a Guinness World Record for selling the highest number of life insurance policies in a single day. On January 20, 2025, LIC sold a staggering 588,107 life insurance policies across the country through its massive agent network, setting a global benchmark in life insurance sales within a 24-hour period.

Why in News?

The LIC's record-setting sales feat was recently acknowledged by the Guinness World Records on May 25, 2025. This recognition marks a milestone moment for India's insurance sector and reaffirms LIC's dominant presence and deep penetration in the Indian financial landscape.

Background

- LIC is a state-owned life insurance corporation, established in 1956.
- It plays a crucial role in delivering financial protection and insurance services to millions across India.
- LIC has consistently led India's life insurance sector in terms of market share, policyholder base, and trust.

Record-Breaking Performance on January 20, 2025

- LIC agents sold 588,107 policies in just 24 hours.
- A total of 452,839 LIC agents were involved in this national effort.
- The initiative was part of the "Mad Million Day" campaign launched by LIC.

Leadership Initiative

- LIC's CEO and MD Siddhartha Mohanty spearheaded the idea of "Mad Million Day".
- He appealed to each agent to complete at least one life insurance policy issuance on the designated day.
- This mobilization resulted in a massive collective achievement.

Significance of the Achievement

- The event showcased agent productivity, efficiency, and LIC's organizational strength.
- It underlines the trust of the Indian public in LIC's services.
- The record is a testament to LIC's mission of ensuring financial security and insurance accessibility.

Reaction from LIC

- The corporation expressed joy and gratitude for the recognition.
- LIC acknowledged the dedication of its agents, employees, and customers in making this feat possible.

PM Modi Chairs 10th NITI Aayog Meet: Roadmap for Viksit Bharat @2047

On May 24, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 10th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, bringing together Chief Ministers and Lt. Governors of 24 States and 7 Union Territories. With the theme "Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat @2047", the meeting focused on aligning state-level goals with the national vision of transforming India into a developed nation by 2047, emphasizing cooperative federalism, skill development, urban planning, women empowerment, and economic growth.

Why in News?

- The 10th Governing Council Meeting marks 10 years of NITI Aayog since its formation in 2015. Focuses on the vision of a developed India by 2047 (Viksit Bharat @2047).

Launches new strategic frameworks like

- Rs 60,000 crore skilling scheme
- Rs 1 lakh crore Urban Challenge Fund
- Promotion of state-level investment charters, river interlinking, and global-standard tourism.

Reflects India's achievements like

- Among Top 5 global economies
- 25 crore people lifted out of poverty
- Success of Operation Sindoor and Aspirational District Programme

Key Highlights

- Theme:** Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat @2047
- Location:** Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- Attendees:** 24 States and 7 Union Territories
- Observance:** Silence for victims of Pahalgam terrorist attack

PM Modi's Key Points

- Viksit Bharat Goal:** Every state, district, village must aim for development by 2047.
- Economic Growth:** India is among the Top 5 economies; must accelerate transformation.
- Manufacturing Push:** Launch of Manufacturing Mission.
- Investment Boost:** NITI Aayog to prepare Investment-friendly Charter; states urged to leverage trade deals with UAE, UK, Australia.

Skilling and Youth Empowerment

- Approval of Rs 60,000 crore Skilling Scheme.
- Focus on AI, 3D Printing, Semiconductors.
- Establishment of rural training hubs.





Urban Development

- Creation of Rs 1 lakh crore Urban Challenge Fund.
- Planned urban growth in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- Sustainable development as a city priority.

Tourism

- States asked to develop 1 global-standard tourist destination each.
- Utilize G20 image boost to attract global visitors.

Water Management

- River Grids to manage floods and droughts.
- Bihar's Kosi-Mochi interlinking cited as a model.

Women Empowerment (Nari Shakti)

- Legal and systemic reforms to facilitate women's participation in the workforce.
- Private and public sector changes for ease of working for women.

Civil Preparedness and Defence

- Operation Sindoor praised for precision anti-terror actions.
- Institutionalize Civil Defence and adopt long-term preparedness.

Agriculture

- Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan
- 2,500 scientists to spread awareness on chemical-free farming and crop diversification.

Health

- Focus on telemedicine via E-Sanjeevani.
- Ensure readiness of oxygen plants for Covid-like challenges.

India Surpasses Japan to Become the World's 4th Largest Economy

India has marked a historic economic milestone by surpassing Japan to become the fourth-largest economy in the world. With a nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USD 4 trillion, India now stands just behind the United States, China, and Germany. This achievement reflects the country's sustained economic momentum and resilience amid global uncertainties, and its ambition to become a developed nation by 2047 under the "Viksit Bharat" vision.

Why in the News?

India's rise to the fourth-largest economy was officially confirmed by NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam during the 10th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog, focused on the theme "Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat 2047." Subrahmanyam cited data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), affirming that India has overtaken Japan and now holds the fourth position in global economic rankings.

India's Economic Leap: Key Highlights

1. IMF Confirmation and Economic Rankings

- According to the April 2025 edition of the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook (WEO), India's nominal GDP is projected to reach approximately USD 4,187.017 billion in fiscal year 2026.
- In contrast, Japan's GDP is expected to slightly trail at USD 4,186.431 billion.
- The shift marks India's formal transition from the fifth to the fourth-largest economy globally.

2. Growth Forecasts and Economic Strength

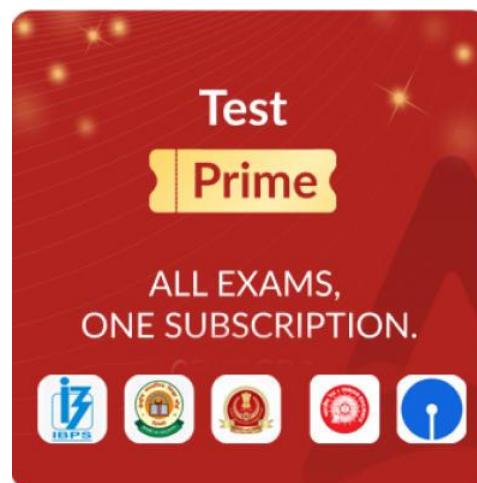
- The IMF predicts that India will continue to be the fastest-growing major economy over the next two years.
- India's GDP is expected to grow by 6.2% in 2025 and 6.3% in 2026, far exceeding the global growth average, which stands at 2.8% in 2025 and 3.0% in 2026.
- This robust growth trajectory positions India as a key engine of global economic expansion.

3. Road to Third-Largest Economy

- BVR Subrahmanyam expressed confidence that India could overtake Germany to become the third-largest economy in the world within the next 2 to 3 years, provided current development policies and reforms are sustained.
- This would place India just behind economic superpowers like the US and China.

4. Vision 2047: Viksit Bharat

- This economic leap aligns with India's long-term development roadmap under "Viksit Bharat @2047", an initiative aimed at transforming India into a fully developed economy by its centenary year of independence.
- The NITI Aayog meeting emphasized state-level contributions to this national vision, stressing reforms, innovation, infrastructure, and inclusive growth.





India's First Vistadome Jungle Safari Train Launched in Uttar Pradesh

In a pioneering move to blend wildlife tourism with eco-friendly travel, the Uttar Pradesh government has launched India's first Vistadome Jungle Safari Train, offering a unique panoramic rail journey through the heart of its rich forest landscape. Connecting the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, this initiative marks a significant milestone in sustainable tourism and biodiversity awareness. Designed with state-of-the-art Vistadome coaches, the safari train allows passengers to witness the wild from the comfort of transparent roofs and glass windows—turning every ride into an immersive jungle experience.

Why in News?

On May 26, 2025, the Uttar Pradesh Government, in collaboration with Indian Railways, launched India's first Vistadome jungle safari train, a unique initiative connecting the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve with Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary. This eco-tourism innovation promotes conservation awareness and sustainable tourism while offering travellers an immersive wildlife experience directly from a train.

Overview and Objective

- **Aim:** To integrate eco-tourism, wildlife conservation education, and rail-based travel through a panoramic jungle experience.
- **Initiative:** Part of the "One Destination, Three Forests" scheme launched by the UP Eco-Tourism Board.
- **Key Goal:** Provide eco-luxury travel while promoting biodiversity awareness and local employment.

Train Route and Details

Train Numbers

- 52259: Bichia (Bahraich) → Mailani (Lakhimpur Kheri): Departs at 11:45 AM, arrives 4:10 PM
- 52260: Mailani → Bichia: Departs at 6:05 AM, reaches 10:30 AM
- **Route Length:** 107 km
- **Ticket Price:** ₹275 per person
- **Travel Time:** Approx. 4 hrs 25 mins
- **Stations Passed:** Manjhara Purab, Khairatia Bandh Road, Tikunia, Dudhwa, Palia Kalan (among 9 total stations)

Forests Covered

- Dudhwa National Park
- Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary
- Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary

Vistadome Coach Features

- Rotating plush seats
- Large glass windows for panoramic views
- Transparent rooftop for canopy and sky watching
- Comfortable interiors offering a luxurious wildlife viewing experience

Conservation and Education Aspects

- **Youth Tourism Club:** Weekly student tours to promote environmental awareness
- **Familiarisation Trips (FAM):** For bloggers/influencers to amplify eco-tourism outreach
- **Employment Generation:** Promoting local homestays, resorts, and nature guides
- **Improved Accessibility:** Plans for transport links from Lucknow and travel subsidies to encourage participation

Significance of the Initiative

- First of its kind rail-based jungle safari in India
- Supports India's biodiversity conservation goals
- Revives lesser-known sanctuaries and forest reserves
- Seasonal attraction: Monsoon greenery, winter serenity, year-round scenic charm

India Unveils Its Most Powerful Single-Unit Electric Locomotive

In a major stride toward transforming India's freight transportation network, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Indian Railways' first 9000 horsepower (HP) electric locomotive in Dahod, Gujarat. Developed under the "Make in India" initiative in collaboration with Siemens India, the powerful single-unit locomotive is set to revolutionize freight mobility by reducing congestion, turnaround time, and operational costs.

Why in News?

The 9000 HP electric locomotive, flagged off by PM Modi, is the most powerful single-unit electric engine ever developed for Indian Railways. It addresses pressing logistical challenges on high-density freight corridors, marking a significant leap in the modernization of railway infrastructure.

Key Features and Highlights

- First single-unit 9000 HP electric locomotive for Indian Railways.
- Built at a new manufacturing plant in Dahod, Gujarat.
- Developed in collaboration with Siemens India through a global tender.
- Designed to haul longer and heavier freight trains efficiently.
- Factory-fitted with Kavach, India's indigenous Train Collision Avoidance System.

Aims and Objectives

- To decongest busy freight routes and reduce turnaround time.
- Improve logistics efficiency and lower transportation costs for industries.
- Support the Make in India and Make for World visions.
- Generate local employment and boost indigenous manufacturing.





Static and Background Facts:

- Traditional freight locomotives operate at 4500 or 6000 HP.
- 12,000 HP locomotives exist but are created by coupling two 6000 HP units.
- Dahod facility to manufacture 1,200 electric freight locomotives.
- 89% of components made in India, enabling export readiness.
- Facility powered by green energy, certified as a Green Manufacturing unit.

Significance

- Reduces need for multiple engines, saving manpower and energy.
- Enables faster, cost-effective freight movement.
- Supports sustainable growth and strengthens India's export potential.
- Enhances railway safety and comfort with modern driver cabins and low-noise operation.
- Creates employment opportunities for local youth (85% local employment).

President of India Confers National Florence Nightingale Awards 2025 to Exemplary Nursing Professionals

In a heartfelt ceremony held at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**, the **President of India**, **Smt. Droupadi Murmu**, conferred the **National Florence Nightingale Awards 2025** on **15 outstanding nursing professionals** from across the country. These awards, which recognize the **unwavering dedication, compassion, and service** of nurses, are among the highest national honours for the **nursing and midwifery profession** in India.

Honouring the Pillars of India's Healthcare System

About the National Florence Nightingale Awards

Instituted by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, the **National Florence Nightingale Award** honors **Registered Nurses, Midwives, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), and Lady Health Visitors (LHVs)** serving in both the **public and voluntary sectors**. These awards aim to recognize professionals who demonstrate **exceptional commitment to patient care, public health delivery, and community welfare**.

Each award includes:

- A **Certificate of Merit**
- A **cash prize of ₹1,00,000**
- A **medal**, symbolizing the nation's gratitude for the **noble and selfless service** of the nursing community

Meet the Awardees of 2025

This year, **15 nurses** from various states and healthcare settings were felicitated. Their diverse backgrounds reflect the **pan-India nature** of the award and the **diversity in healthcare delivery** systems.

Here are the **National Florence Nightingale Award 2025 recipients**:

Category	Name	State
ANM	Smt. Reba Rani Sarkar	Andaman and Nicobar Islands
ANM	Smt. Valiveti Subhavathi	Andhra Pradesh
ANM	Smt. Saroj Fakirbhai Patel	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu
ANM	Smt. Raziya Beegum P B	Lakshadweep
ANM	Smt. Sujata Ashok Bagul	Maharashtra
LHV	Smt. Bina Pani Dekka	Assam
Nurse	Smt. Kijum Sora Karga	Arunachal Pradesh
Nurse	Miss Dimple Arora	Delhi
Nurse	Maj Gen Sheena P D	Delhi
Nurse	Dr. Banu M R	Karnataka
Nurse	Smt. Leimapokpam Ranjita Devi	Manipur
Nurse	Smt. V Lalhmangaihi	Mizoram
Nurse	Smt. L S Manimozhi	Puducherry
Nurse	Smt. Alamelu Mangayarkarasi K	Tamil Nadu
Nurse	Smt. Doli Biswas	West Bengal

State-wise May Month Important Events

Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh has unveiled **Creator Land**, India's first **transmedia entertainment city**, in **Amaravati**, aiming to become a global hub for **digital innovation** and **creative industries**. Announced by **CM N. Chandrababu Naidu** at the **WAVES Summit**, the ₹10,000 crore project is expected to generate **25,000 jobs** across sectors like **filmmaking, gaming, virtual production, and AI-driven content**. It will also include the **Creatorland Academy** to foster **youth skill development** and attract **FDI**, marking a transformative moment in India's **media and entertainment landscape**.
- IBM, TCS, and the Andhra Pradesh government have partnered to establish the **Quantum Valley Tech Park** in **Amaravati**, marking a landmark step in India's quantum journey. Anchored by **India's largest 156-qubit quantum computer**, the initiative seeks to foster applied research, attract talent, and boost industrial innovation. It aligns with the **National Quantum Mission** and positions Andhra Pradesh as a **pioneer in the global quantum revolution**.





- The **Andhra Pradesh government**, under the leadership of **Pawan Kalyan**, has declared a **property tax waiver** for homes owned by **active defence personnel** in **gram panchayat areas**. This move, supported by the **Sainik Welfare Department**, expands existing benefits and pays tribute to fallen heroes like **Agniveer Murali Naik**, who was killed in **Jammu and Kashmir**. The policy applies to properties jointly owned with spouses and includes personnel from the **Army, Navy, Air Force, CRPF**, and other **paramilitary forces**, reflecting a broader commitment to **national defence and rural welfare**.
- ReNew Power is establishing **India's largest single-site renewable energy complex** in **Andhra Pradesh's Anantapur district**, with a planned investment of **₹22,000 crore**. The project's **Phase-I** includes **587 MW solar, 250 MW wind, and 415 MWh of battery storage**. This development aligns with the state's **72 GW RE target by 2029** and marks **ReNew's re-entry** into the state, backed by **favorable policies and ministerial support**.

Arunachal Pradesh

- CESHS has successfully completed **Northeast India's first geothermal production well** in **Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh**. Backed by **international collaboration** and scientific studies, the initiative marks a **major step toward renewable energy**, especially for **space heating and agriculture-based processing** in the **Himalayan terrain**. With support from the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** and the **state government**, this breakthrough could make **Dirang India's first geothermal-powered city**, highlighting the region's potential in clean energy transformation.

Assam

- **Nagshankar Temple, located in Biswanath district in northeastern Assam**, has been named a model temple for turtle conservation. This recognition was given on **May 23, 2025**, during a special event held on **World Turtle Day**. The event celebrated the temple's important work in protecting turtles, which are deeply respected in Assam's culture.

Gujarat

- The Prime Minister's visit to **Dahod** is in the news due to the inauguration and launch of multiple high-impact development projects worth over **₹24,000 crore**. Key highlights include the successful rollout of **India's first 9,000-horsepower electric locomotive from Dahod**, **100% electrification of Gujarat's railway network**, and announcements related to tribal welfare, including the '**Dhartii Aaba Janjati Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan**' and the **PM Janman Yojana**. Additionally, PM Modi hailed "Operation Sindoor" as a reflection of India's strong values and military strength, following a recent terror attack in Jammu & Kashmir.

- Gujarat has become the **24th State/UT** in India to achieve **100% rail electrification**, reinforcing Indian Railways' commitment to **green mobility** and **net-zero emissions by 2030**. Announced by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, this milestone aligns with the inauguration of the **Dahod Electric Locomotive Factory**, which will produce **India's first 9000 HP electric freight engines**. With an average **electrification speed of 16 km/day**, India ranks second globally, behind only **Switzerland**, and aims to electrify the entire **broad gauge network by FY 2025–26**.
- On May 21, 2025, the Gujarat Forest Department released the 16th Asiatic Lion Census, highlighting a 32% increase in population since 2020. The update is as it underscores both conservation success and emerging challenges, particularly in human-wildlife coexistence. This follows the approval of Project Lion by PM Modi in March 2025, with a **₹2,900 crore** outlay to improve lion habitats.

Goa

- On **May 30, 2025**, the state of **Goa** will proudly celebrate its **39th Statehood Day**, marking nearly four decades since its formal inclusion as a **full-fledged state** in the **Republic of India**. Known for its **pristine beaches, colonial architecture**, and **vibrant culture**, Goa holds a unique place in India's historical and cultural landscape.
- On the momentous occasion of **Goa's 39th Statehood Day**, celebrated on **May 30, 2025**, **Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant** officially declared Goa as a **fully literate state** under the **ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram** (New India Literacy Programme). This landmark achievement marks Goa as the **second state in India** to cross the nationally prescribed **95% literacy benchmark**, reaffirming its position as a frontrunner in India's educational progress.

Maharashtra

- Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis unveiled a visionary initiative at the WAVES Summit 2025 by announcing **India's first Edu City in Navi Mumbai** in partnership with foreign universities. The **University of York** and **Western Australia University** signed MoUs totaling **Rs 3,000 crore** to establish offshore campuses. Additionally, mega investments were secured for **AI-powered Film Cities** by **Prime Focus** and **Godrej**, promising large-scale employment and positioning Navi Mumbai as a **global knowledge and entertainment hub**. The initiative aligns with **NEP 2020** and sets the stage for Maharashtra's upcoming **AI policy**.





- The **Maharashtra government's announcement** of a **biopic on Ahilyabai Holkar** comes as a significant cultural tribute on her **300th birth anniversary in 2025**. Recognized for her **visionary leadership, religious contributions, and administrative excellence**, the queen's legacy will be captured through this film project. It will be produced in **Marathi and other Indian languages** and released on **Doordarshan and OTT platforms**, aiming to reach a wide audience and inspire future generations. The move also underlines efforts to preserve and promote **India's historical women leaders**.
- Maharashtra has introduced the **Adishakti Abhiyan**, a comprehensive women-centric welfare campaign with a **Rs 10.50 crore budget**, to tackle key social issues such as **malnutrition, domestic violence, child marriage**, and promote **women's participation in governance**. Committees at multiple levels will implement the scheme, and **annual awards** will incentivize effective action. The initiative was launched on **Ahilyabai Holkar's 300th birth anniversary**, reflecting the state's commitment to **inclusive and empowered communities**.
- The **Maharashtra government** has approved a landmark **policy mandating the use of artificial sand (m-sand)** for all **government and semi-government construction projects**, aiming to curb **illegal river sand mining** and promote **environmental sustainability**. Key features include **mandatory m-sand use**, installation of **1,500 crushers statewide**, **MSME status** for producers, **reduced royalty (₹200/brass)**, and a **3-year transition** for existing stone crushers. The move aligns with **NGT directives**, encourages use of **rocky terrain**, and supports **water conservation** by converting pits into ponds.

Mizoram

- In a **significant boost to infrastructure development in Northeast India**, Mizoram's capital Aizawl has been officially connected to the **national railway network** through the **Bairabi-Sairang New Line**. This development marks a major milestone in India's efforts to **enhance regional integration and transportation connectivity** in one of the country's most geographically challenging regions.
- In a historic milestone for education in India, Mizoram has officially been declared a fully literate state, becoming the first in the country to achieve this feat. The announcement was made on 20th May 2025 by Chief Minister Shri Lalduhoma during a special ceremony in Aizawl, in the presence of key central and state dignitaries. This achievement highlights the state's dedication to inclusive education and marks the success of the **ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram**, a national adult education initiative.

Odisha

- In a landmark step toward **urban transformation**, the **Government of Odisha** has launched a visionary initiative titled **ANKUR – Atal Network for Knowledge, Urbanisation and Reforms**. Spearheaded by the **Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) Department**, ANKUR is envisioned as a **strategic platform** to drive **urban innovation**, foster **collaborative partnerships**, and build **smart, sustainable, and citizen-centric cities**.

Rajasthan

- The **Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendra (PMDK)** inaugurated by **Om Birla** in Kota serves as a major leap in **empowering differently abled citizens**. Under the guidance of **ALIMCO** and the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, the centre provides **assistive devices, mobility aids, and skill development training** to ensure **self-reliance and inclusive growth**. With a vision to expand to **100 centres**, the initiative aligns with national goals of accessibility, equality, and social justice.

Telangana

- The **Miss World 2025** pageant is being held in **Telangana**, showcasing its **rich cultural heritage, UNESCO sites, and eco-tourism potential**. With **participants from 120 countries** and broadcasts in over **150 nations**, the event is expected to boost **foreign tourist arrivals**, attract **global investments**, and position **Telangana as a multidimensional tourism hub**. Government efforts include security arrangements, heritage tours, and promotional campaigns, marking this as a landmark moment for the state's **global branding**.

Tripura

- The foundation stone laying of the **₹42.4 crore Integrated Aquapark** in **Tripura** under **PMMSY** represents a significant boost to the **fisheries sector** in the Northeastern region. With fisheries growing at an impressive **9.08% rate** nationally, this initiative targets increasing Tripura's **fish production to 2 lakh tonnes**, surpassing its current demand. The project emphasizes **technology-driven sustainable farming, capacity building, and infrastructure development**, with aspirations to make Tripura a **fish surplus state** and exporter. The launch event, which included a **Fish Festival**, highlighted the government's commitment to transforming fisheries into a vibrant, innovative, and economically impactful sector.





- Tripura has announced the launch of the **Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan**, a pan-India agriculture campaign scheduled from **May 29 to June 12, 2025**. The initiative, launched under the guidance of **Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, will focus on **enhancing farm productivity, reducing agricultural costs, and raising awareness about government schemes** through village-level outreach involving **ICAR and KVK experts**. This step supports the vision of a **developed India (Viksit Bharat) by 2047**.
- The Ministry of Railways has approved a **new train service** between **Agartala and Guwahati**, fulfilling a crucial **infrastructure need** in **Northeast India**. Announced by **Tripura West MP Biplab Kumar Deb**, the development comes shortly after **Tripura's first electric locomotive** was introduced. The move aligns with India's **Act East Policy**, promotes **green transport**, and enhances **interstate rail connectivity**, especially in regions with limited accessibility.

Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **M.K. Stalin** announced that **May 5 will be celebrated as Traders Day**, fulfilling a long-pending demand from the **trading community**. Several reforms were introduced, such as **increased financial assistance, simplified regulatory processes**, and the formation of **grievance redressal panels**. Traders were also encouraged to use **Tamil signage**. These steps aim to **empower small businesses, promote cultural identity**, and strengthen **ease of doing business** under the **Dravidian governance model**.
- The **Tamil Nadu Endangered Species Conservation Fund**, launched in 2024 with a **₹50 crore corpus**, faced administrative hurdles due to the **defunct status of the State Forest Development Agency (SFDA)**. To avoid delays, the fund has now been transferred to the **Advanced Institute of Wildlife Conservation (AIWC)**, Vandalur, known for its **research and wildlife initiatives**. The fund aims to protect species like the **Malabar Civet** and **Salim Ali's Fruit Bat** through **mapping, research grants, and partnerships**. This move revitalizes Tamil Nadu's commitment to **biodiversity conservation**.
- The Tamil Nadu government has launched a dedicated **Space Industrial Policy** to position the state as a hub for space research, manufacturing, and innovation. With targets of **₹10,000 crore in investments** and **10,000 new jobs**, the policy includes attractive incentives for companies in **R&D, electronics, and green technology**. By leveraging existing **ISRO infrastructure and institutional support**, Tamil Nadu aims to contribute significantly to the Indian space ecosystem.

Uttarakhand

- The **Pushkar Kumbh 2025** began at **Keshav Prayag**, located in **Mana village of Chamoli district**, Uttarakhand, after a **12-year gap**, coinciding with the **entry of Jupiter into Gemini**. The event is a major spiritual gathering for **Vaishnavite devotees**, especially from **South India**, at the **confluence of the Alaknanda and Saraswati rivers**. The **district administration**, led by **DM Sandeep Tiwari**, has made key **infrastructure improvements and management provisions** to accommodate the rising number of pilgrims. The event not only enhances **spiritual tourism** but also reinforces India's **diverse cultural fabric**.

Uttar Pradesh

- On **May 11, 2025**, **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** virtually inaugurated the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** production facility at the **Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor** in **Lucknow**. Built with an investment of **₹300 crore**, the facility aims to produce **80–100 BrahMos missiles annually**, boosting **India's self-reliance in defence manufacturing** amid growing regional security concerns.
- The **Uttar Pradesh government** has expanded its **One District One Product (ODOP)** scheme by adding **12 new products**, raising the total to **74 items** across 75 districts. Launched in **2018**, the ODOP scheme aims to **promote indigenous crafts, generate employment, and enhance exports**. The scheme supports artisans through **financial aid, marketing, and GI tagging**, with a long-term goal of achieving a **\$1 trillion state economy by 2029**. This latest inclusion strengthens **local economies**, aligns with **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**, and encourages **Make in India**.

Union Territories

- The **Delhi Police** has initiated '**Nayi Disha – A Path Back to Learning**', a community outreach programme designed to bring **school dropouts** back into the **education system**. With the help of **NGOs, schools, and counsellors**, the initiative offers **admission support, emotional guidance, and academic aid**. It highlights a paradigm shift in policing from traditional enforcement to **social empowerment**. The project is already yielding results and is set to **expand citywide**.
- In a **strategic move** to promote **sustainable transport and eco-tourism** in **Jammu & Kashmir**, the **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** has opened a **regional office in Srinagar** to develop **inland navigation infrastructure** along **Chenab (NW-26), Jhelum (NW-49), and Ravi (NW-84)**. This initiative, under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**, aims to enhance **river-based connectivity**, reduce **logistics costs**, and boost **employment and economic growth** in the Union Territory.





May Month Launches & Inaugurations:

- The **Government of India** has launched the **Cashless Treatment of Road Accident Victims Scheme, 2025**, offering ₹1.5 lakh cashless emergency care for road accident victims for up to **7 days** post-incident. The scheme, notified on **May 6, 2025**, is implemented by the **National Health Authority (NHA)** and involves coordination with **police, hospitals, and state health agencies**. This initiative is a **critical road safety measure**, aiming to **reduce fatalities** and make trauma care **affordable and accessible** nationwide.
- The Government of India has launched a dedicated **Non-Ferrous Metal Recycling Portal** to advance its **circular economy** goals and ensure efficient use of resources. The initiative, spearheaded by **Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy**, provides a one-stop digital platform for stakeholders to engage in real-time data sharing, registration, and performance monitoring. It is expected to significantly boost India's **sustainable metal recycling** efforts by enhancing transparency, informing policy, and improving industrial participation.
- On **May 10, 2025**, **Union Minister Manohar Lal** inaugurated the **Bharat Bodh Kendra** at **India Habitat Centre (IHC)** in **New Delhi**. Developed as part of the **Habitat Library and Resource Centre**, the Kendra is aimed at promoting **India's cultural and civilisational heritage** through resources on **art, philosophy, spirituality, and history**. The Minister praised IHC's **green initiatives** and encouraged broader replication of its **sustainable practices**. The Kendra is expected to become a vital centre for **cultural research, heritage education, and public learning**.
- The Government of India has launched a significantly **revamped Multi Agency Centre (MAC)** under the Intelligence Bureau to reinforce national security and strengthen counter-terrorism coordination. The new MAC, inaugurated by **Amit Shah**, links 28 major agencies across the country and integrates **AI, ML, and GIS** capabilities. It promises **seamless data sharing, advanced threat prediction, and a unified response mechanism** to tackle complex threats including **terrorism, Naxalism, organised crime, and cyber warfare**. This strategic upgrade is seen as a vital move in securing India's internal security ecosystem.
- **Yashoda AI**, launched by **NCW** in collaboration with **Future Shift Labs**, is a pioneering effort to increase women's participation in the fields of Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, and digital safety. The program targets women from rural and semi-urban areas, providing them with critical skills to navigate and lead in India's digital future. By addressing key issues like **AI-driven crimes and digital privacy**, Yashoda AI promotes a community-driven approach where women emerge as leaders and innovators in technology, helping build a safe, inclusive, and technologically advanced India.

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has launched **PAI 2.0** during a national-level **Writershop** held on **26–27 May 2025** in **New Delhi**, targeting better **data-driven governance** at the **Gram Panchayat** level. The upgraded index significantly simplifies monitoring indicators, improves portal usability, and includes features like a Decision Support System and auto-data integration. The event also provided training and shared implementation experiences, ensuring effective adoption across states. **PAI 2.0** aligns closely with the **Localized Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs)** and is expected to bolster rural planning and transparency in governance.
- The Government of India, through the Department of Posts, has launched the **'Know Your DIGIPIN'** and **'Know Your PIN Code'** portals to strengthen **geospatial governance** and **address infrastructure** under the **National Geospatial Policy 2022**. While DIGIPIN offers a precise, digital, geo-coded addressing system in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad and ISRO, the upgraded PIN Code system leverages GNSS to refine postal geography. These platforms are set to enhance **last-mile delivery, emergency response, and digital service inclusion**, forming a core part of India's **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**.
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Important Festival

- The **78th Festival de Cannes** opened with a rich celebration of **cinema**, honoring artists like **Robert De Niro** and paying tribute to voices like **Fatima Hassouna**. The event emphasized the power of **art, freedom, and democracy**, featuring stirring speeches by **Juliette Binoche, Leonardo DiCaprio, and De Niro**. With cultural figures like **Quentin Tarantino**, the festival champions **inclusivity, representation, and cinema as a medium for resistance and hope**.





Miscellaneous National News

- Goldsikka's latest unveiling of an **AI-powered Gold-Melting ATM** marks a major advancement in digital banking and gold commerce. With features like real-time purity testing, automated cash transfers, and AR jewellery previews, the ATM offers a futuristic approach to secure and efficient gold transactions. The move aligns with **India's broader digital transformation goals and could revolutionise how people interact with precious metals.**
- During the **State Visit of Angola's President to India in May 2025**, three significant **MoUs** were signed covering **Ayurveda, Agriculture, and Culture (2025–29)**. **India approved a USD 200 million Line of Credit (LOC) for defence procurement** in Angola, reinforcing strategic ties. Additionally, **Angola joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as its 123rd member**, deepening cooperation on **renewable energy**. These developments mark a leap in **India-Angola bilateral relations**, with a focus on **South-South cooperation, climate diplomacy, and economic engagement.**
- **Election Commission of India (ECI)** announced the upcoming launch of **ECINET**, a **unified digital platform** that will integrate over **40 existing web and mobile apps** into a single interface. Envisioned by **CEC Gyanesh Kumar**, ECINET aims to modernize **electoral services**, improve **UI/UX**, ensure **data accuracy**, and provide a **one-stop solution** for **voters, BLOs, officials, and political parties.**
- **Operation Hawk 2025**, launched by the CBI with international support, targeted online child sexual exploitation networks operating via platforms like *Discord* and *Arisu*. The operation led to the arrest of two individuals—**Sheik Muizz Ahmed and Mukul Saini**—who coerced minors into sharing explicit content through intimidation and threats. The success of this operation, following earlier initiatives like *Operation Carbon* and *Operation Megh Chakra*, emphasizes the significance of **global cooperation and rapid response** in addressing **cyber-enabled child sexual abuse**. This marks a vital step towards protecting vulnerable minors from online exploitation.
- Union Civil Aviation Minister **Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu** has approved **Greenfield airports in Kota (Rajasthan) and Puri (Odisha) on May 5, 2025**. These airports aim to boost **regional connectivity**, promote **tourism**, and support **economic development**. Kota, a center for **education and industry**, and Puri, a renowned **pilgrimage site**, are both crucial locations that will now benefit from enhanced air infrastructure. This move aligns with the **UDAN scheme** and is a part of the **government's long-term aviation strategy** to make air travel more **accessible and inclusive.**
- In response to the **Pahalgam terror attack** and rising **India-Pakistan tensions**, the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has instructed all states to conduct **civil defence drills from May 7 to 9, 2025**. The comprehensive exercise will involve **air-raid sirens, blackout drills, evacuation strategies, and bunker cleaning** across **244 vulnerable districts**. Over **4 lakh volunteers**, along with **students, NCC, and NYKS members**, will participate. This initiative strengthens India's **passive defence strategy**, a concept rooted in the **1962 war**, and aligns with recommendations made during the **2022 Chintan Shivir**. The drills are a vital response to current **geo-political challenges** and seek to improve **civilian preparedness and national security.**
- The **Supreme Court of India** has taken an important step towards transparency by publishing the assets of 21 of its judges ahead of **Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna's** retirement. The Court has also made the **appointment process for judges** more transparent, providing detailed information about the selection and recommendation process for High Court and Supreme Court judges. This initiative aligns with efforts to ensure accountability within the judiciary.
- **India's first mortgage-backed Pass Through Certificates (PTCs)** were listed on the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)**, with an issue size of **₹1,000 crores**. Backed by **LIC Housing Finance loans** and structured by **RMBS Development Company Ltd.**, these **demat-tradable PTCs** have a **7.26% coupon** and a maturity of nearly **20 years**. The DFS Secretary highlighted the importance of **housing finance and securitization** in driving **economic growth and financial market integration**. This marks a significant innovation in India's **debt and housing finance markets.**
- The **Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)** has received **approval** to set up an **off-campus centre at GIFT City, Gujarat**, marking a major development in India's **trade education infrastructure**. The initiative supports the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, offering **MBA (International Business), short-term training, and research** in **international trade**. Approved under the **UGC Act**, this expansion is expected to support **export-led growth** and promote **multidisciplinary education** aligned with India's **global trade ambitions.**
- The **NMCG's 62nd Executive Committee** meeting has endorsed several projects to ensure the Ganga river's rejuvenation through sustainable environmental and water management practices. The projects include conserving wetlands like **Nathmalpur Bhagad in Bihar**, and initiatives for wastewater reuse in **Agra and Prayagraj**. These projects align with the broader goals of the **Namami Gange mission**, reinforcing India's commitment to restoring the Ganga basin's ecosystem.





- **Russia honoured Biju Patnaik** by unveiling a **memorial plaque** at its **Embassy in New Delhi**, recognizing his **heroic role** as a **WWII pilot** during the **Battle of Stalingrad**. Patnaik, who joined the **Royal Indian Air Force in 1936**, flew **vital supply missions** to support the **Red Army**, and also played key roles in the **Burma evacuation**, **China's resistance against Japan**, and **Indonesia's independence struggle**, solidifying his legacy as a **global freedom supporter** and **aviation hero**.
- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **PM Narendra Modi**, has approved a **₹11,828.79 crore** expansion for **five IITs**—**Tirupati, Palakkad, Bhilai, Jammu, and Dharwad**. This move will boost **academic capacity**, create **130 faculty posts**, establish **five research parks**, and increase student intake by over **6,500**. The decision aligns with the goal of enhancing **industry-academia collaboration**, **employment generation**, and **regional development**, furthering the vision of **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and cementing India's global position in **STEM education**.
- India has launched **chip-based e-passports** featuring **RFID chips** and **biometric data**, aimed at boosting **travel security** and **global standardization**. Rolled out under **Passport Seva Programme 2.0**, the initiative also brings new rules effective from 2025, including **mandatory birth certificates**, **digital residential addresses**, and removal of **parents' names** from passports. This marks a major step in India's **digital governance** and commitment to **secure international mobility**.
- Vietnam has announced a **10-year Golden Visa** to attract **Indian investors, tourists, and professionals**, positioning itself as a **long-term residency hub** in Southeast Asia. The move complements its **growing air connectivity**, **digital visa process**, and **dynamic economic sectors** like **IT, textiles, and tourism**. It marks a strategic effort to transition from a short-stay destination to a **sustainable center for innovation and business engagement**.
- Kozhikode has been inducted into the **WHO's Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC)** for its efforts in making the city more **accessible, inclusive, and supportive** for the **elderly**. This international recognition highlights initiatives like **elder-friendly infrastructure**, **healthcare accessibility**, and **community engagement**. Kozhikode's recognition showcases Kerala's broader focus on **human development** and aligns with **global urban best practices**.
- India temporarily **shut the Kartarpur Corridor** on **May 7, 2025**, in response to military strikes under **Operation Sindoor** targeting **terror camps in Pakistan and PoK**. This came after the deadly **Pahalgam attack** on April 22, 2025. The corridor, a significant **visa-free religious link** for Sikh pilgrims to visit **Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur**, was closed for the day, affecting several devotees who had arrived for prayers.
- A **scientific study** published in **May 2025** has established that **Ladakh hosts 477 snow leopards**, marking it as one of the **world's densest snow leopard habitats**. Conducted under the **Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAII)**, the research covered 93,000 sq km and involved key bodies like the **Wildlife Institute of India** and **Ministry of Environment**. The study emphasizes Ladakh's **ecological richness**, highlights the **success of community conservation**, and warns of future challenges from **climate change** and **infrastructure development**.
- India's **maternal mortality rate (MMR)** has shown a promising **decline**, with the latest data revealing a reduction to **93 per lakh live births** in 2019-21 from **97 in 2018-20**. Although **progress** is evident, some **states** still struggle with **high MMRs**, which points to the need for continued improvements in **maternal healthcare**. The global target set by the **UN** to reduce MMR to below **70 by 2030** aligns with India's efforts to improve **reproductive health** through better **healthcare services** and skilled **birth attendance**. The **reduction in maternal mortality** is a significant step toward achieving better **health outcomes** for women across the country.
- In a significant move to combat **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**, the **Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry** in India has imposed a **ban** on the use of several **medically important antimicrobials** in the **aquaculture industry**. This decision, made in **May 2025**, aims to protect **public health** by eliminating the use of certain **antibiotics** and other **antimicrobials** in the culture of **seafood** such as **shrimp, prawns, and fish**.
- The Indian government is **revisiting the "safe harbour" clause** under **Section 79 of the IT Act, 2000**, to make **social media intermediaries** more accountable for **fake news** and **misinformation**. Triggered by national security concerns following the **Pahalgam terror attack**, the move aims to **reform intermediary liability** and possibly incorporate changes into the upcoming **Digital India Act (DIA)**. The government's plan includes granting statutory recognition to the **PIB Fact Check Unit**, which has faced judicial scrutiny. The issue also mirrors global concerns, especially debates around **Section 230 in the US**.
- **Donald Trump's new MFN drug pricing policy**, aimed at ensuring Americans pay the **lowest global prices**, has triggered concerns in **India's pharmaceutical sector**. While the move may bring **immediate relief** to US consumers, it could lead to **global price hikes**, especially in **low-cost drug markets like India**. The Indian industry fears **pressure from global pharma** to raise prices and adopt **TRIPS-plus IP provisions**. Stock markets reacted negatively, reflecting worries about **profit margins** and **trade negotiations** affecting affordable access to medicines.





- On **May 12, 2025**, India extended a helping hand to the **Maldives** by rolling over a **\$50 million treasury bill** for one more year through the **State Bank of India (SBI)**. This move, aimed at easing the **Maldivian debt crisis**, highlights India's commitment to **regional stability**, its '**Neighbourhood First**' policy, and **economic cooperation** despite recent **diplomatic tensions**. The assistance not only provides **financial relief** but also reinforces India's role as a **reliable strategic partner** in the **Indian Ocean region**.
- The **Government of India** has sanctioned an **additional 2.8 million tonnes of FCI rice** for **ethanol production** under the **Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme**, raising total allocation to **5.2 million tonnes** for **ESY 2024–25**. With a blending target of **20% ethanol in petrol by 2025–26**, the move supports clean energy goals but raises concerns about **food security**, **biofuel sustainability**, and the use of **first-generation (1G) feedstocks** like rice.
- India has positioned itself among the **top six countries in 6G patent filings**, according to Minister **Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani**, who made the announcement at the **Bharat 6G 2025 Conference**. The nation's ambitious **Bharat 6G Vision** targets **global leadership by 2030**, powered by over **₹300 crore in research investments**, strategic **global partnerships**, and a focus on cutting-edge technologies like **terahertz communication**, **AI-native networks**, and **sub-millisecond latency capabilities**.
- The **Supreme Court of India**, while addressing a **suo motu petition** on the **rise in child rape incidents**, has ordered the **Centre and State governments** to urgently set up **exclusive POCSO courts**. It underlined that trial delays violate the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012**, which mandates speedy justice. States like **Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Maharashtra, UP, Odisha, and West Bengal** have been flagged for judicial backlog. This move is critical to ensure **timely justice**, strengthen **child protection mechanisms**, and uphold **child rights**.
- Exercise Raahat 2025**, conducted jointly by the **Indian Army** and **NDRF** in **Assam**, marks a significant milestone in India's **humanitarian disaster preparedness**. Featuring **live simulations** across **flood scenarios**, the exercise aimed at improving **synergy between military, civilian, and relief agencies**. This large-scale **HADR drill** is particularly critical for **Assam** and surrounding regions, aligning with India's national commitment to **disaster resilience** and **effective emergency response**.
- The **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)** has taken a decisive step by **revoking the security clearance** of **M/s Celebi** and its associated companies over **national security concerns**. **Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu** emphasized that **public safety is non-negotiable**. To ensure **seamless airport operations**, the Ministry has activated coordination with **airport operators** and deployed **special monitoring teams**.
- Justice **Bela M. Trivedi**, the **eleventh woman judge** of the **Supreme Court of India**, retired on **May 16, 2025**, concluding a **trailblazing career** that began in **1995**. Known for her **landmark judgments** in the **EWS quota case**, **POCSO Act interpretation**, and **SC sub-classification**, Justice Trivedi also held various key administrative positions in Gujarat. Her **judicial legacy** stands out for promoting **gender representation**, upholding **constitutional values**, and delivering **progressive verdicts** on **child protection, reservation, and economic justice**.
- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** has restored the historic **Rajon Ki Baoli**, a **16th-century stepwell** from the **Lodi era**, located in **Mehrauli, Delhi**. The project, supported by the **World Monuments Fund India** and the **TCS Foundation**, is part of a larger initiative to revive **traditional water systems** and promote **sustainable water management**. The restoration involved **cleaning, structural repair, and community involvement**, using **traditional materials** to preserve the site's **authenticity**. This conservation effort reflects the synergy between **heritage preservation** and **climate resilience**.
- On the occasion of the **125th anniversary** of the **Kodaikanal Solar Observatory**, a commemorative postal stamp was issued by the Department of Posts in Bengaluru on **May 17, 2025**. The stamp highlights the observatory's historic architecture, solar imaging contributions, and its role in long-term solar observation, symbolizing over a century of India's leadership in solar astrophysics.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil the **revamped National Manuscripts Mission**, now named the **Gyan Bharatam Mission**, on **June 9, 2025**. With a substantial **budget increase to ₹60 crore**, the mission will focus on the **digitization, documentation, and conservation** of over **one crore manuscripts**. Originating in **2003**, the original mission struggled due to **funding issues** and **lack of access policy**, especially for manuscripts held by **private collectors**. This





renewed effort includes making the mission **autonomous**, enhancing **digital preservation**, and promoting **India's cultural and intellectual heritage** globally.

- India is set to allow **private operators** into its **nuclear energy sector**, along with **limited liability provisions**, marking a strategic shift aimed at attracting **domestic and foreign investment**. The move follows the **U.S. greenlighting its nuclear firms** to collaborate with India, and could significantly enhance **energy security**, promote **clean energy expansion**, and modernize India's nuclear ecosystem. Key reforms may include **amending the CLND Act** and reducing exclusive reliance on **state-owned enterprises like NPCIL**.
- India has approved a ₹22,864 crore **Shillong-Silchar Highway** project, aiming to establish a new **multi-modal sea route** via **Myanmar**, bypassing **Bangladesh**. This **strategic infrastructure** initiative will bolster India's **Act East Policy**, reduce dependence on the **Siliguri Corridor**, and integrate with the **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Project**. With modern **geotechnical technologies**, this is the **first high-speed highway in the hilly terrain** of North-East India.
- India has been officially **certified by WHO** for eliminating **trachoma** as a **public health problem** during the **78th World Health Assembly** in **Geneva**. This achievement is a result of India's focused **preventive healthcare programs**, robust implementation of the **SAFE strategy**, and coordinated efforts under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)**. India's participation at the WHA, led by **Punya Salila Srivastava**, reinforces its **global health leadership**, particularly in tackling **neglected tropical diseases**.
- The **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** celebrated its **8th Incorporation Day** by emphasizing its commitment to **inclusive procurement**, **digital governance**, and **entrepreneur empowerment**. The launch of **GeMAI**, India's first **GenAI chatbot** for the public sector, marks a significant step in AI-driven citizen services. With over **10 lakh MSEs**, **1.84 lakh women entrepreneurs**, and **1.3 lakh artisans** integrated, GeM stands out as a catalyst for **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and **cost-efficient procurement**. Its nationwide adoption and support for startups, complex services, and indigenous innovation highlight its evolving role in **transforming public procurement in India**.
- India is **on track to become the world's largest potato producer** by 2050, overtaking China, with production projected to rise from **60 to 100 million tonnes**. The **International Potato Center (CIP)**, which has partnered with India for over five decades, highlighted the potential of **tuber crops** like **sweet potatoes** in boosting **nutrition**, **employment**, and **climate resilience**. The government is boosting **agricultural innovation** and **research collaboration**, reinforcing **food and income security** while enabling **private sector participation** and **women/youth empowerment** in the agriculture sector.

- **Geeta Samota**, a **CISF Sub-Inspector** from **Rajasthan**, has created history by becoming the **first officer from CISF to summit Mount Everest**. Trained by **ITBP and ABVIMAS**, her journey includes completing the **Seven Summits challenge**, setting national records, and inspiring **women and youth** with her achievements. Recognized with top **national awards**, her victory has energized the **CAPF community** and strengthened India's presence in **adventure sports** and **women's empowerment**.
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** launched a **revamped OCI portal** to modernize services for **Overseas Citizens of India**. With over **5 million beneficiaries**, the new system is aimed at simplifying registration, enhancing user experience, and providing secure digital services. Developed in response to evolving needs and technological trends, this launch underlines India's commitment to supporting its **diaspora** through innovation and connectivity.
- The **FSSAI** has directed all states to take strict action against the use of **calcium carbide**, an **illegal fruit ripening agent**, especially in **mango** markets. The chemical is known to be **carcinogenic** and causes **mouth ulcers**. The regulator has called for enhanced **inspections**, public **awareness**, and the promotion of **safe alternatives** like **ethylene gas**. This initiative strengthens **food safety enforcement** and protects **public health** during the peak fruit season.
- India is planning to integrate **Mission LIFE** with the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)** to promote **sustainable behaviours** and enhance **climate literacy**. Launched at **COP26**, Mission LIFE focuses on **individual action**, **circular economy**, and leveraging **local cultures**. By aligning this mission with existing **NAPCC frameworks**, India aims to bridge the **awareness-to-action gap** and ensure **inclusive, participatory climate governance**. Despite challenges like **voluntary participation** and **impact measurement**, this step is expected to catalyse long-term **climate resilience**.
- The Government of India, led by Minister Pralhad Joshi, has launched **Depot Darpan**, **Anna Mitra**, and **Anna Sahayata** to enhance the **transparency, efficiency, and citizen-centricity** of India's **Public Distribution System (PDS)**. These initiatives aim to **digitally monitor food depots**, **empower PDS stakeholders**, and **streamline grievance redressal** using **modern technologies** like **IoT and ASR**. With extensive pilot rollouts and significant financial backing, the platforms align with the vision of **Digital India** and **Viksit Bharat**.
- The **iGOT Karmayogi** platform has crossed a significant threshold, registering over **1 crore users** across India's **central and state governments**. It is part of **Mission Karmayogi**, aimed at building a **future-ready civil service**. With **2,400+ courses**, over **3.1 crore certificates**, and a strong emphasis on **digital public infrastructure**, the





platform is a cornerstone of **capacity building** in governance. Going forward, the focus will shift to **regional language inclusion, AI-based enhancements, and international collaborations**.

- The **10th Governing Council Meeting** of NITI Aayog, chaired by **PM Narendra Modi**, focused on the theme "**Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat@2047**". It emphasized **state-level vision-building, data-driven governance, entrepreneurship, and green growth**, in line with recommendations from the **4th National Conference of Chief Secretaries**. The meeting highlighted the role of **cooperative federalism** in achieving a **developed India by 2047**, the centenary of Indian independence.
- To protect India's **youth** from **tobacco and substance abuse**, the **Ministry of Education** has launched a **nationwide enforcement drive** for **Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions (ToFEI)**. Kicking off on **May 31, 2025**, the initiative enforces **Section 6(b) of COTPA, 2003**, bans tobacco sales within **100 yards of educational institutions**, and promotes awareness through a **MyGov Quiz**. With active involvement from **law enforcement, school authorities, and community stakeholders**, this campaign is crucial to building a **safe and healthy educational environment** for students.
- The Election Commission of India has introduced reforms to facilitate voters by setting up a **Mobile Deposit Facility** outside polling stations and **rationalising canvassing norms** to uphold election-day discipline. Backed by statutory provisions, these measures aim to enhance voter convenience, especially for vulnerable groups, and maintain the **secrecy of voting**. Canvassing is now banned within **100 meters** of polling stations, and mobile phones must be deposited before entering the booth. These updates mark a significant step toward a **more efficient, transparent, and voter-friendly election process**.
- The **Government of India** has retained the **8.25% interest rate** on **EPF deposits** for **FY2024–25**, reinforcing its commitment to **stable retirement savings**. Approved by the **Ministry of Finance** and recommended by the **Labour Ministry**, this decision affects **over 7 crore subscribers**. Compared to other **fixed-income instruments**, EPF continues to offer **higher, tax-free returns**, supporting **financial security, formal employment, and social welfare**.
- India aims to expand its **pumped storage hydropower capacity** from **under 5 GW to 51.24 GW by 2032**, with **Greenko, Adani Green, and JSW Energy** leading development. Focused largely in **Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra**, these projects support **grid stability** and help manage variable **solar and wind power**. As **battery energy storage** faces global supply issues, **pumped hydro** remains a **dominant and reliable storage solution** globally.

- A **week-long Kala Utsav** held at the **Rashtrapati Bhavan** from **May 20–27, 2025**, featured the works of **Madhubani and Gond artists** under the **Artists-in-Residence programme**. **President Droupadi Murmu** appreciated the participants for their dedication to preserving **India's traditional art forms**. The initiative highlights India's **cultural diversity**, promotes **folk art**, and brings national attention to the talent of **tribal and rural artisans**.
- The **Vat Amavasya-Harit Yoga** event organized by **NIN Pune** on **May 26, 2025**, highlighted the cultural, spiritual, and **ecological relevance of the Banyan tree**. Held under the **Ministry of Ayush's Harit Yoga initiative**, this celebration formed part of the **11th International Day of Yoga (IDY 2025)** and focused on the theme "**Yoga for One Earth, One Health**." Through rituals, reflections, and community engagement, the event promoted the **integration of yoga with sustainable practices**, reinforcing India's commitment to a **harmonious coexistence with nature**.
- The **Philippines** has rolled out new **visa-free travel options** for **Indian nationals** to strengthen tourism and cultural ties. From **May 2025**, Indians can enter the Philippines for **14 days visa-free** for tourism, provided they meet certain eligibility criteria. Additionally, those holding valid visas or permanent residency from **AJACSSUK countries — Australia, Japan, America, Canada, Schengen, Singapore, and the UK** — can enjoy a **30-day visa-free stay**. Travellers outside these categories can still apply through the **e-visa** system. This strategic initiative is poised to **boost Indian tourist arrivals** and promote cultural exchange.
- In a major policy decision aimed at empowering farmers and ensuring **remunerative returns for agricultural produce**, the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has **approved an increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP)** for **14 Kharif crops** for the **2025–26 marketing season**. The decision, announced on **May 29, 2025**, carries a **total financial outlay of ₹2.07 lakh crore**.
- In a move aimed at strengthening the country's rail infrastructure and bolstering **multi-modal transportation**, the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on **May 28, 2025**, approved two key **multi-tracking railway projects**. These projects are part of the **PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan**, designed to promote **integrated and seamless connectivity** across India.
- The **Government of India** has retained the **8.25% interest rate** on **EPF deposits** for **FY2024–25**, reinforcing its commitment to **stable retirement savings**. Approved by the **Ministry of Finance** and recommended by the **Labour Ministry**, this decision affects **over 7 crore subscribers**. Compared to other **fixed-income instruments**, EPF continues to offer **higher, tax-free returns**, supporting **financial security, formal employment, and social welfare**.





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- In a significant push toward combating cybercrime, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has launched a new initiative called **e-Zero FIR** under its **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**. The move, announced by Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** on **May 20, 2025**, aims to enable swift registration of **FIRs in high-value cyber financial fraud cases**. Currently launched as a pilot project in **Delhi**, the system will automatically convert complaints filed via the **National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP)** or helpline **1930** into **Zero FIRs** for cases involving losses above **₹10 lakh**—significantly enhancing the response time in apprehending cybercriminals.

National Current Affairs of April 2025

Important News of Month

Parliament Passes Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 – Key Changes Introduced

On **March 26, 2025**, **Parliament passed the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024**, which introduces **several key reforms in India's banking sector**. The bill, approved by the **Rajya Sabha** through a voice vote, was earlier passed by the **Lok Sabha** in **December 2024**. A major amendment allows bank account holders to have up to four nominees, providing greater flexibility in financial planning. Additionally, the bill redefines 'substantial interest' in a bank by increasing the limit from **₹5 lakh to ₹2 crore**, a change made after nearly six decades. It also extends the tenure of directors in cooperative banks, revises statutory auditor remuneration policies, and modifies bank reporting dates for regulatory compliance.

Key Highlights

Up to Four Nominees

- Bank account holders can now appoint up to four nominees instead of just one.
- Applies to cash and fixed deposits.
- For lockers, only simultaneous nominations are permitted.

Redefining 'Substantial Interest'

- The financial threshold for substantial interest in a bank is increased from **₹5 lakh to ₹2 crore**.

Cooperative Banks' Governance

- Directors (excluding chairman & whole-time director) can now serve for **10 years**, up from 8 years.
- Directors of Central Cooperative Banks can now be on the board of State Cooperative Banks.

Banking Sector Oversight & Compliance

- Banks can decide auditor remuneration with more flexibility.
- Regulatory reporting dates changed from the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month to the 15th and last day of each month.





Stringent Action Against Wilful Defaulters

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman emphasized the government's commitment to reducing NPAs (Non-Performing Assets) and punishing wilful defaulters.
- 112 bank fraud cases handled by the Enforcement Directorate in the last five years.

Public Sector Banks' Performance

- Highest-ever profit of ₹1.41 lakh crore recorded in the last fiscal year.
- Expectations of further profitability growth in 2025-26.

Comprehensive Banking Reform

- The amendments impact five different banking laws, making it a landmark reform.

Uttarakhand Government Renames 15 Places to Reflect Indian Culture and Heritage

Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami** announced the renaming of **15 places** across **Haridwar, Dehradun, Nainital, and Udham Singh Nagar** districts, aiming to align with **public sentiment** and **Indian cultural heritage**. The move seeks to honor **great historical figures** and inspire the people of the state.

The Decision: A Cultural and Sentimental Shift

Chief Minister Dhami emphasized that the renaming of these locations is intended to honor personalities who contributed to the **preservation of Indian culture**. This step is seen as an effort to instill a sense of **pride and historical awareness** among the people of Uttarakhand.

According to the state government, these changes have been made based on **public demand and historical significance**. The decision aligns with similar renaming efforts seen in different parts of the country.

List of Renamed Places in Uttarakhand

The places renamed are distributed across **four major districts**, namely **Haridwar, Dehradun, Nainital, and Udham Singh Nagar**.

Renamed Places in Haridwar District

- Aurangzebpur → Shivaji Nagar
- Gajiwali → Arya Nagar
- Chandpur → Jyotiba Phule Nagar
- Mohammadpur Jat → Mohanpur Jat
- Khanpur Kursli → Ambedkar Nagar
- Indrishpur → Nandpur
- Khanpur → Shri Krishna Pur
- Akbarpur Fazalpur → Vijayanagar

Renamed Places in Dehradun District

- Miyanwala → Ramji Wala
- Pirwala → Kesari Nagar
- Chandpur Khurd → Prithviraj Nagar
- Abdullah Nagar → Daksh Nagar

Renamed Places in Nainital District

- Nawabi Road → Atal Marg
- Panchakki to ITI Road → Guru Golwalkar Marg

Renamed Place in Udham Singh Nagar District

- Sultanpur Patti Municipal Council → Kaushalya Puri

Reason Behind the Renaming

1. Honoring Historical Figures

Many of the renamed locations now bear names of **great Indian leaders and social reformers**, such as **Shivaji, Jyotiba Phule, and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**. This serves as a **tribute to their contributions** towards Indian society.

2. Restoring Cultural Identity

The renaming process is part of the Uttarakhand government's initiative to **revive and restore India's rich cultural heritage** by eliminating colonial and Mughal-era names.

3. Public Sentiment and Demand

The government stated that these changes were made in response to **long-standing public demand**. Local communities had been requesting these alterations, citing the need to **reflect India's history and traditions more accurately**.

4. Political and Social Impact

The move has received mixed reactions. Supporters view it as a **positive step towards cultural revival**, while critics argue that renaming places alone does not address deeper issues like **infrastructure development and governance**.

Impact of the Name Changes

- Cultural Revival:** Encourages a deeper connection to India's historical roots.
- Educational Value:** Helps younger generations recognize the contributions of historical figures.
- Political Influence:** Strengthens the image of the ruling government as a **protector of Indian culture**.
- Local Sentiment:** Boosts **regional pride** and historical awareness among the people.

Parliament Passed The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025

The **Indian Parliament** recently passed significant legislative measures aimed at reforming the management of Waqf properties and strengthening their oversight. The **Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, and the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2024**, were debated and approved in both houses of Parliament. It was passed by the **Rajya Sabha** in the early hours of Friday after a marathon 12-hour debate. **With 128 votes in favor and 95 against**, the bill received approval from the upper house, following the **Lok Sabha's clearance on Thursday with a 288-232 vote**. In addition, the Rajya Sabha also passed the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2024, after a 17-hour sitting that was adjourned at 4 a.m.





Key Points

Purpose of the Bill

- The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, aims to **streamline the functioning of Waqf properties and improve transparency and accountability**.
- It seeks to strengthen the administrative mechanisms overseeing Waqf properties and enhance their legal framework.

Passed in Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha

- Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2025 renamed as **Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development (UMEED) Bill**.
- Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill 2024 approved, repealing the Mussalman Wakf Act, 1923.

Parliamentary Process

- The Bill passed with a 128-95 vote in the Rajya Sabha** after a 12-hour debate, following the **Lok Sabha's approval with a 288-232 vote**.
- The debate saw active participation from lawmakers, with discussions centered around the management and use of Waqf assets and the role of tribunals in resolving conflicts.

Ministerial Statements

- Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister, and Kiren Rijiju, the Union Minister for Minority Affairs, played a significant role in defending the Bill and its provisions during the parliamentary debates.

Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2025 & Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill 2024

Background

Two Bills Introduced,

- Waqf (Amendment) Bill
- Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill

Objectives

Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025

- Amend the Waqf Act, 1995 to address challenges in managing Waqf properties.
- Improve administration and efficiency of Waqf boards.

Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2024

- Repeal the Mussalman Wakf Act, 1923, an outdated colonial-era law.
- Ensure uniformity, transparency, and accountability in Waqf property management under the Waqf Act, 1995.
- Eliminate inconsistencies and ambiguities created by the old law.

Meaning of 'Waqf'

- Properties dedicated for religious or charitable purposes under Islamic law.
- Sale or other use of the property is prohibited.
- Ownership is transferred to Allah, making it irrevocable.
- Managed by a mutawalli on behalf of the wakif (creator).

Origin of the Concept of 'Waqf'

- Traces back to the Delhi Sultanate when Sultan Muizuddin Sam Ghaor dedicated villages to the Jama Masjid of Multan.
- Waqf properties grew with the rise of Islamic dynasties in India.
- Mussalman Waqf Validating Act of 1913 protected Waqf in India.

Constitutional Framework and Governance

- Charitable and religious institutions fall under the Concurrent List of the Constitution.
- Both Parliament and State Legislatures can frame laws on it.
- Waqf Governance: Governed by the Waqf Act, 1995, replacing earlier laws from 1913, 1923, and 1954.

Creation of Waqf

Created via,

- Declaration (oral or written deed).
- Long-term use of land for religious or charitable purposes.
- Endowment after the end of a line of succession.

States with highest Waqf properties

- Uttar Pradesh (27%)
- West Bengal (9%)
- Punjab (9%)

Evolution of Waqf Laws

- 1913 Act:** Validated Waqf deeds.
- 1923 Act:** Made registration of Waqf properties mandatory.
- 1954 Act:** Established Central Waqf Council and State Waqf Boards.
- 1995 Act:** Introduced Tribunals for dispute resolution, with elected members and Islamic scholars.

Key Amendments in the New Bill

Central Waqf Council Composition

- Union Minister in charge of waqf is the ex-officio chairperson.

Members include

- Members of Parliament (MPs).
- Persons of national eminence.
- Retired Supreme Court/High Court judges.
- Eminent scholars in Muslim law.
- New Provision: Non-Muslim members required (two).

Composition of Waqf Boards

- Empower state governments to nominate one person from each group.
- Non-Muslim members required (two).
- Includes one member each from Shias, Sunnis, and Backward Muslim classes.
- Two Muslim women members required.

Composition of Tribunals

- Removes expert in Muslim law.
- District Court judge as chairman.
- Joint Secretary rank officer.





Appeals Against Tribunal Orders

- **Previous Act:** No appeals allowed.
- **New Bill:** Allows appeals against Tribunal decisions to the High Court within 90 days.

Survey of Properties

- Replaces Survey Commissioner with District Collector or senior officers to oversee the survey of Waqf properties.

Government Property as Waqf

- Government property identified as Waqf will cease to be Waqf.
- Revenue records updated by the Collector.

Audits

- Waqf institutions earning over ₹1 lakh will undergo audits by state-sponsored auditors.

Centralized Portal

- Automated Waqf property management via a centralized portal for enhanced efficiency and transparency.

Property Dedication

- Practicing Muslims (at least five years) can dedicate property to Waqf, restoring pre-2013 rules.

Women's Inheritance

- Women must receive inheritance before Waqf declaration.
- Special provisions for widows, divorced women, and orphans.

Need for the Bill

- Unified Digital Listing of Waqf properties to reduce litigation and ensure transparency.
- Ensures gender justice by mandating women's inclusion in Waqf Boards.

Concerns

Non-Muslim Members in Waqf Boards

- Mandates inclusion of non-Muslim members in State Waqf Boards and Central Waqf Council.
- Concern that these bodies could be majorly composed of non-Muslims, unlike similar boards for Hindu and Sikh endowments.

Impact on Waqf Tribunals

- Removal of experts in Muslim law from Waqf Tribunals may affect dispute resolution.

Creation of Waqf

- Limiting Waqf creation to Muslims practicing Islam for at least five years.
- Ambiguity about the rationale behind this five-year criterion.

Conclusion

- The Bill represents a significant step towards reforming Waqf property management in India.
- Proposed reforms ensure better governance, accountability, and a more inclusive approach, benefiting all involved communities.

PM Narendra Modi Conferred Sri Lanka's Highest Civilian Honour - Mithra Vibhushana

On April 5, 2025, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** was awarded **Sri Lanka's highest civilian honour**, the **Mithra Vibhushana**, for his contributions to strengthening the historic ties between India and Sri Lanka. The honour was conferred upon him by President Anura Kumara Disسانayake during a ceremony held at the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo. This prestigious recognition is a reflection of the deep-rooted friendship and cooperation between the two nations.

Key Points

Award Details

- **Mithra Vibhushana** is Sri Lanka's highest civilian award, first introduced in 2008.
- Previous recipients include former **Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom** and **Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat**.
- The award includes a citation and a silver medal adorned with nine types of Sri Lankan gems.
- The medal's design features symbols like the lotus, globe, sun, moon, and sheaves of rice, reflecting the shared cultural heritage of India and Sri Lanka.

Historical Significance

- The Dharma Chakra on the medal represents the shared Buddhist heritage that has shaped the cultural traditions of both countries.
- The Pun Kalasa or ceremonial pot with sheaves of rice symbolizes prosperity and renewal.
- The Navarathna (nine precious gems) is depicted inside a globe encircled by lotus petals.

Modi's Remarks

- Modi expressed that the award was a reflection of the strong historic ties and the deep friendship between India and Sri Lanka.
- He mentioned that receiving the Mithra Vibhushana is an honour not only for him but for the 1.4 billion Indians as well.

Modi's International Recognition

Modi has been conferred state honours by over 15 countries, including,

- Saudi Arabia's Order of King Abdul Aziz
- Order of the State of Palestine
- United Arab Emirates' Order of Zayed
- Order of Fiji
- Egypt's Order of the Nile

In March 2025, Mauritius awarded Modi its highest civilian honour, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean during his visit to the country.





Ceremony Details

- The ceremony took place at the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo.
- President Anura Kumara Dissanayake personally conferred the award to PM Modi.

India-Sri Lanka Sign Historic Defense Pacts For The Future

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

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

Defence Cooperation

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

Energy & Infrastructure

Sampur Power Project

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

Grid Interconnectivity MoU

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

Digital Transformation

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

Renewable Energy Initiatives

Solar Rooftop Project

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

Health & Medicine

MoU between

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

Separate MoU between

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

Regional Support & Development

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

New Pamban Bridge Inaugurated by PM Modi

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

Key Highlights

New Pamban Bridge

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

Bridge Specifications & Engineering Features

- **Total Length:** 2.07 km
- **Cost of Construction:** Over ₹700 crore
- **Executing Agency:** Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) – A Navratna PSU





- **Design Type:** Vertical-lift bridge
- **Lift Span:** 72.5 metres (can be vertically lifted to 17 metres)
- **Function:** Allows ships to pass underneath safely
- **Track Capacity:** Designed for two railway tracks, currently operating one
- **Train Speed Supported:** Up to 80 km/h
- **Projected Lifespan:** 100 years

Advanced Construction Materials & Techniques

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

Significance and Global Comparisons

Compared with iconic global bridges,

- Golden Gate Bridge (USA)
- Tower Bridge (UK)
- Oresund Bridge (Denmark–Sweden)
- Represents India's visionary infrastructure progress
- A symbol of modern engineering and national pride

Other Events During the Visit

PM Modi flagged off

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

Spiritual Significance: Ram Setu Darshan

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

About Ram Setu (Adam's Bridge)

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

Geographical Division

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

RBI Monetary Policy 2025: Bi-Monthly Highlights

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

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

Current Rate

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

RBI Guv Announces Six Additional Measures

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

Check out the latest GDP growth projections by the RBI

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

Check out the latest CPI inflation projections by RBI

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





India-UAE Strengthen To Enhance Strategic Partnership

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

Key Highlights

Defence and Security Cooperation

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

Key focus areas include

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

High-Level Diplomatic Engagements

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

Trade and Economic Cooperation

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

Key trade stats,

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

In 2024

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

Connectivity and People-to-People Ties

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

Telangana Becomes First State to Implement SC Sub-Categorisation

The **Telangana government** has become the **first in India to implement Scheduled Castes (SC) sub-categorisation**, following the Supreme Court's approval. On April 14, 2025—**coinciding with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's birth anniversary**—the state issued a Government Order (GO) enforcing the **Telangana Scheduled Castes (Rationalization of Reservations) Act, 2025**. The move aims to rationalize the existing 15% SC reservation by dividing 59 SC sub-castes into three groups based on inter-se backwardness, thus ensuring more equitable distribution of benefits. This initiative aligns with historical efforts like the **Lokur Committee (1965)** and more recent **Justice Ramachandra Raju and Usha Mehra Commissions**, reflecting a shift toward targeted affirmative action.

Key Highlights of the SC Sub-Categorisation in Telangana

Legislative and Legal Framework

- The Telangana Assembly passed the Act on March 18, 2025.
- The Act received Governor's assent on April 8, 2025.
- The GO was issued on April 14, Ambedkar Jayanti.
- Based on the Supreme Court's judgment on August 1, 2024, which permitted SC sub-categorisation.
- Justice Shamim Akhtar led the one-man commission appointed in October 2024.

Structure of SC Sub-Categorisation

- Total SC Reservation:** 15% (based on 2011 Census).
- SCs divided into 3 Groups based on social and educational backwardness.

Group No. of Communities

Group 1

- Communities:** 15 (most disadvantaged)
- Population Share:** 3.288% (~1.71 lakh)
- Reservation Allocation:** 1%

Group 2

- Communities:** 18 (moderately backward)
- Population Share:** 62.74% (~34 lakh)
- Reservation Allocation:** 9%

Group 3

- Communities:** 26 (relatively better-off)
- Population Share:** 33.963% (~17 lakh)
- Reservation Allocation:** 5%

Key Basis for Categorisation

- Population size, literacy rates, employment, education access, financial assistance, and political participation.
- The Shamim Akhtar Commission received over 8,600 representations from communities.
- Final report submitted after extended consultation period.





Major Statements and Justifications

Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha

- Said it's not a final solution, but a tool for upliftment.
- Emphasized the need for education, skill training, industrial support, and financial aid.
- Highlighted the Budiga Janga caste as an example of disproportionate disadvantage.

Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy

- Chaired final meeting on April 13, 2025.
- Rejected the creamy layer within SCs.
- Clarified no existing benefits will be diluted.
- Mentioned Telangana's SC population now stands at 17.5%, so reservations may be increased after 2026 Census.

Political and Social Responses

- **CPI MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Reddy:** Questioned downgrading of Rella community to Group 3.
- **AIMIM MLA Majid Hussain:** Suggested increasing SC reservation to 18% and creating 4 categories instead of 3.
- The government maintained 3 groups as optimal—2 would cause imbalance, 4 would be excessive.

SC Laid Down 3 Month Deadline For President To Assent Bill Reserved By Governor

In a **landmark judgment** in **State of Tamil Nadu vs. Governor of Tamil Nadu (2023)**, the Supreme Court of India addressed a critical void in the legislative process—delays in **Presidential assent to State Bills reserved under Article 201**. For the first time, the Court established a 3-month deadline for the President's decision, ensuring accountability and protecting the principles of federalism and democratic governance. Additionally, the Court advised that the President ought to seek the opinion of the Supreme Court under Article 143 in cases where a Bill is reserved for perceived unconstitutionality. This judgment is a significant step toward safeguarding the spirit of cooperative federalism and curbing executive arbitrariness.

Key Highlights on SC Verdict

Constitutional Articles Involved

- **Article 201:** Deals with President's powers on State Bills reserved by the Governor.
- **Article 143:** Provides the power to the President to seek advisory opinion of the Supreme Court.

SC Interpretation of Article 201

- When a Governor reserves a Bill for the President's consideration, the **President must act within 3 months**.
- Earlier, no timeline existed, causing legislative paralysis and uncertainty.
- The Court held that indefinite delay is unconstitutional and violates the principle of non-arbitrariness.

Time-Bound Decision

- 3-month deadline is now established for the President to assent or withhold assent.
- The decision must be reasoned and communicated to the concerned State Government.

No "Absolute Veto"

- The President cannot indefinitely withhold assent—this would amount to an unconstitutional "absolute veto".
- The withholding must be justified with sound legal reasoning, not political considerations.

Recourse to Judiciary

- **States may approach courts if there is prolonged inaction.**
- They can file a writ petition seeking a Mandamus to compel Presidential action.

Article 143: Seeking SC Opinion

- If the Governor reserves a Bill citing unconstitutionality, the President ought to consult the SC.
- Though not binding, SC's advisory opinion holds high persuasive value.
- Prevents enactment of patently unconstitutional laws, saving public resources.

Difference Between Governor & President

- If the Governor returns a Bill, and it is re-passed by the State Legislature, he must assent.
- The President is not bound similarly under Article 201.

Policy vs Constitutionality

- SC will only advise if the issue is a purely legal/constitutional question.
- It will not intervene if the matter pertains to policy, socio-economic or political questions.

Supporting References

- Sarkaria Commission (1988) & Punchhi Commission (2010) recommended,
- Time-bound Presidential decisions.
- Article 143 consultation in cases of constitutional doubts.
- MHA Office Memorandums (2016) also prescribed a 3-month timeline.

Justice BR Gavai Next CJI of India as Successor to Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna

On April 16, 2025, **Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna** named **Justice B R Gavai**, the **second-most senior judge of the Supreme Court**, as his successor. This announcement was made through a letter to the Union Law Ministry, and after government approval, Justice Gavai is set to become the 52nd CJI of India. Justice Gavai, who was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2019, will take office as CJI after the retirement of CJI Khanna on May 13, 2025. Justice Gavai's legal journey spans decades, with significant contributions to Indian jurisprudence, particularly in constitutional and administrative law.





Career Overview of Justice B R Gavai

Background and Early Career

- Born in Amravati, Maharashtra, Justice Gavai began his legal career by joining the Bar in 1985.
- Initially, he worked under Raja S Bhonsale, a former Advocate General and Judge of the Bombay High Court, until 1987.
- He practiced primarily before the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court, focusing on constitutional and administrative law.

Government Roles

- Appointed as Assistant Government Pleader and Additional Public Prosecutor for the Nagpur Bench in 1992-93.
- Later promoted to Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor from 2000 onwards.

Judicial Career

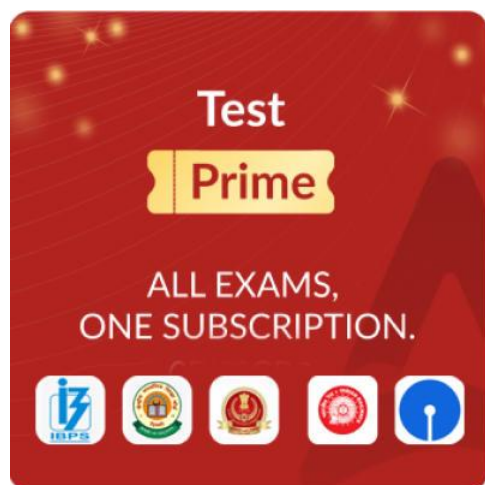
- Elevated to Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court in November 2003.
- Became a permanent judge of the Bombay High Court in November 2005.
- Appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court in May 2019.

Key Judicial Contributions of Justice BR Gavai

- Justice Gavai has been involved in several landmark rulings, which have had significant implications on India's legal and constitutional landscape. Some of his notable contributions include,

Demonetization Verdict (January 2023)

- Justice Gavai was part of the majority verdict that upheld the Government of India's decision to demonetize Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 currency notes in 2016.
- Sub-Categorization of Scheduled Castes and Tribes (August 2024):
- In the landmark case concerning the sub-categorization of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), Justice Gavai advocated for applying the "creamy layer" principle to these communities. This would ensure that only those truly in need benefit from affirmative action.



Abrogation of Article 370 (2019)

- As part of a five-judge bench, Justice Gavai upheld the Centre's decision to revoke Article 370, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

Critique of Bulldozer Demolitions (November 2024)

- In a two-judge bench, Justice Gavai criticized the use of bulldozers to demolish properties of crime suspects, asserting that such demolitions without due process violated the rule of law.

Bhagavad Gita & Natyashastra Added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register

India has added another feather to its civilisational cap with the inclusion of the **Bhagavad Gita manuscripts** and **Bharat Muni's Natyashastra in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register**. This move globally acknowledges India's rich intellectual and cultural heritage. The Prime Minister and Union Culture Minister have celebrated this moment as a significant milestone. With these additions, India now has 14 documentary heritages inscribed on the prestigious list.

Key Highlights

What is the Memory of the World Register?

- Established in **1992**, **UNESCO's Memory of the World (MoW) Programme** aims to preserve and provide access to documentary heritage of global significance. It safeguards manuscripts, archives, oral traditions, audio-visual content, and library collections.

India's Inclusion in 2025

- On April 17, 2025, Bhagavad Gita manuscripts and Natyashastra by Bharat Muni were added to the register.
- India's total entries in the list now stand at 14.

Bhagavad Gita's Significance

- A core spiritual text of Hinduism, part of the Mahabharata's Bhishma Parva.
- Considered a universal guide to philosophy, dharma (duty), and spirituality.
- Translated into nearly 80 languages globally.

Natyashastra's Significance

- An ancient treatise on dramaturgy, theatre, and performance arts, attributed to Bharat Muni.
- Covers various aspects like acting, stage design, music, dance, and aesthetics (rasa theory).
- A foundational text for classical Indian dance and drama traditions.

Official Reactions

- PM Narendra Modi hailed the announcement as a "proud moment for every Indian" and acknowledged the Gita and Natyashastra for nurturing civilisation and consciousness.
- Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat called it a "historic moment" for Bharat's civilisational heritage.





Global Perspective

- A total of 74 new collections were added in 2025, bringing the global total to 570.
- 14 of the new entries are related to scientific documentary heritage, including contributions by women and multilateral institutions.

UNESCO's Statement

- **UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay** emphasized that documentary heritage is fragile but essential to human memory.
- The register supports preservation efforts, knowledge sharing, and serves as a global archive.

UNESCO's Broader Programme

- UNESCO supports the creation of regional and national registers.
- Over 100 countries now have Memory of the World committees.
- The programme promotes the universal access to heritage documents.

Maharashtra Governor Presents Yashraj Bharti Samman Awards 2025

Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan conferred the 3rd edition of the 'Yashraj Bharti Samman' awards to three notable grassroots-level organizations for their exemplary contributions in the fields of healthcare, education for sustainable development, and governance. The award ceremony, held in Mumbai, recognized the impact of Jan Swasthya Sahayog (Chhattisgarh), Pratham Education Foundation, and the Services Plus platform developed by the National Informatics Centre. The event witnessed the presence of dignitaries such as former Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Dilip Walse Patil and India's G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant. Governor Radhakrishnan highlighted the pressing need to improve education quality, enhance healthcare in tribal areas, and promote ethical governance to drive true social change.

Key Highlights of the Yashraj Bharti Samman 2025

Award Overview

- The Yashraj Bharti Samman is presented to individuals or organizations contributing meaningfully at the grassroots level.
- This is the 3rd edition of the award.

Awardees and Their Contributions

Jan Swasthya Sahayog (Chhattisgarh)

- Recognized for delivering expert-led healthcare services in remote and tribal regions.
- Focuses on equity in health services and access to affordable care.

Pratham Education Foundation

- Honored for promoting sustainable development through education.
- Known for innovative programs like ASER (Annual Status of Education Report) to monitor and improve learning outcomes across India.

Services Plus Platform (NIC)

- Developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- A digital platform aimed at enhancing good governance by providing citizen-centric e-services efficiently and transparently.

Event Insights

- Held in Mumbai, organized by the Raj Bhavan.

Attended by key dignitaries including,

- Dilip Walse Patil, Former Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Speaker.
- Amitabh Kant, India's G-20 Sherpa.

Governor's Address

- **Education:** Expressed concern over falling standards of education despite the large number of schools in Maharashtra.
- **Healthcare:** Stressed the importance of specialist-led care to improve the quality of life in tribal areas.
- **Governance:** Emphasized the need to combat corruption through public awareness and to achieve ethical governance as a foundation for social transformation.

Laureus World Sports Awards 2025: Check Complete Winners List

The **2025 Laureus World Sports Awards** celebrated its 25th anniversary with a grand ceremony in Madrid, honoring outstanding athletes and teams for their exceptional performances over the past year. The event recognized both individual brilliance and collective achievements across various sports disciplines.

The **Laureus World Sports Awards**, often dubbed the "Oscars of Sports", celebrated the most remarkable athletes and sporting achievements of the past year. Held in the vibrant city of **Madrid**, the 2025 edition of the event brought together legends, rising stars, and game-changers across various disciplines.

Mondo Duplantis: The Vaulting Legend

Mondo Duplantis, the 25-year-old **Swedish-American pole vaulter**, was named **Laureus World Sportsman of the Year**, a title he clinched for the **first time** after being nominated three years in a row.

- Duplantis is hailed as the **greatest pole vaulter of all time**. He surpassed top contenders like:
- **Carlos Alcaraz** (Tennis – Spain)
- **Léon Marchand** (Swimming – France)
- **Tadej Pogačar** (Cycling – Slovenia)
- **Max Verstappen** (Formula 1 – Netherlands)





In 2024, Duplantis:

- Won his **second World Indoor Championship gold**.
- **Broke his own world record for the ninth time**.
- Won **Olympic gold in Paris**.

His award was even more memorable with **Usain Bolt**—the only other track-and-field athlete to win this honour—paying a special tribute to him.

Simone Biles: The Queen Returns

After a period of absence from competition, **Simone Biles** made a heroic comeback at the **Paris Olympics**, winning:

- **Three gold medals**
- **One silver medal**

She was honoured with the **Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year Award**, making it her **fourth win**, a feat that **equals Serena Williams' record**.

- This win affirms her status as **one of the most decorated gymnasts in history**.
- Biles and Duplantis both previously earned the **Comeback of the Year** honour, showcasing their resilience.

Full List of Laureus World Sports Awards 2025 Winners

Category	Winner
World Sportsman of the Year	Mondo Duplantis
World Sportswoman of the Year	Simone Biles
World Team of the Year	Real Madrid
Breakthrough of the Year	Lamine Yamal
Comeback of the Year	Rebeca Andrade
Sportsperson with a Disability	Jiang Yuyan
Action Sportsperson of the Year	Tom Pidcock
Sport for Good Award	Kick4Life
Sporting Icon Award	Rafael Nadal
Lifetime Achievement Award	Kelly Slater

IISc Tops Times Higher Education Asia Rankings 2025

The Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2025 were unveiled on April 23, showcasing the top universities in Asia. With 853 universities from 35 countries and territories included in this year's rankings, the list highlights the leading institutions excelling in research, teaching, and innovation across the continent. **The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) continues to shine, securing the top spot for Indian universities, ranked 38th overall in Asia.** However, many Indian institutions saw a drop in their rankings compared to last year, signaling the evolving competition in higher education.

Key Highlights of THE Asia Rankings 2025

- IISc is the highest-ranked Indian university at 38th position, despite a drop from 32nd place in 2024.
- Anna University and IIT Indore follow at 111th and 131st positions, respectively, marking a slight decline from their previous rankings.

- Mahatma Gandhi University ranks at 140th, slightly down from 134th last year.
- Other prominent Indian universities such as Shoolini University, Saveetha Institute, and Jamia Millia Islamia also feature in the rankings.
- In the broader regional context, China continues to dominate the rankings, with Tsinghua University and Peking University leading the charge at first and second places. Universities from Singapore, Japan, and Hong Kong also make up significant portions of the top 10 spots.

Detailed Breakdown of Indian Universities in the Rankings

- 38th – Indian Institute of Science (IISc)
- 111th – Anna University
- 131st – Indian Institute of Technology Indore
- 140th – Mahatma Gandhi University
- 146th – Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences
- 149th – Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences
- 161st – Jamia Millia Islamia
- 184th – Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati
- 184th – KIIT University
- 188th – Aligarh Muslim University
- 188th – UPES
- 191st – Indian Institute of Technology Patna
- 191st – National Institute of Technology Rourkela
- 200th – International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad

International Trends in the Rankings

- **China's dominance:** Tsinghua University and Peking University retain the top two positions.
- **Singapore's rise:** National University of Singapore ranks 3rd, followed by Nanyang Technological University at 4th.
- **Japan and Hong Kong:** Universities such as The University of Tokyo and The University of Hong Kong continue to perform well in the rankings.
- **New entrants:** Four countries, including Uzbekistan, Bahrain, Mongolia, and Syria, are featured for the first time in the rankings.

Justice Dinesh Maheshwari Appointed Chairperson of the 23rd Law Commission of India

In a significant development in the Indian legal landscape, **Justice (Retd.) Dinesh Maheshwari**, a former **Supreme Court judge**, has been appointed as the **Chairperson of the 23rd Law Commission of India** in April 2025. The announcement marks a crucial step in the government's ongoing efforts to review and recommend reforms in various aspects of Indian law, particularly the long-debated **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**.





Tenure and Composition of the 23rd Law Commission

The **23rd Law Commission** was formally constituted on **September 1, 2024**, with its term extending until **August 31, 2027**. It comprises a total of **seven members**, including:

- **One Chairperson:** Justice (Retd.) Dinesh Maheshwari
- **Four full-time members:** Including **Hitesh Jain** (a lawyer) and **P. Verma** (an academician who was also part of the 22nd Law Commission)
- **Two ex-officio members:** From the **Department of Legal Affairs** and **Legislative Department**

In addition, the government may appoint up to **five part-time members**, and **serving judges**, if included, will function as **full-time members** until their **retirement or end of the Commission's term**.

Focus on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC)

A major agenda for the 23rd Commission will be to **examine the feasibility of implementing a Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**—a politically and socially sensitive subject in India. The UCC aims to **replace personal laws based on religion or community** with a **common set of civil laws** applicable to all citizens.

Background of UCC Consultations:

- The **22nd Law Commission**, formed earlier, initiated **nationwide consultations** on the UCC in **2023**, collecting **public input** from **over 70 consultations**.
- It had **drafted a 749-page preliminary report**, but the process was **incomplete** after its then-chairperson, **Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi**, was appointed as **Lokpal**.
- The **21st Law Commission**, in its **2018 report**, had opined that **UCC was "neither necessary nor desirable at this stage"**, creating a divergence in policy direction.

The **23rd Commission** is now expected to **revisit and finalize recommendations** on this contentious issue, taking into account the changing **socio-legal environment** in the country.

Political Significance of the UCC Agenda

The **Uniform Civil Code** has long been a part of the **Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) core agenda**, along with:

- The **abrogation of Article 370** (granted special status to Jammu & Kashmir)
- The **construction of the Ram Mandir** in Ayodhya

Both of these promises were **fulfilled during BJP's second term (2019–2024)**. The **UCC** now remains the **final pillar** of the party's ideological roadmap.

Developments in States

- **Uttarakhand** became the **first Indian state to implement a UCC**, passing its own **Uniform Civil Code Bill**.
- **Gujarat** has also formed a **drafting committee** to explore the adoption of a similar code.

In **2022**, the **Central Government** told the **Supreme Court** that the existence of different personal laws is an **"affront to the nation's unity"**, indicating its strong support for legal uniformity.

Financial and Operational Structure

To support its functioning, the **23rd Law Commission** has a well-defined compensation and operational structure:

- The **Chairperson (Retired)** will receive a **monthly honorarium of ₹2.5 lakh**, inclusive of pension benefits.
- The **Retired full-time members** are entitled to **₹2.25 lakh per month**, also inclusive of pension.

The Commission is expected to work independently but in close coordination with the **Ministry of Law and Justice**, as well as other legal stakeholders and civil society organizations, to ensure **inclusive and practical legal recommendations**.

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2025: Resumption After Five Years

The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra (KMY) is a significant annual pilgrimage symbolizing deep religious and cultural ties between India and China. It holds immense importance for Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and followers of the Bon religion. Circumambulating Mount Kailash is believed to bring spiritual merit, and bathing in Lake Mansarovar is thought to cleanse one's sins. The pilgrimage was suspended in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and border tensions. Its resumption after five years marks a positive development in religious tourism and bilateral cooperation.

Why in News?

- On April 26, 2025, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.
- The pilgrimage will be conducted between June and August 2025.
- A total of 750 pilgrims will be allowed, divided into batches traveling via Lipulekh Pass (Uttarakhand) and Nathu La Pass (Sikkim).

What is Kailash Mansarovar Yatra?

The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is an annual government-organized pilgrimage for Indian citizens to visit Mount Kailash and Lake Mansarovar in Tibet Autonomous Region, China. It has deep religious significance:

- **Hindus** consider Mount Kailash as the abode of Lord Shiva.
- **Buddhists** regard it as the dwelling of Buddha Demchok.
- **Jains** believe it is where their first Tirthankara attained liberation.
- **Bon religion** followers worship it as a sacred mountain.

The main objective of the yatra is to promote religious pilgrimage and cultural exchange between India and China.

Key Details or Features

There are two official routes for the pilgrimage:

- **Lipulekh Pass (Uttarakhand):** Traditional route operational since 1981.
- **Nathu La Pass (Sikkim):** Motorable route introduced in 2015.





Pilgrim details:

- Five batches of 50 pilgrims each will travel via Lipulekh Pass.
 - Ten batches of 50 pilgrims each will travel via Nathu La Pass.
- The registration process is fully computerized through <https://kmy.gov.in>, ensuring a fair, random, and gender-balanced selection. The yatra is coordinated by multiple agencies, including the MEA, Ministry of Home Affairs, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), and the state governments of Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Delhi, along with Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN).

Impact/Significance

The resumption of the yatra carries several important implications:

- **Religious and Cultural:** Reinforces spiritual traditions and the faith of devotees.
- **Diplomatic Relations:** Symbolizes improving India-China ties through people-to-people interaction.
- **Economic Benefits:** Boosts tourism in Uttarakhand and Sikkim, generating local employment in hospitality, transport, and logistics sectors.
- **Strategic Value:** Enhances border infrastructure and connectivity, strengthening national security in sensitive regions.

Challenges or Concerns

Despite the positive developments, several challenges persist:

- **Security:** Continued tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) pose risks.
- **Logistics and Safety:** Harsh terrain, high altitudes, and unpredictable weather endanger pilgrims' health.
- **Diplomatic Sensitivity:** Fragile relations with China mean that adverse incidents could escalate tensions.
- **Environmental Concerns:** Increased pilgrim traffic may lead to ecological degradation in the fragile Himalayan ecosystem.

Way Forward/Solutions

A holistic approach is needed to ensure the smooth and safe conduct of the yatra:

- **Enhance Safety Measures:** Strengthen medical screening, emergency facilities, and rescue operations.
- **Maintain Diplomatic Dialogue:** Sustain engagement with China to avoid misunderstandings and promote cooperation.
- **Sustainable Infrastructure Development:** Improve roads, communication, and shelter facilities with minimal ecological damage.
- **Ecological Protection:** Enforce strict waste management and promote eco-friendly tourism practices.
- **Pilgrim Training:** Provide high-altitude acclimatization and environmental awareness programs to participants.

Cabinet Approvals

Cabinet approves "Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II) for financial years 2024-25 to 2028-29

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, today approved the Vibrant Villages Programme -II (VVP-II) as a Central Sector Scheme (100% Centre funding), furthering its commitment for the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 for 'Safe, Secured & Vibrant land borders'. The Programme would help in the comprehensive development of the villages located in the blocks abutting international land borders (ILBs), other than the Northern border already covered under VVP-I.
- With a total outlay of Rs.6,839 crore, the programme shall be implemented in select strategic villages in the States/UTs of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, J&K (UT), Ladakh (UT), Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal till the FY 2028-29.
- The objective of the programme is to create better living conditions and adequate livelihood opportunities to ensure prosperous and safe borders, control trans-border crime and assimilate the border population with the nation and inculcate them 'as eyes and ears of the border guarding forces', crucial for internal security.
- The programme shall provide funds for infrastructure development within the village or a cluster of villages, value chain development (through cooperatives, SHGs, etc), border specific outreach activity, education infrastructure like SMART classes, development of tourism circuits and works/projects to create diverse & sustainable livelihood opportunities in the border areas.
- The interventions would be border-specific, state and village specific, based on Village Action Plans prepared in a collaborative approach. All-weather road connectivity for these villages shall be undertaken under the already approved PMGSY-IV under the MoRD. A High-Powered Committee chaired by the Cabinet Secretary shall consider suitable relaxations in schematic guidelines for effective implementation of schemes in the border areas.
- The programme aims to achieve saturation in existing individual and household level welfare schemes in the identified villages under convergence as per scheme norms. The programme also aims to saturate all villages in such blocks in 4 thematic areas, namely all-weather road connectivity, telecom connectivity, television connectivity and electrification through convergence under existing scheme norms.
- The programme emphasizes enhancing vibrancy in these villages by organizing activities including fairs & festivals, awareness camps, celebration of National days, regular visits by Ministers, senior Government officers from Central and State/UT Government & night stays in such villages. This would boost the tourism potential and promote the local culture and heritage of these villages.





- Technology would be leveraged and information databases like PM Gati Shakti shall be used for effective implementation of the project.
- VVP-II along with VVP-I is a transformative initiative to make the border villages self-reliant and vibrant.

Cabinet approves four multitracking projects across Indian Railways

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved Four projects of Ministry of Railways with total cost of Rs. 18,658 crore (approx.). The Four projects covering 15 Districts in 3 States i.e., Maharashtra, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 1247 Kms.

These projects include:

- Sambalpur – Jarapda 3rd and 4th Line
- Jharsuguda – Sason 3rd and 4th Line
- Kharsia – Naya Raipur – Parmalkasa 5th and 6th Line
- Gondia – Balharshah doubling

The enhanced line capacity will improve mobility, providing enhanced efficiency and service reliability for Indian Railways. These multi-tracking proposals will ease operations and reduce congestion, providing the much-required infrastructural development on the busiest sections across Indian Railways. The projects are in line with the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Vision of a New India which will make people of the region "Atmanirbhar" by way of comprehensive development in the area which will enhance their employment/ self-employment opportunities.

The projects are result of PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity which have been possible through integrated planning and will provide seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods and services.

With these projects 19 New Stations will be constructed, enhancing connectivity to Two Aspirational Districts (Gadchiroli and Rajnandgaon). Multi-tracking project will enhance connectivity to approx. 3350 villages and about 47.25 lakh population.

- Kharsia – Naya Raipur – Parmalkasa will provide direct connectivity to new areas such as Baloda Bazar, this will create possibilities for setting up of new industrial units including cement plants in the region.
- These are essential routes for transportation of commodities such as agriculture products, fertilizer, coal, iron ore, steel, cement, limestone etc. The capacity augmentation works will result in additional freight traffic of magnitude 88.77 MTPA (Million Tonnes Per Annum). The Railways being environment friendly and energy efficient mode of transportation, will help both in achieving climate goals and minimizing logistics cost of the country, reduce oil import (95 Crore Litres) and lower CO₂ emissions (477 Crore Kg) which is equivalent to plantation of 19 Crore trees.

Parliament News

State-wise April Month Important Events

Andhra Pradesh

- The **Andhra Pradesh Cabinet** on **April 15, 2025**, approved a draft ordinance for sub-categorisation of **Scheduled Castes (SCs)**, enabling "**reservation within reservation**" to ensure **equitable distribution** of benefits based on **degree of backwardness**. Based on the **Rajeev Ranjan Mishra Commission** report, 59 SC sub-castes are divided into **three groups—Group 1 (Most Backward – 1.0%), Group 2 (Backward – 6.5%), and Group 3 (Less Backward – 7.5%)**. Backed by the **Supreme Court verdict**, this move promotes **inclusive development** and better **representation in education, jobs, and governance**.
- **Amaravati**, the planned capital of Andhra Pradesh, is set to become the world's first city powered entirely by **renewable energy**, with a focus on **solar, wind, and hydropower**. Covering 217 sq km along the Krishna River, the project, costing ₹65,000 crore, aims to generate **2,700 MW** of clean energy by 2050, with at least 30% from solar and wind.

Arunachal Pradesh

- **SJVN Ltd** has released **₹269.97 crore** as **land compensation** for the **3,097 MW Etalin Hydro Electric Project** in **Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh**, marking a major boost for India's **renewable energy** goals. The payment, made on **March 26, 2025**, supports the construction of **two dams** on the **Dri and Talo Rivers**, along with an **underground powerhouse**, with commissioning set for **December 2033**. **CM Pema Khandu** praised SJVN's efforts and affirmed full **state support** for project clearances.

Assam

- **Rongali Bihu**, also known as **Bohag Bihu**, is being celebrated across **Assam in mid-April 2025**, marking the **Assamese New Year** and the start of the **agricultural season**. As the most vibrant of the three Bihus, it celebrates **spring, harvest, and Assamese cultural identity**, fostering **community spirit** and **family bonding** through dance, music, and traditional festivities.

Bihar

- Bihar Chief Minister **Nitish Kumar** launched the "**Mahila Samvad**" campaign, a state-wide initiative focused on empowering rural women by connecting them with **welfare schemes** and amplifying their voices in **policy discussions**. The campaign aims to **educate women** about government schemes, encourage their active use of **public resources** (healthcare, education, livelihood), and establish a two-way communication channel with **government officials**.





Gujarat

- The **GP-DRASTI** (Drone Response and Aerial Surveillance Tactical Interventions) program by **Gujarat Police** introduces **quadcopters** for **real-time surveillance**, **quick crime response**, and **evidence gathering** across **33 police stations** in **Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Surat, and Vadodara**. Equipped with **HD cameras, night vision**, and **1 km zoom**, drones can **track targets**, provide **live footage**, and assist in **facial recognition** during criminal events.

Haryana

- On **March 31, 2025**, **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** unveiled a **statue of Maharaja Agrasen**, inaugurated an **ICU facility**, and laid the **foundation stone for a PG hostel** in **Hisar, Haryana**, alongside **CM Nayab Singh Saini**. He praised **Haryana's historical contributions**, **Maharaja Agrasen's economic cooperation model**, and **PM Modi's development policies**. Shah highlighted the **Modi government's efforts in poverty alleviation, healthcare, and infrastructure**, commending Haryana's **double-engine government** for **transparent governance, job creation, and agricultural growth**.
- Haryana Chief Minister **Nayab Singh Saini** announced key initiatives to support **Agniveers** under the **Agnipath Scheme**, including a **20% reservation in Haryana Police jobs**, making it the first state in India to offer such a guarantee. Additionally, provisions for **affordable loans for self-employment** and **priority in gun licenses** for private security roles were introduced, aiming to ensure the **future welfare** of Agniveers post-service. These steps reflect Haryana's commitment to securing the livelihoods of **Agniveers**.
- The **Haryana government** has officially declared two Harappan civilization sites located in **Bhiwani district — Mitathal and Tighrana** — as protected archaeological sites and monuments. These sites, dating back over **4,400 years**, hold immense historical and cultural value, shedding light on the evolution of early agricultural societies, town planning, craft industries, and **trade during the Harappan and post-Harappan periods**. The sites have now been brought under legal protection through a notification issued by the Haryana Heritage and Tourism Department under the Haryana Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1964. The move aims to safeguard these ancient settlements from encroachment and damage, with fencing and security arrangements to be implemented.

Maharashtra

- The **62nd National Maritime Day** and **Merchant Navy Week** were inaugurated by **Maharashtra Governor C P Radhakrishnan** at **Raj Bhavan, Mumbai**, on **April 5, 2024**, emphasizing India's maritime sector's role in **Viksit Bharat (Developed India)**. The Governor highlighted the need for **port modernization** and better **coordination** among key organizations like the **Directorate General of Shipping, SCI, Indian Railways, and exporters** to boost **global trade** and strengthen India's **maritime infrastructure**.

- Under **NEP 2020 reforms**, **Maharashtra** will implement a **new curriculum framework** from **2025–26**, making **Hindi mandatory** as a **third language** for **Classes 1 to 5** in **English and Marathi-medium schools**. This aligns with the **three-language formula** aimed at **multilingual proficiency** and **national integration**, and follows the **5+3+3+4 education structure** outlined in NEP.
- The **Maharashtra State Wildlife Board** has declared **DPS Flamingo Lake** as a **conservation reserve**, marking the first formal protection for a wetland linked to the **Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary**. This significant move aims to preserve the **fragile wetland ecosystem** of **Navi Mumbai**, reflecting the state government's commitment to **wildlife conservation** amidst rapid urban development.

Madhya Pradesh

- The **Cheetah Project Steering Committee** under the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** has approved relocating cheetahs from **Kuno National Park** to **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary** in **Madhya Pradesh**, about **300 km apart**, as part of a long-term plan to establish a **meta-population of 60–70 cheetahs** across a connected landscape. This move, under **Project Cheetah** (launched in 2022 with cheetahs from **Namibia and South Africa**), addresses concerns over space, **prey availability**.

Odisha

- Similipal**, a rich ecological region in **Odisha**, was officially declared the **107th National Park of India** and **second in Odisha** on **April 24, 2025**, covering **845.70 sq km** across **11 forest ranges**. Known for its **biodiversity**—including **55 mammals, 361 bird species**, and being a **major tiger reserve**—this move marks a milestone in **conservation**. Proposed in **1980**, the park's core area was cleared of human habitation, except for **Bakua village**, which was excluded. The new status ensures **stronger protection laws**, more **funding**, and aligns with the vision of "**Viksit Odisha**" and "**Viksit Bharat**", as noted by **CM Mohan Charan Majhi**.

Punjab

- The **Punjab Government**, under **CM Bhagwant Singh Mann**, has launched key initiatives to boost **tourism and wildlife conservation**. **Nangal** will be developed into a **major tourist hub** with an initial **₹10 crore** budget, while **Jhajjar Bachauli Wildlife Sanctuary** in **Sri Anandpur Sahib** will become **Punjab's first leopard safari**. Part of the '**Badalda Punjab**' **Budget 2025-26**.

Telangana

- The **Telangana Bhu Bharati (Record of Rights) Act, 2025** introduces a landmark reform in land governance, addressing issues from the earlier **Dharani portal** system. The Act focuses on **decentralisation, citizen participation**, and **transparency** to improve land administration. It aims to correct errors in land records, decentralise **grievance redressal**, and ensure **accurate documentation** of ownership.





Tamil Nadu

- **Tamil Nadu** recorded the **highest real economic growth rate** in India for **2024-25** at **9.69%**, the state's **best in 10 years**, reflecting strong and steady economic progress. **Real growth** excludes inflation, while the **nominal growth rate** stood at **14.02%**, also the **highest among Indian states**. The **GSDP** at constant prices rose from **Rs.15.71 lakh crore (2023-24)** to **Rs.17.23 lakh crore (2024-25)**. Despite challenges like **COVID-19** (0.07% growth in 2020-21), Tamil Nadu's economy has shown **resilience and rapid recovery**.
- Tamil Nadu **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** announced the formation of a **high-level committee** on **April 15, 2025**, to review **Centre-State relations** and propose measures to enhance **State autonomy**. The committee, chaired by **Justice Kurian Joseph** (Retired Supreme Court Judge), includes **K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty** and **M. Naganathan**. It will review constitutional provisions, laws, and policies, recommend restoring subjects from the **State List to Concurrent List**, and suggest reforms to improve **States' administrative capacity**.

Tripura

- The '**Garia and Borsho Boron Utsav 2025**' was inaugurated by **Tripura CM Manik Saha** on **April 21, 2025**, at **Swami Vivekananda Maidan, Agartala**. The two-day festival celebrates the **Garia Puja**, a key religious event for the **Tripuri and Reang communities**, dedicated to **Lord Shiva** for peace and prosperity. The festival features **traditional dances, folk songs, Rabindra Sangeet, and magic shows**, alongside **local food stalls** showcasing regional cuisine.

Uttarakhand

- **Naini Lake**, a crucial water source for **Nainital**, is facing a **critical decline** in water levels, hitting a five-year low of **4.7 feet**, raising concerns about potential **drinking water scarcity**. The lake provides **76%** of the town's water demand, but factors like **decreased rainfall, reduced snowfall, unplanned development, and pollution** have worsened the situation. Experts emphasize the need for a **holistic conservation approach**, including **natural rejuvenation and sustainable development** practices to address the challenges.
- **Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami** launched the **Bhagirath mobile app** as part of the **Jal Sanrakshan Abhiyan 2025** (Water Conservation Campaign). The app allows citizens to report endangered water sources like **Naulas, Dharaas, and rain-fed rivers**, enabling prompt government action for their conservation. The campaign's theme, "**Dhara Mera, Naula Mera, Gaon Mera, Prayas Mera**," emphasizes collective action for preserving water resources.

West Bengal

- **West Bengal** is set to host a major **religious and cultural event** with the **inauguration of the Jagannath Dham Temple** in **Digha** on **April 30, 2025**, by **Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee**. The high-profile ceremony will see attendance from around **12,000–14,000 people**, including **VIP guests** like **chief ministers, political leaders, celebrities, and industrialists**.

Union Territories

- **Jammu and Kashmir** government launched a **free bus service** for women, aimed at promoting **gender-inclusive mobility**. Flagged off by **Chief Minister Omar Abdullah**, the service allows women to travel for free on **smart city e-buses** and **JKRTC buses** across the Union Territory. The initiative includes **200 e-buses** in urban areas and **235 JKRTC buses** in the Kashmir and Jammu regions.

Launches & Inaugurations:

- On **March 30, 2025**, **PM Narendra Modi** launched a **summer vacation calendar** under the **MY-Bharat Initiative**, encouraging children to develop **new hobbies and skills**. In his **Mann Ki Baat** address, he highlighted opportunities like **tech camps, environmental courses, and leadership programs**. The calendar includes **study tours to Jan Aushadhi Kendras, visits to border villages (Vibrant Village Campaign)**, and **cultural and sports activities**.
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** launched development projects and welfare schemes worth over **Rs 800 crore** in **Bihar** on **International Cooperative Day**. The initiatives include **Rs 111 crore** for **cooperative sector development**, focusing on **cooperative banking, agricultural credit, and PACS**. **Rs 421 crore** was allocated for **urban development and affordable housing**, while **Rs 181 crore** was dedicated to **law enforcement infrastructure**, including **133 new police stations**. Additionally, **Rs 109 crore** was invested in **road transport and highway projects** to enhance **connectivity and trade**.
- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** launched the "**NITI NCAER States Economic Forum**" portal in **New Delhi**, developed by **NITI Aayog** in collaboration with the **National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)**. The portal serves as a comprehensive **repository of data** on **social, economic, and fiscal parameters** of Indian states from **1990-91 to 2022-23**. It aims to provide a data-driven approach to managing state **finances**, including **debt management, revenue generation**,





Important Festival

- The **Sarhul Festival**, celebrated by **Adivasi communities** in the **Chhotanagpur** region, particularly in **Jharkhand**, marks the arrival of **spring** and the start of the new year. Held on **April 1, 2025**, it honors the **Sal tree**, revered as the abode of **Sarna Maa**, the village deity. The festival symbolizes the **union of the Sun and Earth**, essential for life, and holds deep cultural, ecological, and political significance, particularly for asserting **Adivasi identity and rights**.
- The **11th edition of the Pondicherry Heritage Festival** kicked off with the vibrant '**Veedhi Vilayattu**' (**Street Games**) in **Puducherry's Tamil Quarter**, attracting over **250 children** and numerous residents. Held between **Easwaran Koil** and **Anna Salai**, the festival celebrated the city's **culture and history**, featuring traditional games like **Pallanguzhi**, **Pambaram**, **Dhayam**, and **Pacha Kuthirai**. Co-hosted by **People for Pondicherry's Heritage** and **PondyCAN**, the event successfully engaged the community, with the streets coming alive with traditional activities, food, and fun.
- The **Madhavpur Mela** was inaugurated by **Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel** on **April 6, 2025**, during **Ram Navami**, celebrating the divine union of **Lord Krishna** and **Rukmaniji**. This **cultural and religious** festival, held in **Madhavpur, Porbandar**, symbolizes **unity and cultural harmony** across regions of India. Since its elevation to a **national event** in 2018, the fair has gained significance, attracting dignitaries like **Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**. Chief Minister Patel also launched new **pilgrimage facilities** at the **Rukmani Temple**, supporting **religious tourism** and infrastructure development.

Miscellaneous National News

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** assured **Myanmar's Senior General Min Aung Hlaing** of **India's humanitarian assistance** following a **devastating earthquake**. India swiftly launched '**Operation Brahma**', deploying **disaster relief, search and rescue teams, and medical aid**. A **C-130 IAF aircraft** delivered **critical supplies** to **Yangon**, followed by two more aircraft. India also announced a **field hospital** in the affected region. The **MEA** confirmed that **no Indian casualties** have been reported so far.
- The **37th Kathak Mahotsav 2025**, organized by **Kathak Kendra, New Delhi**, concluded successfully, featuring the world's **first-ever Kathak Literary Festival**, along with **seminars, exhibitions, and performances** showcasing all major **Kathak gharanas—Lucknow, Jaipur, Banaras, and Raigarh**. Key discussions focused on **royal patronage, evolution of Kathak bols, and literary documentation**.

- India recorded **4,515 child adoptions** in **FY 2024-25**, the highest in **12 years**, driven by **strengthened adoption mechanisms, digital transparency, and awareness campaigns**. The **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)** streamlined the process by adding **8,598 newly identified children** to the **adoption pool**, establishing **245 new adoption agencies**, and leveraging **digital interventions**. The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** also promoted **foster care and alternate family-based care**, while **legal frameworks and training initiatives**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone and inaugurated **development projects worth ₹33,700 crore** in **Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh**, focusing on **infrastructure, housing, healthcare, education, energy, and tribal welfare**. Key initiatives include **three lakh new homes** for the poor, many registered under **women's names**, improved **connectivity** through roads and railways, **renewable energy projects**, and **special schemes for tribal empowerment**. PM Modi reiterated the government's commitment to **sustainable development** and uplifting **underprivileged communities**.
- On the **75th anniversary** of diplomatic relations between **China and India**, **President Xi Jinping** and **President Droupadi Murmu** exchanged messages emphasizing the importance of a **strategic partnership**. Xi highlighted the metaphor of a "cooperative pas de deux of the dragon and the elephant," calling for cooperation in modernization efforts. The **commemorative event**, organized by the **Chinese Embassy in India**, focused on rebuilding trust and enhancing cooperation in areas like **border security, defense, and people-to-people exchanges**.
- The **Union Government** is expanding the **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)** initiative to provide quality education to tribal children, with plans to establish **440 new schools** in areas with over **50% ST population** and at least **20,000 tribal individuals**. This expansion aims to create a total of **728 EMRSs**, benefiting around **3.5 lakh students**.
- As of **February 2025**, **Indian Railways** has installed **209 MW** of solar power across **2,249 railway stations** and service buildings, marking a **2.3 times increase** in installations over the past five years. This expansion, powered by **Round The Clock (RTC) hybrid models** and **Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)**, highlights the railways' commitment to **renewable energy and sustainability**. **Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and West Bengal** lead in installations, with **275, 270, and 237** units, respectively.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved two significant infrastructure projects to enhance **connectivity and agricultural irrigation** in **Bihar**. The **Patna-Arrah-Sasaram Corridor (NH-119A)**, a **120.10 km 4-lane access-controlled highway**, will reduce travel time, decongest highways, and link **Patna, Arrah, and Sasaram**, boosting **employment** and regional **growth**. The **Kosi-Mechi Intra-State Link Project**, under the **PMKSY-AIBP**, aims to





improve **irrigation** with an estimated cost of ₹6,282.32 crore, enhancing **agriculture** in Bihar by March 2029. Both projects align with the vision of “Atmanirbhar Bharat.”

- As of March 27, 2025, **Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal** have not received any funds from the central share under the **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)**, despite approved allocations for the financial year 2024–25. SSA, a flagship education scheme by the Ministry of Education, aims to improve school infrastructure, teacher training, and provide textbooks. While a total of ₹45,830.21 crore was allocated to 36 states and UTs, **Kerala (₹328.90 crore), Tamil Nadu (₹2,151.60 crore), and West Bengal (₹1,745.80 crore)** have not received funds. The release of funds depends on **compliance-based criteria** like expenditure pace, matching share, and submission of **audited accounts**.
- The **Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025**, which received **Presidential assent on April 5, 2025**, marks a pivotal change in the **administration of Waqf properties in India**. Passed after **intense three-day debates** in both the **Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha**, the Act has sparked **nationwide discussions and legal challenges**. While the government highlights its aim to enhance **transparency and accountability**, critics argue it may **infringe on constitutional rights** concerning **religious freedom**.
- On **April 7, 2025**, the **Central Government of India** announced a ₹2 per litre hike in **excise duties on petrol (₹13/litre) and diesel (₹10/litre)**, effective from **April 8, 2025**. Despite the increase, the **Ministry of Petroleum** confirmed that **retail prices** will remain unchanged as **public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs)** like **IOCL, BPCL, and HPCL** will absorb the cost. The hike comes amid global **oil price fluctuations** caused by **US tariff policies** and increased **OPEC+ output**.
- On **April 9, 2025**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will attend the **Navkar Mahamantra Divas** at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**, organized by the **Jain International Trade Organization (JITO)**. This global spiritual event, held on the eve of **Mahavir Jayanti**, aims to promote **peace, unity, and spiritual awakening**. With participation from **over 108 countries** and **1.08 crore devotees**, the event focuses on chanting the **Navkar Mahamantra** to foster **non-violence, tolerance, and ethical reflection**, with observances at **6,000+ venues** across India and internationally.
- The **7th edition of Poshan Pakhwada**, launched on **April 8, 2025**, by **Union Minister Savitri Thakur** in **New Delhi**, is a key initiative under **Poshan Abhiyaan** aimed at tackling **malnutrition** and improving **nutrition outcomes** for **children, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and adolescent girls**. Running till **April 22**, the campaign emphasizes **healthy lifestyles, malnutrition management, and awareness on the Poshan Tracker**, with the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** as the nodal agency, supported by ministries like **Health, Education, Rural Development, and Jal Shakti**, along with **State/UT governments**.

- According to the **PLFS 2024**, India's **unemployment rate** (15+ age group) dipped slightly from **5.0% to 4.9%**, showing modest gains in **employment opportunities**. **Rural unemployment** fell to **4.2%**, while **urban female unemployment** dropped from **8.9% to 8.2%**, even as **urban male unemployment** rose marginally. The **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** declined slightly to **59.6%**, though **urban LFPR** increased to **51.0%**. The **Worker Population Ratio (WPR)** fell marginally to **57.7%**, with a notable drop in **rural female WPR** due to fewer **unpaid female helpers**.
- In a landmark move toward global expansion, **IIM-Ahmedabad** is set to open its **first overseas campus in Dubai** following an **MoU with the UAE government**. The campus will launch in **September 2025** in **Dubai International Academic City (DIAC)**, offering a **one-year full-time MBA program** for **global professionals and entrepreneurs**.
- **Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda** launched the **Inter-AIIMS Referral Portal**, developed by **AIIMS New Delhi**, to streamline **patient referrals** and enhance **healthcare delivery** using **facial recognition** and **automated workflows**. Initially piloted between **AIIMS New Delhi and AIIMS Bilaspur**, the portal aims for a **nationwide rollout** across **AIIMS hospitals**. Key benefits include **reduced waiting times, enhanced security, and a patient-centric approach**, with integration into the **Vishram Sadan portal** for affordable accommodation—marking a major leap toward **digital healthcare transformation** in India.
- The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** has introduced a **Blue Category** for industries providing **Essential Environmental Services (EES)**, such as **waste-to-energy plants, biomining, and compressed biogas (CBG) plants**. These industries will receive **extended consent validity** (an additional 2 years, totaling 7 years) to incentivize their role in managing **pollution** and promoting **sustainable practices**. The **Pollution Index (PI)** categorizes industries into **Red, Orange, Green, and now Blue**, with **waste-to-energy plants and agro-residue-based CBG plants** moved to the **Blue Category** due to their environmental benefits.
- The **Ministry of Ayush** organized a special session of the **Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Programme** on **April 16, 2025**, at **Ayush Bhawan, New Delhi**, under the **Mission Karmayogi** framework in collaboration with the **Capacity Building Commission (CBC)**. The programme aimed to enhance **service orientation, professional capacity, and public service efficiency** among ministry personnel. The **first phase**, inaugurated by **Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha**, focused on creating a **responsive workforce**.
- In a landmark judgment on **April 15, 2025**, the **Supreme Court of India**, led by **Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan**, issued strong directives on **child trafficking**, urging **parental vigilance** and warning of **organized**





trafficking gangs exploiting children for **sexual exploitation**, **forced labour**, **illegal adoptions**, and **child marriage** using **technology** for coordination. The court held **hospitals accountable** for newborn safety, exposed **loopholes in the Juvenile Justice Act**, **cancelled bail** of 13 accused, and ordered **trial completion within six months**, with **strict warnings to state authorities and High Courts** for any **non-compliance**.

- India is set to become the **world's fastest-growing large aviation market** by 2026, surpassing **China** in growth rate, with a projected **10.5% passenger traffic growth** compared to China's 8.9%. Key drivers include **low trips per capita**, a **rising middle class**, enhanced **aviation infrastructure**, expanding **airline networks**, and supportive policies like **UDAN** and **Gati Shakti**. India's **CAGR (2023–2027)** is projected at **9.5%**, higher than China's **8.8%**, positioning India as the **third-largest aviation market** globally by the next three decades.
- **Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** inaugurated India's first **Athlete Passport Management Unit (APMU)** at the **National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL)**, New Delhi, on **April 17, 2025**, marking a major stride in anti-doping efforts. As the **17th APMU globally**, it will manage **Athlete Biological Passports (ABP)** by tracking **biological markers over time** to detect **doping patterns** without identifying banned substances directly. This initiative aligns India with **global anti-doping standards** and strengthens its role as a **leader in ethical sports**, especially within the **Global South**.
- A **landmark study** in *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* highlights the success of **Surat's cap-and-trade programme** for **particulate matter (PM) emissions**—the **world's first ETS for PM** and India's first **pollution trading system**. Launched in **September 2019** by the **GPCB** and the **University of Chicago's Energy Policy Institute**, the scheme used **CEMS**, **emission permits**, and **auctions** to regulate 318 industrial plants.
- A **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour**, led by **BJP MP Basavaraj Bommai**, has urged the **Ministry of Labour and Employment** to complete the **first-ever third-party evaluation** of the **Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS)**—administered by **EPFO**—by **end of 2025**. Launched in **November 1995**, the scheme has never been independently assessed. The panel also stressed the urgent need to **revise the minimum pension** of **₹1,000**, citing the **rising cost of living** and long-overdue policy updates.
- The **Department of Consumer Affairs** has notified rules for the use of **radar equipment** to measure vehicle speed under the **Legal Metrology (General) Rules, 2011**, effective from **July 1, 2025**. The rules mandate that all radar equipment must be **verified** and **calibrated** by Legal Metrology authorities to ensure accuracy, compliance with international standards (OIML R 91), and prevent tampering.

- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** and **NHAI** have clarified that **no satellite-based tolling** will be launched from **May 1, 2025**. Instead, a **pilot project** of a **Barrier-Less Tolling System** using **ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition)** and **FASTag (RFID)** is being introduced at **selected toll plazas**. This system aims for **seamless toll collection** without stopping, with **E-notices** and **penalties** for non-compliance. A **nationwide rollout** will depend on pilot outcomes.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the **Vizhinjam International Seaport** on **May 2, 2025**, near **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**. It is India's **first semi-automated deep-water international container transshipment port**, developed under a **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** between the **Kerala Government** and **Adani Ports**, with an investment of over **₹18,000 crore**. Strategically located near **global shipping routes**, the port boosts India's trade, supports the **Make in India** initiative, and enhances Kerala's role as a **maritime hub**.
- On **April 20, 2025**, two male cheetahs (likely **Prabhas** and **Pavak**) from **Kuno National Park (KNP)** be relocated to **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary (GSWS)** in **Madhya Pradesh**, marking a major step in India's **Cheetah Reintroduction Project**. This expansion aims to establish GSWS as a **second home** for cheetahs, with **64 sq.km enclosures** and a boosted **prey base**. While plans to bring 6–8 cheetahs from **South Africa** are delayed, **4 cheetahs from Botswana** are expected in May.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** visit **Saudi Arabia** on **April 22–23, 2025**, marking his first visit during his **third term**. The trip aims to deepen ties in **trade, energy, defence**, and the **India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEEC)**. Modi will meet **Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman** in **Jeddah**, with discussions expected on **regional stability**, **Houthi disruptions**, and **IMEEC revival** as a counter to China's **BRI**. In FY 2023–24, **bilateral trade** stood at **USD 42.98 billion**, with India importing **14.3% of crude oil** and **18.2% of LPG** from Saudi Arabia. **Defence cooperation** is growing, including naval exercises like '**Al Mohed Al Hindi**'.





- India's **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** system has significantly boosted welfare efficiency, saving ₹3.48 lakh crore from 2009 to 2024. The system reduced subsidies from 16% to 9% of total government expenditure, while the number of beneficiaries surged 16-fold. Key programs like **PDS, MGNREGS, PM-KISAN**, and fertilizer subsidies saw major savings, with a strong **correlation** between beneficiary growth and savings.
- On **April 22, 2025**, a **terrorist attack** in **Baisaran, Pahalgam (Anantnag, South Kashmir)** claimed **26 lives** and injured many, targeting **tourists** during the **peak season** in a major blow to **J&K's tourism revival**. The attackers, believed to be **2-3 terrorists**, opened **indiscriminate fire** at the scenic, foot-access-only meadow. This first such **tourist-targeted attack in 2025** has triggered **travel cancellations**, jeopardized the **local economy**, and raised serious **security and political concerns**, with condemnation from **national and regional leaders** and intensified calls for policy reassessment.
- The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, in collaboration with **Microsoft**, launched the '**AI Careers for Women**' initiative on **April 22, 2025**, aiming to train **20,000 women** from **Tier-II and Tier-III towns** across **six states** in **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**. Through a **240-hour curriculum** developed with **NCVET**, and delivered via a **Hub-and-Spoke model** (30 **Centres of Excellence** and 150 spoke centers), the program promotes **digital inclusion, leadership, and entrepreneurship** among rural women.
- US Vice President JD Vance** began his **first official visit to India** on **April 21, 2025**, receiving a **Guard of Honour** at **Palam Airport, New Delhi**, accompanied by **Second Lady Usha Vance** and their children. Welcomed by **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw**, the **four-day visit** aims to enhance **India-US strategic ties** in **trade, defence, and economic cooperation**. A key meeting with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on **April 21 at 6:30 PM** at **7, Lok Kalyan Marg** is set to explore deeper **bilateral relations** and a potential **trade agreement**. The itinerary also includes cultural visits to **Jaipur and Agra**.
- India's **largest cruise terminal**, the **Mumbai International Cruise Terminal (MICT)**, was inaugurated by **Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** on **April 21, 2025**, marking a major boost to **cruise tourism** and **maritime infrastructure**. With an annual **capacity of 1 million passengers** and the ability to handle **five ships simultaneously**, the **Rs 556 crore** terminal supports ships up to **300 meters** in length.
- In response to the **Pahalgam terror attack** that killed 26 people, including a **foreign national**, the **Indian government** has implemented a **5-point action plan** targeting **Pakistan**. Key measures include the **suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty**, **closure of the Attari-Wagah border**, **cancellation of the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme** for Pakistani nationals, **expulsion of Pakistani military advisors**, and a **reduction in diplomatic staff** at the Indian High Commission in Islamabad. These steps aim to **isolate Pakistan diplomatically** and curb cross-border terrorism. The attack, executed by **Pakistani nationals**, is under investigation, with a **massive manhunt** launched for the perpetrators.

- In a major diplomatic fallout after the **Pahalgam terror attack**, **Pakistan has suspended the 1972 Simla Agreement**, **closed the Wagah border**, **banned Indian airlines from its airspace**, and **halted all trade with India**, citing alleged Indian involvement in terrorism. This follows **India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty**, **downgrade of diplomatic ties**, **visa cancellations**, and **closure of the Attari post**. With all **bilateral agreements now effectively frozen**, tensions between the nuclear neighbors have sharply escalated, with **Pakistan warning that any diversion of Indus water would be an "Act of War."**
- India** is set to allow **49% foreign investment** in its **nuclear power sector**, marking a major **policy shift** to boost **clean energy**, reduce **coal dependency**, and achieve its **carbon reduction goals**. The government aims to **amend the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (2010)** and the **Atomic Energy Act (1960)** by the **Monsoon Session 2025**, enabling **foreign and private firms** to invest, build, and operate nuclear facilities.

National Current Affairs of March 2025

Cabinet Approvals

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the Revision of the Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP) with a total outlay of Rs. 3,880 crore for 2024-25 and 2025-26. The scheme comprises three components: National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP), LH&DC, and the newly introduced Pashu Aushadhi. LH&DC includes Critical Animal Disease Control Programme (CADCP), Establishment and Strengthening of Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries - Mobile Veterinary Unit (ESVHD-MVU), and Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD). Pashu Aushadhi aims to provide quality and affordable veterinary medicines with a Rs. 75 crore provision. The scheme focuses on reducing livestock productivity losses caused by diseases like Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Brucellosis, Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), Classical Swine Fever (CSF), and Lumpy Skin Disease through immunization, vaccination, and improved healthcare access. It also ensures doorstep veterinary services via Mobile Veterinary Units and enhances the availability of generic medicines through PM-Kisan Samridhi Kendras and Cooperative Societies. By preventing and controlling livestock diseases, LHDCP will boost productivity, generate employment, encourage rural entrepreneurship, and minimize economic losses for farmers.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the construction of a 12.4 km ropeway from Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib Ji in Uttarakhand at a total capital cost of Rs. 2,730.13 crore under the Design, Build, Finance, Operate, and Transfer (DBFOT) mode. Currently, the 21-km uphill trek to Hemkund Sahib Ji is challenging and covered on foot,





ponies, or palanquins, but the proposed ropeway will provide all-weather last-mile connectivity, benefiting both pilgrims and tourists visiting the Valley of Flowers. Developed through a public-private partnership, the ropeway will feature Monocable Detachable Gondola (MDG) technology from Govindghat to Ghangaria (10.55 km) and Tricable Detachable Gondola (3S) technology from Ghangaria to Hemkund Sahib Ji (1.85 km), with a design capacity of 1,100 passengers per hour per direction (PPHPD), accommodating 11,000 passengers daily. This project will create employment opportunities in construction, operations, and allied tourism sectors like hospitality, travel, and food & beverages, fostering socio-economic growth in the region. Hemkund Sahib Ji, a revered pilgrimage site at 15,000 ft in Chamoli district, is open for about five months annually and attracts 1.5 to 2 lakh pilgrims. The trek also serves as a gateway to the Valley of Flowers, a UNESCO World Heritage site in the pristine Garhwal Himalayas.

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the construction of a 12.9 km ropeway from Sonprayag to Kedarnath in Uttarakhand at a total capital cost of Rs. 4,081.28 crore under the Design, Build, Finance, Operate, and Transfer (DBFOT) mode. Developed through a public-private partnership, the ropeway will feature the advanced Tri-cable Detachable Gondola (3S) technology with a design capacity of 1,800 passengers per hour per direction (PPHPD), carrying 18,000 passengers daily. This project will significantly benefit pilgrims by offering an environment-friendly, comfortable, and fast alternative, reducing travel time from 8-9 hours to just 36 minutes. It will also create employment opportunities in construction, operations, and allied tourism sectors like hospitality, travel, and food & beverages, boosting socio-economic growth. Currently, the 16-km uphill trek from Gaurikund to Kedarnath is covered on foot, ponies, palanquins, or helicopters, but the ropeway will ensure all-weather connectivity and enhance accessibility. Kedarnath, one of the 12 sacred Jyotirlingas, is located at an altitude of 3,583 m (11,968 ft) in Rudraprayag district and remains open for about 6-7 months annually, attracting around 20 lakh pilgrims each season.

State-wise March Month Important Events

Andhra Pradesh

- The Government of Andhra Pradesh will sign an MoU with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital technologies, and data-driven governance in sectors like healthcare, education, agriculture, and employment.
- Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu announced a 58-foot statue of Potti Sriramulu in Amaravati to honor his sacrifice for Andhra Pradesh's formation in 1953. Along with a memorial, his native house in Padamatipalli will be converted into a museum, and a modern health center and high school will be established in his village. The project will be completed before his next birth anniversary.

Assam

- The Assam government has named the upcoming Electronics City in Jagiroad as Ratan Tata Electronic City, honoring Ratan Tata's contributions to the state's industrial and economic growth. Announced after Advantage Assam 2.0 Summit (Feb 2025), the move recognizes the Tata Group's impact in semiconductors, electronics manufacturing, and investment in Assam.
- The Assam state government announced plans to launch its own satellite, ASSAMSAT, to enhance data access for socio-economic initiatives and border security. Announced by Assam Finance Minister Ajanta Neog in the 2025-26 state budget, ASSAMSAT will support agriculture, disaster management, infrastructure development, and security operations, making Assam the first Indian state to launch its own satellite.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Lachit Barphukan Police Academy in Dergaon, Assam, on March 15, 2025. Named after the legendary Ahom general Lachit Barphukan, the academy aims to strengthen policing in the Northeast and become a premier training institution. The event was attended by Assam CM Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the establishment of the Namrup-IV Brownfield Ammonia-Urea Complex in Assam. The ₹10,601.40 crore project, with an annual capacity of 12.7 LMT, will be developed under a Joint Venture and is expected to boost domestic urea production, improve fertilizer availability in Eastern India, and create employment. The plant will be commissioned in 48 months.

Bihar

- The Nitish Kumar-led NDA government in Bihar presented the ₹3,16,895 crore Budget for the financial year 2025-26 on March 3, 2025. Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Samrat Choudhary highlighted a significant increase in the state's Budget size over the years and emphasized allocations for education, health, rural development, and welfare schemes. The Budget also introduced several measures for women's empowerment and employment generation while maintaining fiscal discipline within FRBM limits.

Chhattisgarh

- The Chhattisgarh government has unveiled its Budget for the financial year 2025, prioritizing capital expenditure, digital governance, infrastructure development, and welfare schemes. The budget, amounting to ₹1,65,000 crore, was presented by State Finance Minister O.P. Choudhary in the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly on March 4, 2025.





- The **Chhattisgarh government**, led by **CM Vishnu Deo Sai**, plans to introduce a stricter **anti-conversion law** to prevent illegal religious conversions. The new law aims to stop conversions through **coercion, inducements, or faith healing** gatherings. While the opposition claims conversions are rising, **Home Minister Vijay Sharma** assured strict action against illegal conversions, and concerns were raised about NGOs allegedly using **foreign funds** for conversion activities.

Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** presented the **annual budget for FY 2025-26**, amounting to **Rs 58,514 crore**. The budget emphasizes **tourism, rural development, and green energy**, while also addressing financial challenges such as a **reduction in the Revenue Deficit Grant** and the **withdrawal of GST compensation**.

Karnataka

- Karnataka CM **Siddaramaiah** announced that **Bangalore City University** will be renamed as **Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru University** in honor of the late former PM **Manmohan Singh**. The government plans to develop it into a **model university**, incorporating **Government Arts College and Government RC College** as constituent institutions.

Kerala

- Kerala CM **Pinarayi Vijayan** inaugurated the **Advanced Cybersecurity Operations Centre (SOC)** of the **Kerala Police Cyber Division** to strengthen cybersecurity infrastructure. Developed by **C-DOT**, the **TRINETRA** system enhances police system security and critical infrastructure protection. This initiative highlights **India's commitment to indigenous cybersecurity solutions**.

Maharashtra

- The **Maharashtra Budget 2025-26** was tabled by **Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar**, who holds the **Finance portfolio**. This budget comes after the **landslide victory of the Mahayuti government** in the assembly elections and is marked by severe financial constraints. The state is facing its **highest-ever debt projection of Rs 9.3 lakh crore** and the **steepest revenue deficit**, estimated at **Rs 45,891 crore** for the fiscal year 2025-26. Due to these financial challenges, the budget does not introduce any **big-ticket schemes** and instead focuses on sustaining existing initiatives.
- Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis** inaugurated the **state's first temple** dedicated to **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** in **Bhiwandi, Thane**, on his birth anniversary. The temple honors Shivaji Maharaj's **heroism, valour, and enduring legacy**, providing a sacred space for devotees to pay tribute to his contributions to **India's history**.

Madhya Pradesh

- On **March 3, 2025**, Chief Minister **Mohan Yadav** announced that **farmers in Madhya Pradesh** will receive **permanent power connections** for just **Rs 5**, aiming to provide **affordable electricity** and boost **agricultural productivity**. The initiative, implemented through the **Madhya Pradesh Central Power Distribution Company**, underscores the government's commitment to improving **rural infrastructure** and promoting **sustainable farming practices**.
- Madhav National Park** in **Madhya Pradesh** has been officially declared as **India's 58th Tiger Reserve** on **March 9, 2025**. The announcement was made by **Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav**, marking another milestone in the country's ongoing efforts to protect and conserve its rich biodiversity. With this recognition, Madhya Pradesh now boasts **nine tiger reserves**, further solidifying its reputation as the **'Tiger State' of India**.

Meghalaya

- Meghalaya CM Conrad K. Sangma** inaugurated the state's first scientific coal mining block, **"Saryngkham-A"**, at **Byndihati, East Jaintia Hills**, marking a shift from **rat-hole mining**, which was **banned by the NGT in 2014** due to **safety and environmental concerns**. This initiative promotes **safe and sustainable coal mining** in the **coal-rich Jaintia Hills region**.

Odisha

- A **UK Skills and Chartered Bodies Mission** delegation is visiting **Odisha** to explore **partnerships in vocational education and skill development**. Discussions focused on **industry-led skilling, UK-style apprenticeships, and training in advanced manufacturing, renewable energy, digital skills, and sustainable infrastructure**. Minister **Sampad Chandra Swain** and British Deputy High Commissioner **Andrew Fleming** emphasized collaboration to build a **globally competitive workforce**.

Punjab

- Punjab's **Social Security, Women, and Child Development Minister Dr. Baljit Kaur** launched **'Project Hifazat'** on **March 7, 2025**, to enhance **women and child safety**. The initiative features a **24x7 helpline (181)**, coordinated government support, and rapid response mechanisms to combat **gender-based violence**. Dr. Kaur urged women to use the helpline, emphasizing **empowerment and swift action** against crimes.

Telangana

- The **Telangana Government** has presented its most ambitious budget to date, crossing the **₹3 lakh crore** mark for the first time since the state's formation. The budget, which amounts to **₹3.04 lakh crore**, reflects the government's commitment to **welfare programs, economic growth, and infrastructure development**. Deputy Chief





Minister **Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka**, who also holds the Finance portfolio, presented the budget in the state assembly, emphasizing inclusivity and equitable resource distribution. The financial plan outlines significant allocations for **agriculture, education, backward classes, and flagship welfare schemes**, all while balancing fiscal challenges.

Tamil Nadu

- The **Tamil Nadu government's** decision to replace the **Indian Rupee symbol (₹)** with the **Tamil letter 'ரூ'** in the **state budget logo** has reignited the **language debate** in India. Led by **Chief Minister M K Stalin**, this move aligns with Tamil Nadu's stance against the imposition of **Hindi** and reflects ongoing resistance to the **National Education Policy (NEP)**, which the state views as "saffronized."

Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh** has launched the '**Rapid Immunisation Skill Enhancement**' (**RISE**) **app** to strengthen its **immunization program**. Designed for **nurses, ANMs, and health workers**, the app enhances **vaccination tracking, training, and safety management**. It provides **real-time updates** on **vaccination schedules, cold chain management, and adverse effect monitoring**, replacing traditional training with **digital learning** for improved **efficiency and outreach**.

Union Territories of India

- On **March 18, 2025**, the **Delhi government** will sign an **MoU** with the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** to implement the **Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM)**. The scheme will establish **1,139 Urban Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (U-AAMs)** in Delhi, upgrading **553 mohalla clinics** and setting up **413 new U-AAMs** to strengthen **primary healthcare services** and address future **pandemics**. This follows a **legal battle** and political changes in Delhi.
- The **Delhi Police** has launched '**Shishtachar**' **squads** across all districts to enhance **women's safety** in public spaces. These anti-eve-teasing squads focus on **harassment prevention** through active **patrolling**, surprise checks, and public outreach. Each squad consists of an **Inspector, Sub-Inspector, 4 female officers, 5 male officers, and a technical personnel** for **surveillance support**. Supervised by the **ACP of the Crime Against Women (CAW) cell**, the initiative aims to create a **secure environment** for women.
- Delhi Health Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh** launched **six mobile dental clinics** on **World Oral Health Day** to provide **free oral healthcare**. The initiative, a collaboration between the **Delhi government** and **Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences (MAIDS)**, targets underserved areas like **slums**. The clinics are equipped with **modern dental chairs, X-ray machines, and sterilization units**, offering **fluoride treatments and dental care** to residents.

October Month Launches & Inaugurations:

- India has inaugurated its first **World Peace Center** in **Gurugram, Haryana**, established by **Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti** under the guidance of **Jain Acharya Lokesh**. The center aims to promote **non-violence, spiritual awareness, human values, and universal brotherhood**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated **Vantara**, an advanced **animal rescue, conservation, and rehabilitation center** in **Gujarat's Jamnagar district**. The event was attended by **Mukesh Ambani, Nita Ambani, Anant Ambani, and Radhika Merchant**. PM Modi explored the **state-of-the-art facilities**, interacted with **rehabilitated animals**, and observed medical procedures at the center's **wildlife hospital**, highlighting **wildlife conservation** and efforts to protect **endangered species** in India.
- President Smt. Droupadi Murmu** inaugurated the **second edition of Vividhta Ka Amrit Mahotsav** at **Rashtrapati Bhavan** on **March 5, 2025**. The festival celebrates India's cultural heritage, with this edition highlighting the **Southern states of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and the Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Puducherry**.
- Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** launched key initiatives under the **IndiaAI Mission** to boost **AI research, innovation, and skill development**. The initiatives include **AIKosha: IndiaAI Datasets Platform**, a secured hub for **datasets, models, and AI use cases** with **sandbox capabilities, encryption, and secure APIs**. Additionally, the **IndiaAI Compute Portal** offers **AI compute, storage, and cloud services** with up to **40% subsidy** on **high-end GPUs (NVIDIA H100, AMD MI300x, AWS Tranium)** to support **AI development** in India.
- Indian Railways** is contributing to **Mission Amrit Sarovar**, launched in April 2022, to address **water scarcity** and enhance **groundwater recharge**. The mission focuses on rejuvenating **75 ponds** in each district with **community participation and climate resilience**. By **October 2024**, over **68,000 ponds** were rejuvenated. In **Phase 2**, **Indian Railways** will assist in **desilting, excavating, and constructing new water bodies** near railway lines, using the excavated material for **railway embankments**.
- The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** has launched two initiatives — **Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan** and **Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats (MWFGP)** — to empower **Women Elected Representatives (WERs)** in **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)**. The **Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan** focuses on **capacity building** to enhance leadership and decision-making, aiming to eliminate the "**Mukhiya Pati**" culture. The **MWFGP** initiative seeks to establish **gender-sensitive, girl-friendly governance** in every district.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** launched a **mobile app** for the **Prime Minister's Internship Scheme (PMIS)** in **New Delhi**. The app aims to streamline **registration**, provide **real-time updates**, and offer an **intuitive interface** for candidates. This initiative supports the government's commitment to **employment, skilling, and creating opportunities** for the **youth**.





- **Indore** is launching **India's first green waste processing plant** under the **PPP model** as part of the **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban**. The plant will convert green waste into **wooden pellets**, providing an eco-friendly alternative to coal and promoting **sustainability**. It aims to generate revenue for **Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC)** and contribute to a **circular economy** and **innovative waste management**.
- The **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)** has launched '**Samarth**', an incubation program to foster innovation in telecom and IT. It supports startups in **Telecom Software, Cybersecurity, 5G/6G, AI, IoT, and Quantum Technologies**, with **STPI** as the implementation partner. Running in **hybrid mode**, the program will have **two cohorts per year**, each with **18 startups**, offering **funding, mentorship, and infrastructure support**.
- The **Purple Fest 2025**, held at **Rashtrapati Bhavan** and organized by **DePwD, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, saw **23,500 attendees** promoting **inclusivity, accessibility, and empowerment for Divyangjan**. The event featured **literary discussions, sports, corporate collaborations, and cultural performances**, fostering an **inclusive society**.

Miscellaneous National News

- India has conducted its first-ever **population estimation of riverine dolphins**, revealing a total of **6,327 dolphins** across the **Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Indus river systems**. This significant study, conducted as part of '**Project Dolphin**', provides crucial insights into the status and distribution of these **endangered freshwater species**. The findings, published in a government report on Monday, highlight the ecological importance of river dolphins and the need for conservation efforts.
- The **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** and **Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)** were granted **Navratna PSU status** by the Indian government on **March 4, 2025**, granting them greater **financial and operational autonomy**. With this, all seven listed railway PSUs have achieved **Navratna status**, reflecting the government's commitment to enhancing the efficiency and profitability of **railway-owned enterprises**.
- **Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Shri Pralhad Joshi**, emphasized India's commitment to becoming a global leader in **green hydrogen** production. Speaking at the launch of India's first fleet of **hydrogen-powered truck trials** in **New Delhi**, he highlighted the role of the **National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM)** in achieving **energy independence** and reducing **carbon emissions**, under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership**.
- On **March 4, 2025**, the **Supreme Court of India** ruled that the **right against disability-based discrimination** is a **fundamental right**, in line with the **RPwD Act, 2016**. The judgment allows **visually impaired candidates** to participate in **judicial service recruitment**, ensuring **equal opportunity** and **reasonable accommodation**. The verdict was delivered by Justices **J B Pardiwala** and **R Mahadevan**.

- The **Government of India** has approved the construction of a **12.4 km ropeway** from **Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib Ji** in **Uttarakhand** under the **National Ropeways Development Programme – Parvatmala Pariyojana**. This project aims to provide **all-weather connectivity** to the **Hemkund Sahib pilgrimage site**, boosting **tourism** and **local employment**.
- The **Government of India** has approved the construction of a **12.9 km ropeway** from **Sonprayag to Kedarnath** under the **National Ropeways Development Programme – Parvatmala Pariyojana**. This project aims to provide **all-weather connectivity** to the **Kedarnath Temple**, reducing **travel time** and boosting **tourism** and **employment** in the region.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** chaired the **seventh NBWL meeting** in **Sasan, Junagadh, Gujarat**, with **Union Minister Bhupender Yadav**. Key decisions included the **16th Asiatic Lion Population Estimation**, scheduled for **May 2024**, aimed at assessing the lion population, habitat, and conservation challenges.
- The **Ministry of Mines**, in collaboration with **Coal India Limited (CIL)**, organized the "**Celebrating Women in Mining Sector**" event ahead of **International Women's Day** to recognize and promote **women's contributions in mining**. Attended by **key ministers, industry leaders, and organizations like IBM, TATA, GSI, ADANI, and Vedanta**, the event honored **46 outstanding women professionals** and featured **panel discussions on gender inclusivity and empowerment**. This initiative highlights the government's commitment to **breaking barriers and ensuring equal opportunities for women in mining**.
- The **Sahitya Akademi Festival of Letters 2025**, Asia's largest literature festival, will be held at **Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi**, from **7th to 12th March 2025**. Inaugurated by **Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, the event will feature **Mahesh Dattani** as the chief guest at the **Sahitya Akademi Awards ceremony** and **Upamanyu Chatterjee** delivering the **Samvatsar Lecture**. With **700 writers from 50+ languages across 100 sessions**.
- Launched on **August 26, 2021**, the **e-Shram portal** aims to create a **National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW)**, providing workers with a **Universal Account Number (UAN)** and linking them to **social security and welfare schemes**. By **March 3, 2025**, over **30.68 crore** workers had registered, with **53.68% women**. To enhance accessibility, features like **multilingual support, a mobile app, and integration with welfare schemes** were added. The **e-Shram One-Stop-Solution**, launched on **October 21, 2024**, integrates welfare programs for easier access.
- The **literacy rate among Muslims** in India has significantly improved, rising from **59.1% in Census 2001** to **68.5% in Census 2011**. Despite this, it was still below the national literacy rate of **73.0% in 2011**. The **PLFS 2023-24** shows





further improvement, with the **Muslim literacy rate** at **79.5%**, compared to **80.9%** for all religious communities.

- The **National Archives of India (NAI)** celebrated its **135th Foundation Day** on **March 11, 2025**, with the inauguration of the “**Indian Heritage through Architecture**” exhibition by **Union Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**. The exhibition showcased **India's architectural heritage** through archival documents and rare records. The event also launched the ‘**Gyan Bharatam Mission**’ to expand access to India’s knowledge repository, while the world’s **largest digitization program** is underway to preserve historical documents.
- The **Oilfield (Regulatory and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024** was passed by the Lok Sabha on **March 12, 2025**, after **Rajya Sabha** approval in **December 2024**. The Bill reforms India’s **oil and gas** exploration and production framework to attract investments, boost production, and ensure **energy security**. Key reforms include shifting from a **Production Sharing** to a **Revenue Sharing** regime, simplifying processes, **deregulation of crude oil**, and **pricing freedom** for **natural gas**.
- The **Fit India Carnival**, a three-day event held from **March 16-18, 2025**, at **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi**, was inaugurated by **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports. The event aimed to promote **fitness, mental well-being, and healthy lifestyle choices**. It featured stars like **Ayushmann Khurrana, Sangram Singh, Mickey Mehta, Shanky Singh, and Rohtash Chaudhary**.
- **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** visited the **Hyperloop testing facility** at **IIT Madras**, announcing that the 410-meter Hyperloop tube would soon become the world’s longest high-speed tube. The **Indian Railways Ministry** is supporting the project, with **Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Chennai** handling the electronic technology. Vaishnaw also attended **Open House 2025** at IIT Madras, discussing India’s advancements in **semiconductors, AI, and data science**, and reaffirming the government’s commitment to technological leadership under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
- **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of Science and Technology, laid the foundation stone for the **North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR)** permanent campus at **Mawdiangdiang, Shillong**, on **March 13, 2025**. Established in **2014** under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, NECTAR focuses on **technology-driven socio-economic development** in the Northeast. The Minister highlighted NECTAR’s work in **saffron cultivation, drone technology, and STEM education**, aiming to make the region India’s next saffron hub.

- The Indian government is advancing its nuclear energy efforts with two major projects: the **Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant** in Maharashtra and the **Gorakhpur Nuclear Power Project** in Haryana. The **Jaitapur plant** will contribute 10% to India’s **100 GW nuclear energy target** by 2047, while **Gorakhpur** is the first nuclear facility in **North India**. Addressing concerns over **environmental impact, safety, and nuclear liability**, **Dr. Jitendra Singh** emphasized the commitment to **sustainable energy** and private sector involvement in nuclear energy expansion.

National Current Affairs of February 2025

Cabinet Approvals

Cabinet Passes New Income Tax Bill 2025: A Major Overhaul of India’s Tax System

The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **new Income Tax Bill**, which will **replace the six-decade-old Income Tax Act, 1961**. The primary objective of this new legislation is to **simplify, modernize, and streamline India’s tax system**, making it more **comprehensible and efficient for taxpayers**.

Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** announced in the **Budget 2025-26** that the new bill will be **introduced in Parliament** in the **ongoing session**. Once tabled, it will be sent to the **Standing Committee on Finance** for further evaluation and discussion.

Why is the New Income Tax Bill Necessary?

The **current Income Tax Act, 1961**, has undergone **multiple amendments over the years**, making it **complex and difficult to interpret** for taxpayers. The government has recognized the need to:

- **Simplify the legal language** to enhance taxpayer comprehension.
- **Reduce disputes and litigations** by eliminating ambiguous provisions.
- **Ensure greater tax certainty** for businesses and individuals.
- **Remove redundant and obsolete provisions** to modernize the tax framework.

By introducing a **clear and concise tax structure**, the government aims to **increase compliance and reduce tax evasion**.

Key Features of the New Income Tax Bill

The **new direct tax legislation** is being designed to be **user-friendly** while maintaining **tax efficiency**. Some of its **key features** include:

1. No Additional Tax Burden

The new bill aims to **simplify tax laws** without introducing **any new taxes**. The focus is on **ease of compliance rather than increasing tax rates**.

2. Simplified Language & Structure

Unlike the existing Income Tax Act, which has **long sentences, explanations, and complex provisions**, the new bill will be **clear and concise**. This will ensure that even an **ordinary taxpayer** can **easily understand tax provisions** without requiring expert interpretation.





3. Reduction in Tax Litigation

One of the major concerns of the current tax regime is **prolonged disputes and legal battles**. The new bill aims to:

- **Reduce litigation by providing tax certainty.**
- **Introduce dispute resolution mechanisms** to settle tax matters more efficiently.
- **Simplify compliance requirements** for businesses and individuals.

4. Compliance Reduction

The government has actively worked towards **reducing compliance burdens** by:

- **Eliminating redundant documentation requirements.**
- **Streamlining tax return filing procedures.**
- **Reducing the number of tax forms** for individuals and businesses.

5. Public Consultation and Stakeholder Inputs

The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** had initiated a **comprehensive review** of the Income Tax Act and invited **public inputs** in four key areas:

- **Simplification of language**
- **Reduction in litigation**
- **Reduction in compliance burden**
- **Removal of obsolete provisions**

A total of **6,500 suggestions** were received from **taxpayers, businesses, and industry experts**, reflecting the government's commitment to a **transparent and participative approach**.

Process of Implementation

1. Cabinet Approval & Introduction in Parliament

The **Union Cabinet** has already **approved** the bill, and it will now be **introduced in Parliament next week**.

2. Review by Standing Committee on Finance

Once introduced, the bill will be **referred to the Standing Committee on Finance**, which will examine it in detail, consider feedback from stakeholders, and propose modifications if necessary.

3. Final Approval & Implementation

After deliberations, the bill will be **passed by both Houses of Parliament** and receive the **President's assent** before being notified for **implementation**.

Impact of the New Income Tax Bill

- **Better Clarity & Transparency:** Simplified language will make tax provisions **easier to understand**.
- **Lower Dispute Cases:** Reduction in tax ambiguities will help **minimize litigations**.
- **Ease of Compliance:** Individuals and businesses will **spend less time and effort on tax filing**.
- **Encouragement for Investment:** A stable and transparent tax system will **attract investors** and **boost economic growth**.

Cabinet approves extension of the tenure of National Commission for Safai Karamcharis for three years beyond 31.03.2025

- **Tenure Extension:** The Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, has approved the extension of the **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)** for **three years** beyond **March 31, 2025**, up to **March 31, 2028**.
- **Financial Implication:** ₹50.91 crore for three years.
- **Objective:** Socio-economic upliftment of sanitation workers, improving working conditions, and achieving **zero fatalities** in hazardous cleaning.

Key Functions of NCSK

- **Policy Recommendations:** Suggests actions to eliminate inequalities for Safai Karamcharis.
- **Scheme Evaluation:** Monitors and evaluates rehabilitation programs.
- **Grievance Redressal:** Investigates complaints and ensures implementation of schemes.
- **Work Conditions Monitoring:** Examines wages, health, and safety of workers.
- **Reporting:** Provides reports to governments on issues affecting Safai Karamcharis.

Role under MS Act, 2013

- **Monitoring:** Ensures implementation of the Act.
- **Complaints Handling:** Enquires into violations and recommends actions.
- **Government Advisory:** Guides effective enforcement of the Act.
- **Suo-Motu Actions:** Takes action on non-implementation issues.

Background

- **Established:** August 1994 under the **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993**.
- **Mandate:** Focuses on the welfare and rights of sanitation workers in India.

Cabinet Approves Continuation and Restructuring of Skill India Programme

- **Approval:** The Union Cabinet extended the tenure of NCSK for **three years (till 31.03.2028)**.
- **Financial Outlay:** ₹50.91 crore.
- **Objective:** Improve socio-economic conditions, enhance working conditions, and ensure **zero fatalities in hazardous cleaning**.
- **Functions:**
 - Recommending programs for upliftment.
 - Evaluating implementation of schemes.
 - Investigating grievances on non-implementation.
 - Monitoring **working conditions, safety, and wages**.
 - Reporting to Central/State Governments.





Under the MS Act, 2013, NCSK monitors and ensures implementation, handles complaints, and advises governments on policy matters.

Continuation & Restructuring of Skill India Programme (SIP) till 2026

- **Financial Outlay:** ₹8,800 crore (2022-23 to 2025-26).
- **Aim:** Build a **skilled, future-ready workforce** through technology-driven and industry-aligned training.
- **Major Components:**
 - **PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 (PMKVY 4.0):**
 - Provides NSQF-aligned **short-term training, reskilling & upskilling**.
 - Focus on emerging technologies (**AI, 5G, Cybersecurity, Green Hydrogen, Drones**).
 - **400+ new courses**, digital & flexible learning, micro-credentials (7.5–30 hours).
 - **Skill Hubs** in IITs, NITs, KVs, JNVs, Sainik Schools, etc.
 - **International mobility** with skill certifications for global jobs.
 - Integrated with **PM Vishwakarma, PM Surya Ghar, and National Green Hydrogen Mission**.
 - **PM National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (PM-NAPS):**
 - **25% stipend (₹1,500/month)** via DBT.
 - Targets **youth (14-35 years)** for **on-the-job vocational training**.
 - Focus on **AI, robotics, blockchain, green energy, Industry 4.0**.
 - **Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) Scheme:**
 - **Community-based vocational training** for women, rural youth (15-45 years).
 - Promotes **self-employment & wage-based jobs**.
 - Aligned with **PM JANMAN & ULLAS**.

Overall Impact:

- Enhances employability, entrepreneurship, and economic growth.
- Aligns certifications with DigiLocker & National Credit Framework.
- Supports lifelong learning, upskilling, and reskilling.
- Strengthens India's global workforce competitiveness.

Parliament News

State-wise February Month Important Events

Andhra Pradesh

- The **Andhra Pradesh government** launched '**Mana Mitra**', a **WhatsApp Governance initiative**, making **161 civil services** accessible via WhatsApp. **Minister Nara Lokesh** unveiled the service in **Amaravati**, aiming to bring government services directly to the people. Developed in partnership with **Meta**, the initiative will expand with the integration of **blockchain** and **AI** technologies for seamless **digital governance**.

Arunachal Pradesh

- **Arunachal Pradesh Foundation Day** is observed on **February 20th** to commemorate the state's transition from a **Union Territory** to a full-fledged state in **1987**. Known as the **Land of the Rising Sun**, it is the first place in India to receive sunlight. Located in northeastern India, Arunachal Pradesh shares borders with **Bhutan, China, and Myanmar**, making it strategically important.

Assam

- Assam will host the world's largest **Jhumur dance performance** on **February 24, 2025**, as part of the **Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment Summit**. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will attend, and Assam aims to set a **Guinness World Record** with over **7,500 dancers**. The event showcases Assam's **cultural heritage** and serves as a platform to attract **investors**.

Gujarat

- The **Gujarat government** has appointed a panel, led by **retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Desai**, to draft the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** for the state. The panel is tasked with preparing a detailed report within **45 days** on the potential implementation of the UCC. This move aligns with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision** for equal rights and a **uniform law** across India.
- The **Gujarat government** has declared the inland **mangrove** in **Guneri village** (Kutch district) as the state's first **Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS)**. This decision aims to conserve rare ecosystems critical to **biodiversity**. Guneri's inland mangrove is one of only eight such ecosystems globally, underscoring its **global significance**.
- The **Gujarat government**, led by **Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel**, launched **G-SAFAL** (Gujarat Scheme for Antyodaya Families for Augmenting Livelihoods) to empower underprivileged families, particularly women. The scheme will target **50,000 Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)** cardholder families across **25 talukas** in **10 districts** over five years, focusing on **livelihood creation, financial inclusion, and social development** for sustainable growth.
- Gujarat's Finance Minister, **Shri Kanu Desai**, presented the **2025-26 Budget** digitally through the **National eVidhan Application (NeVA)**, supporting the **Digital India** vision. This move promotes **paperless governance**, enhancing **transparency, efficiency, and accessibility** in legislative proceedings, as part of the initiative to digitize state legislatures and streamline operations.





Haryana

- The **Haryana government** launched the '**Har Khet-Swasth Khet**' campaign to improve **soil health** and promote **sustainable farming**. The initiative involves collecting **soil samples** from every acre of farmland in the state, with **70 lakh samples** already collected and **55 lakh analyzed**. Over **86 lakh soil health cards** have been issued to help farmers make informed decisions on **soil fertility**, **nutrient management**, and **crop productivity**.
- The **Haryana government** has introduced new **Wildlife (Protection) Rules** permitting the shooting of **male Nilgais** (blue bulls) to address **human-wildlife conflict** and agricultural damage. However, the decision has faced protests from **environmentalists** and the **Bishnoi community**, who view Nilgais as sacred. Critics argue that **culling** is neither **ethical** nor a sustainable solution to the issue.
- India inaugurated its first **Ferret Research Facility** at the **Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI)** in **Faridabad**, Haryana, to boost **biomedical research**. This facility will focus on **infectious diseases**, **non-communicable diseases**, and the development of **vaccines** and **therapeutics**. It is expected to strengthen India's **research capabilities** and improve readiness for emerging diseases.

Himachal Pradesh

- The **Himachal Pradesh government**, under **Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu**, has approved a **pilot project** for **cannabis (hemp) farming**. The initiative focuses on exploring the **medicinal** and **industrial** benefits of cannabis cultivation, responding to growing global recognition of its value.
- Himachal Pradesh launched **North India's first Green Hydrogen Plant** in **Dabhota, Nalagarh**, with a **1 MW** capacity. The **₹9.04 crore project** aims to make the state **India's first green state** by 2026. Developed by **HPPCL** and **Oil India Limited**, it will reduce carbon emissions through **renewable energy-based hydrogen production**.

Jharkhand

- The **Jharkhand government** has imposed a **one-year ban** on the **sale, manufacture, storage, and distribution** of **gutkha** and **pan masala**. The ban is enforced under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006** and the **Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations, 2011**. **Health Minister Irfan Ansari** highlighted the **health risks**, particularly **oral cancer**, associated with gutkha, aiming to protect public health and prevent tobacco-related harm, especially among the youth.

Karnataka

- **PETA India** introduced **Ellie**, Asia's first life-sized **animatronic elephant** in **Bengaluru**, voiced by **Dia Mirza**. Ellie is designed to educate children about the **harsh realities of elephant captivity**. The **hyper-realistic animatronic** elephant moves and interacts, narrating a story of **cruelty** in circuses and her rescue to a **sanctuary**, teaching kids about **animal welfare**, **compassion**, and the importance of not using elephants for **entertainment**.
- **Lam Research**, a leading **semiconductor equipment manufacturer**, has announced an investment of over **₹10,000 crore** in **Karnataka**. The investment, unveiled at the **Global Investors Meet: Invest Karnataka 2025**, aims to boost **India's semiconductor ecosystem** and align with the government's push for **domestic chip manufacturing**. Lam Research has signed an **MoU** with **KIADB** for land in **Whitefield, Bengaluru**, to expand operations, enhance **R&D**, and grow its **supply chain** in India.
- **Karnataka** topped the **2024 Local Governance Performance Index**, excelling in **local body management**, **finances**, and **accountability**, surpassing **Kerala**. **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** also showed significant improvement, rising from **15th to 5th place**, reflecting progress in **transparency**, **anti-corruption measures**, and **administrative structures**.

Kerala

- The **Kerala government** has approved the **Kerala Health System Improvement Programme (KHSIP)** with a **₹2,424.28 crore** financial aid from the **World Bank**. Approved by **Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan** on February 7, 2025, the project aims to strengthen **healthcare infrastructure**, improve **disease prevention**, and enhance the **quality of life** for Kerala's citizens.
- Kerala is set to launch the '**nPROUD**' initiative on **February 22, 2025**, making it the first state in India to **scientifically collect and dispose of expired and unused medicines** from households. Led by the **Kerala Drugs Control Department**, this project aims to address the **environmental hazards** and **health risks** associated with pharmaceutical waste.
- **Kerala** has launched the **nPROUD** initiative, a government-led program for the **safe disposal of expired and unused medicines**. This program aims to prevent **environmental hazards** and **health risks** from improper drug disposal, making Kerala the **first state in India** to implement such a systematic approach.
- **Kerala** has launched **Nayanamritham 2.0**, an **AI-driven eye screening initiative** in partnership with **Remidio**. It is the **world's first government-led AI-assisted screening program** for chronic eye diseases like **glaucoma**, **diabetic retinopathy (DR)**, and **age-related macular degeneration (AMD)**. This program expands access to advanced eye care, integrating **artificial intelligence** into **public health** to reach more people across the state.





Manipur

- **Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh** resigned on **February 9, 2025**, amid escalating **ethnic violence** and **political pressure**. His decision follows nearly two years of unrest between the **Meitei** and **Kuki** communities, resulting in loss of lives and displacement. The resignation also comes after opposition calls for **accountability** and a planned **no-confidence motion**.
- In a significant political development, the **Ministry of Home Affairs** has imposed **President's Rule in Manipur** following the **resignation of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on February 9**. The decision was taken under **Article 356 of the Indian Constitution**, which empowers the President to assume direct control of a state's administration in case of a breakdown of constitutional machinery.

Madhya Pradesh

- India's **first white tiger breeding centre** has been approved by the **Central Zoo Authority (CZA)** in **Rewa district, Madhya Pradesh**. Located in **Govindgarh**, near the **Mukundpur white tiger safari**, the centre aims to enhance **biodiversity conservation**, boost **wildlife tourism**, and create **local job opportunities**. The project, first approved in 2011, is linked to the **historical significance** of the last known wild white tiger in the region.
- Madhya Pradesh has introduced India's first **Global Capability Centers (GCC) Policy 2025** to attract multinational corporations, focusing on **Tier-2 cities** like **Indore, Bhopal, and Jabalpur**. The policy aims to provide a **business-friendly environment**, **financial incentives**, and **world-class infrastructure** to transform these cities into global operational hubs. This move aligns with **regional economic decentralization**, complementing broader trends like **Karnataka's GCC expansion** to promote balanced growth across India.
- **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, Union Minister for **Rural Development and Agriculture**, launched the **NAKSHA pilot program** on February 18th in **Raisen, Madhya Pradesh**. The ₹194 crore project, fully funded by the **central government**, aims to modernize **urban land surveys** across **152 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** in **26 states** and **3 Union Territories (UTs)**. The initiative will enhance **land record accuracy**, support **urban planning**, and reduce **land disputes**.

Mizoram

- **Mizoram Foundation Day** is celebrated on **February 20** to mark the state's attainment of **statehood in 1987**, becoming the **23rd state** of India. This occasion commemorates the transformation of the **Lushai Hills Autonomous District Council** into a full-fledged state, shared with **Arunachal Pradesh**, which also achieved statehood on the same day.

Odisha

- **Avaada Group** has partnered with **Casale** to develop a **1,500 TPD green ammonia plant** in **Gopalpur, Odisha**. The project aims to use **renewable energy** and advanced ammonia production technology for a **carbon-free** process. This collaboration highlights Avaada's commitment to reducing **carbon emissions** in industrial processes and advancing **India's clean energy sector**.
- **Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi** presented the **2025-26 state budget** with a total expenditure of **₹2.90 lakh crore**, focusing on **agriculture, irrigation, and rural development**. This marks the **first full-fledged budget** by the **BJP-led government**, showing a rise from the previous **₹2.65 lakh crore** budget for 2024-25, highlighting the state's commitment to **economic growth**.

Rajasthan

- The **'MY NREGA App'** was launched in **Barmer District, Rajasthan** to streamline the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA)** process. Spearheaded by **District Collector IAS Tina Dabi** and **CEO IAS Siddharth Palanichamy**, the app simplifies job applications for workers, reducing the need to visit **Gram Panchayats**. This **mobile-based solution** improves efficiency and has the potential to be replicated in other districts, marking a step toward **digitizing rural welfare programs**.
- The **Rajasthan government** has renamed two British-era landmarks in **Ajmer** to honor Indian heritage. **Foy Sagar Lake** is now **Varun Sagar**, and **King Edward Memorial Bhawan** has become **Maharishi Dayanand Vishrant Grih**. The renaming, confirmed by **Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani**, reflects India's efforts to **erase colonial remnants** and embrace **cultural pride**.
- **Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Diya Kumari** presented the state's **first-ever Green Budget for 2025-26**, with a total outlay of **₹5.37 lakh crore**. The budget focuses on **Bijli (electricity), Sadak (roads), Paani (water)** along with health and agriculture, aligning with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030. The state government also plans to create **2.75 lakh jobs** (1.25 lakh government and 1.5 lakh private) while fulfilling **73% of its first Budget announcements**.

Telangana

- Hyderabad's **Srishti Art Gallery** and **Goethe-Zentrum Hyderabad** have collaborated to present the international art exhibition **"Topographies of Tents, Terracotta, and Time"**. The exhibition explores themes of **identity, displacement, and transformation**, featuring works by renowned **national and international artists**. Curated by **Matthew Partridge**, this immersive experience promises to offer diverse artistic perspectives.





Uttarakhand

- Vaibhav Singh, an IFoS officer from Uttarakhand, developed an advanced **Forest Fire App** to combat increasing forest fires, inspired by technologies from **Canada, Australia, and South Africa**. The app enhances **fire detection, response efficiency, and real-time tracking** of firefighting teams. Adopted by the **Uttarakhand Forest Department**, it integrates **7,000 staff** and plans further **expansion**. Key features include **global inspiration**, collaboration with a **Canadian ecologist**, and advanced **fire mitigation tools**.
- The **Uttarakhand Cabinet** approved the **Bhoo Kanoon (Land Law Amendment Bill)** on February 19, 2025, to regulate land purchases by non-residents. The law aims to protect **cultural heritage, natural resources, and citizens' rights**, while preserving the state's identity. It imposes a **ban on agricultural land purchases** in 11 hill districts and restrictions on residential land transactions. The bill will be presented in the ongoing **Budget session**.
- The **38th National Games 2025** concluded in **Haldwani, Uttarakhand**, showcasing India's growing sports culture. Held from **January 28 to February 14, 2025**, the Games focused on **sustainability** with the theme '**Green Games**'. Over **10,000 athletes** participated in **35 sports disciplines**, making it one of India's largest sports events. **Prime Minister Modi** emphasized the alignment with '**Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat**' and the event's eco-friendly approach, highlighting efforts to reduce environmental impact.

Uttar Pradesh

- **THDC India Ltd (THDCIL)** has started commercial operations of a **660-MW unit** at its **Khurja Super Thermal Power Plant (STPP)** in **Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh**, marking its entry into the **domestic thermal energy sector**. The **1,320 MW** project, costing **₹13,000 crore**, incorporates **modern technologies** like **Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD)**, aiming to boost India's power generation while ensuring **environmental sustainability**.
- The **Uttar Pradesh Budget 2025-26**, presented by **State Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna** on February 20, 2025, has a total outlay of **₹8,08,736 crore**. This reflects a 9.8% increase from the **₹7,36,437 crore** budget of 2024-25. The budget focuses on research and development, Information Technology, infrastructure, welfare schemes, and urban development. Special emphasis has been placed on education, agriculture, healthcare, and artificial intelligence.
- The **Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS) 3.0** will be held from **February 15-24, 2025** in **Varanasi**, celebrating the bond between **Tamil Nadu and Kashi**. Organized by the **Ministry of Education** and **Uttar Pradesh Government**, it promotes knowledge exchange among scholars, artists, and professionals. Participants will also visit the **Mahakumbh** in **Prayagraj** and the **Ram Mandir** in **Ayodhya**. The event highlights **Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)** in line with **NEP 2020**, fostering **cultural unity** and **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**.

Union Territories

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has launched the '**Chandrayaan Se Chunao Tak**' initiative in **West Delhi** to boost voter awareness and participation. A special polling booth in **Vikaspuri** has been transformed into a **space-themed** voting experience, inspired by India's **space missions**. This initiative aims to engage **youth and elderly** voters, celebrating India's space achievements while enhancing voter engagement.
- **Rekha Gupta**, a **BJP leader** and **Shalimar Bagh MLA**, has been appointed as the new **Chief Minister of Delhi**, succeeding **AAP's Atishi Marlena**. The **BJP** secured a majority with **44 out of 70 seats** in the **Delhi Assembly elections**. Gupta, the only **woman CM** in **BJP-ruled states**, will be the **4th female CM of Delhi** after **Sushma Swaraj, Sheila Dixit, and Atishi Marlena**. The swearing-in will take place at **Ramlila Maidan** on **February 20, 2025**.
- **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Minister of State for **Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions**, will chair the **12th All India Pension Adalat** in **New Delhi** on **February 13, 2025**. Organized by the **Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW)**, the event aims to resolve **long-pending pension grievances** of retired **Central Government employees**. With **180 cases** under review, it focuses on resolving issues pending for over **120 days**, enhancing the efficiency of **pension dispute settlements** since its launch in 2017.
- **BHARAT TEX 2025**, one of the largest global textile events, will be held from **February 14-17, 2025**, at **Bharat Mandapam** in **New Delhi** and **India Expo Centre & Mart** in **Greater Noida**. With **5,000 exhibitors** and **6,000 international buyers** from 110 countries, the event will highlight sectors like **Apparel, Home Furnishings, Technical Textiles, and Sustainable Textiles**, attracting over **120,000 visitors**. Backed by the **Ministry of Textiles**, it aims to showcase India's textile industry globally.
- The **CSB's International Conference – SILKTECH 2025** was inaugurated by **Shri Pabitra Margherita**, Minister of State for **Textiles & Foreign Affairs**, at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, as part of **Bharat Tex 2025**. Organized by **CSB-Central Tasar Research & Training Institute** and **CSTRI**, the conference focused on **emerging technologies** in the **silk sector**, aiming to enhance **quality, sustainability, and global competitiveness**.
- The **RSS** has inaugurated its new **headquarters 'Keshav Kunj'** in **Jhandewalan, New Delhi**. The **five lakh square feet** complex includes **three high-rise towers, an auditorium, a library, a hospital, a canteen, and a Hanuman temple**. Built with a focus on **sustainability** and modern infrastructure, it surpasses the size of the **BJP headquarters**. The **₹150 crore** project was funded entirely by **public donations**.





- India has inaugurated its first **Open-Air Art Wall Museum** at **Mausam Bhawan**, New Delhi, marking the **150-year journey** of the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**. The museum showcases **38 murals** that depict India's meteorological advancements and IMD's historical evolution. Developed in collaboration with **Delhi Street Art**, the murals transform the IMD's exterior walls into an artistic tribute to India's weather forecasting legacy.
- Dr. **Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State for **Science & Technology**, inaugurated India's first **Open Air Art Wall Museum** at **Mausam Bhawan**, New Delhi, marking the **150th anniversary** of the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**. Developed with **Delhi Street Art**, the museum features vibrant murals showcasing IMD's history, technological progress, and societal contributions, blending science and art.

February Month Launches & Inaugurations:

- MeitY** and **IIT Indore** launched **AgriHub**, an **AI-driven Center of Excellence (CoE)**, to transform **Indian agriculture**. AgriHub aims to tackle challenges like **drought, floods**, and **low productivity** using **AI, Machine Learning (ML)**, and **Deep Learning (DL)**. The initiative will empower **farmers, researchers**, and **agribusinesses** through **technological innovation, startup incubation**, and **industry collaborations**.
- On **February 4, 2025**, Union Minister **Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched the "**Watershed Yatra**" campaign to raise awareness and encourage participation in **watershed development** activities under **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY 2.0)**. The initiative aims to promote **soil and water conservation, sustainable resource management**, and enhance **agricultural productivity, livelihoods**, and **environmental health** across India.
- On **February 2, 2025**, **Johannesburg** inaugurated the largest **Hindu temple** in the **Southern Hemisphere** as part of the **BAPS Multi-Cultural Centre**. The ceremony was attended by **South Africa's Deputy President Paul Mashatile** and spiritual leader **Mahant Swami Maharaj**. The temple serves as a hub for **worship, cultural exchange, education**, and **social service**.
- The Ministry of **Ayush** launched the "**Shatavari – For Better Health**" campaign to raise awareness about the medicinal benefits of **Shatavari**. Inaugurated by **Shri Prataprao Jadhav**, it focuses on promoting women's health and aligns with **India's Panch Pran Goal** for holistic development by 2047. This follows the success of previous campaigns on plants like **Amla, Moringa, Giloe**, and **Ashwagandha**.
- UNICEF** has launched a national **roadmap** to address **child road safety**, aiming to reduce fatalities from **road accidents**, a leading cause of injury-related deaths among children. The plan includes **speed regulations, educational programs**, and targeted measures to create safer roads for young individuals.

- The **Aadi Mahotsav**, inaugurated by **President Droupadi Murmu** on **February 16, 2025**, celebrates **India's tribal heritage** and culture. Held at **Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium**, it promotes tribal **entrepreneurs, artisans**, and **artists**, showcasing their **crafts, food, attire**, and **jewelry**. The festival highlights the **sustainability** and **environmental harmony** of tribal practices, offering a platform for them to reach national and international audiences.
- On **February 18, 2025**, Union Minister **Bhupender Yadav** inaugurated the '**Waste Recycling and Climate Change 2025**' conclave by the **Recycling and Environment Industry Association of India (REIAI)**. The event emphasized **waste recycling, environmental sustainability**, and **economic growth**. Yadav highlighted the need for a **circular economy** to reduce waste, improve **resource efficiency**, and create **employment**.
- The **IRDAI** has launched **Bima-ASBA** to simplify premium payments for **life and health insurance** policies. Starting **March 1, 2025**, policyholders can use a **one-time UPI mandate (OTM)** to block funds in their bank accounts, ensuring **transparency** and **security** until the insurer accepts the policy proposal.
- India has launched the **Electronic Personnel License (EPL)** for flight crew, making it the second country after **China** to adopt digital licensing for pilots. Introduced by **Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu**, the initiative aims to improve **convenience, transparency**, and **efficiency** in the licensing process, supporting **aviation safety** and digital transformation in line with growing industry demands.

Important Festival

- The **2nd Simolu Festival** started on **February 15, 2025**, at **Bwisang-Na**, an eco-resort in **Assam**. The two-day event celebrated the blooming of **Shimul flowers** and aimed to promote **eco-tourism, conservation**, and **local culture**. Activities included **cycling, camping, ethnic cuisine**, and **cultural performances**. **Dr. Sonali Ghosh** of **Kaziranga National Park** emphasized the event's role in raising **environmental awareness**.
- The **Mising tribe** of **Assam** recently celebrated the **Ali Ai Ligang festival**, marking the start of the **sowing season**. Observed on the first Wednesday of the Assamese month of **Fagun**, this festival is integral to the agricultural traditions of the Mising community, which relies heavily on farming for their livelihood.
- Thaipusam 2025**, a major festival in **Tamil Nadu**, is dedicated to **Lord Murugan**. The celebration includes **devotion, special prayers, kavadi offerings**, and grand festivities at **Murugan temples**, especially the **Aarupadai Veedu** (six abodes of Murugan). Thousands of devotees have gathered to partake in the spiritual events.





Miscellaneous National News

- India's railway safety will transform with the nationwide rollout of the **Kavach Automatic Train Protection (ATP)** system, confirmed by **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw**. The system will be implemented across the entire railway network within **six years**, aiming to enhance **safety, efficiency, and passenger confidence** in one of the world's largest railway systems.
- Maharashtra is establishing **India's first AI university** to advance **AI education, research, and innovation**. A task force has been formed with experts from academia, industry, and government to drive the project. The university will focus on **R&D, technological innovation, skill development, and shaping AI policies**, positioning Maharashtra as a global hub for AI.
- In December 2024, the **Indian Army** renamed **Kolkata's Fort William** to '**Vijay Durg**' as part of its decolonization efforts. The new name honors **India's indigenous military history** and draws inspiration from the historic **Vijaydurg Fort** in **Maharashtra**, a stronghold under **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**. This renaming reflects the government's broader push to remove **colonial influences** from institutions and landmarks.
- India aims to strengthen its **logistics sector** with initiatives like **PM Gati Shakti** and the **National Logistics Policy**, targeting a top 25 ranking in the **World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI)** by 2030. Currently ranked 38th, India is advancing with rapid **infrastructure development, multi-modal transformation, and policy-driven advancements**. With a projected market size of **\$484.43 billion** by 2029, the government plans to reduce **logistics costs** from 13-14% of GDP to single digits. The study highlights the role of **advanced technologies** and **public-private partnerships** in making India a global logistics hub.
- The **Department of Consumer Affairs** has upgraded the **National Consumer Helpline (NCH)** with **AI-enabled technology** to enhance **consumer grievance redressal**. The new system offers **sector-wise analysis**, ensuring quicker resolutions and boosting **consumer trust**. As a result, both the number of calls and grievances resolved have significantly increased.
- India has reached a significant **milestone** by installing **100 GW of solar power capacity**, marking a major step in its **renewable energy** journey. Announced by **Union Minister Pralhad Joshi**, this achievement supports India's goal of transitioning to **cleaner energy** and reducing **fossil fuel** dependence.
- The **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**, established as a treaty-based intergovernmental organization with its headquarters in **India**, focuses on the global conservation of **seven iconic big cat species**: tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar, and puma. Launched by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on April 9, 2023, during the 50th anniversary of **Project Tiger**, the alliance aims to tackle issues like **illegal wildlife trade, poaching, and climate change**. By January 23, 2025, it gained **full international legal status** with ratifications from five countries.
- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved the **extension** of the **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)** for three more years, until **March 31, 2025**. Established in **1993**, the NCSK promotes the welfare of **Safai Karamcharis** (sanitation workers) by addressing their challenges and recommending programs to eliminate inequalities. It also monitors working conditions, health, safety, wages, and investigates grievances related to the non-implementation of welfare schemes.
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla** announced the extension of **translation services** to **six additional languages**—**Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Manipuri, Sanskrit, and Urdu**. This initiative aims to improve **accessibility** and **democratic participation** in Parliament. It is part of a broader plan to eventually offer translation for all **22 languages** in **Schedule 8** of the **Indian Constitution**. However, the inclusion of **Sanskrit** sparked debate over its **communicability** and **official status** in states.
- During his visit to **France**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** presented thoughtful gifts to **French President Emmanuel Macron** and **First Lady Brigitte Macron**. A standout gift was a **Dokra artwork**, showcasing **Indian folk traditions** and tribal craftsmanship, symbolizing India's **tribal heritage** and **musical culture**. Dokra, an ancient **metal-casting technique**, is renowned for its detailed craftsmanship. For **Brigitte Macron**, PM Modi gifted an **exquisite silver hand-engraved mirror** from **Rajasthan**, highlighting the state's renowned **metalwork** and design skills.
- On **February 13, 2025**, **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** introduced the **Income Tax Bill, 2025** in the **Lok Sabha**. The bill aims to replace the **Income Tax Act, 1961**, simplifying tax provisions, using clearer terminology, and expanding sections and schedules. Despite **opposition protests**, the bill passed after a **voice vote**. The **Lok Sabha** was adjourned until **March 10, 2025**, for the second half of the **Budget session**.
- President Droupadi Murmu** attended the **International Women's Conference** in **Bengaluru** on February 14, 2025, organized by **The Art of Living**. She highlighted the growing





contributions of **Indian women** (Nari Shakti) in **science, sports, politics, arts, and culture**. Murmu praised their achievements, emphasizing the need for **mental strength** to break barriers and challenge stereotypes, urging women to continue advancing with confidence.

- On **February 13, 2025**, **PM Modi** met **Elon Musk** in **Washington, D.C.** at the **Blair House**, where Musk gifted him a **hexagonal ceramic heatshield tile** from **SpaceX's Starship test flight** (October 2024). The tile, used for atmospheric re-entry protection, symbolized the growing collaboration between India and Musk's ventures. **PM Modi** reciprocated with classic **Indian books**: *The Crescent Moon* by **Tagore**, *The Great RK Narayan Collection*, and *Panchatantra*.
- On **Hindu College's 126th Founder's Day**, Union Minister for Education **Dharmendra Pradhan** praised the college's role in shaping **India's intellectual, cultural, and national identity**. He interacted with students and faculty, exploring an exhibition on **Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**, highlighting the importance of **innovation** and **entrepreneurship** for future job creation. Pradhan emphasized the college's ongoing contribution to **India's national development**.
- Pariksha Pe Charcha 2025**, hosted by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, featured sportspersons **M C Mary Kom, Avani Lekhara, and Suhas Yathiraj**. The session focused on **goal setting, resilience, stress management**, and life lessons from sports. It encouraged students to embrace **hard work, discipline**, and a **growth mindset** to overcome academic and life challenges.
- The **Union Budget 2025** focuses on **economic growth, energy security, education, healthcare, and agricultural development**. Key measures include support for **MSMEs**, **full exemption of Customs Duties** on 25 critical minerals, expanded **insurance sector investments**, and a new **agricultural scheme** for low-yield districts. The budget also prioritizes **energy security**, with initiatives like the **MSME Loan Guarantee scheme** and **MoUs for critical mineral imports**, benefiting sectors like **space, defence, telecommunications, and renewable energy**.
- India and **Qatar** have upgraded their bilateral relations to a **strategic partnership**, focusing on **trade, investment, and energy**. During the visit of **Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani**, both nations set a goal to **double bilateral trade** from **\$14.08 billion** to **\$28 billion** in the next five years. Qatar also expressed interest in investing in key Indian sectors. This partnership strengthens ties with **UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Kuwait**, which share similar relations with India.

- Indian Ambassador **Harsh Kumar Jain** unveiled a statue of **Thiruvalluvar**, the renowned Tamil poet and philosopher, at **Gullas College of Medicine (GCM)** in **Cebu** on February 17, 2025. The event, celebrating the **75th anniversary of India-Philippines diplomatic relations**, was attended by dignitaries such as **former Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo**, senior officials, diplomats, and the **Indian diaspora**.
- The **Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoLE)** has signed an **MoU** with **APNA**, a job recruitment platform, to provide **10 lakh job opportunities annually** through the **National Career Service (NCS) Portal**. This partnership aims to **enhance employment accessibility** and connect **job seekers** with employers, supporting the government's efforts to streamline **digital hiring systems**.
- The **22nd Foundation Day** of the **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)** was celebrated, emphasizing its role in protecting the rights and development of **Scheduled Tribes (STs)** in India. **Union Minister Shri Jual Oram** praised the NCST's proactive initiatives, especially its role in implementing the **Forest Rights Act**. The event included speeches, discussions, and presentations on **tribal welfare**, highlighting key **government programs** aimed at improving the lives of **Scheduled Tribes**.
- The **Union Government** has released **Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV FC)** grants for the fiscal year **2024-25** to enhance rural governance in **Bihar, Haryana, and Sikkim**. **Bihar** received **₹821.8021 crores** (second installment) and **₹47.9339 crores** (first installment). **Haryana** got **₹202.4663 crores** (second installment) and **₹7.5993 crores** (first installment). **Sikkim** was allocated **₹6.2613 crores**. The grants, meant for **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)**, include **untied grants** for flexible use and **tied grants** for services like **sanitation and water supply**.
- Bengal** led the **Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) 2025** for the third consecutive year, recording **543 species** out of **1,068** observed across India. Despite fewer participants due to exam conflicts, Bengal's birdwatching community thrived, documenting rare species like the **Ibisbill** and **Common Starling**. The event highlights the state's rich **bird diversity** and commitment to **bird habitat preservation**.
- India has established its first **zoo-based biobank** at the **Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (PNHNP)** in **Darjeeling**, West Bengal. Operational since **July 2024**, the facility stores **genetic materials** from endangered species. The project, a collaboration with the **Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB)**, also includes an **animal museum**, enhancing **conservation** and **research** efforts in India.
- Vishvaa Rajakumar**, a 20-year-old from **India**, has won the **Memory League World Championship**, showcasing exceptional cognitive skills. He set a record by recalling **80 digits** in just **13.5 seconds**, demonstrating his extraordinary **mental agility** in this challenging competition that tests memory recall of **numbers, images, and words**.





Indian States Visits

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Mahakumbh Mela in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj, wherein he took a holy dip in the Triveni Sangam.

Foreign Visits By Indian Personalities

- Union Minister **Piyush Vedprakash Goyal, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I)** visited the Sultanate of Oman from January 27 to 28, 2025. During the visit, he participated in the 11th Session of the IndiaOman Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) and the IndiaOman Joint Business Council (JBC) meeting in Mascot, Oman. DTAA: Both countries also signed the Protocol to amend the India-Oman Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA).

National Current Affairs of January 2025

UNION BUDGET 2025-26

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt Nirmala Sitharaman presented Union Budget 2025-26 in the Parliament today. The highlights of the budget are as follows:

Budget Estimates 2025-26

- The total receipts other than borrowings and the total expenditure are estimated at ₹ 34.96 lakh crore and ₹ 50.65 lakh crore respectively.
- The net tax receipts are estimated at ₹ 28.37 lakh crore.
- The fiscal deficit is estimated to be 4.4 per cent of GDP.
- The gross market borrowings are estimated at ₹ 14.82 lakh crore.
- Capex Expenditure of ₹11.21 lakh crore (3.1% of GDP) earmarked in FY2025-26.

Agriculture as the 1st Engine of Development

- **Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana – Developing Agri Districts Programme:** The programme to be launched in partnership with the states, covering 100 districts with low productivity, moderate crop intensity and below-average credit parameters, to benefit 1.7 crore farmers.
- **Building Rural Prosperity and Resilience:** A comprehensive multi-sectoral programme to be launched in partnership with states to address under-employment in agriculture through skilling, investment, technology, and invigorating the rural economy. Phase-1 to cover 100 developing agri-districts.
- **Aatmanirbharta in Pulses:** Government to launch a 6-year “Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses” with focus on Tur, Urad and Masoor. NAFED and NCCF to procure these pulses from farmers during the next 4 years.
- **Comprehensive Programme for Vegetables & Fruits:** A comprehensive programme to promote production, efficient supplies, processing, and remunerative prices for farmers to be launched in partnership with states.

- **Makhana Board in Bihar:** A Makhana Board to be established to improve production, processing, value addition, and marketing of makhana.
- **National Mission on High-Yielding Seeds:** A National Mission on High Yielding Seeds to be launched aiming at strengthening the research ecosystem, targeted development and propagation of seeds with high yield, and commercial availability of more than 100 seed varieties.
- **Fisheries:** Government to bring a framework for sustainable harnessing of fisheries from Indian Exclusive Economic Zone and High Seas, with a special focus on the Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands.
- **Mission for Cotton Productivity:** A 5-year mission announced to facilitate significant improvements in productivity and sustainability of cotton farming, and promote extra-long staple cotton varieties.
- **Enhanced Credit through KCC:** The loan limit under the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme to be enhanced from ₹ 3 lakh to ₹ 5 lakh for loans taken through the KCC.
- **Urea Plant in Assam:** A plant with annual capacity of 12.7 lakh metric tons to be set up at Namrup, Assam.

MSME's as the 2nd Engine of Development

- **Revision in classification criteria for MSMEs:** The investment and turnover limits for classification of all MSMEs to be enhanced to 2.5 and 2 times respectively.
- **Credit Cards for Micro Enterprises:** Customized Credit Cards with ₹ 5 lakh limit for micro enterprises registered on Udyam portal, 10 lakh cards to be issued in the first year.
- **Fund of Funds for Startups:** A new Fund of Funds, with expanded scope and a fresh contribution of ₹ 10,000 crore to be set up.
- **Scheme for First-time Entrepreneurs:** A new scheme for 5 lakh women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes first-time entrepreneurs to provide term-loans upto ₹ 2 crore in the next 5 years announced.
- **Focus Product Scheme for Footwear & Leather Sectors:** To enhance the productivity, quality and competitiveness of India's footwear and leather sector, a focus product scheme announced to facilitate employment for 22 lakh persons, generate turnover of ₹ 4 lakh crore and exports of over ₹ 1.1 lakh crore.
- **Measures for the Toy Sector:** A scheme to create high-quality, unique, innovative, and sustainable toys, making India a global hub for toys announced.
- **Support for Food Processing:** A National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management to be set up in Bihar.
- **Manufacturing Mission – Furthering “Make in India”:** A National Manufacturing Mission covering small, medium and large industries for furthering “Make in India” announced.





Investment as the 3rd Engine of Development

Investing in People

- **Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0:** The cost norms for the nutritional support to be enhanced appropriately.
- **Atal Tinkering Labs:** 50,000 Atal Tinkering Labs to be set up in Government schools in next 5 years.
- **Broadband Connectivity to Government Secondary Schools and PHCs:** Broadband connectivity to be provided to all Government secondary schools and primary health centres in rural areas under the Bharatnet project.
- **Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Scheme:** Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Scheme announced to provide digital-form Indian language books for school and higher education.
- **National Centres of Excellence for Skilling:** 5 National Centres of Excellence for skilling to be set up with global expertise and partnerships to equip our youth with the skills required for "Make for India, Make for the World" manufacturing.
- **Expansion of Capacity in IITs:** Additional infrastructure to be created in the 5 IITs started after 2014 to facilitate education for 6,500 more students.
- **Centre of Excellence in AI for Education:** A Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence for education to be set up with a total outlay of ₹ 500 crore.
- **Expansion of medical education:** 10,000 additional seats to be added in medical colleges and hospitals next year, adding to 75000 seats in the next 5 years.
- **Day Care Cancer Centres in all District Hospitals:** Government to set up Day Care Cancer Centres in all district hospitals in the next 3 years, 200 Centres in 2025-26.
- **Strengthening urban livelihoods:** A scheme for socio-economic upliftment of urban workers to help them improve their incomes and have sustainable livelihoods announced.
- **PM SVANidhi:** Scheme to be revamped with enhanced loans from banks, UPI linked credit cards with ₹ 30,000 limit, and capacity building support.
- **Social Security Scheme for Welfare of Online Platform Workers:** Government to arrange for identity cards, registration on e-Shram portal and healthcare under PM Jan Arogya Yojna, for gig-workers.

Investing in the Economy

- **Public Private Partnership in Infrastructure:** Infrastructure-related ministries to come up with a 3-year pipeline of projects in PPP mode, States also encouraged.
- **Support to States for Infrastructure:** An outlay of ₹1.5 lakh crore proposed for the 50-year interest free loans to states for capital expenditure and incentives for reforms.
- **Asset Monetization Plan 2025-30:** Second Plan for 2025-30 to plough back capital of ₹ 10 lakh crore in new projects announced.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission:** Mission to be extended until 2028 with an enhanced total outlay.

- **Urban Challenge Fund:** An Urban Challenge Fund of ₹ 1 lakh crore announced to implement the proposals for 'Cities as Growth Hubs', 'Creative Redevelopment of Cities' and 'Water and Sanitation', allocation of ₹ 10,000 crore proposed for 2025-26.
- **Nuclear Energy Mission for Viksit Bharat:** Amendments to the Atomic Energy Act and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act to be taken up. Nuclear Energy Mission for research & development of Small Modular Reactors (SMR) with an outlay of ₹20,000 crore to be set up, 5 indigenously developed SMRs to be operational by 2033.
- **Shipbuilding:** The Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy to be revamped. Large ships above a specified size to be included in the infrastructure harmonized master list (HML).
- **Maritime Development Fund:** A Maritime Development Fund with a corpus of ₹ 25,000 crore to be set up, with up to 49 per cent contribution by the Government, and the balance from ports and private sector.
- **UDAN – Regional Connectivity Scheme:** A modified UDAN scheme announced to enhance regional connectivity to 120 new destinations and carry 4 crore passengers in the next 10 years. Also to support helipads and smaller airports in hilly, aspirational, and North East region districts.
- **Greenfield Airport in Bihar:** Greenfield airports announced in Bihar, in addition to the expansion of the capacity of Patna airport and a brownfield airport at Bihta.
- **Western Koshi Canal Project in Mithilanchal:** Financial support for the Western Koshi Canal ERM Project in Bihar.
- **Mining Sector Reforms:** A policy for recovery of critical minerals from tailings to be brought out.
- **SWAMIH Fund 2:** A fund of ₹ 15,000 crore aimed at expeditious completion of another 1 lakh dwelling units, with contribution from the Government, banks and private investors announced.
- **Tourism for employment-led growth:** Top 50 tourist destination sites in the country to be developed in partnership with states through a challenge mode.

Investing in Innovation

- **Research, Development and Innovation:** ₹20,000 crore to be allocated to implement private sector driven Research, Development and Innovation initiative announced in the July Budget.
- **Deep Tech Fund of Funds:** Deep Tech Fund of Funds to be explored to catalyze the next generation startups.
- **PM Research Fellowship:** 10,000 fellowships for technological research in IITs and IISc with enhanced financial support.
- **Gene Bank for Crops Germplasm:** 2nd Gene Bank with 10 lakh germplasm lines to be set up for future food and nutritional security.
- **National Geospatial Mission:** A National Geospatial Mission announced to develop foundational geospatial infrastructure and data.





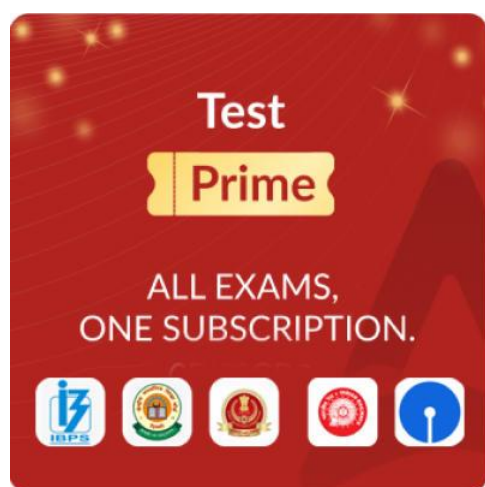
- **Gyan Bharatam Mission:** A Gyan Bharatam Mission for survey, documentation and conservation of our manuscript heritage with academic institutions, museums, libraries and private collectors to be undertaken to cover more than 1 crore manuscripts announced.

Exports as the 4th Engine of Development

- **Export Promotion Mission:** An Export Promotion Mission, with sectoral and ministerial targets, driven jointly by the Ministries of Commerce, MSME, and Finance to be set up.
- **BharatTradeNet:** 'BharatTradeNet' (BTN) for international trade to be set-up as a unified platform for trade documentation and financing solutions.
- **National Framework for GCC:** A national framework to be formulated as guidance to states for promoting Global Capability Centres in emerging tier 2 cities.

Reforms as Fuel: Financial sector reforms and Development

- **FDI in Insurance Sector:** The FDI limit for the insurance sector to be raised from 74 to 100 per cent, for those companies which invest the entire premium in India.
- **Credit Enhancement Facility by NaBFID:** NaBFID to set up a 'Partial Credit Enhancement Facility' for corporate bonds for infrastructure.
- **Grameen Credit Score:** Public Sector Banks to develop 'Grameen Credit Score' framework to serve the credit needs of SHG members and people in rural areas.
- **Pension Sector:** A forum for regulatory coordination and development of pension products to be set up.
- **High Level Committee for Regulatory Reforms:** A High-Level Committee for Regulatory Reforms to be set up for a review of all non-financial sector regulations, certifications, licenses, and permissions.
- **Investment Friendliness Index of States:** An Investment Friendliness Index of States to be launched in 2025 to further the spirit of competitive cooperative federalism announced.
- **Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0:** The Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0 to decriminalize more than 100 provisions in various laws.



PART B

Direct Tax

- No personal income tax payable upto income of Rs 12 lakh (i.e. average income of Rs 1 lakh per month other than special rate income such as capital gains) under the new regime.
- This limit will be Rs 12.75 lakh for salaried tax payers, due to standard deduction of Rs 75,000.
- The new structure will substantially reduce the taxes of the middle class and leave more money in their hands, boosting household consumption, savings and investment.
- The new Income-Tax Bill to be clear and direct in text so as to make it simple to understand for taxpayers and tax administration, leading to tax certainty and reduced litigation.
- Revenue of about ₹ 1 lakh crore in direct taxes will be forgone.

Revised tax rate structure

In the new tax regime, the revised tax rate structure will stand as follows:

Income Range	Tax Rate
0 – 4 lakh rupees	Nil
4 – 8 lakh rupees	5%
8 – 12 lakh rupees	10%
12 – 16 lakh rupees	15%
16 – 20 lakh rupees	20%
20 – 24 lakh rupees	25%
Above 24 lakh rupees	30%

TDS/TCS rationalization for easing difficulties

- Rationalization of Tax Deduction at Source (TDS) by reducing number of rates and thresholds above which TDS is deducted.
- The limit for tax deduction on interest for senior citizens doubled from the present Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh.
- The annual limit of Rs 2.40 lakh for TDS on rent increased to Rs 6 lakh.
- The threshold to collect tax at source (TCS) on remittances under RBI's Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS) increased from Rs 7 lakh to Rs 10 lakh.
- The provisions of the higher TDS deduction will apply only in non-PAN cases.
- Decriminalization for the cases of delay of payment of TCS up to the due date of filing statement.

Reducing Compliance Burden

- Reduction of compliance burden for small charitable trusts/institutions by increasing their period of registration from 5 years to 10 years.
- The benefit of claiming the annual value of self-occupied properties as nil will be extended for two such self-occupied properties without any condition.



**Ease of Doing Business**

- Introduction of a scheme for determining arm's length price of international transaction for a block period of three years.
- Expansion of the scope of safe harbour rules to reduce litigation and provide certainty in international taxation.
- Exemption of withdrawals made from National Savings Scheme (NSS) by individuals on or after the 29th of August, 2024.
- Similar treatment to NPS Vatsalya accounts as is available to normal NPS accounts, subject to overall limits.

Employment and Investment**Tax certainty for electronics manufacturing Schemes**

- Presumptive taxation regime for non-residents who provide services to a resident company that is establishing or operating an electronics manufacturing facility.
- Introduction of a safe harbour for tax certainty for non-residents who store components for supply to specified electronics manufacturing units.

Tonnage Tax Scheme for Inland Vessels

The benefits of existing tonnage tax scheme to be extended to inland vessels registered under the Indian Vessels Act, 2021 to promote inland water transport in the country.

Extension for incorporation of Start-Ups

Extension of the period of incorporation by 5 years to allow the benefit available to start-ups incorporated before 1.4.2030.

Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs)

Certainty of taxation on the gains from securities to Category I and Category II AIFs which are undertaking investments in infrastructure and other such sectors.

Extension of investment date for Sovereign and Pension Funds

Extension of the date of making investments in Sovereign Wealth Funds and Pension Funds by five more years, to 31st March, 2030, to promote funding from them to the infrastructure sector.

Indirect Tax**Rationalisation of Customs Tariff Structure for Industrial Goods**

Union Budget 2025-26 proposes to:

- Remove seven tariff rates. This is over and above the seven tariff rates removed in 2023-24 budget. After this, there will be only eight remaining tariff rates including 'zero' rate.
- Apply appropriate cess to broadly maintain effective duty incidence except on a few items, where such incidence will reduce marginally.
- Levy not more than one cess or surcharge. Therefore Social Welfare Surcharge on 82 tariff lines that are subject to a cess, exempted.

Revenue of about ₹ 2600 crore in indirect taxes will be forgone.

Relief on import of Drugs/Medicines

- 36 lifesaving drugs and medicines fully exempted from Basic Customs Duty (BCD).
- 6 lifesaving medicines to attract concessional customs duty of 5%.

- Specified drugs and medicines under Patient Assistance Programmes run by pharmaceutical companies fully exempted from BCD; 37 more medicines added along with 13 new patient assistance programmes.

Support to Domestic Manufacturing and Value addition

- **Critical Minerals:** Cobalt powder and waste, the scrap of lithium-ion battery, Lead, Zinc and 12 more critical minerals fully exempted from BCD.
- **Textiles:** Two more types of shuttle-less looms fully exempted textile machinery; BCD rate on knitted fabrics revised from "10% or 20%" to "20% or 115 per kg, whichever is higher."
- **Electronic Goods:**
 1. BCD on Interactive Flat Panel Display (IFPD) increased from 10% to 20%.
 2. BCD reduced to 5% on Open Cell and other components.
 3. BCD on parts of Open Cells exempted.
- **Lithium Ion Battery:** 35 additional capital goods for EV battery manufacturing, and 28 additional capital goods for mobile phone battery manufacturing exempted.
- **Shipping Sector:** Exemption of BCD on raw materials, components, consumables or parts for the manufacture of ships extended for another ten years. The same dispensation to continue for ship breaking.
- **Telecommunication:** BCD reduced from 20% to 10% on Carrier Grade ethernet switches.

Export Promotion

- **Handicraft Goods:** Time period for export extended from six months to one year, further extendable by another three months, if required. Nine items added to list of duty-free inputs.
- **Leather sector:** BCD on Wet Blue leather fully exempted. Crust leather exempted from 20% export duty.
- **Marine products:**
 1. BCD reduced from 30% to 5% on Frozen Fish Paste (Surimi) for manufacture and export of its analogue products.
 2. BCD reduced from 15% to 5% on fish hydrolysate for manufacture of fish and shrimp feeds.
- **Domestic MROs for Railway Goods:**
 1. Railways MROs to benefit similar to the aircraft and ships MROs in terms of import of repair items.
 2. Time limit extended for export of such items from 6 months to one year and made further extendable by one year.

Trade facilitation

- **Time limit for Provisional Assessment:** For finalising the provisional assessment, time-limit of two years fixed, extendable by a year.





- **Voluntary Compliance:** A new provision introduced to enable importers or exporters, after clearance of goods, to voluntarily declare material facts and pay duty with interest but without penalty.
- **Extended Time for End Use:**
 1. Time limit for the end-use of imported inputs in the relevant rules extended from six months to one year.
 2. Such importers to file only quarterly statements instead of a monthly statement.

Rupee Comes From (Budget 2025-26)

The government's total revenue comes from various sources, categorized as follows:

- **Corporation Tax** – 17%
- **Income Tax (includes Securities Transaction Tax)** – 22%
- **Customs Duty** – 4%
- **Union Excise Duties** – 5%
- **Goods & Services Tax (GST) & Other Taxes** – 18%
- **Non-Tax Receipts** – 9%
- **Non-Debt Capital Receipts** – 1%
- **Borrowings & Other Liabilities** – 24%

Rupee Goes To (Budget 2025-26)

The government's expenditure is divided into multiple categories:

- **Central Sector Schemes (excluding Defence & Major Subsidies)** – 16%
- **Interest Payments** – 20%
- **Defence** – 8%
- **Major Subsidies (Food, Fertilizer, Petroleum, etc.)** – 6%
- **Finance Commission & Other Transfers** – 8%
- **State Share of Taxes & Duties** – 22%
- **Pensions** – 4%
- **Other Expenditure** – 8%
- **Centrally Sponsored Schemes** – 8%

Total Revenue and Expenditure

Revenue Estimates

- Total Revenue Receipts: ₹34,20,409 crore
- Tax Revenue (Net to Centre): ₹28,37,409 crore
- Non-Tax Revenue: ₹583,000 crore
- Capital Receipts (including borrowings): ₹16,44,936 crore

Expenditure Estimates

- Total Expenditure: ₹50,65,345 crore
- Revenue Expenditure: ₹39,44,255 crore
- Capital Expenditure: ₹11,21,090 crore
- Effective Capital Expenditure: ₹15,48,282 crore
- Deficit Indicators

Key Deficit Figures

- **Fiscal Deficit:** ₹1,56,89,36 crore (4.4% of GDP)
- **Revenue Deficit:** ₹5,23,846 crore (1.5% of GDP)
- **Effective Revenue Deficit:** ₹96,654 crore (0.3% of GDP)
- **Primary Deficit:** ₹2,92,598 crore (0.8% of GDP)

Deficit Financing

- Market Borrowings: ₹11,53,834 crore
- Securities against Small Savings: ₹343,382 crore
- External Debt: ₹23,490 crore
- Sector-Wise Allocation

Major Expenditures

- **Interest Payments:** ₹12,76,338 crore
- **Defence:** ₹4,91,732 crore
- **Pension:** ₹2,76,618 crore

Subsidies:

- Food: ₹203,420 crore
- Fertilizer: ₹167,887 crore
- Petroleum: ₹12,100 crore

Key Infrastructure and Development Allocations

- **Rural Development:** ₹2,66,817 crore
- **Education:** ₹1,28,650 crore
- **Healthcare:** ₹98,311 crore
- **Urban Development:** ₹96,777 crore
- **Transport Infrastructure:** ₹5,48,649 crore
- Transfer to States & UTs

Total Transfer to States & UTs: ₹25,01,284 crore

- State Devolution: ₹14,22,444 crore
- Finance Commission Grants: ₹1,32,767 crore
- Centrally Sponsored Schemes: ₹541,850 crore
- Other Grants & Loans: ₹3,74,725 crore
- Key Government Schemes and Allocations

Agriculture & Rural Development

- **PM-KISAN:** ₹63,500 crore
- **Mahatma Gandhi NREGA:** ₹86,000 crore
- **PM Awas Yojana (Grameen & Urban):** ₹74,626 crore

Education & Employment

- **PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI):** ₹7,500 crore
- **Samagra Shiksha:** ₹41,250 crore
- **Skill Development & Apprenticeships:** ₹13,560 crore

Health & Social Welfare

- **Ayushman Bharat – PMJAY:** ₹9,406 crore
- **POSHAN 2.0 (Nutrition Mission):** ₹21,960 crore
- **Social Assistance Programs:** ₹9,652 crore

Infrastructure & Industrial Development

- **Jal Jeevan Mission:** ₹67,000 crore
- **PM Gram Sadak Yojana:** ₹19,000 crore
- **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes:** ₹2,445 crore

Budget Allocations for All Ministries (2025-26):

Top Ministries by Budget Allocation

1. **Ministry of Finance** – ₹19,39,001.26 crore
2. **Ministry of Defence** – ₹6,81,210.27 crore





3. **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution** – ₹2,15,767.09 crore
4. **Ministry of Railways** – ₹2,55,445.18 crore
5. **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways** – ₹2,87,333.16 crore

Key Ministry Allocations

Infrastructure & Development

- **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs** – ₹96,777.00 crore
- **Ministry of Power** – ₹21,847.00 crore
- **Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways** – ₹3,470.58 crore

Social Sectors

- **Ministry of Education** – ₹1,28,650.05 crore
- **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare** – ₹99,858.56 crore
- **Ministry of Women & Child Development** – ₹26,889.69 crore
- **Ministry of Rural Development** – ₹1,90,405.53 crore

Scientific Research & Technology

- **Department of Space** – ₹13,416.20 crore
- **Ministry of Science & Technology** – ₹38,613.32 crore
- **Ministry of Electronics & IT** – ₹26,026.25 crore

Agriculture & Industry

- **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare** – ₹1,37,756.55 crore
- **Ministry of Commerce & Industry** – ₹18,446.05 crore
- **Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers** – ₹1,61,965.21 crore

Law & Governance

- **Ministry of Home Affairs** – ₹2,33,210.68 crore
- **Ministry of Law & Justice** – ₹5,850.37 crore
- **Ministry of External Affairs** – ₹20,516.61 crore

Economic Survey 2025: Key Highlights, Summary, and Important Points

The **Economic Survey of India 2025** provides a comprehensive overview of India's economic performance, highlighting key trends, challenges, and policy recommendations for sustainable growth. As a precursor to the Union Budget, the survey underscores the resilience of the Indian economy amidst global uncertainties, emphasizing robust GDP growth, declining inflation, and significant strides in sectors such as manufacturing, services, and digital infrastructure. It also addresses critical areas like employment generation, fiscal consolidation, and green energy transition, offering insights into the government's vision for achieving long-term economic stability and inclusivity. **CEA V Anantha Nageswaran** gives an Economic Survey presentation

Economic Survey 2025: Key Highlights, Summary, and Important Points

Chapter 1: State of the Economy: Getting Back into the Fast Lane

- India's real GDP growth is **estimated at 6.4 per cent in FY25** (as per first advance estimates of national income), which equates nearly to its decadal average.

- Real gross value added (GVA) is also estimated to grow by 6.4 per cent FY25.
- The global economy on an average grew by 3.3 per cent in 2023 against the IMF projection of 3.2 per cent growth in the next five years.
- The real GDP growth in **FY26 is expected to grow between 6.3 and 6.8 per cent**, keeping in mind the upsides and downsides to growth.
- Thrust on **grassroots-level structural reforms and deregulation** to reinforce the medium-term growth potential and boost global competitiveness of Indian economy.
- Geopolitical tensions, ongoing conflicts and global trade policy risks continue to pose significant challenges to the global economic outlook.
- **Retail headline inflation** has softened from 5.4 per cent in FY24 to **4.9 per cent in April–December 2024**.
- Capital expenditure (CAPEX) improved continuously from FY21 to FY24. Post general elections, CAPEX grew YOY by 8.2 per cent during July–November 2024.
- India accounts for seventh-largest share in global services exports, underscoring India's global competitiveness in the sector.
- During April to December 2024, non-Petroleum and non-Gems & Jewellery exports went up by 9.1 per cent reflecting resilience of India's merchandise exports amid volatile global conditions.

Chapter 2: Monetary and Financial Sector Developments: The Card and the Horse

- Bank credit has grown at a steady rate with credit growth converging towards deposit growth.
- **Profitability of Scheduled Commercial Banks improved**, reflected in a fall in gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) and rise in capital to risk weighted asset ratio (CRAR).
- Credit growth outpaced nominal GDP growth for two successive years. The **credit-GDP gap narrowed to (-) 0.3 per cent in Q1 of FY25** from (-) 10.3 per cent in Q1 of FY23, indicating sustainable bank credit growth.
- **Banking sector** exhibits **improvement in asset quality**, robust capital buffers, and strong operational performance.
- The **gross non-performing assets (GNPAs)** of Scheduled Commercial Banks declined to a 12-year low of **2.6 per cent of gross loans and advances** at the end of September 2024.
- Under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, **₹3.6 lakh crore realized in resolution of 1,068 plans** till September 2024. It amounts to 161 per cent against the liquidation value and 86.1 per cent of the fair value of the assets involved.
- Indian stock markets outperformed its emerging market peers despite election-driven market volatility challenges.
- The total resource mobilisation from primary markets (equity and debt) stands at ₹11.1 lakh crore from April to December 2024, five per cent more than the amount mobilised during FY24.





- BSE stock market capitalisation to GDP ratio stood at 136 per cent at the end of December 2024, far higher than other Emerging Market Economies like China (65 per cent) and Brazil (37 per cent).
- India's **insurance** market continued its upward trajectory, with total insurance premiums growing by **7.7 per cent in FY24**, reaching ₹11.2 lakh crore.
- India's **pension** sector experienced significant growth, with the **total number of pension subscribers growing by 16 per cent (YoY)** as of September 2024.

Chapter 3: External Sector: Getting FDI Right

- India's external sector continues to display resilience amidst global uncertainties and headwinds.
- **Overall exports** (merchandise + services) **grew by 6 per cent (YOY)** in the first nine months of FY25. Services sector by 11.6 per cent during the same time.
- India commands **10.2 per cent** of the **global export market** in '**Telecommunications, Computer, & Information Services**', ranking 2nd largest exporter in the world, as per UNCTAD.
- India's current account deficit (**CAD**) stood at **1.2 per cent of GDP** in Q2 of FY25, supported by rising net services receipts and an increase in private transfer receipts.
- Gross Foreign Direct Investment (**FDI**) inflows recorded a revival in FY25, increasing from USD 47.2 billion in the first eight months of FY24 to USD 55.6 billion in the same period of FY25, a YoY **growth of 17.9 per cent**.
- India's FOREX reserves stood at USD 640.3 billion as of the end of December 2024, **sufficient to cover 10.9 months of imports** and approximately 90 per cent of the country's external debt.
- India's **external debt** remained stable over the past few years, with the external debt to GDP ratio standing at **19.4 per cent at the end of September 2024**.

Chapter 4: Prices and Inflation: Understanding the Dynamics

- As per the IMF, the global inflation rate moderated to 5.7 per cent by 2024 from its peak of 8.7 per cent in 2022.
- **Retail inflation** in India saw a reduction from 5.4 per cent in FY24 to **4.9 per cent in FY25 (April-December 2024)**.
- **RBI** and the **IMF** project India's consumer price inflation will gradually align with the target of around **4 per cent in FY26**.
- Development of climate-resilient crop varieties and enhanced farming practices are essential to mitigate the effects of extreme weather events and achieve long-term price stability.

Chapter 5: Medium-Term Outlook: Deregulation Drives Growth

- Indian economy is in the middle of a change that represents an unprecedented economic challenge and opportunity. **Geo-Economic Fragmentation (GEF)** is replacing **globalization** leading to imminent economic realignments and readjustments.

- To realize the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047 India will need to achieve a growth rate of around 8 per cent at constant prices, on average, for about a decade or two.
- The Medium-term growth outlook for India must consider the new global realities – GEF, China's manufacturing prowess, and dependency of efforts for energy transition on China.
- India to focus on **systematic deregulation** to reinvigorate the domestic levers of growth and empower individuals and organisations to pursue legitimate economic activity with ease.
- Systemic deregulation or enhancing economic freedom for individuals and small businesses is arguably the **most important policy priority** to bolster India's medium-term growth prospects.
- Focus of reforms and economic policy must now be on systematic deregulation under Ease of Doing Business 2.0 and **creation of a viable Mittelstand**, i.e. India's SME sector.
- In the next step, States must work on liberalising standards and controls, setting legal safeguards for enforcement, reducing tariffs and fees, and applying risk-based regulation.

Chapter 6: Investment and Infrastructure: Keeping it Going

- The central focus of the Government in the last five years was on increasing public spending on infrastructure, and speeding up approvals and resource mobilization.
- The Union Government's **capital expenditure on key infrastructure sectors** has **grown at a rate of 38.8 per cent** from FY20 to FY24.
- Under railway connectivity, **2031 km of railway network** was commissioned between April and November, 2024, and **17 new pairs of Vande Bharat** trains were introduced between April and October 2024.
- Under road network, **5853 km of National Highways** was constructed in FY25 (April-Dec).
- Under National Industrial Corridor Development Programme, a total of 383 plots covering **3788 acres** have **been allotted for industrial use** for various sectors in phase 1.
- Operational efficiency improved reduction in average container turnaround time in major ports from **48.1 hours in FY24 to 30.4 hours during FY25 (Apr-Nov)**, significantly improving **port connectivity**.
- A 15.8 per cent year-on-year increase in renewable energy capacity of solar and wind power by December 2024.
- The share of renewable energy in India's total installed capacity now stands at 47 per cent.
- Government's schemes like the DDUGJY and the SAUBHAGYA improved electricity access in rural areas, electrifying 18,374 villages and providing electricity to 2.9 crore households.





- The government's digital connectivity initiatives have gained traction, particularly with the rollout of 5G services across all states and union territories by October 2024.
- Efforts to provide 4G mobile services to remote areas under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (now Digital Bharat Nidhi) have made significant strides, with over 10,700 villages covered by December 2024.
- Under the **Jal Jeevan Mission**, over 12 **crore families** have gained access of piped drinking water since its launch.
- Under Phase II of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen, during April to November 2024, 1.92 lakh villages were incrementally declared ODF Plus under the model category, taking the total number of **ODF Plus villages to 3.64 lakh**.
- In urban areas, the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana has completed over 89 lakh houses**.
- City transportation network is expanding rapidly, with metro and rapid rail systems operational or under construction in 29 cities, covering over 1,000 kilometers.
- Real Estate (Regulation & Development) Act, 2016, ensured regulation and transparency of Real Estate sector. By January 2025, **over 1.38 lakh real estate projects registered**, and 1.38 lakh complaints were resolved.
- India currently operates 56 active space assets. The government's Space Vision 2047 includes ambitious projects like the **Gaganyaan** mission and the **Chandrayaan-4** Lunar Sample Return Mission.
- Public sector investment alone cannot meet the requirements of infrastructure, and **private sector participation will be crucial** to bridge the gap.
- The government has created mechanisms such as the National Infrastructure Pipeline and National Monetisation Pipeline to facilitate private sector involvement in infrastructure.

Chapter 7: Industry: All about Business Reforms

- The industrial sector expected to grow by 6.2 per cent in FY-25 (first advance estimates), driven by robust growth in electricity and construction.
- The government has been actively promoting Smart Manufacturing and Industry 4.0, supporting the establishment of **SAMARTH Udyog centres**.
- In FY24, the **Indian automobile domestic sales grew by 12.5 per cent**.
- The domestic production of electronic goods has grown at a CAGR of 17.5 per cent from FY15 to FY24.
- **99 per cent smartphones now manufactured domestically**, drastically reducing India's dependence on imports.
- The total **annual turnover of pharmaceuticals in FY24 was ₹4.17 lakh crore**, growing at an average rate of 10.1 per cent in the last five years.
- As per the WIPO Report 2022, **India ranks sixth among the top 10 patent filing offices globally**.

- Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector has emerged as a highly vibrant sector of the Indian economy.
- To provide equity funding to MSMEs with the potential to scale up, the government launched the **Self-Reliant India Fund** with a corpus of ₹50,000 crore.
- The government is implementing the Micro and Small Enterprises-Cluster Development Programme to develop clusters across the country.

Chapter 8: Services -New Challenges for the Old War Horse

- The service sector's contribution to total GVA has risen from **50.6 per cent in FY14 to 55.3 per cent in FY25 (First Advance Estimates)**.
- The average growth rate of the services sector was **8 per cent in the pre-pandemic years (FY13 -FY20)**. It stood at **8.3 per cent in the post-pandemic period (FY23-FY25)**.
- India held a 4.3 per cent share in global services exports in 2023, ranking seventh worldwide.
- India's services export growth surged to **12.8 per cent during April-November FY25, up from 5.7 per cent in FY24**.
- Information and computer-related services grew at a trend rate of 12.8 per cent over the last decade (FY13-FY23), increasing their share of overall GVA from 6.3 per cent to 10.9 per cent.
- Indian Railways recorded an 8 per cent growth in passenger traffic originating in FY24. Revenue-earning freight in FY24 grew by 5.2 per cent.
- The tourism sector's contribution to GDP returned to its pre-pandemic level of 5 per cent in FY23.

Chapter 9: Agriculture and Food Management: Sector of the Future

- The 'Agriculture and Allied Activities' sector contributes approximately 16 per cent of the country's GDP for FY24 (PE) at current prices.
- High-value sectors like horticulture, livestock, and fisheries have become key drivers of overall agricultural growth.
- Kharif foodgrain production for **2024 is expected to reach 1647.05 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT), an increase of 89.37 LMT from the previous year**.
- For the fiscal year 2024-25, the MSP for Arhar and Bajra has been increased by **59 per cent and 77 per cent** over the weighted average cost of production, respectively.
- The fisheries sector has shown the highest compound annual growth rate (**CAGR**) of **8.7 per cent, followed by livestock with a CAGR of 8 per cent**.
- National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 and the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) marked a fundamental shift in the approach to food security.
- The provision of free food grains under PMGKAY for another five years, reflects the long-term commitment of Govt towards food and nutrition security.





- As of 31st October, over 11 crore farmers have benefitted under PM-KISAN, while 23.61 lakh farmers are enrolled under PM Kisan Mandhan.

Chapter 10: Climate & Environment: Adaptation Matters

- India's ambition to achieve developed nation status by 2047 is fundamentally anchored in the vision of inclusive and sustainable development.
- India has installed electricity generation capacity of **2,13,701 megawatts** from non-fossil fuel sources, which accounts for 46.8 per cent of the total capacity as of 30 November 2024.
- As per the Forest Survey of India 2024 an additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes CO₂ equivalent has been created between **2005 and 2024**.
- The India-led global movement, Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE), aims to enhance the country's sustainability efforts.
- By 2030, it is estimated that LiFE measures could save consumers around **USD 440 billion globally** through reduced consumption and lower prices.

Chapter 11: Social Sector -Extending the reach and driving empowerment

- The social services expenditure of the government (combined for Centre and States) increased at a compound annual growth rate of 15 per cent from FY21 to FY 25.
- Gini coefficient, a measure of inequality in consumption expenditure, is declining. For rural areas it declined to **0.237 in 2023-24 from 0.266 in 2022-23, and for urban areas, it fell to 0.284 in 2023-24 from 0.314 in 2022-23**.
- Various fiscal policies of the government are aiding in reshaping the income distribution.
- Government health expenditure increases from 29.0 per cent to 48.0 per cent; share of out-of-pocket expenditure in total health expenditure declines from **62.6 per cent to 39.4 per cent, reducing financial hardship endured by households**.
- The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) has played a decisive role in the significant reductions in expenditure with over ₹1.25 lakh crore in savings being recorded.
- The strategy of —Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been adopted to ensure that budgets at the Gram Panchayat levels align with the SDG objectives.

Chapter 12: Employment and Skill Development: Existential priorities

- Indian labour market indicators have improved with unemployment rate declining to **3.2 per cent in 2023-24 (July-June) from 6.0 per cent in 2017-18 (July-June)**.
- With around 26 per cent of the population in the age group of 10-24 years, India stands at the cusp of a unique demographic opportunity, as one of the youngest nations globally.

- To give a fillip to women's entrepreneurship, the government has launched several initiatives in terms of easier access to credit, marketing support, skill development, and support to women start-ups, etc.
- The growing digital economy and renewable energy sectors are providing enhanced opportunities for job creation, essential for achieving the Viksit Bharat's vision.
- The government is establishing a resilient and responsive skilled ecosystem to keep pace with emerging global trends such as automation, generative AI, digitalisation, and the effects of climate change.
- The Government has implemented measures to boost employment, foster self-employment, and promote worker welfare.
- The recently launched PM-Internship Scheme is emerging as a transformative catalyst for employment generation.
- The net payroll additions under EPFO have more than doubled in the past six years, signalling healthy growth in formal employment.

Chapter 13: Labour in the AI Era: Crisis or Catalyst?

- Developers of Artificial Intelligence (AI) promise** to usher in a new age, where a bulk of the economically valuable work is automated.
- AI is anticipated to surpass human performance in critical decision-making across various fields, including healthcare, research, criminal justice, education, business, and financial services.
- Barriers to large-scale AI adoption persist in the present, which include concerns over reliability, resource inefficiencies, and infrastructure deficits. These challenges, along with AI's experimental nature, create a window for policymakers to act.
- Fortunately, due to AI presently being in its infancy, India is afforded the time necessary to strengthen its foundations and mobilise a nation-wide institutional response.
- Leveraging its young, dynamic, and tech-savvy population, India has the potential to create a workforce that can utilise AI to augment their work and productivity.
- The future revolves around 'Augmented Intelligence', where the workforce integrates both human and machine capabilities. This approach aims to enhance human potential and improve overall efficiency in job performance, ultimately benefiting society as a whole.
- Collaborative effort between government, private sector, and academia essential to minimise adverse societal effects of AI-driven transformation.





Best Marching Contingents and Tableaux of Republic Day Parade 2025 Announced

The Republic Day Parade at **Kartavya Path, Delhi**, is a grand celebration that showcases India's military strength, cultural diversity, and historical legacy. The **2025 Republic Day Parade** witnessed a magnificent display of discipline, tradition, and artistry, with Marching Contingents and Tableaux competing for top honors. The results were announced by the three expert panels of judges, and an online public poll conducted on the **MyGov portal** also determined the 'Popular Choice' winners.

Best Marching Contingents: A Display of Discipline and Excellence

The Marching Contingents, comprising **defense personnel, paramilitary forces, and police**, demonstrated impeccable coordination, precision, and patriotism. The winners in this category were as follows:

Judges' Choice:

- **Best Marching Contingent among Services:** Jammu & Kashmir Rifles Contingent
- **Best Marching Contingent among CAPFs/Other Auxiliary Forces:** Delhi Police Marching Contingent

Popular Choice (MyGov Poll):

- **Best Marching Contingent among Services:** Signals Contingent
- **Best Marching Contingent among CAPFs/Other Auxiliary Forces:** CRPF Marching Contingent

The **Jammu & Kashmir Rifles Contingent** impressed the jury with their disciplined and synchronized marching, while the **Delhi Police Contingent** showcased an exceptional parade drill. The public, however, voted for the **Signals Contingent** and **CRPF Marching Contingent** as their favorites in the online poll.

Top Tableaux Showcasing India's Cultural and Historical Legacy

One of the most anticipated segments of the **Republic Day Parade** is the **Tableaux Presentation**, where states, union territories, and central ministries present visually stunning floats depicting their unique heritage, achievements, and traditions.

Judges' Choice for Best Tableaux (States/UTs):

- **Uttar Pradesh:** Mahakumbh 2025 – Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas
The tableau highlighted the **grandeur of Mahakumbh 2025**, one of the largest religious gatherings in the world. It emphasized the spiritual, historical, and economic significance of the Kumbh Mela in shaping India's heritage.
- **Tripura:** Eternal Reverence: The Worship of 14 Deities in Tripura – Kharchi Puja
This tableau depicted the **Kharchi Puja**, a traditional festival of Tripura that honors 14 deities. It showcased the unique **blending of tribal and Hindu traditions** that define the state's religious identity.

- **Andhra Pradesh:** Etikoppaka Bommalu – Eco-Friendly Wooden Toys
The tableau presented the intricate craftsmanship of **Etikoppaka wooden toys**, a GI-tagged art form known for its **eco-friendly lacquered designs** and deep cultural significance.

Best Tableau from Central Ministries/Departments (Judges' Choice):

- **Ministry of Tribal Affairs:** Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh
This tableau paid tribute to **India's tribal communities**, showcasing their contributions to the nation's development and the government's initiatives for their welfare.

Special Prizes:

- **Central Public Works Department:** 75 Years of the Constitution of India
This tableau celebrated India's constitutional journey, highlighting the **vision of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** and the milestones achieved under the Constitution.
- **'Jayati Jai Mamah Bharatam' Dance Group**
This performance was recognized for its **energetic and patriotic depiction** of India's cultural vibrancy through dance.

Popular Choice Award (MyGov Poll) for Tableaux

In addition to the judges' evaluation, the government conducted an **online poll on the MyGov portal** from **January 26 to 28, 2025**, where citizens voted for their favorite tableaux. The results were as follows:

- **Gujarat:** Swarnim Bharat: Virasat Aur Vikas
Gujarat's tableau portrayed India's **rich heritage and rapid development**, reflecting the country's journey toward becoming a global powerhouse.
- **Uttar Pradesh:** Mahakumbh 2025 – Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas
The state's tableau found immense appreciation among the public as well, securing the second position in the poll.
- **Uttarakhand:** Uttarakhand: Cultural Heritage and Adventure Sports
This tableau highlighted the **spiritual, cultural, and adventure tourism** aspects of Uttarakhand, emphasizing its significance as a religious and adventure destination.

Best Tableau from Central Ministries/Departments (Popular Choice):

- **Ministry of Women & Child Development:** Multifaceted Journey of Women and Children
This tableau celebrated the **transformational journey of women and children** in India under the Ministry's various **welfare schemes**, showcasing achievements in health, education, and empowerment.





First 'Mann Ki Baat' of 2025 by PM Modi

The first 'Mann Ki Baat' of 2025 was conducted by the **Prime Minister on January 20**, a week earlier than usual, to accommodate the Republic Day celebrations on January 26. This special broadcast marked the 75th anniversary of the Indian Republic and included discussions on the Constitution, democracy, cultural traditions, advancements in space technology, and human-animal harmony.

Key Takeaways from Mann Ki Baat

1. Special Date for Mann Ki Baat

- This episode aired a week earlier than usual due to Republic Day falling on the last Sunday of January.
- Highlighted the significance of Republic Day celebrations in India's democratic journey.

2. 75th Republic Day

- Marks 75 years of the Indian Constitution coming into force.
- Tribute paid to the visionaries of the Constituent Assembly who framed the Constitution.
- Prime Minister shared excerpts from the speeches of prominent leaders during the Constituent Assembly debates,

B.R. Ambedkar

- Emphasized unity and cooperation among members of the Constituent Assembly.
- Highlighted the challenge of beginning a unified journey despite a diverse populace.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad

- Spoke about India's commitment to peace, truth, and non-violence.
- Emphasized cultural heritage and India's role in promoting global harmony.

Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee

- Advocated for equality of opportunity regardless of caste, creed, or community.
- Highlighted the vision of an inclusive India for all citizens.

3. National Voters' Day – January 25

- Celebrates the establishment of the Election Commission of India in 1950.
- Acknowledges the foundational role of voting in India's democracy.
- Commends the Election Commission for modernizing the electoral process through technology.
- Encourages citizens to actively participate in elections to strengthen democracy.

4. Strength of Indian Democracy

- Highlighted skepticism during India's first elections in 1951-52 about democracy's survival.

- Celebrates India's growth as the "Mother of Democracy."
- Praised the success of democratic principles in strengthening governance.

5. Call to Action

- Urged citizens to honor the makers of the Constitution by building a better India.
- Encouraged voters to exercise their right to vote in maximum numbers.

6. Kumbh Mela and Indian Traditions

- **Commencement of Maha Kumbh:** Began in Prayagraj, showcasing a massive gathering of humanity and unity in diversity.
- **Inclusivity:** Represents a confluence of equality and harmony, with people from all parts of India and across the world participating.

Cultural Unity

- Rich and poor come together as equals, sharing meals and participating in rituals.
- Similar festivals like Pushkaram in the south connect cultural beliefs with holy rivers.
- **Youth Participation:** Extensive youth involvement strengthens the connection with Indian civilization.
- **Global Recognition:** Enhanced digital footprint signifies the global popularity of the Kumbh.

7. Ganga Sagar Mela and Cultural Heritage

- **Grand Celebration:** Organized on Makar Sankranti, drawing lakhs of devotees for holy dips.
- **Purpose:** Festivals like Kumbh, Pushkaram, and Ganga Sagar Mela enhance social harmony and unity.
- **Holistic Empowerment:** These traditions emphasize spiritual, social, cultural, and economic values.

8. Ram Lalla Pran Pratishtha Anniversary

- **Event Details:** Marked the first anniversary of Ram Lalla's Pran Pratishtha on Paush Shukla Dwadashi.
- **Significance:** Symbolizes the re-establishment of India's cultural consciousness.
- **Message:** Emphasizes preserving heritage while advancing on the path of development.

9. Milestones in Indian Space Achievements

Private Satellite Constellation

- Bengaluru-based start-up Pixxel launched India's first private satellite constellation, Firefly.
- World's top high-resolution hyperspectral satellite constellation.
- A major step towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat and leadership in space technology.





Space Docking

- India became the fourth country to achieve space docking.
- Critical for sending supplies to space stations and enabling crew missions.

Agriculture in Space

- Cowpea seeds germinated in space, paving the way for future cultivation of vegetables in space.

ExTeM Centre at IIT Madras

- Working on space manufacturing technologies like 3D-printed buildings, metal foams, and optical fibers.
- Developing waterless concrete construction for advanced applications in space.
- Contributing to India's Gaganyaan Mission and future space station projects.

10. Bonding Between Humans and Animals

- **Emotional connection:** Animals and humans share a unique bond of love and understanding despite the language barrier.

Example from Assam

- **Location:** Naugaon, birthplace of Srimanta Shankardev Ji, and home to many elephants.
- **Problem:** Elephants strayed into fields, destroying crops and causing distress to farmers in 100 villages.
- **Solution:** Villagers initiated the '**Haathi Bandhu**' program.
- **Effort:** Transformed 800 bighas of barren land into fields of Napier grass, a favorite of elephants.
- **Result:** Elephants stopped straying into fields, reducing human-animal conflict and benefiting both villagers and wildlife.

11. Conservation Efforts

New Tiger Reserves

- **Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve** in Chhattisgarh.
- **Ratapani Tiger Reserve** in Madhya Pradesh.
- **Significance:** Highlights India's commitment to wildlife preservation and ecological balance.

11. Growth of Startup India

- **Start-Up India initiative:** Celebrated its 9th anniversary recently.

Expansion to smaller cities

- More than half of India's startups are emerging from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- **Examples:** Ambala, Hisar, Kangra, Chengalpattu, Bilaspur, Gwalior, Washim.
- **Women-led startups:** Over half of the startups in smaller cities are led by women.
- **Rise in Nagaland:** Startup registration increased by over 200% last year.

Sectors of growth

- Waste management.
- Non-renewable energy.
- Biotechnology.
- Logistics.

12. Economic Empowerment Through GI Tag

Virgin Coconut Oil (Andaman and Nicobar Islands)

- Received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently.
- Women's self-help groups are being organized for production, branding, and marketing.
- Aims to economically empower tribal communities.
- Expected to gain global recognition due to quality and local expertise.

13. Honoring Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

Escape Story

- Escaped British surveillance during World War II and reached Europe via Afghanistan.
- Symbolizes immense bravery and strategic genius.

Achievements and Contributions

- Visionary leader and efficient administrator; became CEO of Kolkata Corporation at 27.
- Initiatives included schools for children, milk distribution for the poor, and sanitation efforts.
- Established Azad Hind Radio, broadcasting in multiple languages to inspire freedom fighters.

Parakram Diwas

- **Celebrated on January 23**, marking his birth anniversary.
- Encouragement for youth to learn from Netaji's life and principles.

Cabinet Approvals

Cabinet Approves Seven Major Schemes to Enhance Farmers' Lives and Livelihoods

Union Cabinet Approves ₹13,966 Crore for Seven Key Agricultural Schemes (Sept 2, 2024)

The Union Cabinet, led by PM Narendra Modi, approved **seven major schemes** to enhance farmers' incomes and improve agricultural sustainability.

1. Digital Agriculture Mission (₹2,817 crore)

- Establishment of **Agri Stack** (Farmers Registry, Land Maps, Crop Sown Registry).
- **Krishi Decision Support System:** Uses AI, Big Data, satellite imagery for yield modeling, weather tracking, and insurance assessments.





2. Crop Science for Food & Nutritional Security (₹3,979 crore)

- Focuses on **climate-resilient crops** and **food security** by 2047.
- Key areas: Plant genetic resource management, genetic improvement, pulse & oilseed development, and insect & pollinator research.

3. Strengthening Agricultural Education & Research (₹2,291 crore)

- Modernizes **agriculture education** under **NEP 2020**.
- Emphasizes **AI, Big Data, natural farming, and climate resilience**.

4. Sustainable Livestock Health & Production (₹1,702 crore)

- Enhances **veterinary services, dairy production, livestock genetics, and animal nutrition**.
- Aims to boost farmers' **income from livestock**.

5. Sustainable Horticulture Development (₹860 crore)

- Expands **horticulture-based income** through diverse crops like **vegetables, spices, medicinal plants, and floriculture**.

6. Strengthening Krishi Vigyan Kendra (₹1,202 crore)

- Enhances **agricultural extension centers** to improve farmer training and knowledge sharing.

7. Natural Resource Management (₹1,115 crore)

- Focuses on **sustainable resource use** to ensure **long-term agricultural viability** and **environmental conservation**.

Cabinet Approves Extension of One-Time Special Package on DAP Fertilizer (Jan 1, 2025)

The Union Cabinet, chaired by **PM Narendra Modi**, has approved the **extension** of the **One-Time Special Package on Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP)** beyond the **Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS)** at **₹3,500 per MT** from **January 1, 2025, till further orders**, ensuring affordable DAP for farmers.

Key Highlights:

- **Budgetary Allocation:** ₹3,850 crore.
- **Previous Approval (July 2024):** ₹2,625 crore (April 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 2024).
- **Total Special Package since April 2024:** ₹6,475 crore.
- **Objective:** Sustainable availability of **DAP at subsidized rates** despite global market fluctuations.

Background:

- **28 grades of P&K fertilizers** are subsidized under the **NBS scheme (since April 2010)**.
- Despite **geo-political constraints**, the **government has ensured stable DAP prices** for Kharif and Rabi 2024-25.

Implementation:

- **₹3,500 per MT subsidy** will continue **over and above NBS subsidy** from **Jan 1, 2025, onwards**.
- Ensures **smooth and affordable supply** of **DAP fertilizer** to farmers.

Cabinet Approves Modifications in PMFBY & RWBCIS for 2025-26

The Union Cabinet, chaired by **PM Narendra Modi**, has approved the **continuation** of the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** and **Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS)** till **2025-26**, with a total outlay of **₹69,515.71 crore (2021-22 to 2025-26)**.

Key Highlights:

- **Objective:** Risk coverage for crops from non-preventable natural calamities.
- **Fund for Innovation and Technology (FIAT)** created: ₹824.77 crore for **technology-driven implementation**.

Technology-Based Initiatives:

1. **YES-TECH (Yield Estimation System using Technology)**
 - Uses **Remote Sensing Technology** for **yield estimation**.
 - **30% weightage** given to technology-based estimates.
 - **Madhya Pradesh** has fully adopted **100% tech-based yield estimation**.
 - **9 major states** (AP, Assam, Haryana, UP, MP, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu & Karnataka) are implementing it.
2. **WINDS (Weather Information and Network Data Systems)**
 - **Automatic Weather Stations (AWS)** at **block level** & **Automatic Rain Gauges (ARGs)** at **panchayat level**.
 - **5x increase** in weather data density for **hyper-local weather monitoring**.
 - **9 states** (Kerala, UP, HP, Puducherry, Assam, Odisha, Karnataka, Uttarakhand & Rajasthan) are implementing it.
 - **First year of implementation shifted to 2024-25** to ensure proper planning & state benefits.

Focus on North-East States:

- **90% premium subsidy** shared by the **Centre** for NE states.
- **Flexibility** provided for **fund reallocation** in case of underutilization due to voluntary participation.

Union Cabinet Approves Key Decisions for Farmers' Welfare (Jan 1, 2025)

Union Minister **Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan** announced that the **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **PM Narendra Modi**, has approved **three major decisions** to benefit farmers and strengthen India's agricultural sector.

1. Extension of PMFBY & RWBCIS Till 2025-26

- **Total Budget:** ₹69,515.71 crore (2021-22 to 2025-26).
- **Objective:** Provide **risk coverage** for farmers against **natural calamities**.





- **Technology Infusion:**
 - **Fund for Innovation and Technology (FIAT):** ₹824.77 crore allocated for tech-based improvements.
 - **YES-TECH:** Remote sensing-based yield estimation system.
 - **WINDS:** Expansion of automatic weather stations for improved weather data collection.
 - **WINDS Implementation:** Begins in 2024-25 to assist state governments.

2. Extension of One-Time Special Package on DAP Till Dec 31, 2025

- **Objective:** Ensure affordable DAP fertilizer for farmers.
- **Subsidy Mechanism:** Under Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme, fertilizer companies set prices with fixed subsidy support.
- **Budgetary Requirement:** ₹3,850 crore for 2025 extension (over ₹2,625 crore earlier approved for 2024).
- **Payment Mechanism:** Based on actual PoS sales of DAP fertilizer from Jan 1, 2025, to Dec 31, 2025.

3. MoU for Trade of Non-Basmati White Rice (NBWR) with Indonesia

- **Parties Involved:** Ministry of Cooperation (India) & Ministry of Trade (Indonesia).
- **Trade Agreement:** 1 million metric tonnes of NBWR annually, based on production & international prices.
- **Duration:** 4 years, auto-renewable for another 4 years.
- **Implementing Body:** National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL), a multi-state cooperative society.
- **Market Stability:** NBWR will be procured via transparent tenders & cooperative societies to prevent price distortions.
- **Strategic Importance:** Strengthens India-Indonesia trade relations & addresses trade imbalance.

Government's Commitment to Farmers

- The New Year 2025 has been dedicated to farmers' welfare.
- The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has set targets for the next month to ensure smooth implementation of these decisions.

Cabinet Approves Extension of One-Time Special Package on DAP (Jan 1, 2025)

The Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, has approved the extension of the One-Time Special Package on Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) beyond the Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) at ₹3,500 per MT from January 1, 2025, till further orders, ensuring affordable DAP for farmers.

Key Highlights:

- **Budgetary Requirement:** ₹3,850 crore for 2025 extension.

- **Total Special Package Since April 2024:** ₹6,475 crore (₹2,625 crore for April-Dec 2024 + ₹3,850 crore from Jan 2025 onwards).
- **Objective:** Ensure stable and affordable supply of DAP despite global price volatility.

Background:

- **28 grades of P&K fertilizers** are subsidized under the NBS scheme (since April 2010).
- **July 2024 Approval:** ₹3,500 per MT subsidy on DAP for April 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 2024.
- Despite geo-political constraints, the government ensured price stability for Kharif & Rabi 2024-25.

Implementation Strategy:

- ₹3,500 per MT subsidy to continue over and above the NBS subsidy.
- Availability of DAP at affordable prices will be ensured for farmers.

Cabinet Approves Establishment of Third Launch Pad (TLP) at Sriharikota

The Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, has approved the establishment of the Third Launch Pad (TLP) at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, to support Next Generation Launch Vehicles (NGLV) and enhance India's space capabilities.

Key Highlights:

- **Objective:**
 - Establish a new launch pad for NGLV.
 - Serve as a standby for the Second Launch Pad (SLP).
 - Enhance human spaceflight and space exploration capacity.
- **Implementation Timeline:** 48 months (4 years).
- **Total Cost:** ₹3,984.86 crore.

Strategic Importance:

- **Universal & adaptable design** to support:
 - NGLV with Semicryogenic stages.
 - LVM3 and future scaled-up configurations.
- **Maximizes industry participation** while utilizing ISRO's expertise.

Background & Need for TLP:

- **Current Dependence:** India relies on two launch pads—First Launch Pad (FLP) for PSLV & SSLV and Second Launch Pad (SLP) for GSLV & LVM3.
- **SLP's Role:** Key to commercial, national, and human spaceflight missions, including Chandrayaan-3 & upcoming Gaganyaan missions.
- **Future Requirements:**
 - Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS) by 2035.
 - Indian Crewed Lunar Landing by 2040.





- Heavier launch vehicles with advanced propulsion systems.
- TLP will ensure sustainable growth of India's space ecosystem for the next 25-30 years.

Cabinet Approves ₹11,440 Crore Revival Plan for Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL)

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by PM Narendra Modi, has approved a revival plan for Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) at a total cost of ₹11,440 crore, ensuring the continued operation of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP).

Key Highlights:

- **Equity Infusion:** ₹10,300 crore to revive operations.
- **Debt Restructuring:** ₹1,140 crore working capital loan converted into 7% Non-Cumulative Preference Shares, redeemable after 10 years.
- **Objective:** Ensure financial stability & restore full production capacity at RINL.

Current Financial Status of RINL (As of March 31, 2024):

- **Net Worth:** ₹(-)4,538 crore (Negative).
- **Current Assets:** ₹7,686.24 crore.
- **Current Liabilities:** ₹26,114.92 crore.
- **Defaults:** Capex loan & interest repayments missed in June 2024.

Revival Plan & Implementation:

- Two Blast Furnaces operational by January 2025.
- All Three Blast Furnaces operational by August 2025.
- Ensures stability in India's steel market & protects livelihoods of RINL employees.

Strategic Importance:

- Steel industry is a core sector & indicator of economic growth.
- Supports objectives of National Steel Policy, 2017.
- Aligns with Atmanirbhar Bharat, boosting domestic steel production.

Cabinet Approves Achievements Under National Health Mission (2021-24)

The Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, was apprised of significant progress under the National Health Mission (NHM) between FY 2021-24, highlighting major achievements in maternal health, disease control, and healthcare infrastructure.

Key Achievements Under NHM:

1. Healthcare Workforce Expansion:

- 12 Lakh+ additional healthcare workers engaged between FY 2021-24.
- 4.21 lakh additional healthcare professionals in FY 2022-23 and 5.23 lakh in FY 2023-24.

- Included 1.38 lakh Community Health Officers (CHOs) in FY 2023-24.

2. COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign:

- 220 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses administered nationwide under NHM.

3. Maternal & Child Health Progress:

- 83% decline in Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) since 1990, exceeding the global reduction of 45%.
- 75% reduction in Under-5 Mortality Rate since 1990, compared to the global 60%.
- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) decreased from 39 to 28 per 1,000 live births (2014-2020).
- Total Fertility Rate (TFR) reduced from 2.3 to 2.0 (2015-2020).

4. Disease Control & Elimination Efforts:

- TB Incidence reduced from 237 per 1,00,000 in 2015 to 195 in 2023.
- TB Mortality Rate decreased from 28 to 22 in the same period.
- 1.56 lakh Ni-kshay Mitra volunteers supporting 9.4 lakh TB patients under Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan.
- Malaria Control Efforts led to reduced mortality and cases.
- Kala Azar Elimination targets successfully met.

5. Specialized Health Initiatives:

- Ayushman Arogya Mandir Centers reached 1.72 lakh by FY 2023-24.
- Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission screened over 2.61 crore individuals.
- 97.98% coverage in Measles-Rubella Vaccination Campaign.

6. National Health Programs:

- U-WIN platform launched for tracking vaccinations nationwide.
- Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme benefited 4.53 lakh dialysis patients in FY 2023-24.

7. Infrastructure & Emergency Services:

- 12,348 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) converted to 24x7 services.
- 3,133 First Referral Units (FRUs) operational.
- 1,424 Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) providing services in remote areas.

Strategic Initiatives & Results:

- Strengthened healthcare system through enhanced health infrastructure and health worker capacity.
- Expanded health coverage for vulnerable populations, especially in rural and tribal areas.
- Digital health platforms like U-WIN ensured real-time vaccination tracking.





- **Tobacco use reduction by 17.3%** over the past decade through **public awareness campaigns**.

Background:

- **NHM** launched in **2005** to provide accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare, focusing on **vulnerable populations**.
- Rechristened in **2012** as **National Health Mission** with two sub-missions: **NRHM** and **NUHM**.
- **Continuation approved till 31st March 2026**, with a focus on **health accessibility** across India, especially in **rural and underserved regions**.

Implementation Strategy:

- **Financial & technical support** to States and UTs to improve health infrastructure.
- **Decentralized approach** for **district-level interventions** to improve healthcare services.
- **Focus on vulnerable groups** with improved service delivery in rural areas.

Cabinet Approves Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for Raw Jute for 2025-26 Season

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**, chaired by **PM Narendra Modi**, has approved the **Minimum Support Prices (MSP)** for **Raw Jute** for the **2025-26 Marketing season**.

Key Highlights:

- **MSP of Raw Jute (TD-3 grade):** ₹5,650 per quintal for the **2025-26 season**.
- **Return on Cost of Production:** Ensures a return of **66.8%** over the all-India weighted average cost of production.
- **Increase in MSP:** A rise of **₹315** per quintal from the **2024-25 season**.
- **Historical Increase:** From **₹2,400 per quintal** in **2014-15** to **₹5,650 per quintal** in **2025-26**—an increase of **₹3,250** (2.35 times).

Impact on Jute Farmers:

- **Government expenditure on MSP (2014-15 to 2024-25):** ₹1,300 crore paid to jute farmers.
- **Previous MSP expenditure (2004-05 to 2013-14):** ₹441 crore.
- **Livelihood Impact:** Directly or indirectly impacts **40 lakh farm families** involved in the jute industry.
- **Employment Impact:** About **4 lakh workers** are employed in **jute mills and trade**.
- **Farmers Benefited:** Last year, jute was procured from **1.7 lakh farmers**, with **82%** of jute farmers from **West Bengal**. **Assam and Bihar** account for **9%** each of jute production.

Implementation Strategy:

- **Jute Corporation of India (JCI):** Continues as the **Central Government Nodal Agency** for **Price Support Operations**.

- **Loss Reimbursement:** Any losses incurred during these operations will be **fully reimbursed by the Central Government**.

Cabinet Approves National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)

The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **PM Narendra Modi**, has approved the launch of the **National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)** with an outlay of **₹34,300 crore** over **seven years**, including **₹16,300 crore** for the mission and an expected **₹18,000 crore** investment from **PSUs** and others.

Key Objectives of NCMM:

- **Focus on Critical Minerals:** Vital for **high-tech industries**, **clean energy**, and **defense**.
- **Value Chain Coverage:** Encompasses all stages from **exploration**, **mining**, **beneficiation**, **processing**, to **recovery from end-of-life products**.
- **Exploration & Mining:** Intensify **domestic exploration** and expand **offshore exploration**.
- **Fast-Track Regulatory Approvals:** Create a streamlined process for critical mineral mining projects.
- **Incentives for Exploration:** Offer **financial incentives** for critical mineral exploration and **recovery from overburden and tailings**.

Strategic Initiatives Under NCMM:

- **International Expansion:** Encourage **Indian PSUs and private companies** to acquire critical mineral assets abroad and strengthen trade with **resource-rich countries**.
- **Mineral Processing Parks:** Development of parks to support **critical mineral processing and recycling**.
- **Research & Innovation:** Establish a **Centre of Excellence** for critical mineral research and **support start-ups and MSMEs** in innovation.

Recent Developments & Achievements:

- **Amendment to Mines and Minerals Act (1957):** Increased exploration and mining of critical minerals.
- **GSI Exploration Projects:** 368 critical mineral exploration projects, with 195 ongoing and 227 more planned for FY 2025-26.
- **KABIL JV:** Acquisition of **15,703 Ha** in Argentina for **Lithium mining**.
- **Custom Duty Elimination:** **Customs duties** on most critical minerals were eliminated in **Union Budget 2024-25** to promote mineral availability and processing within India.

Impact of NCMM:

- **Self-Reliance in Critical Minerals:** Strengthens India's **indigenous capabilities** in critical mineral sectors.
- **Support for Green Technologies:** Ensures supply of minerals vital for **green energy** and **technological advancements**.





Cabinet Approves Revision of Ethanol Procurement Price for 2024-25 under Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**, chaired by **PM Narendra Modi**, has approved the **revision of ethanol procurement prices for Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)** under the **Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme** for the **Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2024-25**.

Key Highlights:

- **Ethanol Price Revision:**
 - The **administered ex-mill price** of ethanol from **C Heavy Molasses (CHM)** has been fixed at **₹57.97 per litre** for the period **1st November 2024 to 31st October 2025**, up from **₹56.58 per litre** in the previous year.
- **Objectives of the Revision:**
 - **Price Stability & Remunerative Prices:** Ensures fair prices for ethanol suppliers and boosts the **ethanol supply chain**.
 - **Reduces Crude Oil Dependency:** Helps reduce **imports of crude oil**, saving **foreign exchange** and contributing to **environmental benefits**.
- **Separate Payments for GST & Transport Charges:** As in the past, **GST and transportation charges** will be paid separately to benefit **sugarcane farmers**.

Impact on Ethanol Blending Programme:

- **Ethanol Blending Growth:**
 - The ethanol blending in petrol has grown from **38 crore litres** in **2013-14** to **707 crore litres** in **2023-24**, achieving an average blending rate of **14.6%**.
- **Target for 2025-26:**
 - The government has **advanced the target** of **20% ethanol blending** in petrol from **2030 to 2025-26**.
 - **18% ethanol blending** is targeted for **ESY 2024-25**.

Strategic Developments:

- **Ethanol Infrastructure Expansion:**
 - **Ethanol distillation capacity** increased to **1,713 crore litres per annum**.
 - **Dedicated Ethanol Plants (DEPs)** are being set up in **ethanol-deficit states** through **Long Term Off-take Agreements (LTOAs)**.
 - **Conversion of distilleries** to multi-feed and introduction of **E-100 and E-20 fuel**.
- **Government Initiatives for Atmanirbhar Bharat:**
 - Investments in **greenfield and brownfield distilleries, storage, and logistics facilities**.
 - **Employment generation** and **value-sharing** among stakeholders across the country.

Economic and Environmental Benefits:

- **Foreign Exchange Savings:** Over the past ten years, ethanol blending has resulted in **₹1,13,007 crore** savings in foreign exchange.

- **Crude Oil Substitution:** **193 lakh metric tonnes** of crude oil substituted.
- **Support for Sugarcane Farmers:** Ensures **early payment** to sugarcane farmers and provides **additional livelihood support**.

State-wise October Month Important Events

Andhra Pradesh

- **PM Modi** laid the foundation for the **NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) Green Hydrogen Hub** in **Pudimadaka**, near **Visakhapatnam**. A collaboration between **NGEL** and **NREDCAP**, it is the first hub under India's **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, boosting the country's commitment to **sustainable energy** and the **green hydrogen economy**.
- The **three-day Flamingo Festival 2025** in **Andhra Pradesh** concluded on **January 20, 2025**, with calls to protect the rich **biodiversity** of the region, specifically in **Pulicat Lake** and **Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary**. The event, which attracted numerous visitors, particularly **bird watchers** and **photographers**, was hailed as a major success. The closing ceremony saw the participation of **Ministers Anam Ramanarayana Reddy** and **Anagani Satya Prasad**, who expressed their gratitude to **Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu** for the revival of the festival, which had been dormant for some time.
- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved the construction of a **third launchpad** at **ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre** in **Sriharikota**, **Andhra Pradesh**, with an investment of **₹3,985 crore**. This project aims to enhance **India's space transportation capabilities**, supporting **Next Generation Launch Vehicles (NGLVs)** and future **human spaceflight missions**, including an **Indian crewed lunar landing by 2040**.

Assam

- **Assam's Elephant Population Estimate 2024** reveals an estimated **5,828 elephants**, marking a rise of **109** from 2017. The estimation, conducted from **February 20-27, 2024**, involved **5,743 personnel** across **1,536 survey blocks** in **43 forest divisions**. Despite challenges like **habitat fragmentation** and **human-elephant conflicts**, the findings highlight the role of **Elephant Reserves** and emphasize the need for improved **conservation efforts**.
- The **Assam government** launched **Gunotsav 2025**, an education evaluation program aimed at improving **learning outcomes** for **14.11 lakh students** in **16,056 schools**. The program, themed "Ensuring Quality Education," will be conducted in **three phases**: **Phase 1** (January 6-9, 2025) covers **11 districts**, including **Barpeta, Kamrup, and Nagaon**. The initiative involves **external evaluators** and aims to assess and enhance **education quality** across the state.





Bihar

- **Arif Mohammad Khan** was sworn in as the **42nd Governor of Bihar** on January 2, 2025, succeeding **Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar**, now Governor of Kerala. The oath was administered by **Patna High Court Chief Justice K. Vinod Chandran**, with **Chief Minister Nitish Kumar** and **Tejashwi Yadav** in attendance.

Chhattisgarh

- **Chhattisgarh** has become the first Indian state to adopt the **Green GDP** model, integrating **ecological services** of forests into its economic framework. This initiative links **environmental contributions** like **clean air**, **water conservation**, and **biodiversity** to **economic growth**, ensuring sustainable development. The **Green GDP** model considers environmental costs, offering a more holistic view of economic health. The initiative aims to enhance **budget planning**, support **sustainable policies**, and recognize the **economic value of forests**.
- The **Adani Group** will invest ₹75,000 crore in **Chhattisgarh**, with ₹60,000 crore dedicated to expanding **energy** operations, including a 6,120 MW increase in power generation across **Raipur**, **Korba**, and **Raigarh**. This move strengthens the state's energy role.
- **Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai** has launched a scheme to provide **Rs 10,000 annually** to landless labourers in the state, continuing his commitment to support vulnerable sections. This initiative is part of a larger series of welfare measures promised during the pre-poll campaign. The scheme aims to benefit approximately **7.5 lakh landless agricultural labourers** in Chhattisgarh, reflecting the government's focus on improving their financial stability. The CM's announcement builds on past promises made during elections and further strengthens the state's social welfare framework.

Gujarat

- On **Good Governance Day**, **Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel** launched the **SWAR (Speech and Written Analysis Resource)** platform to enhance **communication** and **accessibility** for citizens, overcoming **language barriers**. Developed with the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's Bhashini Team**, the platform uses **AI** for inclusive government services. Key features include **speech-to-text** integration for easier communication and an **indigenous AI system (Bhashini)** for effective **speech recognition**.
- The **Union Ministry of Culture** and **Gujarat State Government** inaugurated a state-of-the-art **Archaeological Experiential Museum** in **Vadnagar**, a town with over 2,500 years of history. The event, presided over by **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** and attended by **Gujarat CM Bhupendrabhai Patel** and **Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan**, highlights Vadnagar's rich **cultural and historical heritage**.

Haryana

- The **Haryana government**, led by **Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini**, announced key decisions to improve employee benefits and governance. Highlights include a **25% increase in Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity** to ₹25 lakh, effective January 1, 2025, and reforms in **External Development Charges (EDC)** with a **10% annual increase**. **Aadhaar authentication** will now be mandatory for candidates in **HPSC exams**. Additionally, **crop damage reports** due to **heavy rains** can be submitted on the **e-reimbursement portal** for affected regions.

Himachal Pradesh

- **Himachal Pradesh (H.P.)** celebrates its **Statehood Day** on **25th January** every year, marking the day when it officially became the **18th state of the Indian Union in 1971**. On this occasion, the **Prime Minister of India extended greetings** to the people of H.P., acknowledging its unique cultural and historical heritage.

Kerala

- **Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar** took oath as the **23rd Governor of Kerala** on January 2, 2025, at **Raj Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram**. He succeeds **Arif Mohammed Khan**, now Governor of Bihar. The oath was administered by **Chief Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar**, with **Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan** and other dignitaries present.
- Kerala's renowned **Kappad beach in Kozhikode** and **Chal beach in Kannur** have been awarded the prestigious **Blue Flag certification** by the **Denmark-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)**. This certification recognizes beaches that meet high standards in environmental protection, safety, and sustainability. The Blue Flag status enhances Kerala's appeal as a sustainable tourism destination and serves as a global benchmark for eco-friendly tourism practices. This achievement marks a significant milestone in the state's efforts to preserve its natural beauty while promoting responsible tourism.
- **Kottayam, Kerala, India** unveiled the **Indian Sustainable Natural Rubber (iSNR) initiative**, aiming to establish new global benchmarks in sustainable rubber production. The launch event was graced by **George Kurian, Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Minority Affairs**, and presided over by **Thiruvanchur Radhakrishnan, Member of the Legislative Assembly**.

Maharashtra

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Sri Sri Radha Madanmohanji Temple** in **Kharghar, Navi Mumbai** on January 15, 2025. Built over 12 years at a cost of ₹170





crore, it is **Asia's second-largest ISKCON temple**. The temple embodies **spirituality and knowledge**, featuring various facilities aligned with **ISKCON's mission**. The event was attended by **Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy CM Eknath Shinde, Governor CP Radhakrishnan, and MP Hema Malini**.

- **Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS)**, a rare neurological disorder where the **immune system** attacks the **peripheral nervous system**, has seen a rise in cases in **Pune, Maharashtra**. Symptoms include **muscle weakness, numbness, and paralysis** in severe cases. Authorities are investigating the causes and implementing measures, while GBS typically affects **adults and males**.

Manipur

- Every year on January 21, the northeastern states of **Manipur, Meghalaya, and Tripura** celebrate their **Statehood Day**, marking the historic moment they attained full statehood under the **North Eastern Region (Reorganization) Act of 1971**. This day holds significant importance for the region, not only as a commemoration of their **statehood** but also as a celebration of their rich cultural heritage, vibrant history, and significant contributions to India's identity. The northeastern states, often referred to as the "Seven Sisters," are renowned for their unique culture, history, and natural beauty, and this day serves as a reflection of their growth into integral and empowered states within the **Union of India**.

Mizoram

- **Mizoram** has become the **first state in Northeast India** to distribute **property cards** under the Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas (**SVAMITVA**) scheme. On January 18, 2025, **Governor Gen (Dr) VK Singh** virtually participated in the distribution event from **Raj Bhavan, Aizawl**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also attended, distributing over **65 lakh property cards** to beneficiaries across **10 states and two Union Territories**. Among these, **1,754 property cardholders** from **18 villages** in **Mizoram** received their cards.

Odisha

- The **Odisha government** has announced a ₹15 crore sponsorship deal for the **Indian national kho kho team**, running from **January 2025 to December 2027**. The **₹5 crore annually** will be funded through the **Odisha Mining Corporation**. The sponsorship aims to **enhance team development**, improve **training infrastructure**, and support participation in **national and international competitions**, reflecting Odisha's continued commitment to **sports development**.

- On **January 13, 2025**, **Odisha** became the **34th state** to implement **Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY**, formalized through an **MoU** with the **National Health Authority**. The scheme will converge with Odisha's **Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana (GJAY)**, offering **₹5 lakh** health coverage per family, plus an additional **₹5 lakh** for women. Around **1.03 crore families** will benefit, with **67.8 lakh** families supported by the **Union Government**.
- The **Odisha government** has announced a **monthly pension of ₹20,000** for surviving detainees of the **1975-1977 Emergency** under the **Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA)**. This welfare measure, effective from **January 1, 2025**, also includes **medical coverage** and other benefits, honoring those imprisoned during the Emergency period.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the '**Utkarsh Odisha – Make in Odisha Conclave 2025**' in **Bhubaneswar** on January 28. The event, Odisha's largest business summit, was attended by **Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi, Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Ashwini Vaishnaw**, and global business leaders. The two-day conclave aimed to promote **investment**, boost **industrial growth**, and position Odisha as an economic hub, with delegates from **16 countries**.

Rajasthan

- The **Sambhar Festival** began on **January 24, 2025**, at **Sambhar Lake** in **Rajasthan**. Organized by the **Rajasthan Tourism Department**, the 5-day event celebrates the region's **culture, heritage, and natural beauty**. The festival highlights **Rajasthani cuisine, folk arts**, and the rich traditions of the area, with a special focus on the picturesque **Sambhar Lake**.

Sikkim

- India's **first organic fisheries cluster** was launched in **Soreng District, Sikkim**, by **Union Animal Husbandry Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh**. This initiative promotes **sustainable, antibiotic-free, chemical-free, and pesticide-free** fish farming practices, aligning with **Sikkim's reputation for organic agriculture**. The cluster aims to cater to **eco-conscious global markets**.





Telangana

- On **January 26, 2025**, **Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy** launched four welfare schemes for farmers, landless laborers, and marginalized communities. Key initiatives include **Rythu Bharosa**, offering ₹12,000 per acre to farmers; **Indiramma Aathmeeya Bharosa**, providing ₹12,000 annually to landless labor families; and **Indiramma Indlu**, a housing scheme offering ₹5 lakh for constructing homes for homeless Dalits, Tribals, and backward classes, with a target of 4,50,000 houses and a ₹22,500 crore budget.

Tripura

- On **January 28, 2025**, **Tripura** became the first northeastern state to sign an **MoU** with the **Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD)** of **MeitY**. The agreement aims to enhance the use of **regional languages** in governance, making **public services** more accessible and inclusive. This partnership reflects Tripura's commitment to bridging the **digital divide** and strengthening **governance** through **language technology**.

Tamil Nadu

- The first **Jallikattu** event of **2025** took place on **January 4** at **Thatchankurichi village, Pudukkottai district**. Over **600 bulls** and **350 bull-tamers** participated, marking the start of **Pongal** celebrations. The event is a significant part of **Tamil Nadu's cultural heritage**, showcasing bravery and strength. The **rituals** included an **oath-taking ceremony** with District Collector M. Aruna, and the term "**Jallikattu**" refers to rewards given to tamers in the form of silver and gold coins.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** announced a **\$1 million prize** for deciphering the **Indus Valley script**, marking the **centenary** of the **Indus Valley Civilization** discovery. Speaking at an **International Conference in Chennai**, he emphasized the significance of decoding this ancient script and affirmed the state's support for **research and archaeological efforts**.

Uttarakhand

- Uttarakhand** become the **first state in India to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**, as the **state government has approved the UCC rules manual**. The state's Cabinet, headed by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, cleared the manual and decided on key provisions related to registration services, the facilitation of live-in relationships, and the introduction of Tatkil services. The government is also implementing advanced digital platforms to ensure efficient and widespread access to these services. Training of officials is underway, with a statewide mock drill planned to prepare the stakeholders for smooth implementation.
- Uttarakhand** became the first state in independent India to implement the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**, effective **January 27, 2025**. A key **BJP election promise**, the UCC aims to ensure **uniformity in personal laws**, offering **equal rights and responsibilities** for all citizens, regardless of religion or community. **Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami** emphasized the law's focus on **fairness, equality, and social harmony**, not targeting any individual or group.

Uttar Pradesh

- On **January 10, 2025**, **UP CM Yogi Adityanath** launched '**Kumbhvani**' (103.5 MHz), an FM channel by **All India Radio**, to enhance the **Maha Kumbh 2025** experience. The channel broadcasts from **5:55 AM to 10:05 PM** daily, from **January 10 to February 26, 2025**. **Dr. L. Murugan** attended online.
- Uttar Pradesh** is considering the **privatization** of two power distribution companies, **Dakshinanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam** and **Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam**, to tackle challenges like **power losses** and poor infrastructure. The **UP Power Corporation Ltd (UPPCL)** has issued a **tender** for consultants and advisers to explore privatization or **PPP** to improve **efficiency and service quality**.
- Uttar Pradesh**, India's most populous state, commemorates its **Foundation Day** every year on **January 24**. This occasion reflects the state's rich cultural heritage, remarkable contributions to India's development, and its historical journey. In 2025, Uttar Pradesh celebrates its **76th Foundation Day**, with grand events scheduled from **January 24 to January 26** at **Awadh Shilp Gram in Lucknow**. Let us delve into the historical significance, achievements, and contributions of Uttar Pradesh on this momentous occasion.
- The **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** granted the **Banke Bihari Temple** in **Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh**, a license under the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)**, allowing it to receive **foreign funds**. This approval follows a court intervention and the formation of a management committee, which applied for the license to manage the temple's **international donations** and **foreign currency receipts**.

West Bengal

- The **Tribal Students' Federation (TSF)** in **Tripura** has renewed its protest, demanding the adoption of the **Roman script** for the **Kokborok language**. This long-standing demand seeks to have exam papers prepared in both **Bengali** and **Roman scripts** to address challenges faced by students. **Kokborok**, a **Sino-Tibetan language** spoken by **24%** of Tripura's population, has been **officially recognized** since **1979**. Despite its recognition, students face difficulties as exams are currently conducted only in the **Bengali script**.

Union Territories

- On **January 13, 2025**, **PM Modi** inaugurated the **Z-Morh Tunnel** in **Jammu and Kashmir**, enhancing **connectivity** between **Srinagar** and **Ladakh**. The **6.5 km, bi-directional tunnel**, at **8,652 feet**, bypasses avalanche-prone areas, reducing travel time from **2+ hours** to **15 minutes**. The **₹2,400 crore** project, started in 2015, was led by **NHAI**.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh** announced the establishment of a **Regional Meteorological Centre** in **Jammu** during the **150th anniversary** of the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**. This initiative aims to enhance **weather forecasting, disaster preparedness, and climate resilience** in **Jammu & Kashmir**. The event highlighted **IMD's journey** and **India's leadership in climate action** under **PM Modi**.





- In the 118th "Mann Ki Baat" episode on January 19, 2025, PM Narendra Modi highlighted the empowerment of women in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands through SHGs producing Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO). The recent GI tag for VCO from Nicobar district marks a significant step in promoting local products globally and boosting the economic empowerment of tribal communities via specialized training in marketing and branding.
- The Jammu & Kashmir Forest Research Institute (JKFRI) launched the 'Digital Tree Aadhar' initiative to protect and monitor Kashmir's chinar trees, threatened by urbanization and infrastructure projects. Modeled after India's Aadhaar system, each tree receives a unique digital identity with geo-tagging, QR codes, and metal cards for public scanning, aiming to preserve biodiversity and raise awareness about these iconic trees.

January Month Launches & Inaugurations:

- The Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation (MBMC), in partnership with NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), launched the 'Faral Sakhi' initiative to empower women entrepreneurs in traditional snack production. It provides training, a central kitchen, and sales support for SHGs. During Diwali, the initiative sold over 3 tons of snacks, highlighting its success through quality and promotion.
- The National Commission for Women (NCW), in partnership with the Lok Sabha Secretariat and Ministry of Tribal Affairs, launched 'Panchayat Se Parliament 2.0' at Samvidhan Sadan to mark Bhagwan Birsa Munda's 150th birth anniversary. The event gathered 502 elected women representatives from STs across 22 states/UTs. It aims to empower women leaders by enhancing their knowledge of constitutional provisions, parliamentary procedures, and governance through workshops, sessions, and guided tours of key government sites.
- In a landmark development for India's electronics manufacturing sector, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated Syrma SGS Technology's advanced laptop assembly line in Chennai. This new facility symbolizes India's growing dominance in IT hardware production, expanding its success in mobile manufacturing to high-value electronics like laptops. With initiatives under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) 2.0 scheme, India is taking significant steps towards becoming a global IT hardware hub.
- Piyush Goyal launched the Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform at the Bharat Climate Forum 2025 in New Delhi, aiming to strengthen India's cleantech sectors like solar, wind, hydrogen, and battery storage. The platform fosters collaboration, innovation, and financing to make India a global sustainability leader. Goyal emphasized self-sustaining growth and the need for innovation and scaling in the sector.
- South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) has launched a Post-Retirement Benefit (PRB) Cell to enhance the welfare of its retired employees. This single-window solution consolidates post-retirement services, improving the experience for retirees. The initiative aligns with Mission Sambandh, SECL's program to foster better communication and stakeholder engagement.
- On January 14, 2025, Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce, inaugurated the National Turmeric Board in New Delhi and appointed Shri Palle Ganga Reddy as its first Chairperson. Headquartered in Nizamabad, Telangana, the Board will support turmeric farmers across 20 states, focusing on farmer welfare, production enhancement, and research on new varieties. It will also promote value addition for global markets and highlight turmeric's health benefits, with a focus on Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal launched the Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform on January 11, 2025, at the Bharat Climate Forum. The initiative aims to strengthen India's cleantech value chains in solar, wind, hydrogen, and battery storage sectors. Goyal emphasized the importance of innovation, self-reliance, and reducing dependence on government support, encouraging long-term growth in the clean energy industry.
- On January 17, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. India's largest mobility expo, running from January 17-22, 2025, spans three venues: Bharat Mandapam, Yashobhoomi, and India Expo Centre & Mart. The event features 9+ shows, 20+ conferences, and state sessions on regional mobility policies, promoting industry-government collaboration.
- On January 15, 2025, coinciding with Army Day, the government launched the "Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan" app and website in Pune, Maharashtra. Developed by the Ministries of Defence, Tourism, and the Indian Army, the app allows civilians to visit key battlefield locations from the 1962, 1971, and 1999 wars, as well as significant conflict zones like Siachen base camp and Galwan valley. This initiative aims to transform border regions into tourist hubs, fostering a deeper connection to India's military history and the sacrifices of its soldiers.
- The Department of Science and Technology, under the Union Ministry of Science and Technology, has inaugurated the first astronomical observatory in Eastern India atop Panchet Hill in the Garpanchkot area of Purulia district, West Bengal. This marks an important milestone in the advancement of astronomical research in India. It is the sixth astronomical observatory in the country, following observatories in locations such as Ladakh, Nainital (Uttarakhand), Mount Abu (Rajasthan), Girbani Hills (Pune), and Kavalur (Tamil Nadu).





- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** inaugurated **India's first-of-its-kind CSIR Mega Innovation Complex in Mumbai**, marking a significant milestone in the nation's innovation landscape. This state-of-the-art facility is designed to bolster start-ups, micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), and industry stakeholders by providing high-end scientific infrastructure and expertise.
- The **"Hamara Samvidhan – Hamara Swabhimani"** campaign, launched on **January 24, 2024**, by the **Hon'ble Vice President of India** at the **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar International Centre** in New Delhi, commemorates the **75th anniversary** of India's Constitution and its establishment as a Republic. This year-long initiative aims to deepen citizens' understanding of the Constitution and promote legal empowerment across the nation.

Important Festival

- On **January 4, 2025**, PM **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, organized by **DFS** and **NABARD**. Themed **"Building a Resilient Rural India for a Viksit Bharat 2047,"** with the motto **"गांव बढे, तो देश बढे,"** the event aims to enhance **rural infrastructure**, promote **self-reliance**, and foster **innovation**. Key focus areas include **women's entrepreneurship**, **financial inclusion**, and **sustainable agriculture** in **North-East India**. The festival runs from **January 4 to 9, 2025**.
- The **18th Elephant and Tourism Festival** in **Sauraha, Chitwan, Nepal**, draws both local and international visitors. Held near **Chitwan National Park**, it coincides with **New Year** and **Christmas** celebrations, running for five days and concluding on **December 30**. The event serves as a key driver for **tourism** in the region, offering diverse and unique attractions.
- The **International Pashmina Festival** in Nepal, organized by the **Nepal Pashmina Industries Association** and **Confederation of Nepalese Industries**, showcased Nepal's expertise in producing **authentic Pashmina** from the **Chyangra goat**. The event celebrated traditional **weaving methods** and highlighted the global recognition of **Chyangra Pashmina** as a premium product.
- The **Nagoba Jatara** festival in **Keslapur, Telangana**, drew nearly **one lakh devotees** from across **India** to celebrate the **Nagoba temple**. This seven-day event is a key religious and cultural gathering for the **Mesram clan** and other **aboriginal tribes**. Devotees from **Telangana, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha** participated in the vibrant celebrations.
- The **Pangsau Pass International Festival (PPIF) 2025**, held in **Nampong, Arunachal Pradesh**, is a vibrant celebration of the region's rich cultural heritage and its historical significance during **World War II**. This year's festival is particularly special as it coincides with the **80th anniversary of the war's conclusion**. Chief Minister **Pema Khandu** emphasized plans to bolster tourism by restoring World War II remnants in the region, underscoring the festival's role in promoting economic growth, cultural exchange, and historical remembrance.
- The **Sci-Fi Science Film Festival of India** was inaugurated by **Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant** on **January 30, 2025**, in **Panaji**. Organized by **Vidnyan Parishad Goa**, the festival celebrates **science, innovation, and curiosity**. This year's theme, **"Green Revolution,"** honors **Dr. M. Swaminathan** and aims to inspire youth toward a **sustainable future**. The 4-day event promotes **scientific engagement** for India's progress.
- The **International Saraswati Mahotsav 2025** will be celebrated in **Haryana** from **January 29 to February 4, 2025**, at **Pehowa Saraswati Tirtha Sthal**. Inaugurated by **Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini**, the event will showcase **Haryana's culture, craftsmanship, and traditional heritage**, with programs at both state and national levels. The festival aims to boost **tourism** and provide a platform for local **artisans and craftsmen**.
- The **Boda Tyohar**, or **Magho ko Tyohar**, is the largest annual festival of the **Hatti tribes** in **Himachal Pradesh's Trans-Giri region**. Celebrated by over **three lakh** community members, this **month-long festival** marks the end of the **Magha** month, featuring unique **cultural practices, rituals**, and promoting **community unity**. It holds significant cultural importance, showcasing **Hatti traditions** and beliefs.
- The **Gaan-Ngai festival**, the largest post-harvest celebration of the **Zeliangrong community**, began on **January 12, 2025** in **Manipur**. Celebrated for five days, it features **vibrant cultural performances** and traditional rituals, symbolizing the transition from the old year to the new. The festival emphasizes **peace, prosperity, and community healing**.
- The **Kagyed Chaam Dance Festival** in **Gangtok, Sikkim**, is a significant **Buddhist celebration** held annually at **Tsuklakhang Palace**. Featuring **masked dances** by monks and lamas, it symbolizes the destruction of negative forces and the arrival of **peace and prosperity** for the new year. Held on the 28th and 29th day of the **10th month** of the **Tibetan Lunar Calendar**, the festival attracts both **locals and tourists**. It concludes with the ritualistic **burning of effigies**, symbolizing the **victory of good over evil**.
- The **Avaniyapuram Jallikattu** began on **January 14, 2025**, in **Madurai**, celebrating Tamil Nadu's cultural heritage during the **Pongal** festival. The event featured **1,100 bulls** and **900 bull-tamers**, with the best bull winning a **₹11 lakh tractor** and the top bull-tamer receiving an **₹8 lakh car**.





Miscellaneous National News

- The **PM CARES Fund**, created in March 2020 for the **COVID-19 crisis**, saw a sharp decline in contributions, dropping from **₹7,184 crore** in 2020-21 to **₹912 crore** in 2022-23. **Voluntary donations** fell to **₹909.64 crore**, and **foreign donations** dropped drastically from **₹495 crore** to **₹2.57 crore**. The fund's contributions peaked during the pandemic, with support waning as the crisis subsided.
- The **813th Urs** of **Hazrat Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti** has begun, marking a major religious event in **Ajmer**. The **flag ceremony** is scheduled for **December 28, 2024**, at the **Dargah Khwaja Saheb**. The annual **Urs**, commemorating the saint's death anniversary, attracts millions of devotees for **prayers** and **blessings**. This event holds immense significance for followers of **Sufi** traditions.
- **Kaamya Karthikeyan**, a **17-year-old** student from **Mumbai**, became the **youngest female** to conquer the **Seven Summits**, scaling the highest peaks across all seven continents. Her achievement includes summiting **Mount Vinson** in **Antarctica** on **December 24, 2024**. Kaamya's climbs include **Mount Kilimanjaro** (Africa), **Mount Elbrus** (Europe), **Mount Kosciuszko** (Australia), **Mount Aconcagua** (South America), **Mount Denali** (North America), and **Mount Everest** (Asia). She was accompanied by her father, **Cdr S. Karthikeyan**, during the final climb.
- **Blinkit CEO Albinder Dhindsa** announced the launch of an **instant ambulance service** in **Gurgaon**, allowing residents to book **Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulances** via the **Blinkit app**, with arrival within **10 minutes**. The service aims to provide **quick emergency medical transport** in urban areas.
- The Indian government is considering the introduction of **honorary senior ranks** for retiring **Central Armed Police Force (CAPF)** personnel who haven't been promoted due to **organizational constraints**. Proposed by **Anish Dayal Singh**, the initiative would allow eligible personnel to wear the insignia of their next higher rank in their final month of service and receive the corresponding pay. **Home Minister Amit Shah** has approved the proposal, which is expected to be implemented across all CAPFs soon.
- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin** inaugurated **India's first-ever glass bridge** in **Kanniyakumari**, connecting the **Vivekananda Rock Memorial** and the **Thiruvalluvar Statue**. Built under a **₹37-crore** initiative, the bridge aims to enhance the **tourist experience** and boost **local tourism**. The project coincides with the **silver jubilee** of the Thiruvalluvar Statue's unveiling and is expected to attract **domestic** and **international tourists**.
- **Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah**, launch the **BHARATPOL** portal developed by the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** on January 7, 2025, at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**. The portal aims to facilitate real-time international police assistance and enhance India's efforts to combat transnational crimes. Developed by the CBI, which acts as the National Central Bureau (NCB) for INTERPOL in India, the portal will improve communication between law enforcement agencies (LEAs) across India and INTERPOL.
- From January 3 to 5, 2025, **Gujarat's Jamnagar district** hosted **India's inaugural census of coastal and wader birds**. This significant event aimed to enhance understanding of bird populations and their habitats along the state's coastline.
- On January 6, 2025, **Nadi Tarangini**, an AI-powered pulse diagnostic device developed by **Atreya Innovations**, received approval from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), making it India's first ayurvedic medical device to be officially recognized. The device, which combines modern technology with ancient Ayurvedic practices, was created after over six years of research, and aims to revolutionize traditional Ayurvedic diagnostic methods by offering precise health insights through pulse examination.
- **NITI Aayog, established on January 1, 2015**, emerged as a visionary reform in India's governance structure, replacing the Planning Commission to better address the needs of a growing, market-driven economy. In his first Independence Day speech in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced NITI Aayog as an institution with a new design and structure, emphasizing a shift towards decentralization and competitive federalism. Over the past decade, NITI Aayog has evolved into a platform for policy innovation, addressing the country's development challenges and promoting inclusive growth through collaborative governance. **This article examines NITI Aayog's evolution over the last 10 years, its key principles, major initiatives, and future challenges.**
- On January 9, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the **Pravasi Bharatiya Express**, a special **state-of-the-art tourist train for the Indian diaspora**, from Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The launch coincides with the 110th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's return to India from South Africa on this date in 1915. The train, designed under the Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana (PTDY), aims to connect Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) with India's rich cultural and religious heritage by offering a fully sponsored tour across the country.
- On January 5, 2025, **PM Narendra Modi** inaugurated a **13-km section** of the **Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)**, connecting **Sahibabad** (Uttar Pradesh) to **New Ashok Nagar** (Delhi). This forms part of the **82-km Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Namoo Bharat corridor**, aiming to reduce travel time. The section includes a **6 km underground stretch**, with **Anand Vihar** station serving as a major transit hub.
- The **DGFT** has amended the **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023** to promote **inclusivity** and **transparency** in trade policy. The amendment mandates **consultations with stakeholders** like **importers, exporters, and industry experts** during the policy formulation or amendment process. A structured mechanism will provide **feedback** on why certain suggestions aren't accepted, fostering **trust** and **clarity** between the government and trade participants.





- Recent reports highlight a significant **decline in rural-to-urban migration** in India, with **migration dropping by 53.7 million** in 2023, reflecting a **11.8% decrease** from 2011. This has led to increased **ruralization** and associated economic challenges. The **migration rate** fell from 37.6% in 2011 to 28.9% in 2023, with a decrease in **economic migration**. The **workforce** has become more reliant on **agriculture**, with 46.1% of people employed in the sector in 2023-24, up from 42.5% in 2017-18. This has led to **food inflation**, **disguised unemployment**, and **stagnant wages**, especially among **women**, whose **real wages** fell by 2.3% annually over the past five years.
- On **January 6, 2025**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the **Jammu Railway Division**, the **69th division** under the **Northern Railway Zone**. The division, headquartered in Jammu, covers **742.1 route kilometers**, including key sections like **Pathankot-Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla** and others, aimed at boosting **connectivity** and **socio-economic development** in northern India.
- As of **January 2025**, India's **metro rail network** has surpassed **1,000 kilometers**, making it the **third-largest** in the world, after **China** and the **United States**. India's metro journey began with **Kolkata Metro** in 1984, followed by the **Delhi Metro** in 2002, which is now the country's largest with a network of **395 km**.
- Aero India 2025**, Asia's premier aerospace exhibition, will be held from **February 10-14, 2025**, in **Bengaluru** under the theme "**The Runway to a Billion Opportunities**." The event aims to enhance **India's aerospace sector** and foster global partnerships. Key highlights include the **Defence Ministers' Conclave** for strategic partnerships and the **CEOs' Round-Table** for global leaders and Indian defence manufacturing executives to explore **OEM opportunities** in India.
- The **Central Government** has approved a **memorial** for former President **Pranab Mukherjee** at **Rashtriya Smriti Sthal** in **Rajghat, Delhi**. This tribute, honoring his contributions to Indian politics, was announced on **January 1, 2025**, and was appreciated by his daughter, **Sharmistha Mukherjee**.
- Frankie Remruatdika Zadeng**, born on **January 1, 2025**, in **Aizawl, Mizoram**, is **India's first Generation Beta** baby. Weighing **3.12 kg**, Frankie symbolizes the beginning of a new chapter in India's progress. **Generation Beta**, a term coined by Australian futurist **Mark McCrindle**, refers to those born from the mid-2020s, marked by rapid **technological advancements** and a focus on **sustainability**. Frankie's birth reflects the hope and progress of this generation, which will thrive in a **digitally connected** and **AI-driven** world.
- Justice B.N. Srikrishna** has been appointed as the Chairman of the **Advisory Board for Equal** and its investee **OneMoney**, focused on **identity verification** and **data-sharing**. The board includes notable figures such as **Jagdish Capoor**, **Rakesh Mohan**, **Anand Sinha**, **J. Satyanarayana**, **Ajay Prakash Sawhney**, **P.H. Ravikumar**, **Anitha Ramachandran**, and **Sunil Kulkarni**. This appointment comes amid the government's push for stronger data security with the release of the **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act** draft rules.
- The Indian government has announced a **₹50,000 crore** investment over five years to enhance inland water transport, focusing on **new national waterways**, **green shipping**, and the introduction of **1,000 green vessels**. The plan includes expanding **Water Metro projects** to 15 cities, including **Guwahati**, and developing infrastructure like **floating steel jetties** on the **Godavari River**, boosting urban connectivity and trade.
- Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI)** has been selected by **ICMR** to establish **South India's first Infectious Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (IRDL)**. The lab will focus on **bacterial, fungal, and parasitic diseases**, aiming for faster diagnosis and improved healthcare outcomes. It will enhance **research on antibiotic resistance, fungal infections, and tropical diseases**, reducing the need for out-of-state sample testing.
- The appointment process for **India's Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs)** has been reformed under the **2023 Act to enhance transparency and accountability**. A three-member Selection Committee, including the Prime Minister, a nominated Cabinet Minister, and the Leader of the Opposition, will oversee appointments, supported by a Search Committee. The Act also allows external candidates to bring diverse perspectives. Influenced by a Supreme Court ruling advocating balanced appointments, the exclusion of the Chief Justice of India and concerns over potential partisan nominations have drawn criticism. The upcoming selection of the next CEC, **post-Rajiv Kumar's tenure** ending February 18, 2025, will test these reforms' impact on the Election Commission's independence and effectiveness.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved the **constitution of the 8th Central Pay Commission**, which will evaluate and recommend revised salary structures and allowances for central government employees and pensioners. This early initiative ensures readiness for implementing the recommendations by January 1, 2026. The commission's scope encompasses over one crore employees and pensioners, aiming to address compensation, pensions, and welfare enhancements.
- Dr. S. Jaishankar, India's External Affairs Minister, represent India at **Donald Trump's swearing-in** on January 20, 2025, marking his second term as the **47th President of the U.S.** This visit highlights the **strengthening of India-U.S. relations**.





- India added a record **30 GW** of **renewable energy** capacity in 2024, a **113% increase** from 2023. This milestone supports India's goal of reaching **500 GW** by 2030, emphasizing its commitment to **clean energy** and reducing **carbon footprint**.
- The **INROAD** project, backed by ₹100 crore, aims to improve **natural rubber** quality in India's **North-East**. It focuses on **skill development** for rubber growers and building **model infrastructure**, with support from the **tyre industry**, highlighting collaboration between **agriculture** and **manufacturing**.
- India's **Railway Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw**, announced the development of the **world's most powerful hydrogen fuel-run train engine** by **Indian Railways** during the **18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas**. Built with **indigenous technology**, this achievement sets a new benchmark in **green energy** and **sustainable development** in the railway sector.
- Justice **Krishnan Vinod Chandran** was sworn in as the newest judge of the Supreme Court of India on January 16, 2025. Chief Justice of India **Sanjiv Khanna** administered the oath of office. With this appointment, the Supreme Court's judicial strength has risen to 33, just one short of its full sanctioned capacity.
- The 9th Foundation Day of Startup India celebrated India's progress as a global innovation hub. Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** launched the **PRABHAHV Factbook** and **Bharat Startup Challenge**, highlighting the country's startup growth, with **1.59 lakh startups**, **76 IPOs** in 2024, and **₹13 trillion** in government funding.
- The world's first **Mahamrityunjaya Yantra**, measuring 52 feet, has been installed at **Tapovan Ashram** in **Prayagraj**, a sacred site of the **Maha Kumbh**. This **spiritual marvel**, known as the **Victory over Death Yantra**, helps devotees overcome **fear of death, disease, and danger**, while enhancing **courage, positivity**, and connecting them to **Lord Shiva's higher energy**.
- India's **textile industry** has long been a cornerstone of its economy, renowned for its **rich heritage** and diverse products. In recent years, the sector has experienced significant growth, positioning India as a **formidable player in the global textile market**.
- On **January 16, 2025**, **Startup India** celebrated its **9th anniversary** as **National Startup Day**, marking India's emergence as the **3rd largest startup ecosystem** globally with over **1.59 lakh startups**. Launched in **2016**, the initiative has fostered growth in **fintech, edtech, health-tech**, and **e-commerce**, driving India's transformation into a global **hub for innovation and entrepreneurship**.
- Kalagram**, located in **Prayagraj** during **Mahakumbh 2025**, is a cultural hub created by the **Ministry of Culture** to showcase India's rich heritage. It offers an immersive experience with **crafts, cuisine, and cultural performances**, reflecting India's **diverse cultural legacy** and spiritual significance. Kalagram serves as a **cultural jewel** that celebrates the essence of **Bharat**.
- On January 16, 2025, the Lokpal of India celebrated its inaugural **Foundation Day** at the **Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi**, marking 11 years since its establishment on January 16, 2014, under the **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013**.
- On **January 17, 2025**, the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** launched **National Broadband Mission 2.0 (NBM 2.0)** and the **Sanchar Saathi mobile app**. Building on **NBM 1.0**, NBM 2.0 aims to connect **1.7 lakh villages**, ensuring **60%** of rural households have access to **100 Mbps** broadband. This initiative is designed to bridge the **digital divide** and promote **inclusive growth** across India.
- The **Prime Ministers' Museum & Library (PMML)** has restructured its leadership, expanding its executive council from **29 to 34 members** to bring in diverse expertise. **Nripendra Mishra** has been reappointed as chairperson for another **five-year term**, while new members include **Smriti Irani** (former Union Minister), **Shekhar Kapur** (filmmaker), **Rajiv Kumar** (former NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman), **Syed Ata Hasnain** (retired Army General), and **Vasudev Kamath** (cultural representative). The reshuffle sees the exclusion of **Anurag Thakur** and **Rajat Sharma**, indicating a strategic shift in governance. Originally the **Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML)**, PMML was **renamed in 2023** to represent the legacies of all Indian Prime Ministers, aligning with the government's vision of a comprehensive political repository.
- The **Musi River Historic Buildings in Hyderabad** have been added to the prestigious **2025 World Monuments Watch** list by the **World Monuments Fund (WMF)**. This inclusion underscores the urgent need to preserve these structures amid **environmental challenges**, such as the **degradation of the Musi River** and **urban development**. The recognition aligns with the **Telangana government's efforts** to rejuvenate the river and its heritage, promoting both **heritage conservation** and **environmental sustainability**.
- The sacred city of Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh is resonating with devotion and festivity as it marks the **first anniversary of the 'Pran Pratishtha' of Ram Lalla** at the **Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir**. The milestone event, celebrated on **Wednesday, January 22, 2025**, reflects the city's spiritual legacy and the culmination of centuries of devotion and struggle.
- The **Centre** has made a significant decision to increase the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** for **raw jute** by Rs 315, setting it at **Rs 5,650 per quintal** for the **2025-26 marketing season**. This move, approved by the **Union Cabinet**, aims to provide farmers with a return of **66.8 per cent** over the all-India weighted average cost of production, thus encouraging farmers to invest in jute cultivation.





- The recent decision by the **Neutral Expert**, appointed by the **World Bank** under the terms of the **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)**, marks a significant diplomatic win for India. The Expert deemed himself “competent” to adjudicate the technical differences raised between India and Pakistan regarding the design of two hydroelectric projects in Jammu and Kashmir. This outcome vindicates India’s long-standing position and opens a new chapter in the resolution of disputes under the IWT framework.
- Union Minister Piyush Goyal** set an ambitious target of achieving **10,000 Geographical Indication (GI) Tags** by **2030** during the **GI Samagam** in New Delhi. With **605 GI tags** issued so far, Goyal emphasized a **whole-of-government approach** and the formation of a dedicated committee for implementation. He highlighted initiatives like **One District One Product (ODOP)** and the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation Fund** to strengthen India’s **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)** ecosystem, focusing on the dual goal of **development** and **heritage preservation**.
- India has been a leader in the global fight against **tuberculosis (TB)**, starting with the **National Tuberculosis Program (NTP)** in 1962 and evolving to the **National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP)** in 2020, aiming to eliminate TB by **2025**. Despite significant progress, India still accounts for **27% of the global TB burden** with an incidence rate of **210 per 100,000** in 2021, and faces challenges such as **drug-resistant TB**, including **MDR** and **XDR TB**.
- Indore** and **Udaipur** have become the first **Indian cities** to join the global list of accredited **Wetland Cities** under the **Ramsar Convention**. This recognition underscores India’s commitment to **sustainable urban development** and **ecological conservation**. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** congratulated the cities, emphasizing the importance of balancing **urban growth** with **environmental sustainability**, and recognizing the vital role of **wetlands** in providing **ecological, social, and economic benefits**.
- Under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu**, **Prayagraj Airport** has been transformed into a modern hub for the **Maha Kumbh Mahotsav 2025**. The airport now boasts **expanded terminals**, enhanced **passenger amenities**, and improved **connectivity**, accommodating millions of devotees from **January 13 to February 26, 2025**. The project was closely overseen through regular inspections and efficient planning.
- The **Union Cabinet** approved the **National Critical Mineral Mission (CMM)** with an outlay of **Rs 16,300 crore** to boost the domestic production of essential minerals for **technology** and **defense manufacturing**. The mission focuses on critical minerals like **lithium, cobalt, copper, nickel, and rare earth elements**, aiming to reduce import dependence, enhance **resource security**, and streamline regulatory processes. It will cover the entire value chain, from **exploration** to **recovery**, promoting **public** and **private sector participation**.
- The **MSME Trade Enablement and Marketing (TEAM) Initiative** has been launched by the **Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME)** with a **₹277.35 crore** budget over three years. The initiative aims to onboard **5 lakh micro and small enterprises**, focusing on **women-led businesses**, and enhance their digital presence. In partnership with the **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**, it aims to empower MSMEs, reduce operational barriers, and create growth opportunities in India’s digital economy.
- On **January 31, 2025**, the **Ministry of Railways** launched the ‘**SwaRail**’ **SuperApp** to integrate multiple railway services into one platform. Currently in **beta**, the app offers **ticket bookings, platform and parcel bookings, train and PNR inquiries, food ordering, and Rail Madad** for complaints and assistance. This app aims to enhance the **user experience** and reduce the need for multiple apps.
- India has added **four new sites** to the **Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance**, bringing the total to 89. The new additions include **Udhwa Lake** in **Jharkhand** (the state’s first Ramsar site), **Sikkim’s inaugural Ramsar site**, a **wetland in Gujarat**, and a site from **Northeast India**. This highlights India’s dedication to **wetland conservation** and preserving its **biodiversity** across diverse regions.
- A **High-Level Committee (HLC)**, led by **Amit Shah**, has approved **Rs 3,027.86 crore** for **disaster mitigation projects** across India. The funding will support initiatives in **lightning safety, drought-prone regions, and forest fire management**. Key members, including **Nirmala Sitharaman, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog**, aim to enhance **disaster preparedness** and reduce the impact of natural disasters.

India Visits By Foreigners

- Microsoft Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Satya Nadella** made a visit to India on January 2025 as a part of the **Microsoft AI (Artificial Intelligence) Tour** with an aim for expansion and investment plans to make India a leader in AI. **IndiaAI**, an Independent Business Division (IBD) under the Digital India Corporation, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Microsoft to drive the adoption and development of artificial intelligence (AI) in India. Establish “**AI Catalysts**,” a Center of Excellence, to promote rural AI innovation in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities and equip **100,000 AI innovators** and developers through hackathons, community building, and an AI marketplace. Microsoft announced a **USD 3 billion** investment in India over the next two years to enhance AI and cloud infrastructure and skilling initiatives in India.





- Singapore President **Tharman Shanmugaratnam**, visited India **from January 14 to 18, 2025**, marking his 1st bilateral state visit to India. He was accompanied by **Chee Hong Tat**, Minister for Transport and 2nd Minister for Finance of Singapore; and Sim Ann, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of National Development of Singapore. President of Singapore Tharman Shanmugaratnam and President of India Droupadi Murmu jointly unveiled the 60th Anniversary Commemorative logo at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. The logo celebrates six decades of strong ties between India & Singapore. During his visit, several Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between the Odisha government and Singaporean organizations.
- **Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto** chief guest at India's **2025 Republic Day parade**, strengthening **India-Indonesia relations** and supporting the **Act East Policy**. This visit aims to enhance **strategic cooperation, defense ties, and economic engagement**. The two nations share **over 2,000 years** of cultural and commercial ties, with Indonesia's traditions influenced by the **Ramayana and Mahabharata**.
- Abdulla Khaleel, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives made an Official visit to India from 2nd January to 4th January 2025 with an aim to strengthen bilateral ties in several key areas including maritime security, trade and investment. ✓ India and Maldives have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the execution of the 3rd phase of High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP) in Maldives.

Indian States Visits

- Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** visited **Andhra Pradesh(AP) and Odisha** from 8th January to 9th January

2025 to launch various projects worth over Rs 2 lakh crore to promote sustainable development, industrial growth, and infrastructure enhancement. Laid the foundation stone and inaugurated various railway and road projects worth over Rs.19,500 crore in AP. First Green Hydrogen Hub under National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) launched in Pudimadaka, AP. 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas(PBD) convention inaugurated in and remotely flagged-off the inaugural journey of the Pravasi Bharatiya Express in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Foreign Visits By Indian Personalities

- Union Minister **Kiren Rijiju**, Ministry of Minority Affairs(MoMA) and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs(MoPA) visited **Saudi Arabia** from 11th January to 14th January 2025 with an aim to look into the important arrangements related to preparations for the upcoming Haj pilgrimage to enhance the experience of Indian pilgrims. On 13th January 2025, India signed a Hajj agreement with Saudi Arabia securing a quota of 1,75,025 pilgrims for Indian pilgrims for 2025. The agreement was signed between Kire Rijiju.
- Union Minister S. Jaishankar, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) made a 2-day visit to Spain from January 13th to 14th, 2025 which marks his second visit to Spain and first visit as External Affairs Minister(EAM). The aim of the visit was to meet the leadership of Spain and hold wide range discussions with the Spain's Foreign Minister Manuel Albares. He also addressed the 9th Annual Conference of Spanish Ambassadors and met the Indian community. During the meeting, India and Spain signed two Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) that focused on cooperation in sports and sustainable urban development.

International Current Affairs

International Current Affairs of June 2025

- **Luís Montenegro** has been reappointed as Portugal's **Prime Minister** following the final general election results. His **centre-right alliance** will form a **minority government**. Despite the **rise of the far-right Chega party**, Montenegro ruled out any immediate **constitutional reforms**. His priorities include **economic growth, healthcare transformation, and enhancing public services**. This development marks a **notable shift** in Portugal's political landscape toward **pragmatic governance**.
- In **2024, Germany** surpassed **Japan** to become the **world's largest creditor**, ending Japan's **34-year reign**. Although Japan hit a record in external assets, Germany's **strong trade surplus, robust euro, and effective investment strategies** gave it the edge. Japan's decline is linked to an **ageing population, weaker yen, and conservative foreign**

investments. However, **wage growth, the NISA investment scheme, and gradual rate hikes** may help Japan recover.

- **Annalena Baerbock** was elected President of the **80th United Nations General Assembly on June 2, 2025**, with **167 votes**. A former German Foreign Minister, she becomes the **first woman from the Western European group** and the **fifth woman overall** to hold the post. She aims to serve as an **"honest broker"**, focusing on **UN efficiency, the 2030 Agenda, and global inclusivity**, especially under the framework of the **2022 Veto Initiative**.
- **Lee Jae-myung**, a liberal opposition figure, was elected **President of South Korea on June 4, 2025**, after the **removal of Yoon Suk Yeol**. Lee, known for **reformist and populist policies**, promised **economic reform, pragmatic diplomacy, and peaceful engagement with North Korea**. Despite concerns over his **alleged pro-China stance**, he reaffirmed ties with the **U.S.-South Korea alliance**. His leadership follows a phase of **political instability**.





- **Karol Nawrocki**, backed by **Donald Trump**, won Poland's **presidential election** with **50.89% of the vote**, narrowly defeating **Rafal Trzaskowski**. A conservative nationalist and former head of the **Institute of National Remembrance**, he symbolizes the **Law and Justice party's** political comeback. Nawrocki's stance is shaped by **patriotism**, **anti-communism**, and **traditional values**, with potential friction ahead in **EU relations**.
- **Nicaragua** has become the **101st nation** to accept the **WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies**, bringing the pact closer to enforcement. The deal aims to eliminate subsidies promoting **illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing** and promotes **marine sustainability**. It includes the creation of a **Fish Fund** for developing countries and was adopted at the **MC12 meeting in Geneva**.
- **Bangladesh's interim government** introduced new **Taka banknotes** excluding the image of **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**, replacing it with visuals of **natural and cultural heritage sites**. The redesigned **Taka 1000, 50, and 20 notes** aim to **depoliticize currency** amidst ongoing political tension and legal actions against **Sheikh Hasina**. The new notes will circulate alongside the existing ones, promoting an **inclusive national identity**.
- **India** has won the **Presidency of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS)** for the **2025–2028 term**, with **V. Srinivas**, Secretary of DARPG, elected as head. India defeated **Austria**, receiving **87 of 141 votes**. This milestone advances India's leadership in **global public administration reform**. The IIAS is based in **Brussels** and comprises **31 member countries** and institutions.
- On **June 3, 2025**, the **UN General Assembly** elected **Bahrain, Colombia, DRC, Liberia, and Latvia** as **non-permanent members** of the **UN Security Council** for **2026–2027**. Latvia entered the Council for the **first time ever**, while Colombia secured its **seventh term**. The elections showcased a commitment to **regional balance** and **global peacekeeping inclusivity**.
- The **Bangladesh interim regime** dropped the title "**Father of the Nation**" for **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** in the revised **Liberation War Act 2025**, announced on **June 3**. The law also excludes the **Mujib Bahini** from official freedom fighter status. A new category called "**Associates of Liberation War**" has been introduced to recognize broader support during the **1971 independence movement**.
- On **June 9, 2025**, **U.S. President Donald Trump** announced a **new travel ban** targeting **12 countries** like **Afghanistan, Iran, and Libya**, with **partial restrictions** on 8 more, including **Cuba and Venezuela**. This followed a **visa overstay-related attack** and was justified on **national security grounds**, citing inadequate **background verification systems**.
- **Iran** confirmed that **Russia** will build **eight nuclear power plants**, including **four in Bushehr**, under a pre-existing deal. The agreement supports Iran's goal to **triple its nuclear capacity**, reinforcing **energy cooperation with Russia** and the aim of **clean energy self-reliance**.
- **Israel** launched the **second phase of Operation Rising Lion**, striking Iran's **Natanz uranium enrichment site**, escalating **Middle East tensions**. While **PM Netanyahu** vowed continued action, the **U.S. distanced itself**, labeling it a **unilateral move**. The attack raises serious concerns about **nuclear diplomacy** and **regional stability**.
- The **UK government** named **Blaise Metreweli** as the first-ever **female chief of MI6**, announced during the **G7 Summit**. With **25 years in intelligence**, she leads MI6's **technology and innovation** wing. Her appointment comes amid growing **cybersecurity threats** and rising tensions with countries like **Russia and China**.
- **OpenAI** secured a **\$200 million contract** from the **U.S. Department of Defense** to develop **AI tools for national security**, with a completion target of **July 2026**. The deal focuses on **frontier AI prototypes** for **military and enterprise applications**, reflecting AI's growing defense role.
- The **UN** has declared **2026** as the **International Year of the Woman Farmer** to recognize the crucial role women play in **global agriculture**. Despite contributing significantly, women face issues like **land insecurity, lack of credit, and climate vulnerability**. Indian programs like **Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana** and **ENACT** are seen as model initiatives.
- In retaliation to Israeli attacks, **Iran launched Operation True Promise 3**, using **AI-guided missiles, decoy saturation, and tactics to disrupt Israel's Iron Dome**. This marks a shift toward **cyber-kinetic warfare** and exposes the vulnerabilities of **urban defense systems**.
- On **June 18, 2025**, **India and Ukraine** held their **first Joint Working Group meeting on agriculture** to enhance cooperation in **digital farming, food processing, and climate-resilient agriculture**. India presented platforms like **e-NAM** and the **National Mission on Edible Oils**, while Ukraine sought **technology transfer and market access**.
- **Pakistan** finalized a **\$1 billion syndicated finance deal**, supported by the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**. Signed on **June 18, 2025**, it blends **Islamic and conventional finance** and represents Pakistan's **return to Middle East financial markets**, signaling trust in its **economic reforms**.
- In a **major cybersecurity breach**, **16 billion credentials** were leaked from **30 datasets**, impacting platforms like **Apple, Google, and Telegram**. This is **not a recycled breach** and increases risks of **phishing, BEC, and account takeovers**. **Google** urged a shift to **passkeys** for stronger protection.
- **Gold** has become the **second-largest global reserve asset** after the **U.S. dollar**, with a **19% share** in 2024, overtaking the **euro (16%)**, according to the **ECB**. Central banks, especially in **emerging markets**, increased gold reserves due to **inflation fears, geopolitical risks, and currency sanctions**.





- In a historic move, **South Korea's President Lee Jae Myung** appointed **Ahn Gyu-back** as the country's **first civilian Defence Minister** in **64 years**, amid a sweeping **Cabinet overhaul** following the **impeachment of Yoon Suk Yeol** for attempting **martial law**.
- Starting **June 24, 2025**, the **IAEA** and **Romania** launched **ConvEx-3**, the largest-ever **international nuclear emergency drill**, simulating a disaster at **Cernavodă Nuclear Plant**. With **75+ countries** and agencies like **WHO** and **INTERPOL**, the 36-hour exercise tested **emergency protocols and global coordination**.
- In response to **U.S. airstrikes**, **Iran's Parliament** suspended cooperation with the **IAEA**, despite Iran's membership in the **NPT**. The **Iranian Embassy in India** thanked **Indian civil society** for their support during the **12-day war with Israel**, marking a turning point in **Iran's nuclear diplomacy**.

International Current Affairs of May 2025

- The **Singapore General Election 2025** culminated in a **landslide victory** for the **People's Action Party (PAP)** under **Prime Minister Lawrence Wong**, who led the party to secure **87 of 97 seats** with **65.57%** of the vote. This was his **first electoral test** as PM after succeeding **Lee Hsien Loong**. The elections were held amid **economic slowdown**, **tariff pressures**, and **rising domestic concerns** like **housing and cost of living**. Despite opposition calls for greater checks, voters prioritized **stability and governance**, reaffirming PAP's long-standing political dominance.
- In a surprising **political comeback**, **Anthony Albanese** has secured a **second term** as **Prime Minister of Australia**, leading the **Labor Party** to a **landslide win** in the **2025 general elections**. The vote reflected public trust in Labor's centrist approach amid economic challenges and a failed **Voice referendum** in 2023. **Peter Dutton**, seen as Australia's **Trump-like figure**, suffered a humiliating loss, even losing his seat. With **voter priorities** focused on **cost-of-living**, **climate change**, and **Indigenous reconciliation**, this election marks a pivotal moment in Australian politics.
- At the **58th ADB Annual Meeting** in Milan, Finance Ministers of **India** and **Italy** discussed strengthening **economic cooperation**, with a focus on **renewable energy**, **fintech**, and **digital public infrastructure**. This aligns with the **Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025–2029**, aiming to enhance bilateral ties and contribute to global goals like **SDG alignment** and **climate commitments**. The meeting also emphasized **IMR reform** and showcased India's success with platforms like **Aadhaar** and **UPI**.
- Yemen's **Presidential Leadership Council (PLC)** has appointed **Salem Saleh Bin Braik** as the new **Prime Minister** after the resignation of **Ahmed bin Mubarak**. Mubarak resigned due to **constitutional constraints**, stating he was unable to reform key institutions or reshuffle the cabinet. The leadership change comes amid a deepening **economic crisis**, driven by the ongoing **civil war**, **collapse of the Yemeni rial**, and **suspended oil exports** since **October 2022** due to **Houthi attacks**. Yemen continues to face one of the **worst humanitarian crises**, as described by the **United Nations**.
- **Friedrich Merz**, after a historic defeat in the **Bundestag**, has secured his position as **Chancellor of Germany** following a **second vote**, bringing an end to political uncertainty. His coalition with the **SPD** aims to address Germany's economic challenges, including recession and stagnation, while enhancing the country's leadership role in European and global matters. Despite the rocky start, Merz's leadership is seen as crucial for Germany's future, particularly in managing migration issues and economic recovery.
- On **May 8, 2025**, **Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost** of the **United States** was elected as the **267th pope**, adopting the name **Pope Leo XIV**. Succeeding **Pope Francis**, who passed away on **April 21, 2025**, the new pope brings a **moderate**, globally aware perspective shaped by **missionary work in Peru**. The conclave, with **133 cardinals from 70 nations**, was the most **international** to date. As the **first American pope**, Leo XIV faces challenges such as **healing Church divisions**, **addressing abuse scandals**, and **reasserting the Church's moral leadership** amid **geopolitical conflicts**.
- India and the **European Union** have entered the **11th round of FTA negotiations**, adopting a **two-phase strategy** to fast-track trade liberalisation. With a focus on **reducing non-tariff barriers** and **expanding market access**, this effort aims to finalise an **interim agreement** before moving to more contentious issues. India's recent diplomatic push, including agreements with **the UK, US, and Australia**, underscores its **commitment to global trade integration** and **economic resilience** amid global **protectionist trends**.
- The **United States** and **China** reached a **trade deal** on **May 11, 2025**, after two days of high-level talks in **Geneva**, aimed at resolving a prolonged **tariff war**. Officials including **Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent** and **USTR Ambassador Jamieson Greer** confirmed "**substantial progress**" had been made. The talks focused on reducing the **\$1.2 trillion US trade deficit** and restoring **economic stability**. The agreement, though details are pending, marks a significant milestone in **international trade relations** and is expected to have a **positive global impact**.
- In a pioneering move, **Bhutan** has partnered with **Binance Pay** and **DK Bank** to roll out a **crypto payment system** in its **tourism sector**, allowing visitors to use **over 100 cryptocurrencies** for services like **flight bookings**, **SDF fees**, and **local shopping**. This system, using **QR code technology**, automatically converts payments to the **Bhutanese Ngultrum (BTN)**, ensuring price stability for vendors. With **over 100 local businesses** already onboard—many in **rural areas**—the initiative marks a milestone in **financial inclusion**, **digital innovation**, and global crypto adoption.





- The **US-China trade war** has entered a cooling phase with both countries agreeing to a **115% reciprocal tariff reduction** and a **90-day truce** on further measures. The agreement, reached after **talks in Geneva**, halts years of trade hostilities that had disrupted global supply chains and markets. The truce is expected to bring **economic relief**, boost **global trade stability**, and provide countries like **India** with strategic export opportunities. Key players include **US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent** and **China's Vice Premier He Lifeng**, who labeled the discussions as **candid and productive**.
- On **May 14, 2025**, **Anita Anand**, a distinguished **Indian-origin politician**, was appointed **Canada's new Minister of Foreign Affairs** by Prime Minister **Mark Carney**, making her the **first Hindu woman** to hold the post. A former **Minister of Defence, Transport, and Treasury Board President**, Anand previously planned to return to **academia** but was persuaded to stay amidst **strained India-Canada ties** and sensitive **US relations under Donald Trump**. She took oath on the **Bhagavad Gita**, symbolizing her **Hindu faith** and marking a historic moment in Canadian diplomacy.
- The **United States** and **Saudi Arabia** have signed a **\$142 billion arms deal** during President **Donald Trump's visit to Riyadh** in May 2025. The deal, deemed the **largest in history**, includes **advanced air-to-air missiles**, military systems, and **commercial exports**. The agreement, coupled with previous approvals for a \$3.3 billion missile sale, is aimed at **boosting defence ties**, ensuring **regional security**, and **increasing Gulf investments** into the US economy. Major defence contractor **RTX Corp** will oversee missile production, marking a significant step in US-Saudi relations.
- The **U.S. decision to remove sanctions** on **Syria**, announced by **Donald Trump** in **May 2025**, marks a crucial shift toward ending years of **economic and political isolation** for the **war-affected nation**. With a new **transitional government** in place, this **policy change** aims to foster **peace**, support **humanitarian aid**, and accelerate Syria's **economic recovery**. This development could reshape **Middle Eastern geopolitics** and **international relations** by encouraging **cooperation** and **rebuilding** in a country long ravaged by **conflict and sanctions**.
- **Honduras** officially **opened its embassy in New Delhi**, reflecting growing diplomatic and economic engagement with **India**. This move strengthens ties in **trade, development, climate resilience, and technology**. India has consistently supported Honduras through **humanitarian aid, medical supplies**, and developmental projects like the **IT Centre at UNAH** and **irrigation initiatives**. With increasing trade and the presence of Indian companies like **Bajaj** and **TVS**, Honduras offers India a **strategic gateway** to the **Central American market**.
- On **May 16, 2025**, **Russia** and **Ukraine** resumed **direct peace talks** in **Istanbul**, resulting in a **prisoner exchange agreement** involving 1,000 individuals from each side. While **Turkey mediated** the dialogue, the two nations failed to reach a **ceasefire**, largely due to **Russia's territorial demands** and **Ukraine's firm rejection**. Despite the obstacles, both delegations committed to **further negotiations**, marking a **tentative step toward diplomacy** in a war that has lasted over three years.
- Nepal's **Yala Glacier**, once a vital research site, has been declared **dead** due to **rapid melting caused by climate change**. Scientists, monks, and local communities from **HKH countries** gathered to pay tribute. The event featured **memorial plaques**, Buddhist ceremonies, and speeches emphasizing the glacier's scientific and symbolic importance. The loss of Yala is part of a broader trend of **accelerating glacier retreat and snow loss**, threatening **water security** for nearly **2 billion people** in Asia.
- The **United States** has proposed a new **5% excise tax** on **international remittances** by **non-citizens**, affecting individuals such as **Indian H-1B holders, students, and green card holders**. If passed, this law could reduce **formal remittance flows**, increase use of **informal channels**, and put pressure on **salaries** and **investment outflows**. The **Indian diaspora**, which sent over **\$23 billion in 2023**, stands to be one of the most impacted groups. Experts have criticized the bill for being **discriminatory** and potentially overriding **international tax treaties**.
- China's **rare earth export restrictions** have placed India's growing **EV industry** under significant strain, revealing its **overdependence on Beijing** for key components. Despite having **local reserves**, India lacks **refining infrastructure**, making it vulnerable to **supply shocks**. While initiatives like **KABIL** and **critical minerals lists** signal intent, building **domestic capacity**, fostering **international collaborations**, and scaling up **rare earth recycling** are essential to achieving real **self-reliance**.
- **Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki**, an active **volcano** in **Indonesia**, erupted twice on **May 19, 2025**, with **volcanic ash** reaching 1.1 km into the atmosphere. Authorities issued the **highest alert level** and warned of potential **lahar floods** and larger eruptions. The **Volcanic Ash Advisory Center** in **Darwin, Australia**, released a **red aviation alert** due to the ash's possible impact on **air travel**. As part of the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, Indonesia faces regular seismic activity, and this incident underscores the region's vulnerability and global implications.





- Sudan's military, led by **Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan**, has appointed **Kamil al-Taib Idris** as the first **Prime Minister** since the outbreak of the **civil war in April 2023**, which erupted due to a power struggle between the army and the **Rapid Support Forces (RSF)**. The appointment is part of efforts to create a **transitional government**, restore **civilian-led rule**, and address the nation's ongoing **humanitarian crisis**, with **over 13 million displaced** and half the population facing **hunger**. Idris, a respected **legal diplomat**, is seen as a **neutral figure** and a possible unifying leader in a country torn by war and **political fragmentation**.
- The **Suez Canal Authority** has initiated a **15% toll discount** for large vessels to attract traffic back to the waterway, severely impacted by the **Red Sea crisis** sparked by **Houthi rebel attacks** in late 2023. Despite a recent **ceasefire with the US**, shipping giants remain wary due to continued threats against Israeli-linked ships. While the **Suez Canal's trade volume and revenue have plummeted**, shipping companies like **Maersk** have adjusted well to the **Cape of Good Hope** route, maintaining profitability despite longer and costlier voyages.
- The **Golden Dome** is a newly unveiled **space-based missile defense system** proposed by **US President Donald Trump**. It seeks to create a **multi-layered shield** to counter **hypersonic and space-launched missile threats**, integrating terrestrial assets like **THAAD, Patriot, and Aegis**, while introducing **orbital interceptors and laser weaponry**. Despite being in its **conceptual stage**, the initiative has drawn **global scrutiny**, especially from **China and Russia**, who view it as a **threat to space stability**. The plan is anticipated to be operational by **2029**, though concerns over cost, coordination, and feasibility persist.
- India has **welcomed** the **UK's decision to transfer sovereignty** of the **Chagos Islands** to **Mauritius** under a **landmark agreement** signed on **May 22, 2025**, calling it a significant step in the global process of **decolonisation** and reaffirming its commitment to **international law, territorial sovereignty, and regional stability**.
- **Saudi Arabia's** launch of the **TOURISE** platform marks a strategic step in strengthening its position as a global tourism powerhouse. The initiative aims to unite stakeholders across various sectors to foster innovation, address sustainability challenges, and develop future-forward tourism policies. With its upcoming summit and awards program, TOURISE will spotlight advancements in AI, inclusive tourism, and investment opportunities. This platform supports **Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030** ambitions, emphasizing technology-driven growth and sustainable development in tourism.
- Algeria's accession to the **New Development Bank (NDB)** marks a strategic enhancement in the global presence of the **BRICS-led financial institution**. By joining NDB, Algeria aims to support and benefit from international efforts in **sustainable development, infrastructure financing, and economic resilience**. With a focus on impactful projects and collaboration, this move is expected to strengthen the NDB's mandate and offer Algeria alternative funding sources and regional influence.
- In **May 2025**, six **East African nations** signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** to **eliminate kala-azar**, a life-threatening **neglected tropical disease (NTD)**. The agreement, supported by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, the **African Union**, and the **Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi)**, aims to bolster **investment**, enhance **surveillance**, and foster **cross-border cooperation**. With **over 70% of kala-azar cases** found in the region, the MoU represents a crucial step in global public health efforts. The initiative also aligns with global progress, where **56 countries** have already eliminated at least one NTD.
- In a **dramatic escalation**, the **US Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** revoked **Harvard University's SEVP certification**, barring it from admitting **international students** for Fall 2025. This decision, linked to **campus protests** and non-compliance with federal demands, has created **visa uncertainty** for over **7,000 international students**, including nearly **800 Indians**. As **Harvard seeks legal remedies**, students face **legal status issues**, financial losses, and emotional stress. The move is seen as part of a broader **crackdown on universities** perceived as resisting federal oversight, triggering concern across the **global student community**.
- On **May 26, 2025**, **Saudi Arabia and Kuwait** announced a **significant oil discovery** in the **neutral zone**, specifically in the **North Wafra Wara-Burgan field**. This is the **first such find since 2020**, with output **exceeding 500 barrels per day**. The discovery is expected to **boost global oil supply**, **strengthen bilateral cooperation**, and **enhance both countries' positions as reliable global energy suppliers**. This milestone underscores the **strategic importance** of the neutral zone and reflects the **Gulf region's commitment to energy security**.
- India played a leading role at the 78th **World Health Assembly (WHA)** by endorsing the **WHO Global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025–2034**. Through the establishment of the **Global Traditional Medicine Centre in Jamnagar** and the signing of a Donor Agreement to build a TM module within **ICHI**, India has deepened its global commitment to promoting scientifically validated **AYUSH** systems. This aligns with WHO's focus on environmental sustainability, regulation, and integration of traditional healthcare for achieving **universal health coverage** and **SDGs**.





- **Kami Rita Sherpa**, the iconic **Nepali mountaineer**, has **summitted Mount Everest for the 31st time**, setting a **new world record**. The **55-year-old Sherpa**, known for his unmatched experience in high-altitude climbing, guided a **22-member Indian Army team** via the **southeast ridge** on **May 27, 2025**. This historic feat emphasizes the critical **contribution of Sherpas** in Himalayan expeditions and highlights Nepal's prominence in **global mountain tourism**.

International Current Affairs of April 2025

- **Japan's Financial Services Agency (FSA)** plans to **revise the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act by 2026** to classify **crypto assets as financial products**, enhancing **regulatory oversight** and introducing **insider trading restrictions**. Japan, a pioneer in **crypto regulation** since **legalizing Bitcoin in 2017**, aims to strengthen **investor protection** and **market stability** following security breaches and money laundering concerns.
- Russia has launched the **Perm**, its first **nuclear submarine** equipped with the **Zircon hypersonic missile**, marking a significant step in strengthening its **naval capabilities**. The **Yasen-M class** submarine, set to join the **Pacific Fleet** in 2026, will replace the **Akula** and **Oscar-class** submarines. The **Zircon missile**, with a speed of **Mach 8** and a range of **500–1,000 km**, is seen as a **game-changer**, making it nearly impossible to intercept due to its **radar-evading plasma cloud**.
- Former US President **Donald Trump's** proposed **"reciprocal tariff"** policy would impose a 26% adjusted tariff on **Indian exports** to the United States, significantly increasing the cost of Indian goods. This policy is based on the principle of imposing tariffs on other countries similar to what they charge on **US goods**. Currently, India faces an average tariff of **2.7%** on exports to the US, while US goods face **10.5%** tariffs in India. The proposed tariffs could result in **price hikes**, reduced **competitiveness**, and loss of market share in the US, India's largest export destination. However, the tariffs will also affect other major trading partners, influencing the relative impact on India's exports.
- **Saudi Arabia** has imposed a **temporary visa ban** on individuals from **14 countries**, including **India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh**, to control **overcrowding** during the **Hajj pilgrimage**. The ban affects **Umrah visas, business visit visas, and family visit visas** and aims to regulate the flow of visitors, prevent **illegal overstaying**, and ensure a **smooth and secure Hajj season**. The ban will remain in place until the end of the Hajj pilgrimage in **mid-June 2025**.

- Kazakhstan has discovered its largest-ever reserve of **rare earth metals** at the **Kuirektykol site** in the **Karaganda region**, with an estimated reserve of **1 million tons** and potential reserves exceeding **20 million tons** in the broader **Zhana Kazakhstan zone**. This discovery, located about **300 km southeast of Astana**, positions Kazakhstan as a potential major player in the global **critical minerals** sector, especially as the world shifts toward **green technology** and aims to reduce reliance on suppliers like **China**.
- **Gabon** will hold a crucial **presidential election on April 12, 2025**, marking a key step in its **transition from military to civilian rule** after the **August 2023 coup** that ended the **56-year Bongo dynasty**. **Brice Oligui Nguema**, the **junta chief and frontrunner**, is contesting as the **"candidate of the people"**, having suspended his military duties under a **new electoral code** adopted in **January 2025**. He faces **7 other candidates**, with main challenger **Alain-Claude Bilie By Nze**, the last PM under Ali Bongo.
- In a major shift in global trade policy, **Donald Trump** announced a **90-day pause** on **higher tariffs** for most nations, offering a **10% "reciprocal tariff"** instead, especially sparing countries like the **EU, Vietnam, and South Africa**. However, **China** faced a steep escalation, with **tariffs on Chinese goods rising to 125%**, in response to its **84% tariffs** on US imports. Trump cited China's **"lack of respect"** and warned of further action.
- The **US-China trade war** intensified after the **Trump administration imposed 104% tariffs** on **Chinese imports**, prompting **China** to retaliate with **84% tariffs** on **US goods**, up from 34%. In a sharp response, China **blacklisted 12 US companies**, added six to its **unreliable entities list**, enforced **export controls on rare earths**, and **filed a WTO complaint**, accusing the US of disrupting **global trade stability**.
- **India and Italy** have strengthened their **Strategic Partnership** by advancing cooperation in **trade, defence, clean energy, and connectivity**, notably through the **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC)** and the **Joint Strategic Action Plan (JSAP) 2025–29**. During Italian Deputy PM **Antonio Tajani's** visit, both sides focused on boosting **high-tech collaboration, space and digital innovation**, and promoting a **free Indo-Pacific**. Key outcomes include **tech transfer, youth mobility**, and Italy's appointment of a **special envoy for IMEEC**, reaffirming deepening ties since their **Strategic Partnership declaration in 2023**.
- In **April 2025**, the **Trump administration froze \$2.3 billion in federal funding** to **Harvard University** after it rejected a list of controversial demands including dismantling **DEI programs**, enforcing **merit-based policies**, and restricting **student activism**. This unprecedented move has triggered a national debate over **academic freedom, executive overreach**, and **constitutional rights** of private institutions.





- Amid escalating **US-China trade tensions**, China has instructed its major airlines to **halt the purchase and delivery of Boeing aircraft** following **President Trump's 145% tariff** on Chinese goods. The move affects **179 aircraft orders from Air China, China Eastern, and China Southern**, and suspends the import of **US aircraft parts**, hitting **Boeing hard**. Meanwhile, **Airbus** and China's **COMAC** emerge as key **beneficiaries**, gaining ground in the Asian aviation market.
- In Ecuador's **2025 presidential run-off**, **right-wing incumbent Daniel Noboa** secured a **full 4-year term** with **55.8%** of the vote, defeating **left-wing rival Luisa Gonzalez** (44.2%). Amid rampant **drug cartel violence** and a **28% poverty rate**, Noboa's tough-on-crime "**mano dura**" strategy, military deployments, and **U.S. anti-narcotics cooperation** resonated with voters. Gonzalez alleged **electoral fraud** and demanded a recount, though the **National Electoral Council** confirmed Noboa's clear win. His presidency focuses on **security, economic revival, and restoring public trust**.
- In **2024, Tanzania** recorded its hottest year since **1970**, with an average national temperature of **24.3°C**, 0.7°C above normal, surpassing the previous record set in **2023**. The year saw a significant rise in **nighttime temperatures**, with the **minimum temperature** averaging **19.3°C**, 1.1°C above the long-term average. In contrast, the **maximum temperature** averaged **28.8°C**.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has finalized a **Pandemic Treaty** proposal, set to be presented at the **78th World Health Assembly** on **May 19, 2025**. The agreement, drafted by the **Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB)**, aims to strengthen **pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPR)** through a **binding international instrument** under the WHO Constitution.
- **General Brice Oligui Nguema** won Gabon's **2025 presidential election** with over **90% of the vote**, following a **military coup** in 2023 that ended the **Bongo family's 40-year rule**. Nguema, previously head of the **Republican Guard**, ran under a new **electoral code** allowing military officers to contest elections. Despite his promise to relinquish power after the coup, he secured the presidency in a **largely peaceful election**.
- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has been elected as **Chair of INTERPOL's Committee on Governance**, with **Lt. Col. Dana Humaid Al Marzouqi** securing **67% of member state votes** during the election held at **INTERPOL HQ, Lyon** on **April 11, 2025**. This marks the **UAE's first leadership role** on this key platform, enhancing its **global influence in policing and law enforcement diplomacy**.
- In a landmark move, **India signed an agreement with the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** to host its **headquarters and secretariat**, reaffirming its leadership in **global wildlife conservation**. Launched by **PM Modi** in **April 2023** during the **50th anniversary of Project Tiger**, the **IBCA** focuses on the protection of **seven major big cats—tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar, and puma**. Now a **treaty-based intergovernmental body** (from 2024), with **India, Liberia, Eswatini, Somalia, and Nicaragua** ratifying it, the alliance will receive **₹150 crore support (2023–2029)** from India for infrastructure and operations.
- **China** has imposed **export restrictions** on seven key **Rare Earth Elements (REEs)—Samarium (Sm), Gadolinium (Gd), Terbium (Tb), Dysprosium (Dy), Lutetium (Lu), Scandium (Sc), and Yttrium (Y)**—citing **national security and non-proliferation concerns**, escalating global trade tensions following new **U.S. tariffs**. As a global leader in **REE mining and refining**, China's move threatens supply chains for industries reliant on REEs' **magnetic and optical properties**, such as **electronics, clean energy, defense, and EV manufacturing**, urging nations to **diversify sourcing** and reduce **dependence on Chinese exports**.
- In a **historic move**, **New York City Mayor Eric Adams** proclaimed **April 14, 2025**, as **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Day**, honoring the **135th birth anniversary** of the **architect of the Indian Constitution**. The announcement, made at the **United Nations Headquarters**, featured a keynote by **Union Minister Ramdas Athawale**, who highlighted Ambedkar's contributions to **social justice, human rights, and the 2030 SDGs**.
- **Klaus Schwab**, the **87-year-old founder** of the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**, has **resigned as Chairman** after leading the institution since **1971**. Known as the face of the **Davos Summit**, Schwab's departure on **April 21, 2025**, marks the end of an era as WEF faces criticism of **elitism, internal workplace issues, and a broader globalisation backlash**. **Peter Brabeck-Letmathe** has taken over as **interim Chair**.
- **Operation ATALANTA**, launched by the **European Union** in 2008, is a key maritime security initiative focused on the **Western Indian Ocean and Red Sea** regions. Initially created to combat the rise in **piracy off the coast of Somalia**, the operation has since evolved to address broader security challenges. A notable development includes a proposed **joint exercise** with the **Indian Navy** in May 2025 to strengthen cooperation and combat regional piracy threats.
- **UNESCO added 16 new Global Geoparks**, bringing the total to **229 across 50 countries**, covering **855,000 km²**. These geoparks span **Asia, Europe, Africa, and Latin America**, showcasing exceptional **geological heritage—from volcanic formations and fossil sites to glacial landscapes**. Notable new entries include **Mt Paektu (North Korea), Kanbula (China), Arran (UK), and Tungurahua Volcano (Ecuador)**. While **India has no UNESCO Global Geoparks yet**, these sites support **conservation, education, and sustainable development**, under the **Global Geoparks Network (GGN)** launched in **2015** by UNESCO.





- **China's testing of a fissile-free hydrogen bomb** using **magnesium hydride-based fusion** marks a radical shift in nuclear weaponry, bypassing traditional **uranium/plutonium fission** and exploiting **Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF)** and **magnetic compression (Z-pinch)**. This raises serious **arms control, proliferation, and legal challenges**, as it circumvents **NPT** and **CTBT** definitions.

International Current Affairs of March 2025

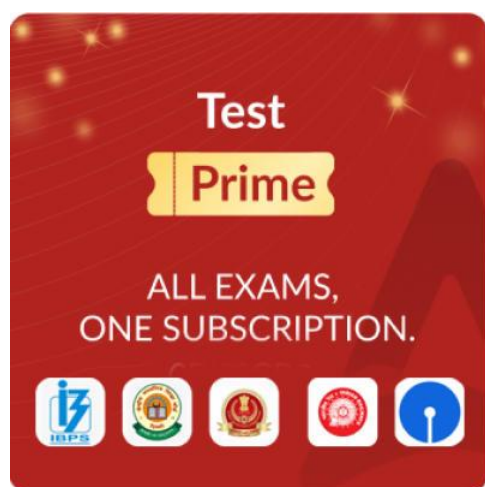
- On **March 1, 2025**, **President Donald Trump** announced **English** as the **official language** of the **United States**, citing it as a step towards **national unity**. The **White House** released an **executive order**, stating it was "long past time" to make this decision.
- **Yamandú Orsi** was sworn in as **Uruguay's President** on **March 1, 2025**, marking the return of the **leftist Broad Front coalition** after five years of **conservative rule**. A former **history teacher** and **mayor**, Orsi aims to strengthen Uruguay's **social safety net** while tackling **economic stagnation**. His presidency will focus on balancing **leftist support** with **economic growth** and **investor confidence**, while navigating challenges like **labor disputes** and **fiscal constraints**.
- The **Trump administration** imposed significant **tariffs** on imports from **Canada, Mexico, and China** starting **March 4, 2025**, raising import duties to levels not seen in decades. While aimed at boosting **domestic manufacturing** and reducing **trade imbalances**, the move has sparked backlash from **trading partners** and **business groups** due to concerns over **higher consumer costs** and **economic instability**.
- **China has announced a 7.2% increase in its 2025 defence budget**, raising total spending to approximately \$245 billion, as revealed at the National People's Congress (NPC). The budget focuses on modernizing military technology, reinforcing territorial claims, and countering U.S. influence in Asia. Despite being the world's second-largest defence spender, analysts estimate actual expenditure could be 40% higher due to unaccounted costs in other sectors.
- On **March 4, 2025**, **U.S. President Donald Trump**, in his **first congressional address** of his **second term**, announced **reciprocal tariffs** on countries with **high tariffs on U.S. goods**. Effective **April 2**, the policy targets **India, China, the EU, Brazil, Mexico, and Canada**, aiming to ensure a "**level playing field**" for American businesses. Trump cited "**very unfair**" trade practices as the reason, potentially impacting **U.S.-India trade relations**.

- The **world's largest iceberg, A23a**, has run aground near **South Georgia**, a **British overseas territory**. Scientists are monitoring its impact, as it may **disrupt wildlife feeding routes** but also **boost ocean productivity** by releasing nutrients. **A23a broke off from Antarctica in 1986** and has drifted for decades before lodging on the **continental shelf**. Its future movement remains uncertain due to **oceanic conditions**.
- **Israel has appointed Eyal Zamir as its new Chief of Staff** amid ongoing military operations and rising regional tensions. A **former tank commander and defence ministry director**, Zamir succeeds **Lieutenant General Herzi Halevi**, who resigned after the **October 7, 2023 Hamas attack**. His leadership will focus on **Gaza operations, Iran tensions, and West Bank security**. **Prime Minister Netanyahu** has expressed confidence in Zamir's ability to achieve "**absolute victory**" against Hamas.
- **Mark Carney** has been appointed as the new leader of **Canada's Liberal Party** and the country's next **Prime Minister**, replacing **Justin Trudeau** amid growing public dissatisfaction. The former **central banker** will now lead the party into the upcoming **general elections** and manage **Ottawa's response** to increasing challenges from **US President Donald Trump**.
- China has deployed a **Large Phased Array Radar (LPAR)** system in **Yunnan province**, near the **China-Myanmar border**, enhancing surveillance over India. The radar boasts a **range of 5,000+ kilometers**, with **advanced tracking capabilities** to monitor ballistic missiles and aerial activities. Positioned strategically, it can track missile tests from India's **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island**, raising security concerns.
- In response to the global financial crisis and uncertainty, **UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** launched the '**UN80 Initiative**'. This initiative aims to improve **efficiency** and **cost-effectiveness** within the **United Nations** by addressing shrinking resources, streamlining operations, and enhancing the organization's ability to deliver on its mandates effectively.
- In a historic breakthrough, **Armenia and Azerbaijan** agreed on the text of a **peace treaty** on **March 13, 2025**, ending nearly four decades of conflict over the **Nagorno-Karabakh** region. While this marks a significant step toward **stability** in the **South Caucasus**, **Azerbaijan** demands changes in **Armenia's constitution** before signing the treaty, creating uncertainty about the timeline for its official signing.
- **Donald Trump's** social media platform, **Truth Social**, is set to begin trading on the **NASDAQ** pending a shareholder vote on its merger with **Digital World Acquisition Corp. (DWAC)**, a **SPAC**. This move could reshape the financial structure of **Trump Media & Technology Group (TMTG)**, which owns **Truth Social**.





- **Stuart Young** is set to be sworn in as the new **Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago** at a formal ceremony at the **President's House in St. Ann's**. He will succeed **Dr. Keith Rowley**, who has officially stepped down from his position.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has launched the **Frontier Seed (Pacific)** program to boost local businesses, strengthen capital markets, and promote **sustainable economic growth** in the Pacific region. ADB has committed **\$200,000** in technical assistance to **SeaPAC Pte Ltd** (prawn production) and **Kahuto Pacific** (aerial mapping). Backed by international partners like the **ORCA Trust Fund**, **Nordic Development Fund**, and **FCDO**, the program aims to attract investors, create jobs, and enhance economic resilience with an initial commitment of **\$4 million**.
- In 2025, **US President Donald Trump** is considering a **travel ban** on citizens from 43 countries, categorized into **Red**, **Orange**, and **Yellow** lists. **Red List** countries (11 nations, including Afghanistan, Iran, and Venezuela) face **complete visa suspension**, while **Orange List** countries (10 nations, including Russia, Pakistan, and Haiti) will have **severely restricted visas**. **Yellow List** countries (22 nations, including Angola, Cambodia, and Zimbabwe) have **60 days** to address US concerns. This move expands on the travel restrictions from Trump's first term, which were later revoked by **Joe Biden** in 2021.
- **Kirsty Coventry**, a legendary swimmer from **Zimbabwe**, made history by becoming the **first female** and **first African president** of the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)**. Her election marks a significant milestone for the IOC, ushering in a new era of **progress, diversity, and inclusivity** in global sports leadership.
- In 2024, **global funding for women-led tech startups** fell to **\$29.6 billion**, an **11% decline from 2023** and **21% from 2022**, due to **macroeconomic challenges**. Despite the downturn, **India ranked second globally in all-time funding for women-led tech startups**, after the **United States**, as per **Tracxn**. Women-led startups accounted for **11.7% of total global funding**, with **45 funding rounds exceeding \$100 million**. Key sectors like **Enterprise Applications**, **Life Sciences**, and **FinTech** continued to attract significant investment.



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- The **Indian Embassy** in the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** has issued an urgent advisory for **Indians in Bukavu** to evacuate due to escalating violence from **rebel forces**, including the **M23 group**, which has captured areas like **Goma**. This move highlights the embassy's commitment to ensuring the safety of **Indian nationals** amid the ongoing crisis.
- On **February 1, 2025**, **U.S. President Donald Trump** signed an executive order imposing **steep tariffs** on imports from **Mexico, Canada, and China** to address issues like **illegal immigration** and **fentanyl trafficking**. The move triggered strong **retaliatory measures** and sparked a global economic debate, with analysts warning of **inflationary risks, slowed economic growth**, and potential **trade wars**.
- On **January 30, 2025**, **New Zealand's Parliament** passed a law granting **Mount Taranaki (Taranaki Maunga)** **legal personhood**, recognizing it as a living entity with rights similar to a human. This historic decision is rooted in **Māori** spiritual and cultural beliefs, aiming to correct past **injustices** and promote **environmental conservation**.
- **Vyacheslav Volodin**, Chairman of the **State Duma of Russia**, arrived in **India** on **February 3, 2025**, for an official visit to strengthen the **Russia-India strategic relationship**. His discussions with Indian leaders will focus on enhancing ties in **economic growth, education, technology, cultural exchanges**, and promoting deeper **inter-parliamentary cooperation**, highlighting the importance of the relationship in the current global context.
- Sri Lanka experienced its **highest deflation rate in 65 years**, with **consumer prices** falling by **4.0%** in **January 2025**, marking the fifth consecutive month of deflation. This follows sharp reductions in **electricity** and **fuel costs** after the country's **worst financial crisis**. Inflation, which peaked at **69.8%** in September 2022, has drastically declined, as the government, led by **President Anura Kumara Dissanayake**, continues implementing **IMF-backed economic reforms** to stabilize the economy.
- The **United Kingdom** is the first country to **criminalize AI-generated child sexual abuse material (CSAM)**. The **British government** is introducing strict legal measures to prevent the use of **generative AI** in creating and distributing CSAM, ensuring **severe punishments** for offenders. This historic move aims to combat child **exploitation** using advanced technology.
- The **ECOWAS** has officially recognized the **withdrawal of Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso** after a year of diplomatic tensions, primarily over **military coups** and disagreements on **regional governance** and **external alliances**. This marks a significant shift in the **West African political landscape**, highlighting growing differences between these countries and ECOWAS.





- **Tshego Gaele**, a 34-year-old attorney from **Soweto**, has made history as the first **Black woman** to win the **Mrs World 2025** title in Las Vegas. Gaele, also the **2024 Mrs South Africa Queen**, follows in the footsteps of Candice Abrahams (2016). Her victory marks a milestone in the pageant's 40-year history, and she aims to champion **women's empowerment** while representing **South Africa** globally.
- On **February 1, 2025**, **Rasmus Paludan**, a far-right Danish politician, set fire to the **Holy Quran** outside the **Turkish Embassy** in **Copenhagen**, sparking global controversy. Paludan, leader of the far-right party **Stram Kurs**, claimed the act was a tribute to **Salwan Momika**, an Iraqi refugee killed days earlier. His actions reignited debates over **free speech**, **religious sensitivities**, and **hate speech** in Europe, with Paludan criticizing **Copenhagen police** for attempting to limit his protests.
- On **February 3, 2025**, **Bart De Wever**, leader of the **New Flemish Alliance (N-VA)**, became **Belgium's first Flemish nationalist Prime Minister**. After over eight months of coalition talks, a new government was formed with **five parties**: **N-VA**, **Christian Democrats (CD&V)**, **socialists (Vooruit)**, **liberals (MR)**, and **centrists (Les Engagés)**, collectively known as the "**Arizona**" coalition. This majority coalition in the **150-seat federal parliament** signals a shift in Belgium's political landscape under De Wever's leadership.
- China has launched an **antitrust investigation** into **Google**, initiated by the **State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR)**. The probe targets potential violations of China's **Anti-Monopoly Law**, accusing Google of using its dominance in the global smartphone market to suppress competition, particularly against **Chinese companies** like **Oppe** and **Xiaomi**. This move escalates tensions amid ongoing **U.S.-China trade disputes** and the U.S. imposition of **tariffs on Chinese goods**.
- President **Donald Trump** signed an executive order impacting U.S. involvement in **U.N. bodies** like the **U.N. Human Rights Council** and **UNRWA**. The order called for a review of **U.S. funding** to the **U.N.** and its agencies, reflecting ongoing criticism of the **U.N.'s effectiveness** in resolving global issues. This decision has significant implications for **global diplomacy** and **U.S. foreign policy**.
- **GMR Airports Ltd (GAL)** has joined the **United Nations Global Compact (UNGC)**, committing to **sustainability** and **responsible business practices**. This partnership aligns GAL with the **UNGC's ten principles**, focusing on **human rights**, **labor standards**, **environmental protection**, and **anti-corruption**. GAL aims to integrate these principles into its operations to contribute to the **global sustainability agenda**.
- On **February 5, 2025**, President **Donald Trump** signed the "**No Men in Women's Sports Executive Order**", banning **transgender women and girls** from competing in female

sports. This marks the **fourth executive order** targeting transgender individuals since his inauguration. The move has sparked **debate**, with supporters arguing it protects **women's sports**, while critics see it as an attack on **transgender rights**.

- **Argentina** has announced its withdrawal from the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, following the **United States's** earlier decision under **President Donald Trump**. President **Javier Milei** cited "deep differences" over the WHO's handling of health issues, especially the **COVID-19 pandemic**. The move has sparked debates over Argentina's **global standing**, healthcare policies, and the potential impact on the WHO's **credibility**, with critics warning of long-term consequences for both Argentina's healthcare system and **international relations**.
- **Panama** has withdrawn from **China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, signaling a shift in its foreign policy. President **José Raúl Mulino** cited growing tensions, especially over the strategic **Panama Canal**, and emphasized strengthening ties with the **U.S.** while reassessing **Chinese investments** in the country.
- Pakistan's **SUPARCO** has partnered with **CNSA** for the **Chang'e-8 lunar mission** in 2028, marking Pakistan's first major involvement in **lunar exploration**. The collaboration will deploy a **Pakistani rover** on the **Moon's south pole** as part of **China's International Lunar Research Station (ILRS)** project, marking a significant step in Pakistan's space ambitions.
- India contributed **USD 32.895 million** to the **UN regular budget** on **January 31, 2024**, securing a spot on the **Honour Roll** for timely payments. This reinforces India's ongoing **financial responsibility** within the UN framework.
- The **International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)** is launching the **Lord Buddha Trination Triservices Expedition**, a historic motorcycle journey involving the armed forces of **India**, **Nepal**, and **Sri Lanka**. The expedition will start at **Lumbini, Nepal** (Buddha's birthplace) and end in **Galle, Sri Lanka**, visiting key **Buddhist heritage sites**. The initiative aims to celebrate the shared **cultural heritage**, promote **peace**, **harmony**, **tourism**, and **environmental awareness**, while reinforcing the deep ties and historical spread of **Buddhism** across the three nations.
- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** celebrated the **75th anniversary** of the **National Sample Survey (NSS)** on **7th February 2025** at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**. The event marked the start of nationwide initiatives to emphasize NSS's role in **evidence-based policymaking** and **data-driven governance**. Highlights included keynote addresses, expert discussions, and the unveiling of **Diamond Jubilee publications** showcasing NSS's fieldwork contributions.





- On **6th February 2025**, **NITI Aayog** hosted the conclave "**Towards Viksit Bharat @ 2047**" in **New Delhi**. The event gathered top policymakers, including **NITI Aayog** officials and key government figures like the **Chief Economic Advisor** and **Secretary of Defence**. The conclave focused on **India's growth strategy** for 2047, covering **economic reforms**, **global partnerships**, **national security**, **legal frameworks**, and **digital infrastructure**.
- India and **Nicaragua** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to implement **Quick Impact Projects (QIPs)**. The agreement, signed in **Managua**, aims to enhance **physical and social infrastructure** in Nicaragua, benefiting local communities. The MoU was formalized by **Indian Ambassador Sumit Seth** and **Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Valdrack Jaentschke**.
- US President **Donald Trump** has officially recognized **February 9** as "**Gulf of America Day**", following a significant name change to the **Gulf of Mexico**. This marks the first time such a day has been established, after Trump signed an executive order to rename the Gulf. The proclamation was signed aboard **Air Force One** while en route to the **Super Bowl** in **New Orleans**, located on the Gulf.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **French President Emmanuel Macron** inaugurated India's second diplomatic mission in **France**, the **Indian Consulate** in **Marseille**, on **February 12, 2025**. This move strengthens **Indo-French relations**, focusing on **economic, cultural, and strategic cooperation**. **Marseille**, France's second-largest city, holds strategic significance due to its location on the **Mediterranean coast** and its role as a vital **trade gateway** with **Africa, Asia, and the Middle East**, with the **Port of Marseille-Fos** handling significant imports and exports.
- Bangladesh** has launched "**Operation Devil Hunt**", a large-scale security operation targeting **loyalists of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** after attacks on protesters linked to her regime. The **interim government** under **Muhammad Yunus** aims to restore order and uphold **democratic values**. The unrest, fueled by rumors of Hasina's return from **exile in India**, led to violent protests and the destruction of buildings connected to her family. Tensions between **India and Bangladesh** have escalated following **India's condemnation** of the **Bangabandhu Memorial Museum** demolition.
- India and **South Korea** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** on **February 10, 2025**, to strengthen **logistics and infrastructure collaboration**. The agreement, signed by **Mr. Youngchan Kim** of KOTI and **H.E. Amit Kumar** (Indian Ambassador to South Korea), aims to improve **logistics efficiency**, enhance **infrastructure planning**, and promote **sustainable economic development** through **knowledge exchange and technical collaboration**.
- Ahead of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** visit to the U.S. and France, India plans to amend the **Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA)** and **Atomic Energy Act**. These amendments aim to address concerns of **foreign nuclear companies**, boosting investment and resolving stalled projects like **EDF's reactors in Maharashtra** and **Westinghouse's reactors in Andhra Pradesh**. The changes support India's goal of achieving **100 GW nuclear power capacity by 2047**.
- U.S. President **Donald Trump** has announced a **25% tariff** on all **steel and aluminum imports**, effective from **March 4, 2025**. The decision removes **country-specific exemptions**, impacting major exporters like **Canada, Brazil, Mexico, and South Korea**. This move aims to simplify tariff policies, boost **domestic production**, and address **foreign dumping**, marking a return to **protectionist trade policies**.
- Romania's President Klaus Iohannis** resigned ahead of an **impeachment vote** linked to the **cancellation of last year's presidential election**. The election was annulled over alleged **Russian interference**, sparking protests and political turmoil. Critics claimed Iohannis's actions undermined **democracy**. **Senate President Ilie Bolojan** will serve as **interim president** until the **May 2025 elections**.
- On **February 10, 2025**, **President Donald Trump** signed an **executive order** reversing federal policies promoting **paper straws over plastic ones**, calling paper straws **ineffective**. He stated, "These things don't work," highlighting issues like **breakage**. This decision marks a significant **policy shift**, sparking debates on **consumer convenience, environmental impact, and regulatory control**.
- Tulsi Gabbard** has made history as the **first Hindu** to lead the **US intelligence community**, confirmed as the **Director of National Intelligence (DNI)**. She now oversees **18 intelligence agencies**, coordinating national security. A former **Democratic Congresswoman, Iraq War veteran, and 2020 presidential candidate**, Gabbard has had a controversial career with **independent stances**, ties with **India**, and critiques of **US foreign policy**.
- Jotham Napat** was elected as **Vanuatu's new Prime Minister** unopposed. His nomination was proposed by **Charlot Salwai**, the leader of the **Reunification Movement for Change**. **Ishmael Kalsakau**, former prime minister, confirmed no other nominations and congratulated Napat.
- Ilie Bolojan, President of the Senate**, has been sworn in as **Romania's interim President** following **Klaus Iohannis's resignation**. This transition occurs amid political uncertainty, with **presidential elections** scheduled for **May 2025**. Bolojan, a seasoned politician, aims to maintain stability during this period.





- On **February 12, 2025**, **Constantine Tassoulas**, former parliamentary speaker and senior member of the **New Democracy party**, was elected as **Greece's new president** with 160 votes in the **Hellenic Parliament**. He will succeed **Katerina Sakellariopoulou**, Greece's first female president, whose term ends in March. The **presidential position** in Greece is largely **ceremonial**, but the selection reflects the **political direction** of the country.
- China has approved the construction of a **deep-sea research facility** in the **South China Sea**, dubbed a "**deep-sea space station**". Located 2,000 meters below the ocean surface, the station aims to advance **marine exploration** and strengthen China's **geopolitical presence** in the region. Expected to be operational by **2030**, it will host six scientists for **month-long missions**, conducting real-time experiments in extreme underwater conditions.
- UNESCO launched the "**Imagine a world with more women in science**" campaign for the **10th anniversary** of the **International Day of Women and Girls in Science** on **February 11**. The campaign highlights the importance of **diverse perspectives** in **STEMM** fields and encourages more **female participation** with the hashtag **#EveryVoiceInScience**. While **women make up one-third** of the global scientific community, only **1 in 10 STEM leadership roles** is held by women. In India, **43% of STEMM enrollments** are women, but only **18.6% of scientists** are women, with **25% of R&D projects** led by women.
- India has been elected as the **Vice President** of the **International Organization of Aids to Marine Navigation (IALA)** during its inaugural **General Assembly** in **Singapore**. This election reflects India's growing influence in **global maritime affairs**, especially as IALA transitions from an **NGO** to an **IGO**. India's leadership in **maritime navigation** is expected to expand with upcoming **international events**.
- Brazil** has joined the **OPEC+** group as an **observer**, approved by the **National Council for Energy Policy**. This move allows Brazil to participate in strategic discussions with major oil exporters while maintaining **independence** in production. The decision aligns with Brazil's preparations for hosting the **United Nations climate summit**, reflecting a balance between **energy security** and **environmental commitments**.
- Mount Dukono** in **Indonesia** erupted on **February 20, 2025**, sending an **ash cloud** up to **2,000 meters** into the air. The eruption, on **Halmahera Island** in **North Maluku province**, led to **aviation warnings** and **safety advisories** for residents.
- Kash Patel**, an **Indian-origin** official, was sworn in as the **ninth Director of the FBI** on **February 21, 2025**. Known for his ties to **former U.S. President Donald Trump**, Patel took the oath on the **Bhagavad Gita**. The ceremony, held at the **Eisenhower Executive Office Building**, was administered by **U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi**. Patel succeeds **Christopher Wray**, who resigned at the end of the **Biden administration**.

India Visits By Foreigners

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to **France in February 2025** marked a significant step in strengthening bilateral relations between **India and France**. The visit was packed with strategic discussions, high-level diplomatic engagements, and agreements aimed at boosting cooperation in **artificial intelligence, nuclear energy, and trade**. Modi's trip also emphasized historical ties and people-to-people connections, highlighting India's growing global influence.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will visit **Mauritius** next month as the **Guest of Honour** at the country's **National Day** celebrations. Mauritian Prime Minister **Navin Ramgoolam** highlighted that Modi's visit reflects the **deep and historic bilateral ties** between the two nations.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit** to the **US** strengthened **India-US relations**, focusing on **trade, defense, and strategic cooperation**. His meeting with **President Donald Trump** emphasized **economic growth, global stability, and agreements on trade expansion, defense deals, counterterrorism, and regional security**.

International Current Affairs of January 2025

- South Korea's **political crisis** deepened on **December 27, 2024**, when **parliament** voted to impeach **Acting President Han Duck-soo**. This followed the impeachment of **President Yoon Suk Yeol** on **December 14, 2024**, after he imposed **martial law** on **December 3**. Han's refusal to appoint three judges to the **Constitutional Court** sparked opposition calls for his impeachment, marking a historic moment as the first time an **acting president** has been impeached in South Korea.
- China has introduced the **CR450**, the world's fastest high-speed train prototype, achieving **test speeds of 450 km/h**. It surpasses the previous **CR400 Fuxing** trains (350 km/h) and combines **speed, energy efficiency, safety, and passenger comfort**. The CR450 aligns with China's goal to expand its high-speed rail network to **70,000 km by 2035**, reinforcing its leadership in global rail systems. The CR450's **maximum operating speed** is 400 km/h, after extensive testing.
- Starting **January 1, 2025**, **Russia** introduced a new **tourist tax**, replacing the earlier resort fee, aimed at boosting regional tourism infrastructure. The phased plan begins with a **1% charge** on lodging costs, increasing to **3% by 2027**. The tax applies to **hotels** and accommodations, with costs passed on to tourists. **Regional authorities** can implement this as a local levy to enhance Russia's **tourism landscape**.
- Starting **January 1, 2025**, **Switzerland** introduces significant changes, including a **facial coverings ban** in public, impacting **burqas, niqabs**, and similar face coverings. **Violations** could lead to fines up to **CHF 1,000 (\$1,143)**. Other reforms include **inheritance law changes, increased pensions**, and measures to boost **bank solvency and liquidity**, aligning with **European norms** and addressing past **financial crises**.





- China is facing a surge in **human metapneumovirus (HMPV)** cases, raising concerns of a potential health crisis similar to **COVID-19**. Hospitals are overcrowded, with **HMPV, influenza A, Mycoplasma pneumoniae, and COVID-19** potentially contributing to the situation. **HMPV**, identified in 2001, causes **respiratory infections** and primarily affects **young children, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems**. No official emergency has been declared by Chinese authorities.
- On **January 1, 2025**, **Pakistan** began its **two-year tenure** as a **non-permanent member** of the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**, its **eighth term**. Pakistan secured its seat with **182 votes** in the General Assembly. During its term, Pakistan will **preside over the UNSC** in **July 2025** and serve on the **ISIS and Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee**, focusing on terrorist designations and sanctions. Ambassador **Munir Akram** highlighted Pakistan's commitment to an **active and constructive role**.
- Mike Johnson**, a Republican from **Louisiana**, was re-elected as the **Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives** in a tense vote on the first day of the new Congress. Despite opposition from hard-right Republicans and challenges from a slim majority, Johnson secured the position with support from **President-elect Donald Trump**. His re-election comes amid internal GOP divisions and increased political stakes as the party prepares for ambitious **policy initiatives** under Trump's leadership.
- Tomiko Itooka**, recognized as the **world's oldest person** by **Guinness World Records**, passed away at **116** in January 2025. Born in **May 1908**, she lived through major historical events, including both **World Wars** and significant **technological advancements**. Her remarkable life story serves as a testament to **resilience and longevity**.
- Hanoi**, Vietnam's capital, was recently reported as the **world's most polluted city** on January 3, 2025, with **PM2.5 levels** reaching **266 micrograms per cubic meter**. The major sources of **pollution** include **heavy traffic, trash burning, and industrial emissions**, raising serious **health concerns** among residents.
- Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau** announced his resignation as leader of the **Liberal Party** after nearly a decade in power, citing **internal conflicts** and declining **public support**. He will remain in a **caretaker role** until a new leader is elected. This comes amid growing support for **Pierre Poilievre** and the **Conservative Party**.
- Sister Inah Canabarro Lucas**, from **Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil**, has been confirmed as the **world's oldest living person** at **116 years old**. Born on **June 8, 1908**, she is a lifelong **nun, teacher, and soccer enthusiast**. Lucas is also the **20th oldest person** ever recorded and the **second-oldest nun** in history. She is the **great-granddaughter** of **General David Canabarro**, a leader in the **Ragamuffin War**.
- On **January 9, 2025**, **General Joseph Aoun** was elected **Lebanon's new president**, ending a **two-year political vacuum**. The election concluded Lebanon's **political paralysis** that began after **Michel Aoun's** term ended in **October 2022**. General Aoun, who has led the **Lebanese Armed Forces** since 2017, secured **99 out of 128 votes** in the second round, overcoming divisions within the **Lebanese parliament**, particularly between **Hezbollah** and its opponents.
- Southern California, particularly **Los Angeles County**, is grappling with some of its most destructive **wildfires** in January 2025. Key fires, including the **Pacific Palisades** and **Eaton fires**, have destroyed thousands of structures, with over 179,000 residents evacuated. At least 10 deaths have been confirmed, and looting has led to arrests. **Firefighting efforts** are ongoing, with some fires uncontained, such as the **Kenneth** and **Eaton fires**. **Power outages, traffic congestion, and school closures**, including at **UCLA**, are further disrupting daily life. Climate change continues to intensify fire risks in the region.
- Japan has imposed new sanctions on **Russia**, targeting **11 individuals, 29 organizations, and 3 banks** within Russia, as well as entities in other countries aiding in sanction evasion. Japan has also enforced **export bans** on **22 Russian organizations** and **31 non-Russian groups** in countries like **China, Turkey, and Hong Kong**. Additionally, from **January 23**, Japan will ban the export of **335 items** including **construction vehicle engines, motorized bicycles, and communication devices**, aiming to hinder Russia's military and industrial capabilities.
- Mount Ibu**, situated in **North Maluku, Indonesia**, erupted on January 11, 2025, sending ash clouds up to **4,000 meters high** and ejecting glowing lava up to **two kilometers from its crater**. This event has prompted authorities to issue warnings and implement safety measures for the public.
- On **January 13, 2025**, a **magnitude 6.9 earthquake** struck southwestern Japan, with its epicenter in the **Hyuga-Nada Sea** near **Miyazaki Prefecture**. The **Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA)** issued a **tsunami advisory** for **Miyazaki and Kochi Prefectures**, warning of waves up to **1 meter**. The advisory was later lifted, and no significant **damage or injuries** were reported.
- Nicolas Maduro**, the **46th President of Venezuela**, was sworn in for a third term after a disputed election. His opponent, **Edmundo Gonzalez**, alleged **voter fraud** and declared himself the winner. Despite **international pressure**, including **U.S. sanctions**, Maduro's inauguration occurred amid **controversy and public protests**.
- Hindenburg Research**, founded by **Nate Anderson** in 2017, has announced its **closure**. Known for exposing **corporate fraud and mismanagement**, it impacted companies like **Nikola Corp., Icahn Enterprises, and the Adani Group**. Anderson cited **personal reasons** for shutting down the firm.





- **Tarun Das**, former **Director General of CII**, was awarded Singapore's **Honorary Citizen Award** for his pivotal role in strengthening **Singapore-India relations**. Notably, in 1993, he led an Indian industrialist delegation to Singapore, advancing India's "**Look East**" policy and fostering continuous engagement between the two nations' **political leaders and businesses**.
- India and Spain will celebrate **2026 as a 'dual year'**, focusing on **culture, tourism**, and advancements in **artificial intelligence (AI)**. Announced by **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar**, this initiative aims to strengthen **bilateral ties** and promote **mutual understanding** between the two nations.
- The **U.S. Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS)** updated its **Entity List**, removing three **Indian organizations**—**Indian Rare Earths, IGCAR, and BARC**—due to national security concerns. The removal aims to enhance **energy cooperation** and **joint research** for shared **energy security** goals. Eleven **Chinese firms** were added to the list.
- On **January 17, 2025**, **China** successfully launched **Pakistan's first indigenous Electro-Optical (EO-1) satellite, PRSC-EO1**, from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center**. The satellite, designed for **Earth observation** using **electro-optical sensors**, was deployed into orbit by a **Long March-2D carrier rocket** at **12:07 pm Beijing Time**.
- In **January 2025**, **TikTok** faced a **brief shutdown** in the **U.S.** due to a **law mandating ByteDance** to sell the app over **national security concerns**. The law, passed with **bipartisan support**, aimed to ensure TikTok's operations were controlled by a **U.S.-based entity**. The app was swiftly restored after **President-elect Donald Trump** intervened with an **executive order**, delaying the ban. TikTok now faces ongoing challenges in securing its **long-term presence** in the **U.S. market**.
- **China** has completed the construction of the **Tianshan Shengli Tunnel**, the **world's longest expressway tunnel**, marking a significant advancement in infrastructure development and enhancing connectivity within the **Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region**.
- **Donald Trump** was sworn in as the **47th President** of the United States on **January 20, 2025**, marking his return to the White House after four tumultuous years. The inauguration, held indoors at the **Capitol Rotunda** due to extreme cold, symbolizes one of the most extraordinary political comebacks in American history. Trump is only the second president after **Grover Cleveland** in 1893 to regain the presidency after losing it. At **78 years old**, Trump also replaces Joe Biden as the oldest president to take the oath of office.
- **President Donald Trump** signed an executive order initiating the **United States'** withdrawal from the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and suspending all **foreign aid for 90 days**. This decision has sparked significant global concern and debate.
- **President Donald Trump** initiated the **United States' second withdrawal** from the **Paris Climate Agreement**, a move that has significant implications for both domestic and international climate policies. Adopted in 2015, the Paris Agreement is a global accord aimed at limiting global warming to well **below 2°C above** pre-industrial levels, with efforts to limit the **increase to 1.5°C**. The agreement encourages countries to set and achieve their own emission reduction targets, known as **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**.
- **Nigeria** was **officially admitted** as a partner country of the **BRICS bloc**, which includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. This strategic move aims to bolster Nigeria's economic and diplomatic ties with leading emerging economies. The announcement was made by **Brazil's Foreign Ministry**, highlighting **Nigeria's significant role** in strengthening South-South cooperation and advocating for global governance reforms.
- **Usha Vance** made history by becoming the first **Indian-American and Hindu Second Lady** of the United States. Her husband, **J.D. Vance**, was sworn in as the **50th Vice President** of the United States, marking a significant milestone in American politics. Usha's journey, deeply rooted in her Indian heritage and her remarkable accomplishments, has garnered widespread attention and admiration.
- The **Stargate AI Project**, announced by **US President Donald Trump** at the White House, marks a monumental step in the evolution of artificial intelligence (AI). Touted as the **largest AI infrastructure initiative in history**, this ambitious project has garnered support from some of the world's biggest tech and business names. With an investment of **\$500 billion** over the next four years, the Stargate AI Project aims to develop world-class AI infrastructure, create jobs, and boost the US economy.
- Trump administration has officially changed the name of the **Gulf of Mexico** to the **Gulf of America** as part of a series of executive actions aimed at fulfilling campaign promises. This decision was announced by the **Interior Department** on a Friday, hours after **President Donald Trump** took office, marking the beginning of a new chapter for U.S. territorial names and symbols. Another prominent change was the renaming of **Denali**, Alaska's towering peak, back to its former name, **Mount McKinley**. These actions reflect the administration's focus on **reaffirming the nation's historical heritage** and honoring the legacy of significant figures and places.





- U.S. President Donald Trump took significant steps towards reshaping the nation's cryptocurrency regulations, fulfilling his promise to overhaul U.S. crypto policy quickly. The executive order laid out the creation of a **cryptocurrency working group** with a primary focus on proposing **new digital asset regulations** and exploring the possibility of creating a **national cryptocurrency stockpile**. This action marks a bold move to make the U.S. a leader in the cryptocurrency space, contrasting sharply with the regulatory stance taken by former President Joe Biden's administration, which had pursued a more restrictive approach.
- The **United States** has suspended all **USAID funding** to **Bangladesh** following **President Donald Trump's** directive for a 90-day review of **foreign aid programs**. The decision halts **USAID activities** in Bangladesh, impacting various development projects. This suspension is part of a broader review of U.S. **foreign development assistance**, with exceptions for military funding to **allies** like **Israel** and **Egypt**.
- Alexander Lukashenko** won a **seventh term** as **President of Belarus** on **January 26, 2025**, with **86.8%** of the vote, a result widely criticized as fraudulent. Opposition candidate **Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya** received around **3%** and called the election a "**farce**", urging global rejection of the results.
- Chinese AI startup **DeepSeek** has surpassed **OpenAI's ChatGPT** as the most-downloaded free app in the U.S. on Apple's App Store. Founded in 2023, DeepSeek is gaining attention with its advanced **AI models**, especially **R1**, a reasoning model that competes with OpenAI's technology. This milestone highlights the growing competition in the **generative AI market**, which is expected to reach **\$1 trillion** in revenue within the next decade. However, the company faces challenges, including **cybersecurity threats** and **regulatory scrutiny**.
- India and Oman are strengthening their economic ties by expediting discussions for a **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** and amending their **Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)**. The amendment aligns the tax treaty with **international standards** on **cross-border taxation**, aiming to simplify procedures and enhance cooperation between the countries' tax authorities, benefiting businesses engaged in **bilateral trade**.
- During Indonesian President **Prabowo Subianto's** visit to **India**, five **Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** were signed to strengthen bilateral ties. The agreements cover key areas including **health cooperation**, **maritime safety and security**, **traditional medicine quality assurance**, **digital development**, and a **cultural exchange program (2025-2028)**, aimed at enhancing collaboration in these sectors and fostering mutual understanding.
- UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** declared **2025** as the "**Year of Community**" with the slogan "**Hand in Hand**" to promote unity and inclusion. The initiative focuses on strengthening **social bonds**, encouraging **volunteering**, and celebrating **cultural diversity** through various programs and events, reflecting the UAE leadership's commitment to building a cohesive and empowered community.
- On January 30, 2025, **Niger** became the first **African** country to eliminate **onchocerciasis** (river blindness) as a public health threat, joining **Colombia**, **Ecuador**, **Guatemala**, and **Mexico** in this achievement. This milestone reflects significant progress in controlling neglected tropical diseases, particularly in **sub-Saharan Africa**, and underscores global efforts to tackle parasitic diseases.

New Appointments: National & International

New Appointments: National & International of June 2025

APPOINTMENTS NATIONAL

Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
Rajiv Memani	Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) President for 2025–26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rajiv Memani, Chairman and CEO of EY India, has been appointed the new CII President for 2025–26, succeeding Sanjiv Puri. With a strong background in global finance and industry leadership, Memani is set to enhance public-private collaboration and drive economic innovation. Alongside him, R. Mukundan and Suchitra K. Ella have been named President-Designate and Vice President, respectively.
Asheesh Pandey and Kalyan Kumar	MD & CEO of Union Bank of India and Central Bank of India, respectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FSIB has finalized Asheesh Pandey and Kalyan Kumar for the positions of MD & CEO of Union Bank of India and Central Bank of India, respectively, marking a key leadership reshuffle in the public sector banking landscape. These appointments follow interviews with 23 candidates and reflect the Bureau's ongoing efforts to ensure efficient leadership transitions, reinforce good governance, and sustain strategic progress in India's financial ecosystem.





Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
S. Padmanabhan	Chairman of Tata Chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S. Padmanabhan has been appointed as the Chairman of Tata Chemicals, marking a new chapter in the company's leadership. An alumnus of IIM Bangalore, he has held strategic roles in TCS, Tata Power, and most recently at Tata Chemicals as a Director. Recognized with the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2008, Padmanabhan's leadership is expected to steer Tata Chemicals through its next phase of sustainable innovation and global growth.
Ashwani Lohani	Director of the Prime Ministers Museum and Library (PMML)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashwani Lohani, former chief of Air India and the Railway Board, has been appointed as the Director of the Prime Ministers Museum and Library (PMML) for a three-year term starting June 2025. His appointment follows recent restructuring of the PMML's executive council, which now includes eminent figures like Smriti Irani and Shekhar Kapur. Lohani's extensive public sector experience is expected to significantly contribute to preserving and promoting the legacy of India's Prime Ministers.
Noted economist S Mahendra Dev	Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted economist S Mahendra Dev has been appointed the Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), stepping into a key policymaking role. With deep expertise in agriculture, development economics, and rural transformation, Dev's academic and professional background makes him well-suited to guide economic strategy in a time of evolving domestic and global challenges. His leadership is likely to strengthen India's efforts toward inclusive growth, sustainable development, and evidence-based policymaking.
Ryan Roslansky	CEO of LinkedIn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ryan Roslansky, the CEO of LinkedIn, has been appointed to also oversee Microsoft's Office productivity division, including the Microsoft 365 Copilot AI suite. This strategic leadership move reflects Microsoft's push toward AI-driven workplace innovation and tighter integration between its major platforms. Roslansky will remain CEO of LinkedIn while managing key products like Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Teams, and more under Rajesh Jha's unit, reinforcing Microsoft's long-term vision of connected, intelligent productivity.
T Rabi Sankar	16th Finance Commission as a part-time member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> T Rabi Sankar, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has been appointed to the 16th Finance Commission as a part-time member, succeeding Ajay Narayan Jha. His expertise in financial regulation, digital currency, and monetary policy is expected to enrich the commission's fiscal recommendations for the 2026-2031 period. Headed by Arvind Panagariya, the commission will report by October 31, 2025, shaping Centre-State financial relations for the coming years.
Sailesh C. Mehta	Chairman of the Fertiliser Association of India (FAI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sailesh C. Mehta, MD of Deepak Fertilizers, has been appointed the new Chairman of the Fertiliser Association of India (FAI), succeeding N. Suresh Krishnan of Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. With over 40 years of industry experience, Mehta aims to promote sustainable and nutrient-efficient fertiliser solutions, improve farm productivity, and enhance cooperation among the government, fertiliser industry, and farmers. The leadership shift comes at a critical time as the fertiliser sector in India undergoes strategic transformations to ensure agricultural resilience and environmental sustainability.





Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
Sat Pal Bhanoo	Interim CEO and MD of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sat Pal Bhanoo has been appointed as the interim CEO and MD of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), effective from June 08, 2025, following the end of Siddhartha Mohanty's term. The appointment, made by the Ministry of Finance, grants Bhanoo full financial and administrative powers for a period of three months or until further notice. This ensures continuity of leadership in India's largest life insurance provider, which plays a vital role in the country's financial ecosystem.
Kirti Ganorkar	Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd has appointed Kirti Ganorkar as its Managing Director, effective September 1, 2025, in a strategic move reflecting structured succession planning. Founder Dilip Shanghvi will remain as Executive Chairman, focusing on long-term vision and the specialty portfolio. Ganorkar brings over 25 years of experience, having led Sun's India operations and driven global market expansion. Alongside this transition, Abhay Gandhi will exit his role as North America CEO, with Richard Ascroft taking over, reporting to Aalok Shanghvi.
R Doraiswamy	Managing Director and CEO of LIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) recommended R Doraiswamy, a seasoned executive with 38 years of experience, for the role of Managing Director and CEO of LIC. This decision is part of a wider leadership revamp at LIC, India's largest insurer. The final appointment awaits approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. The move is considered critical for LIC's strategic future, especially in areas of governance, expansion, and market stability.
Cipla Health	Cipladine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cipla Health has launched a powerful new campaign for Cipladine, titled "Aapka Fast Aid Expert", featuring Neena Gupta. The campaign emphasizes Cipladine's quick action, 30-second effectiveness, and deep wound healing with its Povidone Iodine formula. Backed by relatable and witty ads crafted by Lowe Lintas, the initiative redefines traditional first aid as fast aid, reinforcing Cipladine's leadership in India's antiseptic market.
Amitabh Kant	G20 Sherpa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amitabh Kant, former G20 Sherpa and a reform-oriented IAS officer, has announced his resignation after 45 years in public service. Known for leading the Aspirational Districts Programme, Incredible India, Startup India, and playing a pivotal role in India's G20 Presidency, Kant emphasized achievements like digital public infrastructure, climate leadership, and global inclusivity through the African Union's G20 inclusion. He now intends to support startups, free enterprise, and think tanks, continuing to shape Viksit Bharat from outside the government framework.
Arun Srinivas	India Head and Managing Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meta has appointed Arun Srinivas as its India Head and Managing Director, effective July 1, 2025, marking a key leadership reshuffle. He succeeds Shivnath Thukral, and will report to Sandhya Devanathan, who now oversees India and Southeast Asia. Srinivas brings nearly three decades of experience and has led Meta's ads business in India since 2020, playing a pivotal role in the company's AI, Reels, and messaging initiatives.





Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
Lieutenant Commander Yashasvi Solankee	First woman ADC (Aide-de-Camp) to the President of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lieutenant Commander Yashasvi Solankee made history on May 9, 2025, by becoming the first woman ADC (Aide-de-Camp) to the President of India, an appointment driven by President Droupadi Murmu's vision for gender equality and military inclusivity. Selected after a comprehensive evaluation process involving physical, intellectual, and ceremonial aptitude, Solankee is tasked with facilitating presidential engagements, liaising with government and military officials, and being constantly informed to support the First Citizen.
Anuradha Thakur	SEBI Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEBI Board, replacing outgoing Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth. Effective July 1, 2025, Thakur will also likely join the RBI Central Board, making her the first woman Economic Affairs Secretary in India. Known for her leadership in Air India's disinvestment, Bharat Bond ETF, and regulatory enforcement, she brings rich administrative experience.
G. Sampath Kumar	Nippon Koei India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nippon Koei India has appointed G. Sampath Kumar as its Managing Director, making him the first Indian to lead the company. Backed by over three decades of experience in civil engineering and IT consultancy, Kumar's leadership is expected to enhance the company's footprint across India, West Asia, and the Asia-Pacific. This strategic shift highlights NKI's commitment to regional expansion, local expertise, and inclusive leadership, as it continues delivering on large-scale infrastructure projects across sectors.
Prof M Satish Kumar	Queen's University Belfast (QUB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queen's University Belfast (QUB) has named Prof M Satish Kumar as the first Dean of its GIFT City campus in Gujarat, a landmark step in enhancing UK-India education ties. With over 25 years of experience and deep regional knowledge, Prof Kumar will oversee the campus's establishment, set to begin admissions in early 2026. The appointment marks QUB's debut in GIFT City and reinforces its global expansion strategy, offering Indian students access to top-tier British education within India.
Sivasubramanian Ramann	Chairperson of PFRDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
China's Zou Jiayi	President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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).
Anuj Pandey	CEO of UGRO Capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.





Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
Amitabh Kant	Senior Adviser to Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Professor Suman Chakraborty	Director of IIT Kharagpur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor Suman Chakraborty has been appointed as the Director of IIT Kharagpur, effective June 19, 2025. A distinguished academic and J.C. Bose National Fellow, he is celebrated for pioneering affordable diagnostic technologies like Covirap and HemoQR. With a career rooted in innovation and global academic engagement, Prof. Chakraborty's directorship is set to enhance IIT Kharagpur's research excellence, technological outreach, and global reputation.

BRAND & CAMPAIGN AMBASSADORS

Person Name	Brand / Campaign	Key Notes
Rohit Sharma	TCL India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TCL India has renewed its partnership with cricket legend Rohit Sharma as its brand ambassador for the second consecutive year, reinforcing its core message of "Master the Moment". The collaboration aims to foster a deeper emotional connection with Indian audiences through technology-led campaigns, AI-powered product innovations, and community-focused initiatives. TCL's continued association with Rohit Sharma reflects a strategic move to expand its digital presence, enhance brand credibility, and inspire consumers to embrace excellence in every moment.
MS Dhoni	Dettol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On May 28, 2025, Dettol announced MS Dhoni as the brand ambassador for its new Icy Cool range, including soaps, bodywash, and handwash. The campaign addresses summer-related hygiene problems, offering germ protection with an instant cooling effect. Known for his calm demeanor and reliability, Dhoni embodies the spirit of the product, helping Dettol foster stronger emotional engagement with its audience while promoting refreshing hygiene solutions tailored for India's hot climate.
Katrina Kaif	Global Tourism Ambassador for the Maldives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Katrina Kaif, one of India's leading actors, has been named the Global Tourism Ambassador for the Maldives by the Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC). This appointment aligns with the launch of the Visit Maldives Summer Sale Campaign and comes ahead of PM Modi's visit, suggesting renewed efforts to strengthen tourism and diplomatic ties. Kaif's global brand appeal is expected to enhance the Maldives' image as a luxury travel destination. This move also reflects a soft power strategy amid recovering relations between India and the Maldives.
Aliawati Longkumer	Ambassador to North Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India has appointed Aliawati Longkumer as ambassador to North Korea, reviving high-level diplomatic engagement after a four-year pause. The move follows the reopening of India's embassy in Pyongyang in December 2024, which had been closed in July 2021 due to the pandemic. While trade remains suspended under UN sanctions, India has continued humanitarian support and training programmes for North Korean officials. The appointment reaffirms India's strategic presence in East Asia, balancing non-proliferation, regional security, and humanitarian interests.





New Appointments: National & International of May 2025

Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
Parameswaran Iyer	IMF Executive Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India has appointed Parameswaran Iyer as its interim IMF Executive Director, replacing K.V. Subramanian, who was relieved of his duties six months early.
Prakash Magdum	Managing Director of the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shri Prakash Magdum, a 1999-batch Indian Information Service officer, has been appointed as the Managing Director of the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC). With prior leadership roles at NFAI, FTII, and the Ministry of Defence, his appointment is a significant move for the promotion of Indian cinema and preservation of film heritage. This aligns with India's broader cultural and soft power strategy.
Sanjay Joshi	CMD of Oriental Insurance Company Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended Sanjay Joshi as the next CMD of Oriental Insurance Company Limited (OICL), following the retirement of R.R. Singh.
Ajoy Chawla	Managing Director of Titan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Titan, a leading Tata Group company, has named Ajoy Chawla as its next Managing Director, effective 1 January 2026, following the retirement of C.K. Venkataraman.
Surya Kant	Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justice Surya Kant has been appointed as the new Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), effective May 14, 2025. His nomination under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, aligns with judicial tradition and marks a step forward in ensuring free legal aid and access to justice under Article 39-A of the Indian Constitution. As the second senior-most Supreme Court judge, his leadership is expected to enhance legal reforms and expand NALSA's outreach.
Ajay Kumar	UPSC Chairman by President Droupadi Murmu.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ajay Kumar, former Defence Secretary and 1985-batch IAS officer of the Kerala cadre, has been appointed as the UPSC Chairman by President Droupadi Murmu. Known for spearheading defence reforms, Digital India initiatives, and reviving public sector units, his leadership is expected to bring innovative changes to India's premier recruitment body.
Harvansh Chawla	Chairman of the BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harvansh Chawla's appointment as Chairman of the BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry marks a strategic step to boost economic cooperation among the BRICS nations. Leveraging his extensive legal and trade experience, Chawla aims to promote stronger trade ties, policy advocacy, and sustainable development.
Former Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud	Former Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud has been appointed as a Distinguished Professor at NLU Delhi, marking a significant shift from judicial leadership to academic mentorship.
Anurag Bhushan	Ambassador to Sweden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India has appointed Anurag Bhushan as its new Ambassador to Sweden, marking a significant diplomatic move amid growing bilateral cooperation.
Kempaiah Somashekar	Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justice Kempaiah Somashekar, a seasoned legal professional with over three decades of service, has been appointed Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court by the President of India, following the recommendation of the Supreme Court collegium.





Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
Ram Mohan M K	Director of MPEDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ram Mohan M K has been appointed as the Director of MPEDA, an organization under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. An expert in marine exports, with a strong academic background and over two decades of experience in MPEDA—including as Resident Director in Tokyo—he is expected to boost India's seafood export potential.
Dr. Samir V Kamat	Chief of DRDO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Central Government has given a one-year extension to Dr. Samir V Kamat, the Chief of DRDO. He will now stay in the post till May 2026. This is his second extension. The government approved it under a special rule that allows such extensions in public interest, showing the importance of his work.
N Venu	Hitachi India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hitachi India has announced that N Venu will become the new Managing Director (MD) of the company starting from June 2, 2025. This major leadership change follows the promotion of Bharat Kaushal, who will become the Executive Chairman of Hitachi India from April 1, 2025.

BRAND & CAMPAIGN AMBASSADORS

Person Name	Brand / Campaign	Key Notes
Tamannaah Bhatia	Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KSDL's decision to appoint Tamannaah Bhatia as its brand ambassador represents a strategic effort to modernize and expand the company's reach both nationally and internationally. With a solid turnover of ₹1,785.99 crore in FY 2024–25 and a workforce predominantly from Karnataka, KSDL aims to blend heritage with contemporary marketing through Tamannaah's strong pan-India appeal and digital presence.
Anil Kumble	Ambassador of the Karnataka Forest Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former Indian captain Anil Kumble has been appointed Ambassador of the Karnataka Forest Department, a role he has accepted without any honorarium. He will champion forest conservation, wildlife protection, and afforestation efforts. The initiative is part of the state's broader strategy to combat encroachment, reclaim forest lands, and create urban green spaces such as a new park in Yelahanka.
Shraddha Kapoor	Eureka Forbes Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eureka Forbes Ltd, a well-known name in India's health and hygiene sector, has chosen popular actress Shraddha Kapoor as the brand ambassador for its vacuum cleaner range. With over 40 years of experience, Eureka Forbes continues to provide trusted hygiene solutions for Indian homes. This partnership aims to promote cleaner and healthier living across the country.
Shahid Kapoor	Vogue Eyewear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vogue Eyewear has proudly chosen Bollywood star Shahid Kapoor as its brand ambassador. This is a special moment for the brand as Shahid joins Taapsee Pannu, who has been with Vogue Eyewear for a long time. Together, they are part of a brand-new campaign that focuses on individually, freedom and personal style.
Shubman Gill	Oakley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shubman Gill, the new Test series captain of India, has added a stylish touch to his cricket gear. He is now the brand ambassador for Oakley, a famous sunglasses company. This partnership comes with Oakley's latest campaign called "Artifacts from the Future." At just 25, Gill is already known for his cool and calm batting. Now, he is getting attention for his stylish eyewear too.





New Appointments: National & International of April 2025

APPOINTMENTS NATIONAL

Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
Dr. Jay Bhattacharya	Director of the National Institutes of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On March 25, 2025, Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, an Indian-American scientist, was confirmed as Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by the U.S. Senate (53-47 vote) after being nominated by President Donald Trump in November 2024. A Stanford professor of Health Policy, he holds an MD and PhD in Economics and has contributed to economics, public health, medical research, and health policy.
Nidhi Tiwari	Private Secretary to PM Narendra Modi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IFS officer Nidhi Tiwari has been appointed as Private Secretary to PM Narendra Modi, as confirmed by the DoPT on March 29, 2025. A seasoned diplomat, she previously served as Deputy Secretary at the PMO (2022-2025), handling high-level administrative and diplomatic affairs. She also worked in the MEA's Disarmament and International Security Affairs Division, focusing on global security and diplomatic relations.
Ambuj Chandna	DBS Bank India as Managing Director (MD) and Head of Consumer Banking Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ambuj Chandna, a veteran banker with over 16 years of experience at Kotak Mahindra Bank, has joined DBS Bank India as Managing Director (MD) and Head of Consumer Banking Group. His move follows Rajat Verma's appointment as CEO of DBS India in March 2025. Chandna previously served as President and Head of Consumer Bank (Products) at Kotak Mahindra and has a background in retail banking and lending from roles at Deutsche Bank and Standard Chartered Bank. He replaces Prashant Joshi, who had joined DBS in 2020.
Salila Pande	SBI Cards and Payment Services (SBI Card)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBI Cards and Payment Services (SBI Card) appointed Salila Pande as its new Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective April 1, 2025. With nearly 30 years of experience in the banking sector, primarily with State Bank of India (SBI), Pande brings expertise in retail banking, credit services, and financial management. Her appointment marks a new leadership phase for SBI Card as it continues to expand its presence in India's credit card market.
N Chandrasekaran	Chairman of Tata Sons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons, has been appointed to the IMF Managing Director's Advisory Council on Entrepreneurship and Growth, aimed at providing insights into macroeconomic and financial policies to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and long-term economic growth. The council, led by Kristalina Georgieva, will focus on improving macroeconomic conditions for sustainable development. Chandrasekaran's inclusion underscores his influence in global business strategy and economic policy.
Swaminathan S. Iyer	Whole-time Member (Life) of IRDAI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of India has approved the appointment of Swaminathan S. Iyer as a Whole-time Member (Life) of IRDAI for a 5-year tenure or until he turns 62, whichever is earlier. Approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on March 25, 2025, his role involves overseeing the life insurance segment, focusing on regulation, policy development, and industry growth. His expertise in legal and regulatory affairs is expected to strengthen India's insurance sector.





Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
Poonam Gupta	Deputy Governor of RBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Poonam Gupta as its new Deputy Governor, succeeding Michael Patra, ahead of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting (April 7-9, 2025). With extensive experience in macroeconomic policy, IMF, World Bank, and central banking, she previously served as Director General of NCAER, EAC-PM member, and convener of the 16th Finance Commission Advisory Council. Her appointment is expected to play a crucial role in shaping India's monetary and financial policies.
H Shankar	Managing Director (MD) of CPCL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> H Shankar has officially assumed the role of Managing Director (MD) of CPCL, after holding additional charge since July 16, 2024. A Mechanical Engineer with an MBA, he has extensive experience in the oil and gas industry. Inducted as Director (Technical) in October 2020, Shankar has led key infrastructure projects, modernized refining operations, and introduced value-added, sustainable products, aligning CPCL with global energy sustainability goals.
Sivasubramanian Ramann	Chairperson of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Sivasubramanian Ramann as the new Chairperson of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) for a five-year tenure. Currently serving as Deputy CAG and Chief Technology Officer at CAG of India, Ramann will oversee India's pension sector, including the National Pension System (NPS) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY).
Kamal Haasan	Chairperson of FICCI's Media and Entertainment Committee South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kamal Haasan has been appointed as the Chairperson of FICCI's Media and Entertainment Committee South, announced at the FICCI Media and Entertainment Business Conclave South Connect 2025 in Chennai. He envisions transforming India's Media & Entertainment sector into a \$100 billion industry, emphasizing bold storytelling, cultural representation, and global resonance in the digital era.
Sohini Rajola	Executive Director of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sohini Rajola has been appointed as the Executive Director of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), as part of its strategy to enhance leadership and drive the adoption of its payment solutions. Rajola will oversee business development, go-to-market strategies, and manage strategic alliances with banks, fintechs, and regulatory bodies.
Mohsin Naqvi	President of the Asian Cricket Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mohsin Naqvi has officially taken over as the new President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), succeeding Shammi Silva, who served a brief tenure from December 2024. Naqvi, also the Chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) since February 2024 and Pakistan's Interior Minister, expressed his commitment to strengthening Asian cricket's global influence. His appointment marks a significant leadership transition in the region's cricket diplomacy.
Seema Agrawal	DGP/Director of Fire and Rescue Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seema Agrawal, a senior IPS officer, has been appointed as the new DGP/Director of Fire and Rescue Services following the retirement of Abhash Kumar. Earlier, she served as DGP of Civil Supplies. Alongside her appointment, seven other IPS officers were transferred in routine administrative reshuffling.





Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
Balaji Nuthalapadi	Equitas Small Finance Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equitas Small Finance Bank, India's second-largest SFB, has appointed Balaji Nuthalapadi as Executive Director – Technology and Operations, effective 29 March 2025, with approvals from the RBI and the Bank's Board. A seasoned leader with 20+ years of experience in operations, digital banking, and wealth management, Balaji previously served as MD at Citi Bank, leading a 1,100-member global controls testing team and overseeing Operations and Technology for South Asia.
Justice Arun Palli	Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh High Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Supreme Court collegium has recommended Justice Arun Palli as the next Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh High Court, following the retirement of Chief Justice Tashi Rabtan on April 9, 2025. Justice Palli, a senior judge from the Punjab and Haryana High Court, brings extensive experience in civil, criminal, constitutional, industrial, and labor laws.
Satish Chavva	CEO of the Oman India Joint Investment Fund (OIJIF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satish Chavva has been appointed as the CEO of the Oman India Joint Investment Fund (OIJIF) on April 8, 2025. With over 20 years of experience in private equity and finance, Chavva is set to lead the fund in enhancing portfolio performance and driving sustainable growth in India. OIJIF is a private equity fund jointly promoted by the Oman Investment Authority (OIA) and the State Bank of India (SBI).
Viral Davda	Deputy Chief Information Officer (CIO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has appointed Viral Davda as its new Deputy Chief Information Officer (CIO) to drive technological advancements and strengthen its IT infrastructure. With over 20 years of experience, including as CTO at NCDEX, Davda has led key digital projects like hybrid cloud transitions and was honored as CTO of the Year in 2022.
Dr. Mohan Rajan	Chairman and Medical Director of Rajan Eye Care Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Mohan Rajan, Chairman and Medical Director of Rajan Eye Care Hospital, has been elected Vice-President of the All India Ophthalmological Society (AIOS), which represents over 29,000 ophthalmologists across India. Announced on April 5, 2025, at the Asia Pacific Academy Congress in New Delhi, Dr. Rajan is the fifth ophthalmologist from Tamil Nadu to hold this position in AIOS's 84-year history.
Saikhom Mirabai Chanu	Chairperson of the IWLF Athletes Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairperson of the IWLF Athletes Commission by the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF). Her appointment marks a pivotal step in promoting athlete-led governance, gender representation, and empowering Indian sports with experienced leadership.
Santosh Kumar	Deputy CFO of IndusInd Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IndusInd Bank, India's 5th-largest private lender, has appointed Santosh Kumar as Deputy CFO effective April 18, 2025, following the exit of Arun Khurana as acting CFO. This leadership change comes amid regulatory scrutiny, driven by rising bad loans in the microfinance sector and accounting discrepancies in derivative transactions. The appointment of a full-time CFO is still pending.
T. Rabi Sankar	Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Indian government has re-appointed T. Rabi Sankar as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a one-year term starting May 3, 2025. His re-appointment, marking his second term extension, reflects the government's confidence in his leadership. Mr. Sankar, who was initially appointed in May 2021, oversees key RBI functions including foreign exchange, currency management, and government accounts. His leadership has been instrumental in ensuring economic stability, managing monetary policy, and driving financial reforms in India.





Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
Judge Kaveri Baweja	Registrar (Vigilance),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a major reshuffle at the Delhi High Court, Special Judge Kaveri Baweja has been appointed Registrar (Vigilance), while Special Judge Arun Bhardwaj will take over as Registrar General from May 1, 2025.
Ajay Bhushan Prasad Pandey	Vice-President at the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ajay Bhushan Prasad Pandey, former Finance Secretary of India and ex-chief of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), has been appointed Vice-President at the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). In this role, he will oversee three key departments: Investment Solutions, Sustainability and Fiduciary Solutions, and Portfolio Management.
Jitendra Mishra	President of CIFEJ (International Centre of Films for Children and Young People)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jitendra Mishra, Festival Director of the Smile International Film Festival for Children and Youth (SIFFCY), has been unanimously elected as the President of CIFEJ (International Centre of Films for Children and Young People) for the 2025–2027 term. CIFEJ, supported by UNESCO and headquartered in Athens, focuses on promoting educational and culturally diverse films for young audiences globally.
Dr. Mangi Lal Jat	Secretary of DARE and Director General of ICAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Mangi Lal Jat has taken charge as the Secretary of DARE and Director General of ICAR for a three-year term, succeeding Dr. Himanshu Pathak. With 25+ years of expertise in agronomy, conservation agriculture, and climate-resilient farming, his leadership is expected to boost sustainable agricultural practices and research innovation in India.
Stacie Sire	Vice President and Managing Director of the Boeing India Engineering & Technology Center (BIETC) and Chief Engineer for Boeing India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stacie Sire has been appointed as the new Vice President and Managing Director of the Boeing India Engineering & Technology Center (BIETC) and Chief Engineer for Boeing India. With 28 years of experience at Boeing, she succeeds Ahmed Elsherbini and brings expertise from her roles in the 787, 767, and 777 aircraft programs. Sire's new responsibilities include overseeing engineering strategy, operations, and innovation for Boeing in India, aiming to support the company's long-term growth.
Anant Ambani	the Executive Director (Whole-time) of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anant Ambani has been appointed as the Executive Director (Whole-time) of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) for a five-year term starting May 1, 2025, marking a key step in the generational leadership transition. A graduate of Brown University, Anant currently serves as a non-executive director and leads RIL's energy vertical, focusing on green energy initiatives.
Dr. Neelam Dhungana Timsina	Acting Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Neelam Dhungana Timsina, Senior Deputy Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB), was appointed as the Acting Governor following the completion of Maha Prasad Adhikari's five-year term on April 6, 2025. The appointment was made by the Ministry of Finance, led by Deputy Prime Minister Bishnu Prasad Paudel, under the Nepal Rastra Bank Act.

BRAND & CAMPAIGN AMBASSADORS

Person Name	Brand / Campaign	Key Notes
Ananya Panday	Chanel	Bollywood actress Ananya Panday has been named Chanel's first-ever Indian brand ambassador, marking a significant moment for both the actress and the Indian fashion industry. This milestone follows her attendance at the Chanel Spring/Summer 2025 show in Paris, strengthening her ties with the brand.
Kriti Sanon	Dreame Technology,	Dreame Technology, a leading Chinese smart home appliance brand, has appointed Bollywood actress Kriti Sanon as its first-ever Indian brand ambassador, marking a key step in expanding its Indian market presence. Founded in 2017, Dreame is known for innovative products like robotic vacuum cleaners, cordless stick vacuums, and hair styling tools, emphasizing AI-driven smart living and user convenience.





New Appointments: National & International of March 2025

APPOINTMENTS NATIONAL

Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
Manan Kumar Mishra	Chairman of the Bar Council of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manan Kumar Mishra has been re-elected as Chairman of the Bar Council of India (BCI) for the seventh consecutive time, highlighting his strong influence in the legal community. Along with his legal expertise, Mishra is also a BJP Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha from Bihar.
Ajay Seth	Economic Secretary Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ajay Seth, the Economic Affairs Secretary, was given the additional charge of Secretary, Department of Revenue, following the appointment of Tuhin Kanta Pandey as SEBI Chairman. The Revenue Secretary position became vacant after Pandey assumed charge on March 1, 2025.
Dr. Mayank Sharma	Controller General of Defence Accounts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Mayank Sharma assumed office as the Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA). A 1989-batch officer of the Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS), he brings over three decades of experience in key roles within the Government of India.
Ajay Bhadoo	Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government of India appointed Ajay Bhadoo, Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce, as the new CEO of Government e Marketplace (GeM). Bhadoo, a 1999-batch IAS officer from the Gujarat cadre, will lead GeM as it transitions into a next-generation digital marketplace powered by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).
Anju Rathi Rana	India's first woman Law Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anju Rathi Rana has made history as India's first woman Law Secretary, marking a significant milestone in the Ministry of Law and Justice. A distinguished Indian Legal Service (ILS) officer, she succeeds Niten Chandra, breaking a long-standing tradition of male leadership in the role. Her appointment reflects the government's commitment to gender inclusion in top administrative positions.
Vikas Kaushal	Chairman and Managing Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government has appointed Vikas Kaushal as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) for a five-year term, replacing Rajneesh Narang, the interim CMD since September 1, 2024. Kaushal, with over three decades of experience in the energy, oil & gas, and power sectors, is known for leading strategic transformations and digital initiatives in major Indian energy companies.
Justice Joymalya Bagchi	Calcutta High Court, as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of India has officially appointed Justice Joymalya Bagchi, a sitting judge of the Calcutta High Court, as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India. The announcement was made by Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on X (formerly Twitter), confirming the appointment by the President of India after consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI). Justice Bagchi, who is set to become CJI in 2031, is recognized for his merit, integrity, and competence, key factors in his elevation.
Arun Mammen	Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of MRF Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA) has elected Arun Mammen, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of MRF Ltd., as its new Chairman. This leadership change occurs during ATMA's Golden Jubilee Year (2025), marking a significant milestone for the organization.
N Ganapathy Subramaniam	Chairman of the Board of Directors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tata Communications has appointed N Ganapathy Subramaniam (NGS) as the Chairman of the Board of Directors, effective March 14, 2025, following the recommendation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee.





Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman	CEO of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman has been appointed as the new CEO of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), succeeding Professor Abhay Karandikar. Dr. Kalyanaraman will lead ANRF in its mission to promote research and development (R&D) initiatives across India. The handover was conducted by DST Secretary Professor Abhay Karandikar.
Lip-Bu Tan	New CEO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intel Corporation appointed Lip-Bu Tan as its new CEO, effective March 18, 2025, marking a leadership transition from Interim Co-CEOs David Zinsner and Michelle (MJ) Johnston Holthaus. Tan will also rejoin Intel's board of directors after stepping down in August 2024.
Dr. Lakshmi Venu	Vice Chairman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited (TAFE) has appointed Dr. Lakshmi Venu as its Vice Chairman. With extensive experience in farm mechanisation and the auto component sectors, her appointment reflects TAFE's commitment to enhancing leadership and expanding its global presence. Dr. Lakshmi has played a key role in the Indian automotive and farm equipment industries.
Indranil Bhattacharyya	Executive Director (ED)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indranil Bhattacharyya has been appointed as Executive Director (ED) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), effective March 19, 2025. He will oversee the Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR), responsible for shaping monetary policies and conducting economic research.
Deena Mehta	Independent Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fino Payments Bank (FPB) has re-appointed Deena Mehta as an Independent Director for a second term from March 19, 2025, to March 18, 2028. A seasoned finance professional, Mehta has played a key role in Indian capital markets reforms, including the BOLT trading system at BSE and the establishment of Central Depository Services (CDSL).
Amitabh Kant	Chancellor (Chairperson),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NIIT University (NU) has appointed Amitabh Kant, former NITI Aayog CEO and India's G20 Sherpa, as its new Chancellor (Chairperson), effective March 10, 2025. Succeeding K Kasturirangan, his leadership will focus on economic transformation, policy-making, and technology-driven innovation, reinforcing NU's commitment to industry-aligned education and skilling.
Anuj Kumar Singh	Joint Secretary (Director level) in UPSC, Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anuj Kumar Singh, a 2009-batch IRSEE officer, has been appointed as Joint Secretary (Director level) in UPSC, Delhi under the Central Staffing Scheme for five years or until further orders. Recommended by the Ministry of Railways, his technical and administrative expertise is expected to enhance UPSC's operational efficiency and strategic framework.

BRAND & CAMPAIGN AMBASSADORS

Person Name	Brand / Campaign	Key Notes
Diljit Dosanjh	Levi's	Levi's has appointed Diljit Dosanjh as its global ambassador , making him the first Punjabi artist to join the brand's creative community. This collaboration blends music, fashion, and culture , strengthening Levi's brand presence in India and globally.
Saina Nehwal	Naarica	Badminton legend and former World No.1 Saina Nehwal has entered the business world by partnering with Naarica , an innovative menstrual hygiene brand. As a strategic investor and brand ambassador , Nehwal aims to promote sustainable, high-quality menstrual care solutions and make them accessible to women across India .





Person Name	Brand / Campaign	Key Notes
Ayushmann Khurrana	'Fit India Icon' by Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya	Ayushmann Khurrana has been named the 'Fit India Icon' by Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya during the Fit India Movement inauguration in New Delhi. The 40-year-old Bollywood actor joins Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative to inspire citizens to focus on their health and well-being.
Takashi Nakajima	Honda Motor Company	Honda Motor Company has appointed Takashi Nakajima as the new President and CEO of its Indian subsidiary, Honda Cars India Ltd. (HCIL), effective April 1, 2025. He will succeed Takuya Tsumura, who will return to Honda's headquarters in Japan after his three-year tenure in India.
Jaspri Bumrah	Skechers	Jaspri Bumrah has signed with Skechers, a global Comfort Technology Company, to promote its cricket footwear and feature in marketing campaigns. Known as a top fast bowler, Bumrah joins other players like Ishan Kishan and Yastika Bhatia as part of Skechers' growing association with cricket. This move strengthens Skechers' presence in the sport, also serving as the official kit sponsor of Mumbai Indians.
Rajiv Bajaj	MD and CEO	Bajaj Auto reappointed Rajiv Bajaj as MD and CEO for another five-year term, starting April 1, 2025. The company also invested ₹1,500 crore into its subsidiary, Bajaj Auto Credit Ltd (BACL), to support its growth and improve regulatory compliance, capital adequacy, and financial stability for the financial year 2025-26.
Krishnamachari Srikanth	Goodwill Ambassador of VISION 2020 India	Former Indian cricket captain Krishnamachari Srikanth has been appointed as the Goodwill Ambassador of VISION 2020 India, an initiative focused on eliminating avoidable blindness in the country. The program aims to raise awareness, offer medical assistance, and ensure accessible eye care services for preventable visual impairment. The announcement was made at Sankara Nethralaya in Chennai.
Atul Kumar Goel	Chief Executive (CE) of the Indian Banks' Association	Atul Kumar Goel has been appointed as the new Chief Executive (CE) of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA). With over three decades of experience in the banking sector, Goel brings strong leadership during a time of rapid evolution in India's banking industry.
Rishabh Pant	Goibibo	Goibibo has appointed Rishabh Pant as its brand ambassador, launching a campaign featuring Sunil Gavaskar that playfully twists his iconic "Stupid, Stupid, Stupid" phrase. The youth-centric campaign blends cricket nostalgia with travel deals, aiming to attract travel enthusiasts by making trip planning fun and hassle-free. Pant's energy and Gavaskar's legacy enhance its mass appeal.

New Appointments: National & International of February 2025

Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Place	Key Notes
Justin Hotard	CEO	Nokia	Replacing Pekka Lundmark. Hotard, currently Intel's EVP for Data Center & AI Group, brings expertise in AI and data centers, vital for Nokia's growth. Sari Baldauf, Nokia's Chair, praised Hotard's ability to accelerate growth in tech firms. Lundmark, who led Nokia since 2020, will serve as an advisor until the end of the year for a smooth transition.
Maimun Alam	Director	Ministry of Steel	Her appointment, approved by the Government of India, is based on the Department of Revenue's recommendation. She will serve a five-year tenure or until further orders. The Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) has issued an order for her to assume her new role immediately.
CA. Charanjot Singh Nanda	73rd President	Institute of Chartered Accountants of India	Their leadership will focus on upholding high professional standards in India's accounting profession.
CA. Prasanna Kumar D	Vice-President	Institute of Chartered Accountants of India	Their leadership will focus on upholding high professional standards in India's accounting profession.





Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Place	Key Notes
Vivek Joshi	Election Commissioner of India	Election Commission of India	At 58, he is one of the youngest to join the Election Commission of India (ECI) . His tenure will last until February 18, 2031 .
V Anantha Nageswaran's	Chief Economic Advisor		The Indian government has extended V Anantha Nageswaran's tenure as Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) until March 2027 .
Gyanesh Kumar	Chief Election Commissioner of India	Election Commission of India	Gyanesh Kumar , was officially appointed as the next Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) by the Law Ministry . This appointment marks a significant milestone, as he is the first CEC to be appointed under the new law governing the selection of Election Commission (EC) members .

New Appointments: National & International of January 2025

APPOINTMENTS NATIONAL

Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Place	Key Notes
Bhuvnesh Kumar	CEO	Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)	1995-batch IAS officer (UP cadre); assumed charge on January 1, 2025; succeeds Amit Agrawal.
Manish Singhal	Secretary General	Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)	Succeeds Deepak Sood; brings 35+ years of experience, including roles at Tata Motors and FICCI.
Faiz Ahmed Kidwai	Director-General (DG)	Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)	1996-batch IAS officer (MP cadre); replaces Vikram Dev Dutt; tasked with resolving pilot duty and rest disputes.
Azimul Haque	CEO	Delhi Waqf Board	Appointed by L-G V.K. Saxena; post vacant since November 28, 2024, causing delays in salary disbursements for imams and Board employees.
Dr. V. Narayanan	Chairmans of the Department of Space and Chairman of ISRO	ISRO	Succeeds S. Somanath; nearly 40 years in propulsion; key contributor to GSLV Mk III and Chandrayaan-3 missions; appointment effective January 14, 2025.
Bahadur Singh Sagoo	President	Athletics Federation of India (AFI)	Succeeds Adille Sumariwalla; announced initiatives like major javelin competition and hosting international events to boost Indian athletics.
Tuhin Kanta Pandey	Secretary, Department of Revenue; Finance Secretary	Ministry of Finance	Key reassignment ahead of Union Budget 2025; retains Finance Secretary role; strengthens leadership for critical budget decisions.
Arunish Chawla	Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)	Ministry of Finance	Assigned additional charges for DPE and Ministry of Culture; appointment aims to enhance financial oversight ahead of Budget 2025.
Ashish Naithani	Judge	Uttarakhand High Court	Appointed under Article 224 of the Constitution; addresses shortage in sanctioned strength of 11 judges, as court operated with only 6 judges.
Vineet Joshi	Secretary of the Department of Higher Education	Ministry of Education	Vineet Joshi has been appointed Secretary of the Department of Higher Education in the Ministry of Education on January 17, 2025 , at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi .
Justice Arun Mishra	Ombudsman and Ethics Officer	Board of Control for Cricket in India	This appointment marks a significant milestone in his career, leveraging his legal expertise and leadership experience to ensure ethical practices and address disputes within the BCCI.
Gyanendra Pratap Singh	Director General (DG)	Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)	1991-batch IPS officer; tenure until Nov 30, 2027





Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Place	Key Notes
Sanjiv Ranjan	Secretary General	Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)	1993-batch IFS officer
Alok Kumar Agarwal	MD & CEO	Zurich Kotak General Insurance	Succeeds Suresh Agarwal, effective Jan 1, 2025
Ambarish Kenghe	Group CEO	Angel One	Assumes role in March 2025
Dhananjay Shukla	President	Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)	Elected for the year 2025
Pawan G Chandak	Vice President	Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)	Elected for the year 2025
Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal	Additional Director General (ADG)	Border Security Force (BSF)	1994-batch IPS officer; tenure of 4 years
Neeraj Parakh	Executive Director & CEO	Reliance Power Limited	Effective from Jan 20, 2025, for three years
Akhil Gupta	Chairman	Bharti AXA Life Insurance	Vice Chairman of Bharti Enterprises
Amrit Mohan Prasad	Additional DG, BCAS	Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)	Six-month tenure starting November 1, 2024; also DG of SSB.
Sridhar Vembu	Chief Scientist	Zoho Corporation	Stepped down as CEO to focus on R&D.
Shailesh Kumar Davey	Group CEO	Zoho Corporation	Co-founder of Zoho, succeeds Sridhar Vembu as CEO.
Deshnee Naidoo	CEO	Vedanta Resources Ltd (VRL)	Over 20 years of experience in the resources industry; previously CEO of Vale Base Metals.
Rajesh Nirwan	Director General	Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)	Appointment approved by ACC; tenure until further orders.
M. Mohan	Director	Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre	Succeeding Dr. V. Narayanan ; Mohan's extensive experience in liquid propulsion systems has been key in advancing India's space capabilities .

APPOINTMENTS – INTERNATIONAL

Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Place	Key Notes
Hiroki Totoki	CEO	Sony Corporation	Currently President & COO; will assume CEO role from April 1, 2025.
Hisashi Takeuchi	MD & CEO (Re-appointed)	Maruti Suzuki India Ltd	Reappointed for a three-year term from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2028.
Sir Mo Farah	International Event Ambassador	Tata Mumbai Marathon	Represents global appeal of the event; 20th edition set for January 19, 2025, with 60,000 participants; Farah is a decorated long-distance runner with four Olympic golds.

BRAND & CAMPAIGN AMBASSADORS

Person Name	Brand / Campaign	Key Notes	
Ayushmann Khurrana	Brand Ambassador	FICCI Frames 2025	Celebrating the 25th anniversary of FICCI Frames
Jitender Pal Singh	Ambassador to Israel	Government of India	IFS officer (2002 batch), previously led the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran division.





CONSTITUTIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Designation / Post	Person Name	Key Notes	
Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya	Chief Justice	Delhi High Court	Sworn in at Raj Niwas, Delhi
Justice Alok Aradhe	Chief Justice	Bombay High Court	Appointed by the central government
Justice Ramasubramanian	V Chairperson	National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)	Appointed on December 23, 2024; position was vacant since June 1, 2024, after Justice Arun Kumar Mishra's tenure ended.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of June 2025

Category	Entity	MoU With	Field / Purpose
MoUs with Country	India	Cyprus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPCI and Eurobank Cyprus signed an MoU to introduce UPI services in Cyprus. Finalized during PM Modi's visit, it enables cross-border digital payments for tourists, businesses, and investors. Cyprus, a major FDI source for India, also signed an MoU with NSE at GIFT City, emphasizing fintech partnership and economic cooperation.
MoUs between Organizations	CAQM (Commission for Air Quality Management)	CSIR-CRRI and SPA-New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tripartite MoU signed on June 10, 2025, to implement urban road redevelopment across 9 NCR cities. Introduces greening strategies, smart road designs, and Web-GIS-based monitoring. Supported by a Project Monitoring Cell (PMC), this aims to combat road dust and improve air quality.
	NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India)	IDRBT (Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoU to bolster cybersecurity in India's digital payments ecosystem. Focuses on advanced training, launching a payment security certification, and access to IBCART 3.0 (सचेत) – a threat intelligence platform. Aims to enhance data privacy and infrastructure resilience.
	Shell India & DGT (Directorate General of Training, under MSDE)	Joint Green Skills & Electric Vehicle (EV) Training Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic collaboration to train India's youth for the green economy. Offers hands-on training in EV diagnostics, battery systems, and job certifications. Covers 5 major states, aiming to skill 250+ trainers and thousands of students.
	Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.	Equitas Small Finance Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoU to boost retail vehicle financing in India. Offers accessible loan options for new, used, and commercial vehicles. Focuses on expanding vehicle finance to semi-urban and rural customers, promoting financial inclusion.





Category	Entity	MoU With	Field / Purpose
	DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade)	YourStory Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed under the Bharat Project to promote grassroots entrepreneurship. Targets 1 million entrepreneurs in Tier II, Tier III, and rural India. Offers AI tools, startup launchpads, and regional storytelling, aligning with Startup India and Atmanirbhar Bharat goals.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of May 2025

MoUs WITH COUNTRY

Country	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
India	Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India and Vietnam have signed a significant MoU to deepen Buddhist cooperation during the UN Day of Vesak 2025 in Vietnam. This initiative, led by the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) and Vietnam Buddhist Sangha (VBS), formalized the launch of the Vietnam Chapter of IBC, aiming to promote Buddha Dhamma, foster global peace, and enhance cultural exchange. The agreement highlights India's Buddhist diplomacy and promotes spiritual collaboration through teachings of compassion, wisdom, and peace.
India	Chile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India and Chile have taken a significant step towards deepening their bilateral trade relations by signing the Terms of Reference (ToR) for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Building on the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) signed in 2006 and expanded in 2016, this new agreement aims to promote cooperation in digital services, MSMEs, critical minerals, and investment. The decision follows the Chilean President's State visit to India in April 2025, where both countries reiterated their commitment to economic integration. The first round of CEPA negotiations will be held in New Delhi from May 26–30, 2025.
India	European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India and the European Union (EU) have jointly launched two critical research calls under the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) to tackle Marine Plastic Litter (MPL) and develop Waste to Green Hydrogen (W2GH) solutions. With a combined investment of ₹391 crore (~€41 million), the initiatives are aimed at fostering sustainable technologies through international scientific collaboration. These programs align with the EU's Zero Pollution Action Plan, India's National Green Hydrogen Mission, and the UN Decade of Ocean Science, and they signify a major boost in the India-EU strategic partnership toward climate action, clean energy, and environmental conservation.
the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur	Singapore's Institute of Microelectronics (IME),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a landmark development that marks a significant stride toward global collaboration in semiconductor technology, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur and Singapore's Institute of Microelectronics (IME), a core research entity under the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), have formalized their partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

MoUs WITH STATE

State	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
Madhya Pradesh	Maharashtra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Tapti Basin Mega Recharge Project, launched through an MoU between Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, aims to provide irrigation and drinking water to water-stressed districts using 31.13 TMC of Tapti river water. Estimated at ₹19,244 crore, the project will cover over 3.57 lakh hectares and is likely to receive 90% Central funding. This inter-State effort is seen as the world's largest recharge scheme and reflects a significant move toward sustainable water management and cooperative federalism.




MoUs BETWEEN ORGANIZATION

Organization	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)	Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL) have formed a strategic partnership to enhance credit accessibility across India. Through IPPB's vast postal network and ABCL's digital lending platforms, customers will now have simplified access to personal, business, and property loans. The initiative emphasizes financial inclusion, supports Digital India, and offers personalized financial services using AI and data analytics. The move is expected to benefit rural populations, promote entrepreneurship, and bridge the urban-rural credit divide.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of April 2025
MoUs WITH COUNTRY

Country	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
India	Russia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the 8th Session of the India-Russia Working Group on Priority Investment Projects (IRWG-PIP) in New Delhi, India and Russia agreed on six new strategic projects to boost bilateral investment. Co-chaired by Amardeep Singh Bhatia (India) and Vladimir Ilichev (Russia), the session emphasized trade, technological collaboration, and economic development. The 2nd India-Russia Investment Forum, with 80+ participants, showcased growing interest in joint ventures.

MoUs WITH STATE

State	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
Kerala State Electricity Board	IIT Bombay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB), in collaboration with IIT Bombay, is launching a pilot project to integrate Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) technology, which enables EV batteries to both draw and supply electricity to the power grid. This initiative aims to support renewable energy integration, enhance grid stability, and promote clean energy by using EVs as decentralized energy storage. The project involves financial incentives, such as premium tariffs for EV owners feeding energy during peak hours.

MoUs BETWEEN ORGANIZATION

Organization	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
India Post	Nippon India Mutual Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India Post has partnered with Nippon India Mutual Fund through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to offer door-to-door KYC verification services for mutual fund investors, enhancing financial inclusion. This initiative aims to make mutual fund investments more accessible, particularly for rural populations, elderly citizens, and individuals with mobility issues. India Post's extensive nationwide network has already facilitated over 5 lakh KYC verifications for UTI and SUUTI, and this partnership supports the Jan Nivesh initiative to empower citizens with secure, convenient financial services.
Ministry of Labour & Employment	Swiggy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Labour & Employment signed an MoU with Swiggy to enhance gig and logistics employment opportunities through the National Career Service (NCS) portal. This partnership aims to create 12 lakh job opportunities over the next 2-3 years by integrating real-time job postings and fostering inclusive hiring for youth, women, and individuals seeking flexible work. Swiggy will post gig jobs, delivery roles, and support roles, contributing to digital empowerment and worker welfare schemes.





Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of March 2025

MoUs WITH COUNTRY

Country	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
Inland Waterways Authority of India	Jammu & Kashmir government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) signed an MoU with the Jammu & Kashmir government to develop river cruise tourism, aiming to boost tourism, employment, and economic growth. Announced during Chintan Shivir in Srinagar in the presence of Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, the initiative focuses on three national waterways—River Chenab (NW-26), River Jhelum (NW-49), and River Ravi (NW-84)—with infrastructure development and navigational improvements to facilitate cruise operations.
Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy	Adamas University, Kolkata	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) and Adamas University, Kolkata signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on March 1, 2025, to enhance academic and research collaboration in homoeopathy. The agreement aims to advance scientific research, knowledge exchange, and interdisciplinary studies in alternative medicine, contributing to the broader acceptance and integration of homoeopathy in mainstream healthcare.
UIDAI	Sarvam AI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UIDAI has partnered with Sarvam AI, a Bengaluru-based Generative AI company, to enhance Aadhaar services starting March 18, 2025. The collaboration introduces AI-powered voice interactions, real-time fraud detection, and multilingual support to improve accessibility, security, and efficiency. The GenAI stack will operate within UIDAI's secure infrastructure, ensuring data privacy. This agreement, lasting one year with a possible extension, underscores UIDAI's focus on technological advancements and user-centric innovations.

MoUs BETWEEN ORGANIZATION

Organization	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), and Indian Overseas Bank	Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), and Indian Overseas Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To offer accessible financing for IGBC-certified green buildings. This partnership aims to promote energy-efficient construction, water conservation, and the use of renewable materials, fostering sustainable development in India's real estate sector.
HDFC Bank	Indian Air Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Air Force (IAF) and CSC Academy to launch Project HAKK (Hawai Anubhavi Kalyan Kendra), aimed at supporting defence pensioners, veterans, and their families with financial services and skill development. The project will initially establish 25 centres at Air Force units in New Delhi, Bengaluru, Gurgaon, Pune, Secunderabad, Guwahati, Jodhpur, Chandigarh, and other locations, promoting economic inclusiveness and welfare.
SIDBI	Federal Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SIDBI and Federal Bank have signed an MoU to enhance financial support for MSMEs, offering project finance, equipment loans, working capital support, and loans against property. The collaboration will also explore joint financing options to improve credit access for MSMEs, reinforcing their role in India's manufacturing and industrial growth.





Organization	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
DPIIT	Mercedes-Benz India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DPIIT and Mercedes-Benz India have signed an MoU to enhance manufacturing, road safety, and sustainability in India. This partnership aims to support startups by providing infrastructure, mentorship, funding, and market linkages while fostering technological advancements and sustainable innovations. The collaboration will also strengthen industry-academia linkages, promote green solutions, and facilitate international knowledge exchange to drive impactful innovations in the automotive sector.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of February 2025

MoUs WITH COUNTRY

Country	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
India	Israel	India and Israel are set to strengthen their economic and trade relations with the India-Israel Business Forum and CEO Forum on February 11, 2025 , in New Delhi . These forums will focus on technological collaboration, investment opportunities, and cross-sector partnerships . Organized by DPIIT, CII, and the Embassy of Israel , the Business Forum aims to expand trade and foster collaborations between businesses from both countries.
India	European Free Trade Association	India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) , comprising Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein , have launched the India-EFTA Desk to deepen economic collaboration . This follows the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) , making EFTA the first European bloc to formalize a trade pact with India. The desk will enhance transparency, trust, and ease of doing business between the two regions, strengthening their growing economic ties .
India	Argentina	Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy met with H.E. Raúl Alejandro Jalil , Governor of Catamarca, Argentina , to enhance mining sector cooperation, focusing on lithium exploration and investment. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between MECL and the Provincial Government of Catamarca , aiming to boost collaboration in the exploration and development of critical minerals like lithium , essential for electric vehicle (EV) batteries and renewable energy storage .
India	Nepal	India and Nepal have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CSIR, India and Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) on February 18, 2025 . The agreement, signed at CSIR-National Physical Laboratory , aims to enhance scientific collaboration in fields like biotechnology, environmental sciences, alternative energy, and material sciences , building on their long-standing partnership.

MoUs BETWEEN ORGANIZATION

Organization	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)	Carbon Market Association of India (CMAI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) and Carbon Market Association of India (CMAI) signed an MoU on February 4, 2025, to advance India's carbon markets and decarbonisation efforts. The partnership, announced during the IICA-CMAI Masterclass, will focus on training, research, policy advocacy, and knowledge-sharing to support India's transition to a low-carbon economy. Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road, Transport & Highways, emphasized the importance of biofuels, green hydrogen, and sustainable energy solutions.





Organization	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
IIITDM Kancheepuram	ERNET India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IIITDM Kancheepuram has partnered with ERNET India, an autonomous scientific society under MeitY, to enhance research in cutting-edge technologies. The collaboration, formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), will establish a joint research laboratory focused on the Internet of Things (IoT) functionality validation sandbox project.
TRIFED	Meesho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRIFED has partnered with Meesho, the Indian Federation of Culinary Associations (IFCA), and the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Rural Industrialization (MGIRI) to promote tribal businesses and integrate them into the B2B sector. The MoUs, signed on February 18, 2025, during the “Aadi Mahotsav” in New Delhi, aim to enhance tribal entrepreneurship and market access, fostering the growth of tribal products.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of January 2025

MoUs WITH COUNTRY

Country	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
India	Mongolia	India is set to sign a preliminary agreement with Mongolia to boost cooperation in geology and exploration , focusing on sourcing critical minerals like copper and coking coal .
Russian President Vladimir Putin	Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian	Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signed a 20-year “ Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty ” in Moscow , aiming to bolster bilateral relations across various sectors.
UNESCO's South Asia Regional Office	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	In a significant move to align India's artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem with global ethical standards, UNESCO's South Asia Regional Office , in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Ikigai Law , organized a two-day stakeholder consultation on the AI Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) . Held on January 16 and 17, 2025, at IIIT Bangalore and the NASSCOM AI office , respectively, the event aimed to craft an India-specific AI policy report that identifies strengths and growth opportunities within India's AI landscape .

MoUs WITH STATE

State	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
Uttar Pradesh government	Google Cloud (India)	The Uttar Pradesh government has partnered with Google Cloud (India) to launch the Uttar Pradesh Open Network for Agriculture (UPONA) , powered by Gemini AI and Beacon technology . This digital infrastructure will provide farmers with access to advisory services , credit , mechanization , market connectivity , and real-time weather data . The initiative aims to double farmers' income and enhance digital empowerment in agriculture. The MoU was signed by Manoj Kumar Singh (UP Chief Secretary) and Anil Bhansali (Google Cloud India VP).
Uttarakhand government	Iceland	To tap into the state's geothermal potential . Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Verkis Consulting Engineers , this collaboration aims to harness geothermal energy for electricity generation , marking a significant step in the development of renewable energy in India.




MoUs BETWEEN ORGANIZATION

Organization	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
C-DOT	IIT Mandi and IIT Jammu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C-DOT, in collaboration with IIT Mandi and IIT Jammu, has signed an agreement to develop a Wideband Spectrum-Sensor ASIC-Chip to improve spectrum utilization and enhance broadband services in rural India. The project, under the Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF), aligns with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make-in-India goals.
C-DOT	IIT Bombay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India is advancing in 6G technology with a collaboration between C-DOT and IIT Bombay to develop an Optical Transceiver Chipset for high-bandwidth 6G wireless links. Supported by the Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF), this initiative aims to position India as a leader in 6G innovation by 2030, focusing on affordability, sustainability, and ubiquity.

Banking Current Affairs
Banking Current Affairs of June 2025

S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	Canara Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canara Bank has removed the Average Monthly Balance requirement for all savings bank accounts, including salary and NRI types, eliminating related penalties. This step, aimed at financial inclusion, will benefit a wide range of customers. Established in 1906, Canara Bank now has over 9,800 branches, including a strong rural footprint and global presence.
2.	Deutsche Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deutsche Bank has appointed Stefan Schaffer as the CEO of Deutsche India's Global Capability Centre (GCC), alongside roles as Global CIO for Corporate Functions and Head of Global Technology Centres. This appointment reinforces Deutsche Bank's commitment to technological innovation, standardisation, and its India operations, which currently support global functions across finance, technology, risk, and operations with a 20,000-strong workforce. Schaffer's leadership experience in Bucharest and shared applications underscores the bank's drive toward a digitally unified global enterprise.
3.	Asian Development Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 1 June 2025, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) unveiled a \$10 billion initiative for urban transformation in India. This 5-year plan aims to revamp metro networks, launch new RRTS corridors, and improve urban infrastructure and services across over 100 cities. Backed by sovereign loans, private capital, and the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF), the project also includes \$3 million in technical assistance for project planning. ADB emphasized skill development, women's empowerment, and inclusive urban growth as part of India's Viksit Bharat @ 2047 mission. The announcement follows meetings with PM Modi, FM Nirmala Sitharaman, and Housing Minister Manohar Lal.
4.	State Bank of India (SBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Bank of India (SBI) gave a significant boost to the government's non-tax revenue by paying a dividend of ₹8,076.84 crore for FY 2024-25, up from ₹6,959.29 crore last year, with Chairman C.S. Setty formally handing over the cheque to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, highlighting SBI's robust financial performance, a ₹15.90/share dividend, and its pivotal role in fiscal resource mobilization.
5.	Federal Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scapia, in collaboration with Federal Bank, has launched India's first dual-network credit card combining Visa and RuPay, known as the Scapia Federal RuPay Credit Card. With UPI compatibility, zero forex markup, Scapia Coins, and airport lounge benefits, the card offers a unified credit experience for domestic and international use. The launch is aligned with Scapia's broader platform upgrades under its 2025 Summer Release, including AI recommendations, tailored fare options, and reward enhancements — marking a key milestone in India's fintech evolution.





S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
6.	Asian Development Bank (ADB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$109.97 million loan to support Gujarat's Skills Development Program, a forward-looking initiative designed to enhance technical education, promote inclusive employment, and drive industrial competitiveness. By upgrading training infrastructure, launching industry-aligned courses, and improving governance at institutions like Kaushalya: The Skill University, the program will create a future-ready workforce.
7.	DFCC Bank PLC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DFCC Bank PLC, one of Sri Lanka's leading financial institutions, has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first foreign corporate to list a green bond on India's NSE International Exchange (NSE IX) at GIFT City. This LKR 2.5 billion bond, previously listed in Sri Lanka and on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange, will finance solar energy projects in line with Sri Lanka's 2030 renewable goals. The bond adheres to ICMA Green Bond Principles and supports the UN SDGs, especially Affordable and Clean Energy and Climate Action.
8.	SBI General Insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBI General Insurance has appointed Mohd. Arif Khan as its Deputy CEO to steer the company through a phase of growth and innovation. With over 25 years at SBI, Khan has expertise across retail banking, digital systems, and leadership training. His appointment is expected to strengthen customer experience, drive technological innovation, and expand SBI General's footprint in emerging markets. Holding multiple certifications and academic accolades, his entry signifies SBI General's push towards excellence in insurance services and leadership transformation.
9.	Punjab National Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punjab National Bank (PNB) has disbursed ₹17.02 crore to the families of 26 defence and paramilitary martyrs under its Rakshak Plus Scheme, as of June 11, 2025. The scheme, designed for uniformed personnel, provides comprehensive insurance benefits, including ₹1 crore accidental cover and ₹1.5 crore air accident cover, along with support for partial disabilities. PNB's initiative aims to honour the sacrifices of Indian soldiers by ensuring their families are not left without support. It reaffirms the bank's role in nation-building, standing in solidarity with the armed forces.

RBI News

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
1.	RBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RBI's enhanced liquidity stress testing framework marks a significant step toward improving the financial system's capacity to absorb shocks. By including NBFCs, UCBs, and even its own portfolio in stress test models, and integrating climate transition risk, the central bank aims to foster a resilient, transparent, and future-ready financial ecosystem. The introduction of a Growth-at-Risk model will further align monetary policy with potential macroeconomic vulnerabilities.
2.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India is set to review its inflation targeting framework and reassess the required liquidity levels in FY26. With growing concerns over the volatility of food prices, discussions are gaining momentum around using core inflation as a more stable benchmark for monetary policy. Simultaneously, the RBI plans to fine-tune liquidity management to maintain a surplus of around 1% of NDTL, ensuring smoother policy transmission. The shift underlines the central bank's commitment to financial stability, price control, and growth facilitation through a robust policy framework.
3.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted in-principle approval to PayPal Payments and Worldline ePayments India to operate as cross-border payment aggregators (PAs). This move follows an RBI directive from October 2024 requiring such firms to secure independent authorization instead of operating under the old OPGSP model. The step is expected to significantly benefit India's freelancers, SMEs, and exporters, strengthening India's digital economy and its participation in global trade.




Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
4.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has successfully facilitated the withdrawal of ₹2,000 notes, with 98.26% returned by May 31, 2025. Introduced during the 2016 demonetisation, these high-value notes are being phased out under the Clean Note Policy due to low usage and aging currency stock. The notes can still be exchanged or deposited through RBI offices and India Post. This step is seen as a major move towards efficient currency management and reducing unaccounted cash holdings.
5.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed 353 penalties worth ₹54.78 crore on various regulated entities (REs) during the fiscal year 2024–25, as disclosed in its Annual Report. The violations pertained to cybersecurity non-compliance, exposure norms, IRAC guidelines, KYC norms, and fraud/data reporting failures. Cooperative banks faced the most penalties (264), followed by NBFCs, HFCs, and commercial banks. The RBI's actions reinforce the growing emphasis on regulatory enforcement, transparency, and risk mitigation across India's banking ecosystem.
6.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a draft proposal on April 9, 2025, outlining revised rules for lending against gold, aiming to align practices across financial institutions and curb discrepancies. Triggered by the surge in gold loan activity, particularly among banks, these guidelines focus on enhancing borrower safety, ensuring transparency, and streamlining lending norms—though they've raised alarms about potential disruptions to rural credit, especially for small-scale borrowers in southern India. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised its gold loan guidelines, increasing the loan-to-value (LTV) ratio to 85% for loans up to ₹2.5 lakh, while setting the cap at 80% for ₹2.5–5 lakh and 75% beyond ₹5 lakh. Effective from April 1, 2026, the norms are designed to improve credit accessibility for small-ticket borrowers while addressing rising non-performing assets (NPAs) in the sector. The move follows inputs from the Department of Financial Services (DFS) and mandates stricter collateral valuation, faster gold return, and safeguards against misleading ads.
7.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a special scheme to promote original Hindi book writing in economics, banking, and finance, offering recognition and financial rewards to UGC-recognized professors (working or retired) who author original Hindi books (20+ pages) published between April 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025, with the application deadline set for June 30, 2025.
8.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised its gold loan LTV norms, allowing a higher loan-to-value ratio of up to 85% for low-ticket loans. This move, effective from April 1, 2026, is expected to significantly benefit NBFCs, especially those with a large share of loans under ₹5 lakh. According to Crisil Ratings, the revised norms offer greater lending headroom and help offset new LTV computation rules that include accrued interest in bullet repayment loans.
9.	RBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RBI will conduct a ₹30,000 crore government securities auction on June 13, 2025, which includes the re-issuance of ₹5,000 crore Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) maturing in 2054. These bonds are earmarked for environmentally sustainable projects. The auction will use the multiple price method via the e-Kuber platform. This step demonstrates India's firm commitment to green financing, climate resilience, and its net-zero goals under global climate agreements.
10.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India has announced final guidelines for project finance provisioning, reducing the burden on lenders by setting a 1% requirement for under-construction loans, down from the earlier proposed 5%. The norms, effective October 1, 2025, provide flexibility for commercial real estate and housing loans, while retaining lower provisioning rates for operational projects. This move aligns with the RBI's broader consultative approach, supporting credit availability and infrastructure development.




Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
11.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised Priority Sector Lending (PSL) norms for Small Finance Banks (SFBs), effective from FY 2025–26, reducing the overall PSL target from 75% to 60% of Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) or Credit Equivalent of Off-Balance Sheet Exposures (CEOBE), whichever is higher. Of this, 40% must still go to specified PSL sub-sectors (e.g., agriculture, MSMEs, education), while the remaining 20% can be flexibly allocated to any PSL sub-sectors where the SFB has a competitive advantage.
12.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reported a 3.1% year-on-year rise in the All-India House Price Index (HPI) for Q4 FY2024–25, matching the previous quarter's growth but slightly lower than 4.1% in the same period last year. Based on property registration data from 10 major cities, the index reflects authentic urban housing trends. Quarter-on-quarter, national house prices increased by 0.9%, with Bengaluru, Jaipur, Kolkata, and Chennai leading due to strong demand and urban development. Kolkata saw the highest annual rise at 8.8%, while Kochi was the only city with a price decline (-2.3%).
13.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹29.6 lakh on Fino Payments Bank Limited for non-compliance with the Licensing Guidelines for Payments Banks. The violation was uncovered during the Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE 2024), assessing operations as of March 31, 2024. The breach involved exceeding the end-of-day balance limits in customer accounts, which is against the RBI's prescribed norms for Payments Banks designed to limit systemic risk. This action underscores the RBI's commitment to regulatory enforcement and financial discipline.
14.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

SEBI News

S.No	Announcement	Key Details
1.	SEBI launched settlement scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEBI has launched a settlement scheme for stock brokers involved in algo trading violations, open from June 16 to September 16, 2025. Over 100 brokers, including top firms like Zerodha and 5Paisa, were found collaborating with unregulated algo platforms offering assured returns—a direct breach of SEBI norms. The scheme provides a way to resolve cases with a low settlement cost, while SEBI continues to strengthen regulations for algorithmic trading, emphasizing retail investor protection, empanelment of algo providers, and broker accountability.
2.	Securities and Exchange Board of India Proposes Permitting All KYC Agencies to Function as Accreditation Bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed that all KYC Registration Agencies (KRAs) be allowed to function as accreditation agencies, expanding eligibility beyond subsidiaries of stock exchanges and depositories. Currently, only subsidiaries of stock exchanges and depositories (under specific conditions) are eligible to be accreditation agencies. <p>Key Highlights :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presently, only two accreditation agencies operate in the market: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> CDSL Ventures Ltd (subsidiary of CDSL) NSDL Data Management Ltd (subsidiary of NSDL)





S.No	Announcement	Key Details
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both current accreditation agencies are also KRAs, and there are a total of five KRAs registered with SEBI. SEBI believes this is the right time for the change as it would cause no disruption to the existing accreditation ecosystem. The move is expected to: Increase the number of accreditation agencies, Enhance competition, Enable cost-efficient servicing. SEBI also proposed faster onboarding of accredited investors by allowing Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) to temporarily onboard investors based on the first-level due diligence by AIF managers. However, funds should be received from such investors only after they receive an accreditation certificate from an accreditation agency. Any commitment made by a provisionally onboarded investor: Shall not be included in the calculation of the scheme's corpus until accreditation is received. Shall be null and void if the investor fails to obtain accreditation before the final close, in the case of close-ended AIF schemes. SEBI has invited public comments on the proposal until July 8, 2025.
3.	Securities and Exchange Board of India Urges Investors to Use CeFCoM Platform for Payments to Advisers and Research Analysts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is encouraging investors to make payments to investment advisers and research analysts through the Centralized Fee Collection Mechanism (CeFCoM) to protect against financial fraud and unauthorized fund collections. Use of CeFCoM is optional, but SEBI highlights its benefits in enhancing transparency, security, and trust in the investment advisory ecosystem. CeFCoM was launched on October 1, 2024, and is operated by BSE Ltd. in collaboration with MF Utilities India Pvt. Ltd. CeFCoM supports multiple digital payment modes including Net Banking, UPI/UPI Autopay, Debit/Credit Cards, IMPS/NEFT/RTGS, eNACH, and cheques. As of June 10, 2025, investors have paid over ₹5 crore through CeFCoM. The platform helps investors distinguish between SEBI-registered advisers/analysts and unregistered fraudulent entities, reducing the risk of deception via misleading schemes and payment links. SEBI plans to launch a digital verification tool called 'SEBI Check' from October 1, 2025, allowing investors to verify authenticity of UPI handles and bank account details before making payments. The new structured UPI handle system will use readable usernames with category-specific suffixes like 'brk' (brokers), 'mf' (mutual funds), and an '@valid' tag issued by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). Verified UPI handles will have a green triangle with a thumbs-up icon as a visual indicator of legitimacy. SEBI also intends to collaborate with online app stores to ensure only validated apps for investment-related payments are listed, enhancing digital trust.
4.	Securities and Exchange Board of India Requires Registered Intermediaries to Have Dedicated UPI Address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) will introduce a validated UPI handle for investor-facing intermediaries to ensure secure payments and prevent fraud. The new UPI handle will use the suffix "@valid", for example: bkr@validhdfc where "abc.bkr" is the intermediary's name and "hdfc" is the self-certified syndicate bank. The UPI handles will be allocated by NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India). A valid payment will display a thumbs-up symbol inside a green triangle to help non-English speaking users recognize authenticity. Approximately 8,000 to 9,000 intermediaries (including brokers, bankers to an issue, research analysts, investment advisors) will transition to the new UPI handle. The mandate will come into force from October 1, 2025.





S.No	Announcement	Key Details
		Key Highlights : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing SIPs (Systematic Investment Plans) will not be affected, but old UPI IDs will be discontinued from December 11, 2026. SEBI will conduct investor awareness campaigns and cyber fraud prevention efforts over the next two years, with an allocated budget. Intermediaries are required to create awareness about the new UPI handle and prominently display it. Investors must verify UPI IDs before making payments using the SEBI Check application to ensure transactions are only with verified intermediaries. SEBI plans to collaborate with the Google Play Store to ensure only valid apps are available to investors.
5.	Securities and Exchange Board of India releases operational guidelines for issuance of Environment, Social and Governance debt securities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has released an operational framework for the issuance of social bonds, sustainability bonds, and sustainability-linked bonds, collectively called Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) debt securities. The framework aims to help issuers raise funds for sustainable projects and bridge the funding gap for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Debt securities will be labelled as social bonds, sustainability bonds, or sustainability-linked bonds only if the raised funds are used for financing or refinancing projects aligned with their objectives. Key Highlights : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial disclosures must be made in the offer document; continuous disclosures must be included in annual reports or other mandated formats. Issuers of social bonds must disclose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social objectives of the project. Details of the decision-making process for project eligibility. Procedures for tracking deployment of proceeds. An indicative estimate of fund distribution between financing and refinancing. In case of refinancing, details of the existing debt, including amount outstanding, must be disclosed. Issuers must appoint an independent third-party reviewer or certifier to ensure compliance with recognized ESG standards. Issuers of sustainability bonds must comply with provisions specified for green debt securities. Issuers must ensure all funded projects meet the stated social or sustainability objectives and use proceeds only for the disclosed purpose. SEBI recognizes that some projects may have co-benefits (e.g., social projects with environmental benefits and vice versa). The classification of debt securities depends on the issuer's primary objectives for the projects. Issuers must continuously monitor the impact of projects to confirm they are achieving the intended social or sustainable outcomes as stated in the offer document. The framework will be effective from June 5, 2025
6.	Securities and Exchange Board of India Introduces Verified UPI Handles to Prevent Market Frauds and Strengthen Investor Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched the 'SEBI Check' tool to validate UPI handles and registered bank accounts to ensure secure payments by investors. The tool will help enhance investor protection and combat deepfakes and cyber frauds. Investors can use SEBI Check to verify if a UPI handle or bank account is registered before making payments. UPI ID authenticity can be verified by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scanning a QR code, or Entering the UPI ID manually For bank account verification, investors can check:





S.No	Announcement	Key Details
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank account number Indian Financial System Code (IFSC) of the SEBI-registered intermediary The username will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A readable name chosen by the intermediary Followed by a mandatory suffix that identifies their category (e.g., brk for Stock Broker, mf for Mutual Fund) A valid handle will feature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A unique identifier, "@valid", Combined with the name of the Self-Certified Syndicate Bank These validated UPI handles will be exclusively allocated by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) only for payment collection by SEBI-registered intermediaries. The SEBI Check tool will be available from October 1, 2025. SEBI will also coordinate with online app stores to display only validated apps for payments to protect investors from fake platforms.
7.	Securities and Exchange Board of India Imposes ₹25 Lakh Penalty on BSE Limited for Multiple Regulatory Violations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) imposed a penalty of ₹25 lakh on BSE Limited for multiple violations. Violations include dissemination of price sensitive information by corporates, weak supervision of broker trades, and laxity in taking action. SEBI conducted an inspection of BSE from February 2021 to September 2022 and issued a show cause notice Major charge: Prior to September 2023, BSE's system architecture allowed the Listing Compliance Monitoring (LCM) team and paid subscribers to access corporate announcements before they were publicly available on its website. BSE is directed to pay the penalty within 45 days of receiving the order.

Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs

- The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) and SEBI launched the first Niveshak Shivir in Pune on June 1, 2025, focusing on helping investors reclaim unclaimed dividends and shares, update KYC and nominations, and learn about the IEPF claim process. Over 450 participants benefited from personalized assistance, including a search facility, form filling support, and awareness of common errors. A special NSDL brochure was also released to guide investors. The initiative reflects a commitment to transparent, investor-centric governance, with more city-wide events to follow.
- The SBI Economic Research Report forecasts a rise in household net financial savings to ₹22 lakh crore in FY25, making up 6.5% of GNDI—a sign of economic strengthening. It also highlights the RBI's record surplus transfer of ₹2.69 lakh crore and the resilience of India's financial system despite challenges like rising fraud amounts. The report paints a picture of robust financial fundamentals and transformative shifts in savings, governance, and institutional efficiency.
- 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.

Banking Current Affairs of May 2025

S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	State Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Bank of India (SBI) reported a 10% decline in its Q4 FY25 standalone net profit, citing ₹18,643 crore compared to ₹20,698 crore in the same quarter last year. Despite this, total income grew by 12% and asset quality improved, with gross NPAs reducing to 1.82%. The bank's annual net profit rose by 16% to ₹70,901 crore, and it declared a dividend of ₹15.90 per share. SBI plans to raise ₹25,000 crore in FY26 through equity issuance, signaling continued growth and investment in future expansion.





S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
2.	State Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Bank of India (SBI) has initiated the largest staff engagement and training programme in India's banking sector to equip its 2.3 lakh employees with future-ready skills and instill organizational pride. Through initiatives like 'Next LEAP' and 'SuPer SBI: Great to Greater', over 1.75 lakh employees have been trained using a centralised learning system and data-driven performance tools. SBI also introduced a succession planning policy for smooth transitions in key roles
3.	Kotak Mahindra Bank's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kotak Mahindra Bank's newly launched Kotak Solitaire Credit Card is a premium, invite-only travel card offering 10 airmiles per ₹100 on travel bookings through Kotak Unbox, unlimited airport lounge access, and zero forex mark-up. It allows airmile transfers to major airlines like Air India, British Airways, and Singapore Airlines, along with hotel partners like Marriott Bonvoy. With exclusive hotel booking perks, minimal cash withdrawal fees, and a ₹25,000 annual fee, it competes with other luxury travel cards in the Indian credit card market.
4.	Canara Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canara Bank and Union Bank of India launched special deposit schemes to counter slowing deposit growth in the banking sector. While Canara Bank introduced Canara TruEdge, a personalized account solution linked to Monthly Average Balance (MAB), Union Bank unveiled the Union Wellness Deposit, a term deposit offering 6.75% interest, bundled with health insurance and lifestyle benefits. These initiatives reflect a strategic move by public sector banks to attract high-value customers, strengthen resource mobilization, and align with the goals of customer-centric banking.
5.	Canara Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canara Bank's Q4 FY25 results indicate a strong performance with a 33.19% YoY rise in net profit to ₹5,004 crore. The bank also reported a 7.62% increase in total interest income and a 12% growth in operating profit, despite a marginal decline in net interest income and net interest margin. Notably, gross and net NPAs dropped significantly, suggesting improved asset quality. The bank's global business and domestic operations witnessed healthy double-digit growth, and a ₹4 dividend per share was recommended.
6.	Punjab National Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punjab National Bank (PNB) has agreed to sell its entire stake in India SME Asset Reconstruction Company (ISARC) for ₹34.04 crore, marking a strategic step to streamline its portfolio and prioritize core banking operations. The transaction includes 2.09 crore shares and follows RBI approval for the new investor, Authum Investment and Infrastructure Ltd. ISARC specializes in recovering distressed SME assets and reported solid financials for FY24. PNB's decision is aligned with regulatory trends and received a positive response in the stock market.
7.	Airtel Payments Bank RuPay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Airtel Payments Bank has launched eco-friendly NCMC (National Common Mobility Cards) enabled debit and pre-paid cards. The bank has partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to offer interoperable cards powered by RuPay. This initiative supports India's One Nation, One Card vision, emphasizing interoperability across transit and payment systems.
8.	State Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Bank of India (SBI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) to enhance banking services at 26 land ports across India's borders with neighboring countries.
9.	India Post Payments Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) emphasized its commitment to the welfare of Shramiks (labourers) on the occasion of Labour Day (May 01).
10.	Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sa-Dhan, a self-regulatory organization for microfinance institutions (MFIs), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bank of India (BoI) to expand financial access for small, micro, and women-led enterprises.





S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
11.	Qatar National Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QNB (Qatar National Bank), the largest financial institution in the Middle East and Africa (MEA), has become the first bank from the region to open a branch in India's GIFT City, Gujarat's premier international financial hub and special economic zone. • The bank's GIFT City branch plans to support Indian corporates seeking global banking partners to drive their expansion. • QNB's international network spans 28 markets across three continents.
12.	Canara Bank and Union Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State-owned Canara Bank and Union Bank of India have announced special deposit schemes to boost resource mobilisation amid slowing deposit growth. • Deposit growth declined to 10.3% in FY25 from 13.5% in FY24. • Most public sector banks project deposit growth of 9–11% for the current financial year.
13.	HDFC Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank in Current Account deposits, launched the new Biz+ Current Accounts. • Biz+ is a reimagined suite of Current Account offerings designed to meet the evolving needs of Indian businesses. • The accounts aim to empower businesses by bringing the entire bank to the customer from day one.
14.	SBM Bank India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBM Bank India and ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company have entered into a bancassurance partnership.
15.	Axis Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Axis Bank, a leading private sector bank in India, has partnered with money, the Flipkart Group's credit-first UPI platform, to launch a lifetime-free co-branded RuPay credit card. • The card offers high rewards, UPI-enabled convenience, and zero annual fees. • The Axis Bank super.moneyRuPay Credit Card supports transactions via UPI, POS terminals, online purchases, and ATM withdrawals.
16.	IndusInd Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IndusInd Bank has signed a pact with AIC STPINEXT to provide financial solutions and structural support to early-stage startups and MSMEs. • AIC STPINEXT is a special purpose vehicle of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). • Under the collaboration, IndusInd Bank will offer tailored banking solutions to support startups associated with STPI/STPINEXT. • The bank will provide a specialized Current Account with no quarterly average balance requirement, simplifying financial management for startups. • Additional support includes expert guidance and workshops on topics such as banking basics, equity infusion, Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs), and segment-based funding. • To improve operational efficiency, the bank will offer payroll and attendance management services to early-stage startups free of cost.
17.	Canara Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canara Bank has launched "CANARA TruEdge," a specialised and feature-rich suite of Current and Savings Accounts designed for institutional clients across sectors like healthcare, education, religious organisations, and other non-individual entities. • The suite carries the tagline: "Grow with trust, lead with edge." • It aims to enhance customer segmentation and provide tailored solutions aligned with clients' operational and financial workflows. • The product offers zero initial deposit requirement for easy onboarding. • Benefits increase proportionally as institutions maintain higher account balances.
18.	India Post Payments Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), a Government of India undertaking, has formed a strategic partnership with Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), a leading diversified financial service company in India. • The partnership aims to broaden the reach and accessibility of loan products across Bharat (India). • The collaboration integrates Aditya Birla Capital's diverse lending products with IPPB's extensive network and digital infrastructure.





RBI News

RBI Annual Report 2024–25: A Comprehensive Overview of India's Central Banking Landscape

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released its **Annual Report for the financial year 2024–25**, as required by **Section 53(2)** of the **RBI Act, 1934**. This comprehensive document outlines the state of the Indian economy, RBI's financial performance, key trends in banking and digital payments, and its policy plans for the coming year. It reflects the central bank's continuing efforts to ensure economic stability, encourage digital transformation, and manage risks in an increasingly volatile global environment.

1. RBI's Financial Performance and Balance Sheet

- The RBI's **balance sheet** showed solid growth this year. As of **March 31, 2025**, it stood at **₹76.25 lakh crore**, up from **₹70.47 lakh crore** a year ago. This represents an increase of **8.21%**, showing the central bank's expanding role in managing the economy.

Assets Growth:

- A **52.09% increase in gold holdings** played a major role in this expansion.
- Domestic investments** also rose by **14.32%**, reflecting strong policy support.
- Foreign investments** grew more modestly at **1.70%**, affected by global uncertainties.

Liabilities Side:

- The increase came largely from a rise in **currency in circulation**, higher balances in **revaluation accounts**, and market-related operations.

Income and Expenditure:

- RBI's **total income** reached **₹3.38 lakh crore**, a **22.77% increase** from the previous year's ₹2.76 lakh crore.
- Expenditure** also rose, reaching **₹69,714 crore**, which is **7.76% more** than last year.
- Despite this, the RBI transferred a **record surplus of ₹2.69 lakh crore** to the Central Government, showcasing effective financial management.
- It also added **₹44,861 crore** to its **Contingency Fund**, which is used during financial emergencies.

2. Currency Circulation and the Shift to Digital Payments

One of the key changes in India's economy is the increasing shift from cash to **digital modes of payment**.

Cash Trends:

- The **currency-to-GDP ratio** declined to **11.2%**, down from earlier levels. This means a smaller share of the economy now uses physical cash.
- However, **currency in circulation** still grew by **5.8%**, suggesting continued demand for cash, especially in rural areas.
- The **₹500 note** continued to be the most used, both in volume and value.

Digital Payment Growth:

- Retail digital payments** increased by **17.9% in value** and **35% in volume**, showing wider usage of apps like UPI.
- The **Digital Rupee (CBDC)** also made strong progress. Its circulation value grew by **334%**, reaching **₹1,016.5 crore**.

This shows that while cash is still important, more people and businesses are turning to **digital transactions**.

3. Foreign Investment and Corporate Bond Markets

The RBI also monitors **foreign investment in India's financial markets**.

- In FY25, **Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)** in **corporate bonds** rose by **11.4%**, totaling **₹1.21 lakh crore**.
- However, the percentage of limit used declined slightly to **15.8%** (from 16.2%), not because of reduced interest but due to a higher investment cap.

This indicates that **foreign investors remain confident**, and there is **room for further investment**.

4. Currency Printing and Counterfeit Notes

As part of managing the currency supply, the RBI prints banknotes every year.

- In FY25, **₹6,373 crore** was spent on **currency printing**, a **25% increase** from the previous year.
- The increase was driven by higher demand for new notes and replacement of old ones.

Fake Notes Concern:

- A rise in **counterfeit ₹500 notes** was recorded, with cases increasing by **37.3%**.
- Fake ₹200 notes** also saw a **13.9%** rise.
- Other denominations saw a drop, but **overall counterfeiting remains a concern**, pushing the RBI to strengthen security features.





5. Economic Growth and Inflation Outlook

The RBI is optimistic about India's economic growth.

- **Real GDP growth** for FY26 is projected at **6.5%**, supported by:
 1. Higher consumer spending,
 2. Strong government capital expenditure, and
 3. A growing services sector.
- India's **banking and corporate sectors** are also in good health, contributing to this growth.

Inflation Expectations:

- The RBI aims to keep **inflation at around 4%**.
- This depends on **normal monsoons**, strong food supply, and stable global oil prices.
- However, the report warns of risks from **climate change, geopolitical tensions, and global trade disruptions**.

6. Cybersecurity and Digital Banking Reforms

As digital banking grows, the RBI is working to improve **online safety**.

- In February 2025, it proposed a new internet domain: **'bank.in'**, to ensure that users only access **verified banking websites**.
- This aims to reduce **phishing, identity theft, and fraud**.

UPI Advancements:

- The **'UPI Circle'** feature lets trusted individuals make payments from your account.
- **Small Finance Banks** are now allowed to offer **pre-approved credit lines** via UPI, helping people access short-term loans easily.
- RBI is also working to **connect UPI with international payment systems**, which will simplify **foreign remittances**.

7. Gold Reserves and Exchange Rate Management

- The RBI increased its **gold holdings** by **54.13 metric tonnes**, and the total value rose to **₹4.32 lakh crore**, a **57.12% rise**.
- This was due to new purchases, higher global gold prices, and a weaker Indian rupee.

The RBI will continue managing the **rupee exchange rate** through foreign exchange market interventions to avoid sharp volatility.

8. Banking Sector Health and Frauds

Fraud Cases:

- Although the **number of bank frauds** fell, the **total value of frauds tripled** to **₹36,014 crore**.
- This was due to **reporting of old frauds** (legacy cases), including 122 frauds worth over ₹18,000 crore that were not recorded earlier.

Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs):

- UCBs showed improvement:
 1. **Credit growth** increased,
 2. **Capital strength** improved,
 3. **Non-performing assets (bad loans)** fell.
- The RBI extended **Risk-Based Supervision** and **Prompt Corrective Action (PCA)** frameworks to cover more UCBs, boosting transparency.

9. Household Savings and Capital Market Activity

Household Financial Savings:

- **Gross financial savings** rose to **11.2% of income**, from 10.7% last year.
- **Net savings** rose to **5.1%**, indicating better personal money management.

Stock Market Trends:

- Companies raised **₹2.2 lakh crore** via **Qualified Institutional Placements (QIPs)** and **preferential shares**.
- Another **₹2.1 lakh crore** came from **IPOs, FPOs, and rights issues**.
- This shows high **investor confidence** and growing **corporate expansion**.

10. Promoting INR in Global Trade

To make the Indian Rupee more important in international trade, the RBI has taken several steps:

- **NRIs and foreigners** can now hold **INR accounts abroad**.
- RBI signed **Local Currency Settlement (LCS)** agreements with:
 1. **UAE**
 2. **Indonesia**
 3. **Maldives**
 4. **Mauritius**





- These deals allow trade to happen directly in **local currencies**, reducing reliance on the US dollar.
- The RBI also plans to connect its **forex platform FX-Retail** with **NPCI's Bharat Connect** for easier access to forex trading.

11. India's International Trade Outlook

Despite global challenges like:

- Rising **geopolitical tensions**
- **Protectionist trade policies**
- **Tariff uncertainties**

India's trade position is supported by:

- **14 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)**
- **6 Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs)**
- Ongoing talks with the **USA, EU, Oman, and Peru** for new trade deals.

This may help protect Indian exports and support economic growth.

Fast Facts: RBI at a Glance

- **Established:** April 1, 1935
- **Legal Authority:** RBI Act, 1934
- **Governor (2025):** Sanjay Malhotra
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities		
S.No.	Name	Purpose
1.	RBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RBI has imposed monetary penalties on SBI (₹1.72 crore) and Jana Small Finance Bank (₹1 crore) for non-compliance with key regulations related to loan restrictions, customer liability in electronic fraud, and account opening norms. • The central bank clarified that the action stems from compliance deficiencies, not the legality of transactions. This development emphasizes the RBI's regulatory vigilance and its commitment to customer protection and banking discipline.
2.	RBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra has indicated a positive inflation outlook for FY26, citing declining crude oil prices and strong domestic demand. During the April 2025 MPC meeting, the committee reduced the repo rate to 6% and adopted an accommodative policy stance to stimulate economic growth. • Despite risks from global trade tensions, most MPC members echoed optimism on inflation but cautioned against potential external shocks.
3.	RBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RBI's new mandate under the Digital Lending Directions, 2025, requires all regulated entities to report their digital lending apps (DLAs) on the newly launched CIMS portal starting May 13, 2025, with a deadline of June 15, 2025. • A public directory of DLAs will be released by July 1, 2025. These measures aim to protect borrowers, promote transparency, and ensure stricter oversight of digital lending service providers, particularly in light of rising complaints about unethical practices and unregulated apps.
4.	RBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RBI will soon issue new ₹20 notes under the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series, now bearing the signature of Governor Sanjay Malhotra. • These notes will have no changes in design, colour, or features, and will retain the Ellora Caves motif. The RBI confirmed that older notes remain valid, emphasizing this as a routine update following leadership change.
5.	RBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RBI has cancelled the licence of HCBL Co-operative Bank due to its inability to meet capital and earning standards, posing a risk to depositors. • The UP Cooperative Registrar has been directed to liquidate the bank, with over 98% of depositors insured up to ₹5 lakh by the DICGC. This decision upholds banking discipline, strengthens deposit protection, and addresses regulatory non-compliance.
6.	RBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In FY2024-25, the RBI sold a record \$398.71 billion in foreign exchange to defend the rupee, which dropped to an all-time low of ₹87.95 against the US dollar. • This aggressive intervention was spurred by global uncertainty, particularly related to fears of a Donald Trump return and protectionist trade policies. Despite an increase in the ceiling for FCNR(B) deposits, capital inflows remained low. This strategy led to a significant depletion of forex reserves, underscoring the high cost of defending the rupee in volatile times.




Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
7.	RBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RBI's establishment of the Payments Regulatory Board (PRB) marks a significant advancement in India's payment system governance. The PRB includes six members, combining RBI officials and government nominees for the first time, fostering closer collaboration in regulating and supervising the payment ecosystem. The RBI Governor chairs the board, maintaining central bank leadership. This structural reform responds to the growth and complexity of digital payments, aiming to enhance regulation, security, and innovation in India's rapidly evolving financial landscape.
8.	RBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RBI has approved the largest-ever surplus transfer of ₹2.68 lakh crore to the Central Government for FY 2024-25. This financial boost follows an increase in the Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB) to 7.5% under the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF). The RBI Board, led by Governor Sanjay Malhotra, assessed the macroeconomic outlook and approved the transfer based on strong financials and prudent provisioning. The surplus will significantly support government expenditure, reduce fiscal deficit, and reflect the post-COVID economic rebound.

SEBI News

S.No	Announcement	Key Details
1.	Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India Chief Rejects Aptitude Test for Retail F&O Traders, Cites Strong Existing Safeguards Against Fraud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chief Tuhin Kanta Pandey ruled out the possibility of introducing an aptitude test for retail traders before they can trade in the Futures & Options (F&O) The reasoning behind this decision is based on concerns about practicality and regulatory overreach. Key Highlights : Regulatory Measures for Speculation in Derivatives:In November 2023, Sebi introduced measures to curb excessive speculation in derivatives. A Sebi study found that 9 out of 10 retail investors lose money while trading in F&O instruments. Certification Mechanisms for Specific Market Participants:Sebi has certification mechanisms for certain market participants, such as NISM certification for advisors and registered participants. Individual Responsibility and Autonomy:Sebi emphasizes that individuals should have the autonomy to manage their finances and should not be restricted by unnecessary tests or regulations. There is a strong belief in individual choice, with people encouraged to make their own investment decisions, including trading in F&O products. Leverage and Risk Management:Sebi discourages the use of leverage for trading, citing the high-risk nature of leveraged products. The regulator does not allow leverage buyouts or leveraged trading in Alternative Investment Funds (AIF). Checks and Balances in the Financial System:Sebi Chairman highlighted that there are sufficient checks and balances in place to tackle frauds in the financial system. The exchanges act as the first line of defense, with extensive disclosures and auditing happening regularly. Addressing Insider Trading and Fraud:Sebi takes insider trading seriously and acts promptly when violations are detected. The regulator focuses on building a watertight case to ensure legal challenges are successfully addressed.





S.No	Announcement	Key Details
2.	Securities and Exchange Board of India Mandates ₹1 Crore Minimum Investment and Demat for Securitised Debt Instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) mandates a minimum ticket size of ₹1 crore for securitised debt instruments (SDIs) for both RBI-regulated and unregulated originators involved in securitisation activities. Definition of Securitised Debt Instruments (SDIs):SDIs are financial products created by pooling various types of debt (such as loans, mortgages, or receivables) and selling them as securities to investors. Purpose of Securitisation:Securitisation helps convert illiquid assets into liquid ones, providing alternative funding sources for originators (like banks). Key Highlights: Subsequent Transfers:The minimum ticket size for subsequent transfers of SDIs will also be ₹1 crore for originators not regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Listed Securities Underlying SDIs:For SDIs backed by listed securities, the minimum ticket size will be the highest face value among the underlying securities. Public Offers for SDIs:Public offers for SDIs must remain open for a minimum of three days and a maximum of ten days, with advertisement requirements in line with SEBI's regulations for non-convertible securities. Risk Management and Retention:Originators must retain at least 10% of the risk in the securitised pool. For receivables with a maturity of up to 24 months, the retention requirement is 5%. Holding Period Requirement:SEBI mandates a minimum holding period for originators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 months for loans with a tenor of up to two years 6 months for loans with a tenor of more than two years Amendment of Rules: SEBI has amended the "issue and listing of securities debt instruments and security receipts" rules to enforce these new requirements. Optional Clean-up Call:Originators can optionally repurchase up to 10% of the original value of the assets to manage the longevity of the pool. Permissible Assets Underlying SDIs: The updated definition of "debt/receivables" limits underlying assets to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listed debt securities Accepted trade receivables Rental incomes Equipment leases Re-securitisation and synthetic securitisation are disallowed
3.	Securities and Exchange Board of India Imposes Cooling-Off Period for Directors of Market Infrastructure Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has amended the SECC Regulations, 2018 and Depositories and Participants Regulations, 2018 to enhance governance at Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) such as stock exchanges, clearing corporations, and depositories. A mandatory cooling-off period is now required for non-independent directors before they can join the board of a competing MII. For public interest directors, after completing their term at an MII, they may be appointed to another competing MII for a further three-year term, subject to SEBI's prior approval. The cooling-off rule applies only when public interest directors move to a competing institution.





S.No	Announcement	Key Details
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) include stock exchanges, clearing corporations, and depositories. The cooling-off period is designed to strengthen governance at MIIs and safeguard market integrity. The decision followed a SEBI board review in March regarding the appointment of key officials at stock exchanges and other market institutions, with a focus on a cooling-off period before joining competing institutions.
4.	Securities and Exchange Board of India Strengthens Governance by Tightening and Standardising Internal Audit Norms for Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has tightened and standardised the internal audit mechanism norms for Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) to strengthen governance. Managing Directors (MDs) are barred from being part of audit committees. What are Market Infrastructure Institutions? Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) are organizations that provide the essential facilities for trading, clearing, and settling financial instruments like stocks, bonds, and derivatives. They are the backbone of a robust and well-regulated financial market. Key Highlights : Key Managerial Personnel (KMPs) may be invited to audit committee meetings with approval of the committee's chairman but without voting rights. Auditors and KMPs have the right to be heard in audit committee meetings when the auditor's report is discussed but do not have voting rights. The new norms will be effective after three months from the circular. The internal auditor must cover all functions and activities of MIIs, including critical verticals like operations, regulatory, compliance, risk management, investor grievances, and business development. MIIs may standardise terms of reference for internal auditors in consultation with the industry standards forum of MIIs. The internal auditor must report only to the audit committee. Internal auditor's observations must be sent to respective heads of departments for comments to be included in the final report. The audit committee will set the internal audit timelines. The internal auditor must appraise the audit committee at least twice a year, within 60 days after September and March, on critical issues of the MII in the absence of management. SEBI inspections revealed substantial audit observations were not captured earlier, highlighting the need for strengthening the internal audit mechanism.
5.	Securities and Exchange Board of India Board to Meet in June to Streamline Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) board is next scheduled to meet on June 18 to approve a slew of measures aimed at taking forward the theme of ease of doing business and optimisation regulations for market intermediaries and different segments. Streamline and ease Qualified Institutional Placements (QIPs) by simplifying documentation and removing extra paperwork. Align Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) with equities for regulatory consistency. Ease compliance requirements for Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs), including allowing co-investment options via separate vehicles. Provide flexibility for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) investing only in government bonds by simplifying registration.





S.No	Announcement	Key Details
6.	Securities and Exchange Board of India Grants Approval to JioBlackRock Asset Management to Launch Mutual Fund Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jio BlackRock Asset Management Private Ltd, 50:50 joint venture between Jio Financial Services Ltd (JFSL) and BlackRock has received regulatory approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to start operations as an investment manager for its mutual fund business in India. JioBlackRock aims to offer an innovative investment proposition to Indian retail mutual fund investors and institutional investors. The company plans to launch a range of investment products utilizing BlackRock's expertise in data-driven investing. Sid Swaminathan has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of JioBlackRock Asset Management. This move marks an important step in expanding India's mutual fund industry and increasing retail and institutional investor participation.
7.	Securities and Exchange Board of India likely to relax F&O position limits for structured products and market-linked debentures (MLDs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market Regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is considering exempting the proposed long delta end-of-day position limits in index options specifically for structured products and market-linked debentures (MLDs). Key Highlights : Structured products or MLDs are pre-packaged investments linked to an index or basket of securities, combining debt and equity derivatives used primarily for hedging. The structured products/MLDs industry is estimated to be worth nearly ₹30,000–40,000 crore, including listed MLDs. Issuers of MLDs and structured products have made representations to SEBI seeking exemptions from proposed exposure caps, arguing that limits may hinder genuine hedging and cause unnecessary unwinding of positions. SEBI is in discussions with such entities and is expected to give relaxations in addition to increasing the proposed delta long gross limits. As a matter of principle, SEBI agrees that hedging tools should not have stringent limits to avoid harming legitimate market activity. SEBI plans to revise the proposed limits to: Gross limits: ₹10,000 crore End-of-day limit: ₹1,500 crore on a delta-based gross interest SEBI is likely to remove the earlier proposed intraday net limit of ₹1,000 crore and gross limit of ₹2,500 crore. Instead, SEBI will strengthen monitoring by stock exchanges to prevent market manipulation. Earlier (February, 2022), SEBI had proposed: Net end-of-day future equivalent limit: ₹500 crore Gross limit: ₹1,500 crore Currently, there is a net limit of ₹500 crore but no gross limit.

Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs

- In FY25, **foreign banks** like **HSBC** and **American Express** emerged as top performers in **net credit card additions**, according to **RBI data**. HSBC added **216,997 cards**, while Amex added **107,086**, reversing past declines and capitalizing on India's **growing digital payment** ecosystem. The overall **banking industry** added **8 million+ cards**, underscoring a **surge in consumer credit demand** and the revival of **foreign players' retail banking** ambitions in India.
- India's sovereign credit profile received a **notable boost** from **Morningstar DBRS** on May 9, 2025, with both long-term and short-term ratings being upgraded. This reflects India's successful navigation through **structural reforms, digital transformation, and fiscal consolidation**, all while maintaining **high growth and macroeconomic stability**. The report also suggests that with further reforms and reduced debt, India's rating could climb even higher.





- In FY25, Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in India achieved a **record cumulative profit** of ₹1.78 lakh crore, driven largely by the **State Bank of India (SBI)** which alone contributed over **40%** of the total. The **profit growth of 26%** over FY24 underscores the success of the **government's 4R reform strategy—Recognising NPAs, Resolution, Recapitalisation, and Reforms**. This financial turnaround, from a **loss of ₹85,390 crore in FY18** to current historic profits, highlights the impact of policy changes including **recapitalisation, bank mergers, and emphasis on credit discipline and technology adoption**.

Banking Current Affairs of April 2025

S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	Axis Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Axis Bank, in partnership with J.P. Morgan and its blockchain unit Kinexys, has launched India's first 24/7 US dollar payment service for commercial clients, operating from GIFT City. This real-time dollar clearing facility enhances liquidity management, reduces costs, and ensures full payment transfers without deductions. It also supports same-day settlements and benefits trade with Middle Eastern countries where Sundays are business days.
2.	Bandhan Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In April 2025, several significant announcements were made in India's banking sector. Bandhan Bank launched the Elite Plus Savings Account for High Net-worth Individuals (HNIs), offering benefits like unlimited cash deposits and enhanced insurance coverage. Bank of Baroda introduced the bob Square Drive Deposit Scheme, providing attractive interest rates (up to 7.80% p.a.) for senior citizens and general customers.
3.	SBI Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBI Card has partnered with Tata Digital to launch the Tata Neu SBI Card, available in two variants: Tata Neu Plus and Tata Neu Infinity. Both cards offer rewards (NeuCoins), with up to 10% on purchases from Tata Neu and partner brands, redeemable for groceries, fashion, and travel. Benefits include lounge access, spend-based annual fee reversal, and cashback on bill payments.
4.	State Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Bank of India (SBI) has reintroduced its 'Amrit Vrishti' FD Scheme from April 15, 2025, with revised interest rates targeting mainly senior (7.55%) and super-senior citizens (7.65%), while the general public will earn 7.05% on a unique 444-day tenure. Originally launched in July 2024 and closed in March 2025, the scheme returns with no fixed deadline, aiming to ensure secure, high-return investment options for the elderly under SBI's senior citizen-focused financial products.
5.	Punjab National Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On its 131st Foundation Day (April 12, 2025), Punjab National Bank (PNB) launched 34 new products and services to enhance financial inclusion, digital banking, and cybersecurity awareness. Key highlights include 12 deposit schemes for diverse groups like women, farmers, NRIs, and pensioners, and 10 digital tools such as the AI-powered assistant "Pihu" and QR-based feedback system. The "Cyber Run" Half Marathon promoted safe digital practices under the theme "Empowering a Secure Digital India."
6.	State Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced a new customer engagement initiative by deploying 'Grahak Mitras' at select branches. These trained personnel, from SBI's subsidiary State Bank Operations Support Services (SBOSS), assist customers with digital banking and self-service platforms, aiming to decongest branches and promote alternate banking channels.

RBI News

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
1.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2025, marking nine decades of financial governance and monetary policy regulation. Established on April 1, 1935, under the RBI Act, 1934, it was nationalized in 1949. Key milestones include economic liberalization in 1991, and recent advancements in digital payments and financial inclusion. The first Governor was Sir Osborne Smith, while Sir C.D. Deshmukh was the first Indian Governor.
2.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On April 2, 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that 98.21% of Rs 2000 banknotes have been returned to the banking system, with only Rs 6,366 crore still in public hands. Following the RBI's decision to withdraw Rs 2000 notes from circulation, first announced on May 19, 2023, the notes' circulation has significantly declined since their introduction in November 2016 post-demonetization.




Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
3.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will transition 500 financially weak Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) from the Supervisory Action Framework (SAF) to the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework starting April 1, 2025. This shift aims to enhance regulatory oversight, ensure early intervention, and restore financial stability.
4.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued new guidelines for Government of India-guaranteed Security Receipts (SRs) by Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) to enhance bad loan resolution and financial stability. Key provisions include reversal of excess provisions to P&L accounts, stricter capital treatment by deducting non-cash SRs from CET1 capital, and a revised valuation methodology requiring periodic valuation based on Net Asset Value (NAV) and recovery ratings.
5.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised ATM withdrawal charges, increasing the fee from Rs 21 to Rs 23 per transaction for withdrawals exceeding the monthly free limit, effective May 1, 2025. Customers will still get five free transactions at their own bank's ATMs, three at other banks' ATMs in metros, and five in non-metros. The revised charges also apply to cash recycler machines, except for cash deposits. This change aims to compensate banks for rising ATM maintenance costs.
6.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced it will retain the existing Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) investment limits for the financial year 2025-26. The caps include 6% for Central Government Securities (G-Secs), 2% for State Development Loans (SDLs), and 15% for corporate bonds. This decision aims to maintain a stable and predictable investment environment for foreign investors in India's debt markets. For April – September 2025, the investment limits are set at ₹2.79 trillion for G-Secs and ₹8.22 trillion for corporate bonds.
7.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reserve Bank of India (RBI) authorized NPCI to revise UPI Person-to-Merchant (P2M) transaction limits, allowing greater flexibility for evolving user needs and merchant use cases, while keeping the P2P limit unchanged at ₹1 lakh. Banks can set internal limits within NPCI's range, with exceptions for P2M transactions in sectors like education, healthcare, and credit card bill payments, now permitted up to ₹2-5 lakh. The move supports fintech innovation and digital payment adoption, with risk safeguards in place.
8.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched its official and verified WhatsApp channel as part of the 'RBI Kehta Hai' campaign to promote financial literacy, digital safety, and fraud prevention. This initiative delivers real-time financial updates, enhances digital trust, and ensures inclusive outreach by tapping into WhatsApp's vast user base, especially in rural and remote areas.
9.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the license of Ajantha Urban Co-operative Bank Maryadit, Aurangabad, effective April 22, 2025, due to inadequate capital, poor earnings, and its inability to safeguard depositors' interests. The Registrar of Cooperative Societies has been directed to initiate liquidation, with depositor protection ensured under the DICGC scheme, offering up to ₹5 lakh per depositor, covering 91.55% of the bank's depositors.
10.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated all banks to migrate their web domains to the new '.bank.in' domain by October 31, 2025, to enhance cybersecurity and reduce fraud in digital banking. The migration aims to address threats like phishing attacks and increase trust in digital banking services. The Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) will serve as the exclusive registrar for the new domain, while the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) will support the initiative.
11.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued revised guidelines permitting minors aged 10 and above to independently open and operate savings and term deposit accounts, aiming to foster early financial literacy. While guardian-operated accounts remain an option for all minors, banks may allow independent operation based on their risk management policy, ensuring no overdraft and maintaining a credit balance at all times.





SEBI News

S.No	Announcement	Key Details
1.	SEBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEBI has revised the cut-off timings for redemption in overnight and liquid mutual fund schemes, effective June 1, 2025, under its Upstreaming Framework (Dec 2023) to enhance client fund safety. For offline mode, the cut-off is 3:00 PM, while for online mode (overnight funds only), it's extended to 7:00 PM for same-day NAV. This move, backed by AMFI and SEBI's Mutual Funds Advisory Committee, ensures smoother collateral use and tighter fund security, directly impacting returns based on redemption timing.

Banking Current Affairs of March 2025

S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	YES BANK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YES BANK partnered with the World Trade Center (WTC) Mumbai to host the Export Conclave 2025 at YES BANK House, focusing on empowering MSMEs, enhancing India's export ecosystem, and discussing trade trends, challenges, and global market opportunities. The event highlighted trade facilitation, financial support, and innovation in export services.
2.	Bank of Baroda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank of Baroda has received the ISO 22301:2019 Business Continuity Management System (BCMS) certification from the British Standards Institution (BSI), highlighting its commitment to operational resilience, business continuity planning, and risk management. The certification recognizes the bank's strategies to mitigate risks, minimize disruptions, and ensure swift recovery during crises.
3.	City Union Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Union Bank (CUB) has partnered with Chennai Super Kings (CSK) to launch a co-branded credit card offering exclusive rewards, special offers, and unique cricket-related experiences for CSK fans, enhancing their purchasing experience and team spirit.
4.	State Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On International Women's Day 2025, the State Bank of India (SBI) launched 'SBI Asmita', a collateral-free digital SME loan aimed at women entrepreneurs. This initiative seeks to simplify financing access for women-led MSMEs through a digital, hassle-free process. Additionally, SBI introduced the 'Nari Shakti' platinum debit card, designed for women, offering benefits across multiple categories.
5.	Bank of Baroda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank of Baroda (BoB) introduced the 'bob Global Women NRE & NRO Savings Account', a first among public sector banks, designed specifically for women NRIs. This account offers premium banking privileges, concessional loan rates, and insurance benefits to empower women. Additionally, BoB revamped its 'bob Premium NRE & NRO Savings Account' to enhance the customer experience with new features and benefits.
6.	ICICI Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICICI Bank has appointed Kamal Wali as the new Head of its Security Operations Center to strengthen cybersecurity and risk mitigation. With over 18 years of experience, he will lead security strategies to enhance the bank's digital infrastructure and safeguard customer data amid evolving cyber threats.
7.	City Union Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Union Bank (CUB) has partnered with Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) as its exclusive banking partner. The collaboration offers customised financial solutions, exclusive offers, and enhanced digital banking services to SRH fans, players, and staff, strengthening CUB's presence in the sports sector.
8.	State Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Bank of India (SBI) is setting up a specialized unit to manage project financing for emerging industries like AI, e-commerce, and fintech. This initiative aims to diversify SBI's project finance operations beyond traditional sectors. The project is expected to be completed within a year, with plans to recruit specialized professionals and appoint an external consultant.
9.	State Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Bank of India (SBI) is setting up a specialized unit to manage project financing for emerging industries like AI, e-commerce, and fintech. This initiative aims to diversify SBI's project finance operations beyond traditional sectors. The project is expected to be completed within a year, with plans to recruit specialized professionals and appoint an external consultant.





RBI News

RBI's 'Regulations at a Glance': Key Insights for Cooperative Banks

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the “Regulations at a Glance” handbook, compiled by the Department of Regulation (DoR), to offer a broad overview of key regulatory guidelines applicable to various banking entities, including cooperative banks. The handbook summarizes major regulations in a tabular format for easy reference but does not replace official circulars, Master Circulars, or Master Directions.

This article highlights essential regulatory provisions applicable to cooperative banks as outlined in the handbook.

Key Regulations for Cooperative Banks

1. Licensing of New Institutions

Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)

- Minimum paid-up capital/net worth: ₹12.5 lakh – ₹4 crore (depending on location and population size).
- Note: RBI has stopped accepting fresh applications for new UCBs since 2004.

Rural Cooperative Banks (StCBs & CCBs)

- Declared as State Cooperative Banks (StCBs) or Central Cooperative Banks (CCBs) by the state government.
- RBI grants licenses based on NABARD's recommendations and internal assessment.

Promoters' Criteria

- Evaluated on educational qualifications, professional competence, financial strength, capital mobilization ability, and membership eligibility.

2. Branch Licensing

Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)

- Automatic Route: UCBs classified as Financially Sound and Well Managed (FSWM) can open branches up to 10% of existing branches (min. 1, max. 5).
- Approval Route: FSWM UCBs must submit an Annual Business Plan (ABP) to RBI's regional office by December 15.

State Cooperative Banks (StCBs)

- Require NABARD & RBI approval with conditions like:
- CRAR \geq 9%, NNPA \leq 5%, compliance record, and no penalties in last two years.

District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs)

Additional requirements,

- Operational for at least 3 years and net profit in last 2 years.
- Not under RBI restrictions.

3. Governance Framework

Regulated by

- State/Central Cooperative Society laws.
- Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949 (since 2020).

Key Provisions

- UCBs must form an Audit Committee of the Board.
- Fit and proper criteria for directors, MD/CEO, and WTD.
- Maximum continuous tenure limits for directors.
- Larger UCBs must appoint an independent Chief Risk Officer (CRO).
- NABARD issues governance guidelines for rural cooperative banks.

4. Credit Risk Management

Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)

- Loan against shares, bonds, and debentures: Max ₹10 lakh, LTV 50%.

Rural Cooperative Banks

- Loan against shares, bonds, and debentures: Max ₹5 lakh, LTV 50%.

Securitization of Standard Assets

- Allowed for SCBs, AIFs, and NBFCs.
- Not allowed for RRBs and Cooperative Banks.





5. Interest Rate Framework & Deposit Pricing

General Principles

- Uniform interest rates across all branches/customers.
- No discrimination in deposit rates for similar amounts and dates.
- No negotiation of interest rates with individual depositors.
- NRE/NRO deposit rates cannot exceed domestic deposit rates.

6. Mergers & Amalgamations

Key Provisions

- Governed by the Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949.
- RBI has discretionary power under Section 44A to approve voluntary amalgamations.
- **Private Bank Mergers:** Must be approved by shareholders (2/3rd majority) before submission to RBI.
- **UCB Mergers:** Considered only if depositors' funds are fully protected.

7. Resolution of Banking Companies & Cooperative Banks

Compulsory Amalgamation/Reconstruction

- RBI can apply to the government for restructuring under Section 45 of the BR Act.
- Section 45(4) (2020 Amendment): RBI can initiate amalgamations during a moratorium or at any other time.

Powers of RBI

- **Section 10B:** Remove Chairman/MD of a banking company.
- **Section 36ACA:** Supersede the board of banking companies.
- **Section 35A:** Issue directives for proper banking management.
- **Section 22(4):** RBI can cancel banking licenses (appeals go to the Central Government within 30 days).

Post-License Cancellation

- **Banking companies:** High Court appoints liquidator.
- **Uni-state cooperative banks:** Registrar of Cooperative Societies appoints liquidator.
- **Multi-state cooperative banks:** Central Registrar appoints liquidator.

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities		
S.No.	Name	Purpose
1.	RBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RBI imposed monetary penalties on HSBC (₹66.6 lakh) for violations related to KYC norms, foreign currency exposures, and deposit interest rate rules, and on IIFL Samasta Finance (₹33.1 lakh) for issues including interest charges before loan disbursement, NPA misclassification, and customer identification. • Additionally, three cooperative banks in Maharashtra were penalized for regulatory non-compliance.
2.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept the window open for the exchange and deposit of ₹2000 denomination notes, despite 98.18% of the total value being returned to the banking system. • This ensures that individuals still holding these notes have accessible channels for deposit or exchange.
3.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On March 3, 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed Dr. Ajit Ratnakar Joshi as its new Executive Director (ED). • He will oversee the Department of Statistics and Information Management and the Financial Stability Department. With over 30 years of experience in statistics, information technology, and cyber risk management, Dr. Joshi brings extensive expertise to his new role.
4.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 29th Meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC), chaired by Swaminathan J, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), focused on enhancing credit access to the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector. • Key initiatives discussed included promoting the Unified Lending Interface (ULI), expanding the Account Aggregator framework, and testing innovative solutions through the Regulatory Sandbox. Challenges like financial literacy gaps, information asymmetry, and delayed payments were addressed to ensure transparency, accessibility, and support for MSMEs' growth.




Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
5.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalties totaling ₹76.6 lakh on four Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) for non-compliance with regulatory norms. The penalties were issued under Section 58G of the RBI Act, 1934, and Section 30 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. The violations included issues with governance, reporting requirements, fair lending practices, capital adequacy, and fraud risk management. This action underscores the RBI's commitment to financial discipline, consumer protection, and strengthening compliance in the NBFC sector.
6.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE) have launched nationwide financial literacy campaigns under the National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE). These initiatives aim to promote financial awareness and inclusion, targeting diverse groups, especially youth (below 18 years) and senior citizens (above 60 years), to empower them with essential financial knowledge and skills.
7.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a framework to recognize a Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) for the Account Aggregator (AA) ecosystem, aiming to streamline financial data exchange, address operational challenges, and ensure compliance. This initiative enhances coordination, standardization, and dispute resolution within the AA framework, building on the 2016 AA framework and the recent recognition of the Fintech Association for Consumer Empowerment as an SRO in 2024.
8.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reported a rise in its net short position in the forward book, reaching \$77.5 billion by January 2025, up from \$67.9 billion in December 2024. This increase reflects the forex market interventions amid rupee depreciation and global trade uncertainties. The data was released in RBI's March 2025 monthly bulletin.
9.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank of Mauritius (BOM) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enable cross-border transactions using the Indian Rupee (INR) and Mauritian Rupee (MUR). This agreement aims to reduce costs and improve efficiency for exporters and importers by settling transactions in their domestic currencies, strengthening economic and financial ties between India and Mauritius.
10.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has won the Digital Transformation Award 2025 from Central Banking, London for successfully implementing its in-house digital initiatives, Pravaah and Sarthi. These advancements have improved workflow management, regulatory processes, and operational efficiency, reducing reliance on paper-based submissions.

SEBI News

S.No	Announcement	Key Details
1.	SEBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEBI recorded a 48% YoY growth in total income, reaching ₹2,075 crore in FY 2023-24, driven by higher fees and subscriptions from stock exchanges, market participants, and companies. While investment and other income also increased, total expenditure rose to ₹1,006 crore. SEBI reported substantial funds in its General Fund, Investor Protection & Education Fund (IPEF), and Disgorgement Fund, highlighting its strong financial position.
2.	SEBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEBI has reduced the minimum investment for Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) instruments on the Social Stock Exchange (SSE) from ₹10,000 to ₹1,000. This decision aims to boost retail participation and increase funding for non-profit organizations (NPOs), especially in sectors like education and healthcare. The change, effective immediately, modifies SEBI's directive from September 19, 2022, to strengthen social impact investment in India.





S.No	Announcement	Key Details
3.	Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has partnered with DigiLocker to simplify access to investors' securities holdings and reduce unclaimed assets in the market. This initiative allows investors to store and retrieve demat holdings, mutual fund statements, and Consolidated Account Statements (CAS) through DigiLocker. SEBI also introduced a nomination facility for appointing legal heirs, ensuring smooth asset transition and improving investor protection and financial transparency.

Banking Current Affairs of February 2025

S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	Airtel Payments Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with Karnataka Bulldozers for Celebrity Cricket League (CCL) 2025, becoming a co-sponsor to promote safe digital banking. This collaboration aims to enhance digital security and financial awareness among cricket fans, leveraging the sport's wide reach to engage a large audience.
2.	Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (USFB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (USFB) has applied for a universal banking licence to transition from a small finance bank to a full-fledged commercial bank. This move aims to expand financial services, enhance regulatory flexibility, and strengthen its position in the banking sector. Founded in 2017, USFB serves underserved populations and now seeks to offer a wider range of services, including corporate banking and larger loan products.
3.	South Indian Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Indian Bank (SIB) has introduced two specialized startup current account products: SIB Business Startup Current Account for small businesses and SIB Corporate Startup Current Account for larger entities. These accounts are designed to simplify banking for startups, offering flexible features to support the growing entrepreneurship ecosystem in India. The move reflects SIB's commitment to empowering startups with tailored banking solutions.
4.	State Bank of India (SBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Bank of India (SBI) reported an 84% rise in net profit for Q3 FY25, exceeding market expectations. The bank saw a 4% increase in net interest income (NII) and a significant decline in employee expenses. SBI showcased strong loan growth, improved asset quality, and higher deposit mobilization, despite a dip in the CASA ratio, maintaining robust overall financial health.
5.	Indian Overseas Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) celebrated its 89th Foundation Day on February 10, 2025, by committing to sustainability and responsible banking. The bank became a signatory of the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF), aiming to enhance transparency in measuring greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions related to its lending and investment activities.
6.	IDFC FIRST Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDFC FIRST Bank, in partnership with Ikonz Studios, has launched an AI-powered holographic avatar of brand ambassador Amitabh Bachchan in five cities. Using Holographic Extended Reality (HXR) technology, the avatar creates lifelike 3D projections that interact with customers. It provides an immersive experience, offering information on products like Zero Fee Banking, Monthly Interest Credits, Mobile Banking, and the Current Account BRAVO.
7.	Canara Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canara Bank appointed Dr. Madhavankutty G as its new Chief Economist in January 2025. With over two decades of experience in economic research, banking, and the corporate sector, Dr. Madhavankutty will shape the bank's economic strategy and guide decision-making with expertise in financial trends and macroeconomic analysis.
8.	Axis Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Axis Bank has committed ₹104 crore to Ashoka University over the next four years to enhance its PhD and Post-Doctoral programs. The funding will support the establishment of advanced research centers in Neurosciences, Behavioral Studies, and Physics, offering fellowships and research grants. This initiative aims to build world-class labs, foster interdisciplinary research, and attract global experts and scholars.





S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
9.	South Indian Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Indian Bank (SIB) launched 'SIB Quick FD', a digital solution that allows customers to invest in Fixed Deposits (FDs) using funds from any bank account via UPI. • This service simplifies the investment process, making it more accessible and customer-friendly, aligning with SIB's goal to provide easy and fast banking services.
10.	Standard Chartered Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard Chartered Bank has appointed Prabdev (P.D.) Singh as its new CEO for India and South Asia, effective April 1, 2025. Singh, a corporate banking veteran and former CEO of JP Morgan India, replaces Zarin Daruwala, who will retire after nearly a decade of leadership. • Under Daruwala's tenure, the bank expanded its Corporate and Investment Banking and Wealth and Retail Banking segments, significantly strengthening its presence in India.
11.	Karnataka Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karnataka Bank celebrated its 100th anniversary on February 18, 2024, by launching two new financial products: a children's savings account and a high-interest term deposit scheme for a limited period. • These initiatives aim to expand the bank's customer base and reinforce its market presence while emphasizing its customer-centric approach.
12.	SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd has appointed Salila Pande as the new Managing Director and CEO effective April 1, 2025, succeeding Abhijit Chakravorty, who retires on March 31, 2025. • The company also declared an interim dividend of ₹2.50 per share for the 2024-25 financial year.

RBI News

Highlights of RBI Monetary Policy Committee 2025

The **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) held its 53rd meeting from February 5 to 7, 2025, under the chairmanship of **Shri Sanjay Malhotra**, the Governor of RBI. The meeting was attended by MPC members Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Shri Saugata Bhattacharya, Prof. Ram Singh, Dr. Rajiv Ranjan, and Shri M. Rajeshwar Rao.

After evaluating the current macroeconomic conditions and future economic trends, the MPC unanimously decided to reduce the repo rate by 25 basis points (bps) and maintain a neutral monetary policy stance. This decision aligns with the RBI's commitment to inflation control, economic growth, and financial stability.

Highlights of RBI Monetary Policy Committee 2025

The **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** reached the following key decisions in the meeting:

1. Repo Rate Cut

The **policy repo rate** under the **Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)** was **reduced by 25 basis points (bps) to 6.25%** with **immediate effect**. This rate cut aims to stimulate economic growth by making borrowing cheaper for banks, businesses, and consumers.

2. Changes in Other Key Rates

Following the repo rate reduction, the RBI adjusted other key rates as follows:

- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate: Reduced to 6.00%
- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate: Set at 6.50%
- Bank Rate: Adjusted to 6.50%

3. Neutral Monetary Policy Stance

The **RBI decided to maintain a neutral stance**, ensuring flexibility in responding to future economic uncertainties. This approach will help achieve **inflation targets while supporting economic growth**.

4. Inflation Target and Economic Growth

The MPC reaffirmed its goal of maintaining **Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation at 4%** within a **+/- 2% range**, while fostering **steady GDP growth**.

Growth and Inflation Outlook

1. Global Economic Trends

The **global economy** continues to grow **below the historical average** despite resilience in **world trade expansion**. Key global economic concerns include:

- Slower disinflation
- Ongoing geopolitical tensions





- Uncertainty in global trade policies
- **Volatility in financial markets** due to the strong US dollar

These factors could **impact emerging markets like India**, influencing inflation, investment, and trade.

2. India's Growth Forecast

According to the **First Advance Estimates (FAE)**, India's **real GDP growth for 2024-25** is projected at **6.4%**. This growth is fueled by:

- Recovery in private consumption
- Strong performance in the services sector
- Gradual recovery in agriculture
- Improving industrial growth

For **2025-26**, the **real GDP growth is projected at 6.7%**, with quarterly estimates as follows:

- Q1 (April-June 2025) – 6.7%
- Q2 (July-September 2025) – 7.0%
- Q3 (October-December 2025) – 6.5%
- Q4 (January-March 2026) – 6.5%

Despite positive **domestic economic indicators**, potential **downside risks** include:

- Geopolitical instability
- Protectionist trade policies
- Fluctuating international commodity prices
- Financial market volatility

3. Inflation Trends

Inflation trends showed a decline, with **headline inflation softening in November-December 2024** from its peak of **6.2% in October 2024**. This reduction was driven by:

- **Lower food inflation** as vegetable prices declined
- **Stable core inflation across goods and services**
- **Deflation in the fuel sector**

For **2025-26**, **CPI inflation is projected at 4.2%**, with quarterly forecasts:

- Q1 (April-June 2025) – 4.5%
- Q2 (July-September 2025) – 4.0%
- Q3 (October-December 2025) – 3.8%
- Q4 (January-March 2026) – 4.2%

A **normal monsoon**, along with **good rabi crop production**, is expected to keep **food inflation in check**, while **global uncertainties and energy price volatility** pose **upside risks**.

Rationale for Monetary Policy Decisions

1. Inflation Moderation Supports Rate Cut

The **MPC noted a downward trend in inflation** and expects further moderation in **2025-26**. With **food inflation declining** and **previous monetary policies still impacting the economy**, the rate cut was seen as **necessary to support growth**.

2. Economic Growth Below Last Year's Levels

Although growth is recovering, it remains **below last year's levels**, requiring **policy intervention to boost demand**. The **repo rate reduction** is expected to:

- Encourage borrowing and investment
- Support private consumption
- Strengthen economic recovery

3. Global Uncertainties Demand Caution

While **monetary easing** is necessary, the **MPC remains cautious** due to risks from:

- Volatile global financial markets
- Uncertain trade policies
- Adverse weather events





4. Retaining a Neutral Stance for Flexibility

By maintaining a **neutral stance**, the **MPC ensures flexibility** in responding to **economic uncertainties** while keeping inflation under control.

Upcoming MPC Meetings

- MPC Meeting Minutes Publication: February 21, 2025
- Next MPC Meeting: April 7-9, 2025

The RBI will continue **closely monitoring** economic conditions and make policy adjustments as needed.

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities		
S.No.	Name	Purpose
1.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has selected Exto India Technologies to test offline payment solutions under its Regulatory Sandbox. This initiative aims to enable digital transactions in areas with limited or no internet connectivity, promoting financial inclusion. The move addresses the challenge of internet access in rural and remote regions, expanding the accessibility of digital payments across India.
2.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced liquidity-boosting measures, including a \$5 billion USD/INR buy/sell swap auction, open market operations (OMOs), and a variable rate repo (VRR) auction. These actions aim to alleviate liquidity constraints in the banking system and support economic stability.
3.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reported that only ₹6,691 crore of the ₹2000 banknotes remain in circulation, accounting for just 1.88% of the ₹3.56 lakh crore originally in use when the withdrawal was announced on May 19, 2023. This indicates that 98.12% of the high-value notes have been returned to the banking system.
4.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced exclusive internet domain names for Indian banks and financial institutions. Banks will use 'Bank.in', while non-banking entities will adopt 'Fin.in'. This move, announced by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, aims to enhance cybersecurity, reduce cyber threats, and promote secure financial transactions.
5.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Tata Communications' plan to sell its full stake in Tata Communications Payment Solutions Ltd (TCPST) to Transaction Solutions International (TSI), the Indian arm of Australian fintech company Findi. The deal is valued at ₹330 crore, with an additional ₹75 crore contingent on interchange rate adjustments.
6.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced Additional Factor Authentication (AFA) for cross-border Card Not Present (CNP) transactions to enhance digital payment security. This measure aims to secure international transactions with Indian-issued cards, ensuring they are as safe as domestic transactions. AFA is a multi-step process requiring cardholders to verify transactions through more than one method, reducing fraud and improving consumer protection in online shopping.
7.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the voluntary amalgamation of Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd. with Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd. in Hyderabad, Telangana. Effective from August 23, 2023, this merger aims to strengthen the urban co-operative banking sector by improving financial stability, risk management, and customer service. Post-merger, Twin Cities' branch will operate under Kranti Bank.
8.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a nine-member Working Group to review trading and settlement timings in India's financial markets, aiming to enhance market efficiency and align with global standards. This move responds to factors like the rise of electronic trading, 24x5 Forex trading, increased foreign investor participation, and the round-the-clock availability of payment systems. The report is expected by April 30, 2025.




Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
9.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has postponed the implementation of Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) and project financing guidelines by a year, now set for March 31, 2026. The delay addresses concerns from banks about potential liquidity challenges. The LCR norms, originally set for April 1, 2025, would have required banks to maintain more high-quality liquid assets (HQLAs), impacting credit availability. The postponement aims to avoid disruptions to lending activities and ensure financial stability.
10.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed penalties on Federal Bank Ltd (₹27.30 lakh) and Karur Vysya Bank Ltd (₹8.30 lakh) for non-compliance with regulatory guidelines. The fines were a result of violations identified in account management and credit delivery systems during RBI's inspections, underscoring its firm stance on banking compliance.
11.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced new ₹50 denomination banknotes featuring the signature of Sanjay Malhotra, the newly appointed RBI Governor. These notes, part of the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series, maintain the existing design and ensure continuity in India's currency framework. Previously issued ₹50 notes will remain valid and legal tender.
12.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed Small Finance Banks (SFBs) to offer pre-sanctioned credit lines through Unified Payments Interface (UPI). This move aims to boost financial inclusion by making credit more accessible, especially for individuals and small businesses with limited access to formal banking. The decision supports RBI's push to integrate credit into digital payment systems, benefiting millions in rural and semi-urban areas.
13.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has lifted restrictions on Kotak Mahindra Bank, allowing it to resume onboarding new customers online and issuing new credit cards. The restrictions were imposed in April 2024 due to critical IT infrastructure shortcomings identified in audits from 2022 and 2023, including issues with IT inventory management, data security, and vendor risk assessment. The bank has now implemented corrective measures to restart its digital operations.
14.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RBI has injected ₹2.5 lakh crore into the banking system through a Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auction to address liquidity shortfall. This move aims to stabilize the banking sector, ensure smooth credit flow, and prevent disruptions in financial markets.
15.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Zulia Investments (a Temasek Holdings subsidiary) to increase its stake in AU Small Finance Bank to 7%. This move underscores Temasek's growing interest in India's financial sector and the rising prominence of AU Small Finance Bank, India's largest small finance bank, serving retail and MSMEs across the country.
16.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easebuzz has received RBI authorization to operate as an online payment aggregator (PA). This approval allows the company to provide secure and seamless payment processing for businesses in India, reinforcing its compliance and expanding its role in the fintech sector.
17.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 mandates the establishment of Lokpal at the Union level and Lokayuktas at the State level to investigate allegations of corruption against public officials. The term "Lokpal" is exclusively designated for the body created under this Act and came into force on January 16, 2024, under Section 3 of the Act. However, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had introduced the Reserve Bank-Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS), 2021, which was erroneously translated into Hindi as "रिज़र्व बैंक-एकीकृत लोकपाल योजना, 2021." Since "Lokpal" is legally reserved for the anti-corruption body under the 2013 Act, corrective measures were needed.
18.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) to open a branch in GIFT City, boosting its offshore banking operations. This move supports BoM's goal to expand its business in Gujarat by 25%, aiming to exceed ₹15,000 crore by Q2 FY 2024-25, and strengthens its presence in key financial hubs across India.
19.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RBI imposed penalties on Shriram Finance (₹5.80 lakh), Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (₹6.70 lakh), and Nainital Bank (₹61.40 lakh) for regulatory violations under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.





SEBI News

S.No	Key Details
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEBI is developing a secure UPI mechanism for market intermediaries to enhance investor security and prevent fraudulent transactions. This initiative aims to ensure that payments are routed only to legitimate intermediaries, addressing the growing issue of unregistered entities misleading investors and collecting funds fraudulently.
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 1% Club, has made history by becoming one of the first finfluencer-led companies to secure the SEBI Registered Investment Advisor (RIA) license. This milestone allows the platform to legally offer personalized financial advice and services, enhancing its credibility in the financial advisory sector, where regulated advisors have been scarce.
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEBI imposed a ₹25 lakh fine on DB Realty Ltd (now Valor Estate Ltd) and seven associated individuals for financial misstatements and non-disclosures. The penalties were due to the company's failure to follow accounting standards and properly disclose a corporate guarantee provided to the Bank of India for Pune Buildtech Pvt Ltd.
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) launched MITRA (Mutual Fund Investment Tracing and Retrieval Assistant) to help investors track, trace, and reclaim inactive or unclaimed mutual fund folios. MITRA addresses issues like outdated contact details and lack of KYC compliance. It offers a searchable database for investors to locate inactive folios that have not had transactions for over ten years.
5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEBI has launched a new RPT portal to improve corporate governance and transparency in the Indian securities market. This platform enables timely and accurate reporting of Related Party Transactions (RPTs) by listed companies, ensuring comprehensive disclosure and easier monitoring by regulators and stakeholders. The initiative aims to strengthen governance standards and enhance market accountability.

Banking Current Affairs of January 2025

S. No.	Bank Name	Details
1	SBI TAB-Based Digital Onboarding for NRIs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched on January 2, 2025, this service offers faster account setup through digital document verification at SBI branches in India and select foreign offices. To enable NRIs to open NRE and NRO accounts through a digital process, eliminating physical paperwork.
2	SBI 'Har Ghar Lakhpati' and 'SBI Patrons' Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Har Ghar Lakhpati' is a recurring deposit for minors to build savings early, while 'SBI Patrons' is a fixed deposit scheme for senior citizens aged 80+ with higher interest rates. To offer tailored deposit schemes: Har Ghar Lakhpati for saving ₹1 lakh and SBI Patrons for senior citizens with enhanced interest rates.
4	HDFC Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HDFC Bank has received RBI approval to acquire up to 9.5% stake in Kotak Mahindra Bank, AU Small Finance Bank, and Capital Small Finance Bank through group entities (HDFC Mutual Fund, HDFC Life Insurance, HDFC ERGO). Approval valid until January 2, 2026. The combined stake across entities must not exceed 9.5% in each bank.
5	SBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBI revised GDP growth forecast for FY25 to 6.3%, slightly lower than NSO's 6.4%. The adjustment is due to concerns over slowdown in lending, manufacturing, and high base effect. Key factors: agriculture growth of 3.8%, industry (6.2%), services (7.2%), private consumption rise (7.3%), and expected investment growth of 6.4%. Per capita nominal GDP set to rise by ₹35,000.
6	IDFC FIRST Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDFC FIRST Bank has partnered with RuPay to launch the FIRST EA₹N RuPay Credit Card, a secured credit card that combines the benefits of a fixed deposit with the convenience of UPI transactions. This innovative card aims to provide users with enhanced financial flexibility and rewards.
7	Dhanlaxmi Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P. Suriaraj has been appointed Executive Director at Dhanlaxmi Bank, bringing valuable experience from his tenure at Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.





S. No.	Bank Name	Details
8	Punjab National Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punjab National Bank (PNB) became the first Indian bank to implement Clari5's National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) Integration Solution, enhancing fraud prevention and complaint management. Developed with the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), the system automates real-time processing of cybercrime complaints across retail banking channels like Internet Banking, ATMs, and UPI.
9	City Union Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Union Bank (CUB) won seven prestigious awards at the 19th Banking Technology Conference organized by the Indian Banks Association (IBA) in Mumbai, marking its second consecutive win. CUB was recognized in categories including Best AI & ML Bank, Best Fintech & Digital Payment Index Adoption, and Best Financial Inclusion, highlighting its commitment to innovation, digital payments, and expanding banking access to underserved populations.
10	State Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Bank of India (SBI) Payments and Pine Labs have strengthened their 12-year partnership, starting on January 25, 2025, to boost digital payments adoption across India. The collaboration focuses on enhancing merchant solutions and creating seamless payment experiences, aiming to transform the digital payment landscape and benefit both consumers and businesses.
11	Karnataka Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karnataka Bank secured top honours in six categories at the 20th Annual Banking Technology Conference, Expo & Citations, 2024 by IBA, highlighting its commitment to technological innovation. Key awards included Best Tech Talent & Organisation (Runner Up), Best IT Risk Management (Runner Up), and Best Technology Bank (Runner Up). The bank also earned special mentions for Best Fintech & Digital Payment Integration and AI/ML Adoption, emphasizing advancements in digital payments, AI-powered banking, and cybersecurity.
12	ICICI Prudential Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has partnered with Reinsurance Group of America (RGA) to launch a unique health insurance product. The product specifically caters to women's health, covering critical illnesses and surgeries. Critical Illness Coverage: The product provides an instant payout of up to 100% of the health cover amount upon the diagnosis of critical illnesses. Key covered conditions include breast cancer, cervical cancer, uterine cancer, and heart ailments. Premium Guarantee and Payment Flexibility: ICICI Pru Wish offers a premium guarantee for 30 years, helping customers plan their premium payments better. It also allows customers to take a premium sabbatical for up to 12 months during the premium payment term. Target Audience: The product is designed to address health risks specific to women, providing financial support in case of critical illnesses. Sunil Sharma, Chief Executive Officer, Reinsurance Group of America.
13	IDBI Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDBI Bank has approved the issuance of Long-Term Bonds to finance Infrastructure and Affordable Housing projects, raising up to ₹10,000 crore. The bond issuance will occur in tranches, with ₹5,000 crore expected to be raised by March 31, 2025, and the balance during FY 2025-26. Purpose of Bonds: The funds raised through these bonds will be used for financing infrastructure and affordable housing projects. Regulatory Exemptions: These long-term infrastructure bonds are eligible for certain regulatory exemptions, including relief from statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) and cash reserve ratio (CRR) requirements. Infrastructure Bonds: Banks and financial institutions use infrastructure bonds to raise funds for long-term infrastructure projects, with a minimum maturity of seven years. Relevance to Industry Trends: The move reflects the growing trend among banks to raise funds through infrastructure bonds, particularly due to slower deposit growth in the banking sector.





S. No.	Bank Name	Details
14	Indian Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Bank aims to maintain a 3.4% net interest margin (NIM) in FY25, with a possible variation of ± 10-15 basis points. <p>Key Highlights :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Factors Supporting NIM Maintenance: Loans linked to external benchmarks will reprice immediately when interest rates decline, helping to manage interest income. Around 55-60% of the bank's loans are linked to the Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rate (MCLR), providing a hedge. The bank has a strong investment portfolio with yields over 7%, which will support its margin. As interest rates decline, deposit prices will decrease, further helping to maintain NIM. Recovery Target: Indian Bank targets a recovery of ₹7,000 crore to ₹8,000 crore in FY25. The bank has already recovered ₹3,958 crore in H1FY25, making it on track to meet its annual recovery target. Digital Transformation: Over the past three years, the bank generated ₹1.8 lakh crore in digital business and increased mobile banking customers from 50 lakh to 1.81 crore. The bank has built an analytics centre of excellence using AI and ML to offer personalized products, enhancing customer experiences and operational efficiency. Employee Productivity and Transparency: Indian Bank has implemented a scientific target-setting system for employees, linking Key Result Areas (KRA) with the core banking system. This system allows employees to track their performance and fosters a culture of transparency, contributing to higher productivity. Improved Customer Service and Earnings: The bank has focused on improving customer service, which has resulted in consistent earnings over 13-14 quarters. Indian Bank has shown good quality growth post the merger with Allahabad Bank, with a significant increase in net profit. Leadership Transition: The current MD, V. Srinivasan, emphasized the importance of change management as his successor, Binod Kumar, took charge on January 1, 2025.
15	Federal Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Bank, one of India's largest private sector banks, launched FedOne, a new digital transaction banking platform. The platform is powered by Nucleus Software's FinnAxia solution. <p>Key Highlights :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation Timeline: The platform was implemented after a 10-month collaboration between Federal Bank and Nucleus Software. Purpose of FedOne: The platform aims to modernize the bank's corporate banking services and streamline treasury operations. Features of FedOne: It is designed to enhance working capital management capabilities and provide faster service delivery for corporate customers. Nucleus Software: Nucleus Software, the technology partner, supports over 200 financial institutions in 50 countries. Capital Adequacy Ratio: Federal Bank's Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) stood at 15.20% as of September 30, 2024. International Presence: Federal Bank operates Representative Offices in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, as well as an IFSC Banking Unit in GIFT City.
16	State Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a TAB-based digital onboarding process for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to facilitate the opening of NRE (Non-Resident External) and NRO (Non-Resident Ordinary) accounts. Purpose and Availability: The initiative aims to streamline the account opening process, offering it across SBI branches in India and select foreign offices. Paperless and Efficient: The process eliminates the need for physical paperwork, utilizing digital tools to verify documents and speed up the account opening. Account Types for NRIs: NRIs can open accounts denominated in Indian Rupees (NRE/NRO) or Foreign Currency, including FCNR (B) accounts in USD, EURO, GBP, CAD, JPY, and AUD. Types of Accounts: NRE and NRO accounts can be either running accounts or fixed deposits, while FCNR (B) accounts are only available as fixed deposits.





S. No.	Bank Name	Details
17	Punjab & Sind Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punjab & Sind Bank plans to launch an instant loan scheme for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), with loans up to ₹25 lakh. The scheme will be rolled out this month as part of the bank's initiative to digitally push credit. The bank has already introduced digital home loan and vehicle loan schemes, where in-principle approval is granted within 15 minutes. These schemes operate on a Straight Through Process (STP), running on a pre-defined Business Rule Engine (BRE), which automates the loan processing and sanctioning stages.
18	Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bajaj Broking, a subsidiary of Bajaj Finance Limited., has partnered with Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) to offer a 3-in-1 account solution. The 3-in-1 account combines banking, broking, and investment services, enabling seamless access to all three functions for customers. Customers of TMB will now be able to trade online through Bajaj Broking and utilize its diverse range of products and services. The platform offers integrated fund transfers, reducing paperwork and providing tech-driven investment options across various products.
19	Exim Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exim Bank of India raised \$1 billion via a 10-year USD-denominated bond, marking a significant milestone in its international fundraising efforts. The bond achieved the lowest-ever spread of 100 basis points over 10-year US treasuries for a BBB-rated issuer in Asia.
20	Punjab National Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched its first Cybersecurity Hackathon 2024-25, with the theme Code Against Malware. The hackathon aims to address the rising threat of malware and enhance the nations cybersecurity defences. Objective: The event brings together innovators, researchers, and academicians from across India to collaborate on developing advanced solutions for cybersecurity in the banking sector.
21	Indian Overseas Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) is selling Rs 11,500 crore worth of non-performing assets (NPAs) to asset reconstruction companies (ARCs). The sale involves 46 loan accounts and is part of the bank's effort to enhance its asset quality.
22	State Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Bank of India (SBI) chairman C S Setty has suggested creating a common mechanism to track the utilization of funds raised by Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) through debt and equity. This mechanism aims to provide comfort to lenders and investors and enhance the competitiveness of pricing. The system would ensure that funds are used for the intended purposes, minimizing risks related to misallocation.
23	Bank of Baroda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank of Baroda (BoB) has announced setting up AI-driven customer support, full-fledged branches with forex transaction facilities in Prayagraj to facilitate the visitors. As the convenor of the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC), Uttar Pradesh, BoB is leveraging Maha Kumbh to promote digital payments, offer AI-driven customer support, and provide robust banking infrastructure. BoB is establishing two full-fledged branches with forex transaction facilities. It is setting up onsite and mobile ATMs, along with coin vending machines, to cater to diverse banking needs. The Bank has developed a GenAI-powered Virtual Relationship Manager, Aditi, to answer banking-related queries and enhance customer service to the pilgrims visiting Mahakumbh. The Maha Kumbh is being celebrated after 12 years, and over 45 crore devotees are expected for the event.





S. No.	Bank Name	Details
24	Suryoday Small Finance Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB) announced its partnership with Tata Digital to extend its FD offerings. This collaboration will enable SSFB to leverage Tata Neu's reach, providing retail customers with access to the deposit scheme. SSFB's FD offering will be available on the Tata Neu platform, where customers can invest in fixed deposits at interest rates of up to 9.1% without the need for a savings account. Customers can start investing with as little as Rs. 1,000 and the onboarding process can be completed in a few minutes.
25	Bank of Baroda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank of Baroda (BoB) has partnered with Truworth Wellness to extend an enhanced wellness program for its 75,000+ employees and their families. The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is focused on improving emotional, mental, and psychological well-being. It provides confidential counseling with experts to address issues like anxiety and stress. Employees and their families can access counseling through various modes: in-person, video calls, or a 24/7 helpline. A mobile app is also available, offering wellness assessments, mood trackers, and AI-based virtual therapy. Truworth Wellness, founded in 2011, specializes in providing corporate wellness solutions with a preventive approach.
26	India to reduce stakes in 5 public sector banks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India is considering reducing its ownership in 5 state-run banks, including UCO Bank, Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, and Punjab and Sind Bank, through stake sales or allowing the banks to sell shares to large investors. <p>Key Highlights :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum Public Holding Norms: The goal is to bring down the government's stake in these banks below 75% to meet regulatory norms. Methods of Stake Reduction: The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) may facilitate the stake sales. The alternative is for the banks to sell shares to large investors, which will help them meet the required public holding norms. Liquidity and Lending: Allowing stake sales will improve the liquidity of these banks, which could enable them to lend more, especially as analysts suggest asset quality in the banking sector may have peaked amid slowing economic growth. Market Response: Shares of UCO Bank and Indian Overseas Bank surged significantly, indicating strong investor interest in state-run banks. Performance of State-Run Banks: Over the last 12 months, state-owned bank stocks have shown a positive performance, with a 4% increase in the Nifty gauge of state-owned banks, contrasting with a 3.6% decline in the Nifty Private Bank index. Valuation of Banks: The banks where the government plans to reduce its stake are trading at a price-to-book ratio between 1.43 and 3.62, compared to the State Bank of India's price-to-book ratio of 1.44.
27	Bank of Baroda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank of Baroda (BoB) raised Rs 5,000 crore through a 10-year infrastructure bond at a coupon rate of 7.23%. The infrastructure bond issued by BoB was rated AAA by CRISIL and India Ratings, indicating a high credit rating. <p>Key Highlights :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue Details: The base issue size was Rs 2,000 crore, with a green shoe option of Rs 3,000 crore, allowing for an additional issue of bonds. The demand for the bond was strong, with total demand amounting to Rs 14,830 crore, which was 7.5 times the base issue size. Full Issue Amount Retained: BoB decided to retain the full issue amount of Rs 5,000 crore despite the demand exceeding the issue size.





S. No.	Bank Name	Details
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IRFC's Bond Issuance: The Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) also raised Rs 2,780 crore through 10-year bonds at a 7.25% interest rate. The base issue size was Rs 500 crore, and the green shoe option was Rs 2,500 crore. Demand for IRFC Bonds: IRFC received bids worth Rs 6,030 crore but retained Rs 2,780 crore, falling short of its target amount. IREDA's Upcoming Bond Issue: The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) plans to raise Rs 1,500 crore through a 10-year bond issuance later in the week, with bonds rated AAA by ICRA and India Ratings
28	3 Indian Banks Rank Among Top 25 Global Banks by Market Cap	<p>According to a report by GlobalData, a leading data analytics and research company, 3 Indian banks -HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, and State Bank of India (SBI) ranked in the top 25 global banks by market capitalization for Q4 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HDFC Bank: Ranked 13th with a market cap of \$158.5 billion. ICICI Bank: Ranked 19th with a market cap of \$105.7 billion. SBI: Ranked 24th with a market cap of \$82.9 billion.

RBI News

RBI's Financial Stability Report, 2024

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released its **Financial Stability Report (FSR)** for December 2024, providing a comprehensive analysis of the Indian financial system's health. The FSR is published **biannually**, typically in June and December, offering insights into the stability and resilience of the financial sector.

Key Highlights from the RBI Financial Stability Report, December 2024

Economic Growth and Financial Stability

The FSR highlights that the **Indian economy is demonstrating strong resilience**, projecting a **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of 6.6% for FY25 (2024-25)**. This growth is driven by:

- A resurgence in rural consumption
- Increased government spending and investment
- Robust services exports
- Declining Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)
- Adequate capital and liquidity buffers

However, the report also notes a **moderation in GDP growth to 6% in the first half (April-September) of FY25**, compared to **8.2% in H1 and 8.1% in H2 of FY24**. Despite this, India's **structural growth drivers remain intact**.

Debt-to-GDP Ratio Trends

- **Central government debt-to-GDP ratio** is expected to decrease from **62.7% in 2020-21 to 56.8% in FY25**.
- **States' outstanding liabilities** are projected to decline from **31% to 28.8%** in the same period.

External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) and Risks

- **Unhedged External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)** reached **USD 65.49 billion**, constituting **34.4% of the total ECB debt**.
- The report warns that the **rise in foreign currency borrowings by NBFCs** could pose currency risks if left unhedged.

Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) and Banking Health

- The **Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio** for SCBs declined to a **12-year low of 2.6% in September 2024**.
- However, under **stress test scenarios**, the GNPA ratio may increase to:
 - **3% by March 2026** under the **baseline scenario**
 - **5% and 5.35%** under two different **high-risk scenarios**
- **Net NPA (NNPA) ratio** of SCBs remains stable at **0.6%**.
- **Provisioning Coverage Ratio (PCR)** increased to **77%**, primarily due to **proactive provisioning by Public Sector Banks (PSBs)**.





Banking System Liquidity and Capital Adequacy

- **Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR)** of the banking system declined from **135.7% (September 2023)** to **128.5% (September 2024)** due to increased net cash outflows.
- **Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR)** is expected to decline to:
 - **16.5% by March 2026** under the **baseline scenario**
 - **15.7% and 14.3%** under two **high-risk scenarios**
 - CAR stood at **16.6% in September 2024**.

Performance of Non-Financial Companies (NFCs)

- Listed **Private Non-Financial Companies (NFCs)** reported **stable sales growth** at **6.2% Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y)** in **H1 FY25**, similar to **H2 of FY24**.

Monetary Penalties and Banking Supervision

- RBI's **monetary penalties** on regulated entities from **June to November 2024** declined **47% to Rs 30 crore**, compared to Rs 57 crore in the same period in 2023.
- **Of 153 penalties**, fines were imposed on:
 - 5 Public Sector Banks (PSBs)
 - 5 Private Sector Banks
 - 3 Foreign Banks
 - 2 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)
 - 116 Cooperative Banks (CBs)
 - 14 NBFCs
 - 8 Housing Finance Companies

Liquidity Deficit and Market Trends

- **Liquidity deficit** stood at **2.43 trillion rupees** as of **December 23, 2024**, mainly driven by **tax outflows** and **forex interventions** by the RBI.

Three Banks Displaying Risky Metrics

- In 2014, **75% of banks examined** were deficient in **three or more Key Risk Indicators (KRIs)**.
- By **September 2024**, only **three banks** accounting for **15% of total banking system assets** exhibited **deficiencies in three KRIs**.

Loan-Deposit Ratio and Bank Profitability

- **Loan growth outpaced deposit growth**, increasing **loan-deposit ratios**.
- Banks are increasingly **relying on borrowings** to bridge funding gaps.

Understanding the Key Risk Indicator (KRI) Framework

The **KRI framework**, developed by the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, measures bank vulnerability using the **CAMELS framework**:

- **Capital Adequacy**
- **Asset Quality**
- **Management**
- **Earnings**
- **Liquidity**
- **Systems**

This framework integrates **supervisory and market-based metrics** to assess financial stability.

About the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)

- The **FSDC** is a **non-statutory apex council** under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**.
- It is chaired by the **Union Finance Minister**.
- Proposed by the **Raghuram Rajan Committee (2008)**, the FSDC monitors financial stability and coordinates financial sector policies.

Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2023-24

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the **"Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2023-24,"** offering a comprehensive analysis of the banking sector's performance during the fiscal year 2023-24. This **annual report** provides insights into various facets of the banking industry, including asset quality, profitability, capital adequacy, and emerging challenges.





Key Highlights from RBI Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2023-24

1. Asset Quality of Banks:

The gross non-performing assets (NPAs) ratio of Indian banks has fallen to a 12-year low of 2.5% as of September 2024, the lowest since 2012. This improvement is attributed to recoveries, write-offs of legacy bad loans, and more effective management of asset quality. The reduction in bad loans is reflective of better risk management and recovery efforts.

2. Projections for NPAs:

The report projects that the gross bad loan ratio could rise to 3% by March 2026 under a baseline scenario. In high-risk scenarios, it could reach up to 5.3%. While the sector anticipates some increase in NPAs, the RBI assures that banks will maintain sufficient capital and not fall below the 9% minimum capital requirement, even in adverse conditions.

3. Credit Growth and Economic Outlook:

The Indian banking sector has witnessed a significant 19% increase in credit growth during 2023-24, reflecting positive economic growth and robust demand for loans. The growth in advances is particularly strong in sectors like infrastructure, housing, and personal loans. The optimistic credit outlook is also indicative of an improving economic environment in India.

4. Digital Transformation in Banking:

The Indian banking sector has been undergoing a digital revolution, with an increase in online and mobile banking transactions. The launch of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) pilots further highlights the sector's move towards embracing cutting-edge digital financial solutions. Digital banking continues to grow rapidly, helping increase financial inclusion and improving customer experiences.

5. Strong Capital Adequacy:

The Capital-to-Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of Indian banks stood at 16.8% as of September 2024, significantly higher than the regulatory minimum of 9%. This indicates that Indian banks are in a strong position to absorb any shocks, with robust capital buffers ensuring financial stability.

6. Increasing Bank Frauds:

The report highlighted an alarming increase in bank frauds, with fraud-related cases seeing a significant rise in the first half of FY25. This trend is expected to continue, raising concerns about cybersecurity and internal controls in the banking sector. The RBI is likely to take measures to mitigate these risks going forward.

Detailed Analysis of each point

1. Asset Quality Improvement:

The banking sector has made significant strides in enhancing asset quality. The GNPA ratio's decline to 2.5% in September 2024 reflects effective recovery efforts and prudent lending practices. The reduction in Net NPAs to 0.57% indicates improved asset quality and better risk management.

2. Profitability Growth:

SCBs have demonstrated consistent profitability, with a RoA of 1.4% and RoE of 14.6% in 2023-24. This sustained growth underscores the sector's resilience and operational efficiency.

3. Capital Adequacy:

The CRAR of 16.8% as of September 2024 surpasses the regulatory minimum, ensuring banks have sufficient capital buffers to absorb potential losses and support growth.

4. Credit Growth:

The 19% increase in advances highlights robust credit demand, indicating confidence in economic recovery and expansion.

5. Digital Transformation:

The rise in digital banking transactions and the initiation of CBDC pilots reflect the sector's commitment to modernization and financial inclusion.

6. Emerging Risks:

The projected increase in the GNPA ratio to 3% by March 2026 and the rise in bank fraud cases necessitate enhanced risk management and vigilance.

RBI's Guidelines on Government Debt Relief Scheme

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued detailed guidelines for lenders participating in the **Government Debt Relief Scheme**, aiming to provide structured relief to borrowers facing financial distress. This initiative aligns with the **RBI's ongoing efforts** to enhance financial stability and support economic recovery.





Crux of the Guidelines

The RBI's guidelines outline the framework for lenders to offer debt relief to borrowers impacted by financial challenges. The scheme is designed to facilitate the restructuring of loans, ensuring that borrowers receive the necessary support while maintaining the integrity of the financial system.

Key Components of the Scheme

Eligibility Criteria: The scheme targets borrowers who have demonstrated a consistent repayment history but are currently facing financial difficulties due to unforeseen circumstances.

Restructuring Framework: Lenders are permitted to restructure loans by extending repayment periods, reducing interest rates, or converting a portion of the debt into equity, subject to specific conditions.

Regulatory Oversight: The RBI will monitor the implementation of the scheme to ensure compliance with established guidelines and to maintain financial stability.

Historical Context

This initiative builds upon previous measures taken by the RBI to address financial stress among borrowers. Notably, in 2016, **Hindustan Construction Company (HCC)** became the first firm to receive debt relief under the RBI's Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets (S4A), which allowed banks to convert a portion of the company's loans into equity or debentures.

Implications for Lenders and Borrowers

For Lenders: The guidelines provide a structured approach to managing distressed assets, enabling banks to offer relief to borrowers while safeguarding their financial interests.

For Borrowers: The scheme offers a pathway to financial recovery, allowing businesses and individuals to restructure their debts and continue operations without the immediate threat of insolvency.

RBI's 2024-25 Report on State Finances

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recent report, "State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2024-25," highlights significant improvements in the fiscal health of state governments post-pandemic, while also identifying areas requiring further attention.

Fiscal Consolidation Achievements

Gross Fiscal Deficit (GFD): States have successfully contained their consolidated GFD within 3% of GDP during 2022-23 and 2023-24, with a budgeted GFD of 3.2% for 2024-25.

Revenue Deficit: Maintained at a low 0.2% of GDP during 2022-23 and 2023-24.

Capital Expenditure: Increased from 2.4% of GDP in 2021-22 to 2.8% in 2023-24, with a further budgeted rise to 3.1% in 2024-25, indicating a focus on developmental spending.

Debt Levels and Liabilities

Outstanding Liabilities: Declined from 31% of GDP at end-March 2021 to 28.5% at end-March 2024, yet still above the pre-pandemic level of 25.3% at end-March 2019.

Contingent Liabilities: State guarantees have risen from 2% of GDP at end-March 2017 to 3.8% by March 2023, posing potential fiscal risks.

Subsidy Expenditures

Rising Subsidies: Significant increases in spending on subsidies, including farm loan waivers and free or subsidized services like electricity, transport, and gas cylinders, have been noted. For instance, 14 states have implemented income transfer schemes for women, totaling approximately ₹2 lakh crore, or about 0.6% of GDP.

Power Sector Concerns

Discom Losses: Power distribution companies have accumulated losses amounting to ₹6.5 lakh crore by 2022-23, equivalent to around 2.4% of GDP, despite multiple reform attempts.

Recommendations for Fiscal Sustainability

Debt Consolidation: The RBI emphasizes the need for a credible roadmap for debt consolidation, particularly for states with elevated debt levels, recommending clear, transparent, and time-bound strategies aligned with macroeconomic objectives.

Expenditure Efficiency: States are urged to enhance expenditure efficiency through outcome-based budgeting and to rationalize subsidies to prevent the crowding out of productive expenditures.

Fiscal Framework Reforms: Adoption of risk-based fiscal frameworks with provisions for counter-cyclical policies, along with strengthening State Finance Commissions, is advised to ensure fiscal discipline and adequate fund transfers to local bodies.





S.No.	Name	Details
1.	RBI's GDP Growth Projection for FY25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To project India's GDP growth at 6.6%, highlighting factors like rural consumption, government spending, and exports. Despite a slowdown in H1 FY25 to 6% from 8.2% in H1 FY24, India's economy remains resilient due to strong fundamentals and a robust financial system. Risks include global uncertainties and urban demand moderation.
2	Merger of National Co-operative Bank with Cosmos Co-operative Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consolidate banking operations and improve financial stability post-merger, effective January 6, 2025. The merger addresses the financial weaknesses of National Co-operative Bank. Post-merger, its branches will operate under Cosmos Co-operative Bank.
3	Name Lookup Facility for RTGS and NEFT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce fraud and errors by allowing remitters to verify beneficiaries' names before transactions. Developed by NPCI, this feature will be available via internet banking, mobile banking, and bank branches, free of charge. Banks must implement it by April 1, 2025.
4	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reserve Bank of India (RBI) added 8 tonnes of gold to its reserves, increasing India's total to 876 tonnes, making it the second-largest gold buyer globally after Poland. The RBI's strategy aligns with a global trend among central banks to bolster gold reserves as a hedge against inflation and foreign currency risks amid economic uncertainties.
5.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed M. Rajeshwar Rao, Deputy Governor, to oversee the Monetary Policy and Economic Research Departments after Michael Patra completed his term on January 15, 2025.
6.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RBI has authorized overseas branches of authorized banks to open Indian Rupee (INR) accounts for non-residents, aiming to enhance the global use of the Indian Rupee in cross-border transactions and investments. This move facilitates settling transactions with non-residents, supports Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), and allows Indian exporters to receive export proceeds and manage payments, reducing currency conversion costs.
7.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In November 2024, the RBI sold a record \$20.2 billion in the foreign exchange market to stabilize the rupee amid foreign portfolio investor (FPI) outflows. Despite purchasing \$30.8 billion and selling \$51.1 billion in the spot market, the rupee depreciated by 0.48% against the US dollar, increasing the RBI's net short position in the forward market to \$58.9 billion.
8.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced stricter guidelines for Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) to enhance transparency and accountability in borrower settlements, aligning them with bank and NBFC practices. ARCs must now establish board-approved policies detailing one-time settlement criteria, exposure-based sacrifices, and security valuation methods. For dues exceeding ₹1 crore, an Independent Advisory Committee (IAC) will assess borrower financials before recommending settlements, which must then be deliberated by the Board of Directors, including at least two independent members. For settlements below ₹1 crore, ARCs can follow board-approved policies, but asset acquisition officials cannot approve settlements to avoid conflicts of interest. Quarterly reporting is mandated, covering settlement trends, fraud/wilful default cases, and recovery timelines. Wilful defaulters and fraud cases will follow stringent procedures regardless of settlement amount, ensuring no undue leniency. These guidelines take immediate effect, reinforcing compliance and consumer protection in the ARC settlement process.
9.	RBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSBC India has received RBI approval to open 20 new branches across key cities, marking the largest foreign bank expansion in over a decade. The branches will target cities like Amritsar, Bhopal, Lucknow, Surat, and Vishakhapatnam, focusing on growing wealth pools and catering to affluent, high net worth, and ultra-high net worth clients with domestic and international banking needs.





S.No.	Name	Details
10.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated banks and regulated entities (REs) to use the '1600xx' numbering series exclusively for transactional calls and the '140xx' series for promotional communications to enhance the security of digital transactions and combat financial fraud. Banks are required to monitor and clean customer databases by utilizing the Mobile Number Revocation List (MNRL) available on the Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP) developed by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to identify and remove invalid or revoked numbers. Additionally, financial institutions must develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) for updating registered mobile numbers after verification and strengthen monitoring of accounts linked to revoked numbers to prevent misuse.
11.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed monetary penalties on Canara Bank, Bank of India, and Jammu & Kashmir Bank for regulatory compliance failures. Jammu & Kashmir Bank was fined ₹3.31 crore for violations related to financial inclusion and KYC norms. Bank of India faced a ₹1 crore penalty for non-compliance with the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, while Canara Bank was fined ₹1.63 crore for issues with priority sector lending, interest rates, and financial inclusion.
12.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2024, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Integrated Ombudsman Scheme recorded a 32.81% increase in bank customer complaints, totaling 9.34 lakh. The rise reflects growing concerns over delays in service, transaction errors, and inadequate redressal, highlighting the need for better customer service and grievance handling in the banking sector.
13.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the formation of the National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation (NUCFDC) to enhance the operational efficiency of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) in India. This initiative addresses challenges like regulatory compliance, financial stability, and technological advancement. The move comes as the number of UCBs has declined from 1,926 in 2004 to about 1,500 in 2024. NUCFDC aims to provide crucial support, including IT infrastructure and operational assistance.
14.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set the interest rate for the Government of India Floating Rate Bonds 2035 (GOI FRB 2035) at 6.66% per annum, effective from January 25, 2025 to January 24, 2030. The rate is based on the prevailing 5-year yield on Government of India securities as of January 24, 2025, reflecting current market conditions.
15.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite facing global uncertainties, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra is optimistic about India's economic prospects, citing high consumer and business confidence in 2025 and expecting an improvement in the second half of the financial year. <p>Key Highlights :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on Financial Stability: Malhotra emphasized that the RBI's focus remains on preserving financial stability, supporting higher economic growth, and ensuring systemic stability in financial institutions. Growth and Inflation: India recorded a slowdown in GDP growth to 5.4% in Q2 of FY24, with a 6% growth in the first half of the fiscal year. There are discussions about the possibility of RBI reducing policy rates to support growth, especially as inflation moderates. Strong Business Confidence: The RBI Governor highlighted that businesses are entering 2025 with robust balance sheets and high profitability, contributing to an improved investment scenario. Financial Sector Resilience: Malhotra noted that financial sector regulators are intensifying reforms and strengthening surveillance.





S.No.	Name	Details
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stress test results indicate that both banks and NBFCs will maintain capital levels above regulatory minimums even under adverse scenarios. Commitment to Financial Inclusion: Malhotra reaffirmed the RBI's commitment to developing a modern, customer-centric, technologically advanced, and financially inclusive financial system to support India's growth aspirations. Global Economic Resilience: While acknowledging challenges from geopolitical conflicts, trade uncertainties, and economic policy issues, Malhotra pointed out that the global economy shows resilience, and declining inflation may help improve global purchasing power. Medium-Term Outlook and Risks: The medium-term outlook remains uncertain, with risks from geopolitical tensions, financial market instability, climate events, and rising global indebtedness. Other risks include asset valuation concerns, challenges in the non-bank financial sector, and new emerging technologies.
16.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) has partnered with Vivifi Finance to launch a pilot project aimed at providing unsecured loans to gig workers. The pilot aims to develop a digital platform for providing loans to cab-hailing app drivers, such as those working with Ola and Uber, food delivery drivers employed by Swiggy and Zomato, and other gig workers. <p>Key Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RBI innovation hub is running a pilot with Vivifi Finance and three other gig platforms, where alternate data is being used to underwrite these gig workers. The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), established to promote and foster an environment that accelerates innovation across the financial sector. Unified Lending Interface (ULI) is a digital public infrastructure designed to provide lenders with access to critical financial, non-financial, and alternative data for informed credit decisions. Currently, 36 lenders, including banks and NBFCs, are onboarded, leveraging over 50 data services such as authentication, land records from six states, satellite data, property searches, dairy insights, and document verification. The RBIH initially launched the Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit to develop an end-to-end digital solution for agriculture loans. This platform was subsequently renamed the Unified Lending Interface and entered its pilot phase on August 17, 2023.
17.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mandates that Authorized Dealer Category-I Banks report gold derivative transactions to the Clearing Corporation of India Limited. (CCIL) trade repository. Effective Date: The reporting requirement will start from February 1, 2025 for all over-the-counter (OTC) transactions in gold derivatives conducted by banks and eligible customers. Report Submission: Banks must submit reports by noon (12:00 PM) on the next business day, including any amendments or unwinding of transactions. Retrospective Reporting: Banks are required to retrospectively report all matured and outstanding transactions from April 15, 2024, to February 28, 2025, to ensure data completeness. Quarterly Reporting: Banks must submit a quarterly report on gold derivative transactions at exchanges in International Financial Services Centres (IFSC) and overseas, including transactions by eligible customers/constituents at IFSC exchanges. This report should be submitted within ten days of the succeeding quarter, starting from the quarter ending December 31, 2024.





S.No.	Name	Details
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal Framework: These guidelines are issued under the powers vested in the RBI under Section 45W of the RBI Act, 1934, Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, and Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Scope: The guidelines apply to both domestic market transactions and those conducted in International Financial Services Centres (IFSC) or overseas.
18.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines for lenders participating in Government Debt Relief Schemes (DRS), focusing on the sacrifice of interest, principal, and loan account status. DRS are typically announced by states to provide financial relief to borrowers, especially during natural calamities, or as political promises during elections. These schemes target specific segments of borrowers, such as farmers. <p>Key Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model Operating Procedure (MOP): RBI has shared a Model Operating Procedure (MOP) with State Governments, which includes steps for consultation with State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) and District Level Consultative Committee (DCC), and guidelines for the scheme's design and funding. Provision for Dues Pending Beyond 90 Days: For any dues pending from the Government for more than 90 days, RBI has mandated a 100% provision, emphasizing that lenders must actively pursue the settlement of these dues. DRS as a Last Resort: RBI stresses that DRS should only be considered as a last resort and must be implemented following proper consultation and within a well-defined framework to avoid financial instability. No Receivables from Government: Lenders are prohibited from creating any receivable against the Government concerning DRS. Until the receipt of funds from the Government, lenders must continue applying prudential norms to the borrower accounts. Lender's Action for Settlement: Lenders must take necessary actions to follow up with the Government for the early settlement of dues and ensure proper handling of borrowers' accounts under the DRS. Applicability of Guidelines: These guidelines apply to all Commercial Banks (including Regional Rural Banks and Local Area Banks), Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks, State and Central Co-operative Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), Housing Finance Companies, and All-India Financial Institutions. Impact on Financial Stability: The RBI emphasizes that DRS must be carefully designed to avoid creating financial instability or moral hazards, and should address critical aspects like borrower identification, scheme timelines, and claim settlements. Role of Lenders in the Process: Lenders should ensure that any sacrifice in interest or principal under DRS is done in a manner that complies with the relevant asset classification, provisioning norms, and credit discipline.
19.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has lifted the restrictions on Chennai-based Asirvad Micro Finance and Delhi-based DMI Finance, effective immediately. Reason for Lifting Restrictions: The RBI was satisfied with the companies' actions to comply with regulatory guidelines, including revamped processes and systems, and their commitment to ensure adherence to regulations, particularly regarding fairness in loan pricing.
20.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KredX, a supply chain finance platform, has announced that it has received final approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to commercially launch its Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platform under the brand name DTX (Domestic Trade Exchange). With this, KredX becomes the fifth RBI-regulated TReDS platform in India, marking a significant milestone in its journey to revolutionise supply chain financing.





S.No.	Name	Details
21.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) came up with new guidelines for Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) to streamline and provide an efficient settlement process for the dues of borrowers. The new guidelines were set in motion on January 20, 2025, after a detailed review of existing rules and regulations. The guidelines aim to streamline the settlement process for borrowers' dues and enhance transparency in the recovery of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). The focus is on settlements for borrowers who have defaulted on loans, with debts managed by ARCs, ensuring fairness and efficiency in settlements while protecting the interests of both borrowers and financial institutions.

SEBI News

S.No	Announcement	Key Details
1.	Securities and Exchange Board of India	The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is launching the Integrated SEBI Portal for Technical Glitches (iSPOT) on February 3, 2025 , to replace the outdated email system. This new, structured portal will allow Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) , including stock exchanges and depositories, to report technical issues with detailed root cause analysis (RCA) . The initiative aims to improve transparency, efficiency, and real-time issue resolution , enhancing the overall financial market infrastructure .
2.	SEBI	On January 26, 2025 , SEBI launched " Dharohar – Milestones in the Indian Securities Market ", a digital repository preserving the history of India's securities market . This initiative highlights key milestones in the market's evolution over 150+ years , offering valuable insights into India's financial market development.
3.	Securities and Exchange Board of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed a ₹9 lakh penalty on Stockholding Services for violating regulatory norms. The violations were identified during Sebi's thematic inspection conducted between April 2022 and June 2023.
4.	Securities and Exchange Board of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) announced the introduction of the Mutual Funds Lite (MF Lite) framework to ease the compliance process for companies launching passively managed mutual fund schemes. The framework is designed to encourage new flows, encourage innovation and promote investment diversification in the mutual fund sector.
5.	Securities and Exchange Board of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has updated the timelines for credit rating agencies (CRAs), shifting from "days" to "working days" to improve ease of doing business and standardize processes.
6.	Securities and Exchange Board of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch, total capital market fundraising in FY2025 is expected to rise by 21% to ₹14.7 lakh crore from ₹11.8 lakh crore in FY2024.
7.	Securities and Exchange Board of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed raising the investment threshold for granular disclosures by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs). The current threshold of Rs 25,000 crore will be increased to Rs 50,000 crore for FPIs to provide detailed disclosures of their holdings.
8.	Securities and Exchange Board of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has partnered with the National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM) to launch an e-learning course on municipal bonds. Objective of the Course: The course aims to enhance the understanding of municipal bonds among municipal corporations, urban local bodies, and other stakeholders, helping them leverage bonds for urban infrastructure development. Encouraging Municipal Bond Issuance: The initiative promotes the issuance of municipal bonds as an alternative funding mechanism for urban infrastructure projects. Municipal Bonds Overview: Municipal bonds (muni bonds) are debt securities issued by urban local governments and agencies. They are used to fund everyday obligations and finance capital projects such as highways, roads, and schools.





S.No	Announcement	Key Details
9.	Securities and Exchange Board of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) tightened rules for initial public offerings (IPO) of small and medium enterprises, and tweaked the framework for merchant bankers and custodians by raising their minimum net-worth requirements. Tightened IPO Rules for SMEs : SEBI has proposed raising the minimum application size for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) IPOs from ₹1 lakh to ₹2-4 lakh.

Economy/Business Current Affairs

Economy/Business Current Affairs of June 2025

ECONOMY NEWS

- India's FY26 GDP growth forecasts saw **divergent estimates** from major global institutions. The **OECD lowered** its projection to **6.3%**, citing risks from **U.S. tariffs**, a **weak monsoon**, and ongoing **global trade tensions**. In contrast, **UBS raised** its forecast to **6.4%**, expecting support from **stronger private consumption**, **tax relief**, and potential **rate cuts by the RBI**. Despite differences, both institutions agreed that **public investment and falling interest rates** will continue to support economic activity. However, the OECD warned of a broader **slowdown in global economic growth**, projecting it at just **2.9%**.
- Meanwhile, **Nomura revised** India's GDP forecast to **6.2%**, observing a mismatch between **strong headline indicators** like GST collections and **weaker trends** in auto sales and bank credit growth. This comes in contrast to the **RBI's estimate of 6.5%**, signaling caution amid ongoing global volatility. Despite the conservative growth outlook, Nomura raised its **Nifty 50 target to 26,140**, indicating confidence in **India's macroeconomic resilience**. The brokerage also signaled a preference for **domestic-oriented sectors** over exporters. Separately, **BofA Securities** reiterated a **positive long-term outlook** on Indian equities, attributing it to continued **structural reforms** and the progress of **digitisation**.
- The **World Bank** maintained India's FY26 GDP forecast at **6.3%**, keeping it as the **fastest-growing major economy** globally. While nearly **70% of world economies** saw growth downgrades amid trade conflicts, policy ambiguity, and sluggish investment, India remained an exception. The report credited India's **strong services sector**, **low inflation**, and **RBI's monetary easing** as growth drivers. It also praised the country's **fiscal discipline**, highlighting a **medium-term target** of reducing the **public debt-to-GDP ratio to 50%** by FY31.
- India's **unemployment rate** rose to **5.6% in May 2025**, attributed largely to a **seasonal drop in rural farm employment** after the harvest. Data showed that **youth and women** were particularly affected, with **female labour force participation** falling to **27.8%**. The trend underscores persistent structural challenges in creating adequate and inclusive employment, especially in rural regions. Both **urban and rural youth unemployment** surged, drawing attention to the need for focused employment generation strategies.
- Credit rating agency **ICRA** also estimated India's FY26 GDP growth at **6.2%**, citing **weak merchandise exports**, **trade uncertainties**, and **moderating inflation** as constraints. However, it noted that **robust rural demand**, a projected **10.1% increase in capital expenditure**, and **household tax reliefs** could provide key support. Additionally, **services exports** are expected to outperform goods exports. The **fiscal deficit** is projected at **4.4% of GDP**, indicating a cautious yet steady fiscal approach. ICRA affirmed that India's **macroeconomic fundamentals remain solid**, despite external volatility.
- India's **core sector growth** slowed sharply to **0.7% in May 2025**, marking a **nine-month low**. The fall was driven by a decline in the output of **crude oil**, **natural gas**, **fertilisers**, and **electricity**. This marked the **second consecutive month** of core sector weakness, reflecting pressure on **industrial production**. However, **cement (+9.2%)** and **steel (+6.7%)** continued to show strength. The figures point to a need for **targeted policy support** in key **infrastructure and energy sectors** to maintain momentum.
- India's **net direct tax collection** declined by **1.39%** to ₹4.59 lakh crore in **Q1 FY26**, mainly due to **slower advance tax growth** and a **drop in corporate tax receipts**. While **gross direct tax collection** rose **4.86%**, a sharp **58% increase in tax refunds** significantly reduced the net collection base. Corporate advance tax saw modest growth of **5.86%**, while **non-corporate advance tax** declined by **2.68%**. These developments point to **early fiscal pressure** and the importance of **monitoring tax compliance** and the **pace of economic recovery**.

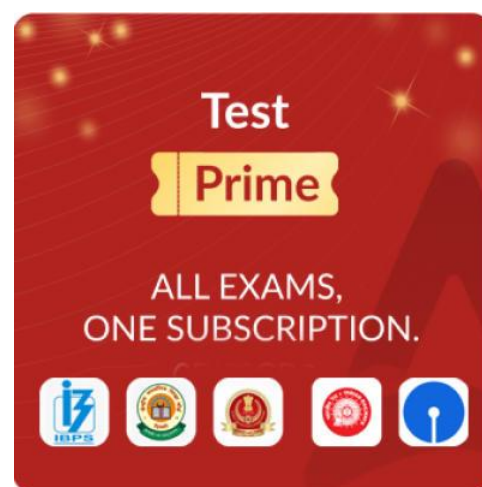




- On **June 24, 2025**, **S&P Global Ratings** raised India's GDP growth estimate for FY26 to **6.5%**, citing **economic resilience** amid global volatility. Key drivers for the upward revision included the expectation of a **normal monsoon**, which would support agriculture, and **lower crude oil prices**, which help **contain inflation** and **ease import costs**. The update reflects international confidence in **India's policy framework** and its **ability to sustain growth** despite external shocks.
- In Q4 FY25, **India recorded a current account surplus of \$13.5 billion**, a sharp turnaround from the previous quarter's deficit. According to **RBI data**, this surplus was driven by **strong services exports**, especially in **IT and business services**, and an increase in **remittances from abroad**. A **narrower merchandise trade deficit** and a fall in **net primary income outflows** also contributed to the surplus. Despite some moderation in **FDI inflows**, the improvement reflects a boost in **external sector stability** and overall **economic fundamentals**.
- India's **retail inflation** declined sharply to **2.82% in May 2025**, marking its **lowest level since February 2019**. The fall was largely driven by a significant drop in **food inflation**, which eased to **0.99%**. Prices of essential food items such as **vegetables, pulses, and meat** fell, aided by a **favourable base effect** and **government measures** like **import duty cuts**. Among states, **Kerala recorded the highest inflation**, while **Telangana reported the lowest**. Looking ahead, analysts expect the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** to average around **4% in FY26**, though they caution that **monsoon performance** and **geopolitical developments** could influence price dynamics. The current data supports the **RBI's strategy to frontload rate cuts**, but it also indicates **limited scope for further easing** unless **economic growth weakens** considerably.
- In line with the trend in retail inflation, India's **wholesale price inflation (WPI)** also fell to **0.39% in May 2025**, down from **0.85% in April**, reflecting **declining prices in food, fuel, and manufactured goods**. A key contributor to the drop was the **steep deflation in vegetable prices**, which plunged by **21.62%**. This simultaneous fall in both WPI and CPI sends encouraging signals for **price stability**, reinforcing a more **accommodative monetary policy stance** and giving the **RBI more flexibility**, especially amid external uncertainties.
- Additionally, India is planning a significant **revamp of its CPI framework**, with a proposal to **update the base year to 2024** and **expand the CPI basket** to better reflect current **consumption patterns**. This revision is being informed by the **Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2023–24**, which analyzed data from around **407 consumption items**. The updated **CPI series** is expected to be launched by **early 2026**, replacing the existing **2012-based index**. Furthermore, the **Economic Survey 2023–24** has recommended a review of the role of food prices in the **inflation targeting mechanism**, suggesting that food may be excluded due to its **volatile supply-side behavior**. This indicates a shift toward more **structural and targeted inflation management** going forward.

BUSINESS NEWS

- GST collections for May 2025** rose **16.4% year-on-year** to **Rs 2.01 lakh crore**, showing **strong momentum** despite being lower than **April's record** Rs 2.37 lakh crore. While **domestic GST** grew **13.7%** to Rs 1.50 lakh crore, it slowed due to reduced **year-end transactions** and shifting **consumer behavior**. In contrast, **import GST** surged **25.2%**, indicating strong **import demand**. After **refunds**, **net GST** rose **20.4%** to Rs 1.74 lakh crore, signaling **economic recovery**, as highlighted by experts from **KPMG** and **EY India**.
- UPI transactions in May 2025** hit a **record high** with **18.68 billion transactions** worth **₹25.14 trillion**, showing **4% M-o-M** and **33% Y-o-Y growth** in volume. This surge surpasses **March 2025's** previous record, highlighting India's rapid **digital payment adoption**. **Daily transactions** rose to **602 million**, with daily value reaching **₹81,106 crore**, underscoring the **UPI ecosystem's expanding scale** and deepening **usage intensity**.
- On **1 June 2025**, the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** unveiled a **\$10 billion initiative** for **urban transformation in India**. This 5-year plan aims to revamp **metro networks**, launch new **RRTS corridors**, and improve **urban infrastructure and services** across over 100 cities. Backed by sovereign loans, **private capital**, and the **Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)**, the project also includes **\$3 million in technical assistance** for project planning. ADB emphasized skill development, women's empowerment, and **inclusive urban growth** as part of India's **Viksit Bharat @ 2047** mission. The announcement follows meetings with **PM Modi**, **FM Nirmala Sitharaman**, and **Housing Minister Manohar Lal**.
- India has officially granted **Starlink**, the satellite internet venture by **Elon Musk's SpaceX**, the much-awaited **GMPCS licence**, paving the way for the company to offer satellite communication services across the country. This makes Starlink the third operator in India's satellite internet market, alongside **OneWeb** and **Jio Satellite**, and it is expected to receive trial spectrum soon to prove its technical and security readiness.





- Public sector general insurance companies (PSGICs) have achieved a notable **growth milestone** by collecting ₹1.06 lakh crore in **premium income** during **FY2024–25**, up from ₹80,000 crore in FY19. This performance was highlighted during a **review meeting** chaired by **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman**, focusing on **insurance penetration, density, and digital transformation**. The sector witnessed a **turnaround in profitability**, with firms like **NIACL, NICTL, OICL, and UIICL** returning to profits.
- Thomas Cook (India) Ltd.** has partnered with **Muthoot Forex** to expand access to its **Borderless Travel Card** and **Study Buddy Card** via Muthoot's **7,000+ branch network**, aiming to serve **international travelers and students abroad** across **metro to Tier 4 cities**, with features like **multi-currency support, emergency cash, free SIM, Rs.7.5 lakh insurance, and reward points** for forex loads.
- SEBI has launched a **settlement scheme** for stock brokers involved in **algo trading violations**, open from **June 16 to September 16, 2025**. Over **100 brokers**, including top firms like **Zerodha** and **5Paisa**, were found collaborating with **unregulated algo platforms** offering **assured returns**—a direct breach of SEBI norms. The scheme provides a way to resolve cases with a **low settlement cost**, while SEBI continues to strengthen **regulations for algorithmic trading**, emphasizing **retail investor protection, empanelment of algo providers, and broker accountability**.
- Scapia**, in collaboration with **Federal Bank**, has launched India's **first dual-network credit card** combining **Visa and RuPay**, known as the **Scapia Federal RuPay Credit Card**. With **UPI compatibility, zero forex markup, Scapia Coins, and airport lounge benefits**, the card offers a unified credit experience for **domestic and international use**. The launch is aligned with Scapia's broader platform upgrades under its **2025 Summer Release**, including **AI recommendations, tailored fare options, and reward enhancements** — marking a key milestone in India's **fintech evolution**.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **\$109.97 million loan** to support Gujarat's **Skills Development Program**, a forward-looking initiative designed to enhance **technical education, promote inclusive employment, and drive industrial competitiveness**. By upgrading **training infrastructure, launching industry-aligned courses, and improving governance** at institutions like **Kaushalya: The Skill University**, the program will create a **future-ready workforce**.
- Apna.co** has launched **AI Job Prep**, an innovative **AI-powered interview preparation tool** aimed at bridging the **confidence gap** in India's job market. With over **7.6 lakh simulations** completed across **900+ cities**, the platform provides **realistic interview experiences, real-time**

feedback, and personalized tips using its proprietary **Agentic AI technology**. Metro cities like **Delhi and Mumbai** lead in adoption, but usage is rapidly growing in **non-metro areas**. This tool reflects a larger trend of **tech-enabled skilling** and is expected to significantly boost **employability and digital empowerment**.

- India's **GIFT City** has witnessed a surge in global interest, with banks from **France and the UAE** applying to set up **IFSC Banking Units (IBUs)**. The **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** has approved **Natixis and Credit Agricole**, while other foreign and domestic banks await clearances. The total number of IBUs has doubled from **15 in 2022 to 31 in 2025**, with **\$88.5 billion in assets**. This reflects **global trust in India's economic reforms**, and supports the country's ambition to make GIFT City a **world-class financial centre**.
- The **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)** has raised **₹2,005.90 crore** through a **QIP issue**, attracting strong participation from domestic and international institutional investors. The funds will **enhance IREDA's Tier-I capital** and enable expanded **green energy financing**. This development follows IREDA's IPO in 2023 and reaffirms the agency's growing significance in India's **clean energy transition**, strengthening its ability to support renewable energy initiatives across the country.
- UPI transactions are now set to be completed in just **10–15 seconds**, starting June 16, 2025, as per NPCI's latest directive. In addition to this, users will have a **50-times daily limit** for checking their account balance via UPI apps. To increase transaction transparency and reduce fraud, apps will display only the **final beneficiary's name**, and users will no longer be able to edit it. With UPI usage surging across India, these upgrades aim to boost the **efficiency, speed, and trust** in the country's digital payment ecosystem.
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has partnered with the **Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)** in **Paris** to automate and optimise its financial reconciliation process. The implementation of **TCS BaNCS™ for Reconciliations** will enable **end-to-end automation, real-time insights, and AI-driven exception management**. This will lead to reduced **manual intervention, improved operational efficiency, and enhanced control and transparency** in daily transactions.
- India has granted **operating license to Starlink**, the **satellite internet service by SpaceX**, paving the way for **widespread rural and remote broadband access**. Following this, **Jio Platforms and Bharti Airtel** partnered with **SpaceX** to **retail Starlink kits and offer support services**, aiming to connect schools, hospitals, and businesses. While the move aligns with the **Digital India vision, spectrum allocation disputes** between **Elon Musk and Mukesh Ambani** highlight ongoing regulatory challenges.





- **TVS Motor Company** has entered **Indonesia's electric two-wheeler market** with the launch of the **TVS iQube**, an electric scooter offering a **115 km range** and **78 kmph top speed**. Priced at **IDR 29.9 million**, the scooter will be **assembled locally** in East Karawang and aligns with the Indonesian government's EV adoption goals. As **Indonesia's EV market grows at 101% CAGR**, this marks a **major milestone** for **TVS's global EV expansion**, with the iQube already boasting a **6 lakh global customer base**.
- **Jio Financial Services (JFSL)** has acquired **State Bank of India's 17.8% stake** in **Jio Payments Bank** for **₹104.54 crore**, resulting in full ownership of the digital bank. Approved by the **Reserve Bank of India**, the move marks a significant milestone in **Jio's fintech expansion**. Alongside, **Jio BlackRock Mutual Fund** introduced **Aladdin**, a **global risk analytics platform**, to the Indian market. While **JFSL shares dipped 1%**, the company is rapidly strengthening its **digital finance ecosystem** through **strategic collaborations** and acquisitions.
- India has secured the **13th spot globally** in terms of **online investment curiosity**, according to a recent study by **BrokerChooser**. The country logged **2,629 monthly searches per million people**, showing strong interest in **stocks**, followed by **crypto** and **forex**. While India still trails nations like **Australia, Singapore, and Kenya**, the findings reflect a rapid shift in **investment behavior**, especially among **tech-savvy youth**. The rise of **mobile trading apps, SIPs, and digital financial influencers** is redefining how Indians engage with the market.
- India's financial presence in Swiss banks has sharply increased in 2024, with total holdings reaching **CHF 3.5 billion (₹37,600 crore)** — a threefold jump over the previous year. The surge is largely driven by **institutional investments**, while **personal deposits** remain a minor share. Despite regular tax data exchange between India and Switzerland, the issue of **black money** remains under scrutiny. India also improved its global rank among foreign clients of Swiss banks, moving from **67th to 48th** in just one year.
- **NPCI's New Real-Time PAN-Bank Account Validation API** aims to **enhance accuracy and efficiency** in tax-related processes by enabling **instant verification of PAN, bank account status, and account holder identity** via a secure **API interface**. Integrated with **Core Banking Systems (CBS)**, this facility ensures **real-time validation** on the **Income Tax e-filing portal**, reducing delays and manual errors. Though targeted at **government departments, taxpayers** benefit from **faster PAN-bank linking, improved refund processing, and greater data security**, marking a major step toward **streamlined digital governance**.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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**.
- 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.





- 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.
- 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**.
- 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**.
- 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.
- **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.
- **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**.
- **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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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**.





Economy/Business Current Affairs of May 2025

GDP & GROWTH RATE as per October 2024

- The **United Nations** has cut **India's 2025 GDP growth forecast** to **6.3%**, down from **7.1% in 2024**, while still recognizing India as one of the **fastest-growing large economies**. Key drivers include **strong private consumption**, **public investment**, and **services exports**. The **UN report** also warns of **global headwinds** like **trade tensions**, **tariff hikes**, and **investment uncertainty**, affecting overall global growth. **Inflation** in India is projected to remain within the **RBI's target range**, enabling **monetary easing**. Despite global risks, **India's macroeconomic fundamentals remain strong**.
- Morgan Stanley has increased India's GDP growth forecast to **6.2% for FY26** and **6.5% for FY27**, driven by **robust domestic demand**, rising **urban and rural consumption**, and strong **public capital expenditure**. The report highlights the **stability of macroeconomic fundamentals**, expected **policy easing** by the RBI, and the positive impact of reduced global trade tensions on India's external outlook.
- Fitch Ratings has **raised India's medium-term growth forecast** to **6.4%** for FY26, citing **higher labour force participation** and **reduced pandemic scarring**. While the report warns of **slowing labour productivity** and **reverting total factor productivity**, India's outlook shines in contrast to declining estimates for other **emerging markets**, especially **China**. This signals global recognition of India's **economic resilience** and **growth potential**.
- Crisil, the global ratings and analytics agency, has projected **India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth** at **6.5% in fiscal 2026 (FY26)**, supported by **improving domestic consumption**, **easing inflation**, and **favourable monetary policy**.

ECONOMY NEWS

- Morgan Stanley has reaffirmed its optimistic view on **India's long-term equity prospects**, citing solid macro fundamentals, low inflation, and domestic demand as key drivers. It recommends focusing on domestic sectors like **financials and industrials**, while encouraging a patient, long-term approach amidst global uncertainties. The brokerage views India as a **resilient and relatively insulated market**, capable of delivering in the face of worldwide economic volatility.
- Moody's has revised **India's GDP growth projection for 2025** to **6.3%**, citing heightened **policy uncertainty**, **geopolitical**

tensions, and **global trade disruptions** as the primary challenges. Despite global headwinds, the forecast for **2026 remains at 6.5%**, reflecting expectations of stabilization. The agency also noted the **Reserve Bank of India** may continue to lower interest rates to **support economic activity**. The broader outlook for the **US, China, and global markets** also shows slowing momentum amid evolving **tariff policies**, **market volatility**, and **investment risks**.

- **Headline inflation** dropped to **3.16%** in **April 2025**, the **lowest since July 2019**, while **food inflation** fell sharply to **1.78%**, largely due to a **decline in vegetable, fruit, and cereal prices**. Both **rural and urban areas** witnessed easing price trends, supporting macroeconomic **stability** and **consumer reliefs**.
- India's outward FDI in April 2025 nearly doubled to **\$6.8 billion**, up from **\$3.58 billion** a year earlier, driven by substantial growth in **equity investments**, **loans**, and **guarantees**, according to the **Reserve Bank of India**. This reflects a rising appetite among Indian firms to expand globally amid improving investment sentiment.
- In a notable achievement for fiscal management, the **Government of India** has successfully met its **fiscal deficit target of 4.8% of GDP** for the financial year **2024–25**, even as **total receipts** came in slightly below expectations. This update was released by the **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)** on Friday, along with the **provisional GDP estimates** for the year.
- India's **coal imports** declined by **7.9%** in **FY 2024-25**, reaching **243.62 million tonnes**, resulting in **foreign exchange savings** of nearly **\$7.93 billion**. Government schemes like **Commercial Coal Mining** and **Mission Coking Coal** supported this shift, while domestic **coal production** **grew by 5%**. The sharp fall in imports, especially in the **power sector**, signifies progress toward **energy security**, **self-reliance**, and the **Viksit Bharat** vision.
- India achieved a **record FDI inflow** of **USD 81.04 billion** in **FY 2024–25**, reflecting a **14% growth** from the previous year. The **services sector** led the surge with a **40.77% increase**, followed by **manufacturing** and **software & hardware**. **Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Delhi** were top FDI destinations, while **Singapore, Mauritius, and the US** were key investors. Liberal **FDI policy reforms**, rising investor confidence, and diversified sources have established India as a **global investment hotspot** aligned with its **Viksit Bharat** goals.





BUSINESS NEWS

- **Berkshire Hathaway's annual shareholder meeting in Omaha, Warren Buffett**, aged 94, announced his decision to **step down as CEO**, officially naming **Greg Abel**, a seasoned Canadian executive and **Vice Chairman since 2018**, as his **successor**. The move marks a **historic leadership transition** aimed at preserving Berkshire's **investment philosophy, corporate culture**, and ensuring **future growth** of the **\$1.2 trillion conglomerate**.
- **Starlink**, owned by **Elon Musk**, has received approval from the **Indian government** to offer **satellite internet services**, marking a major step in expanding digital access across the country. Following regulatory reviews and a **Letter of Intent**, Starlink can now obtain a **GMPCS licence**. The move aligns with new **satcom guidelines** focusing on **data localisation, NavIC integration, local manufacturing, and telecom security**. This approval is expected to revolutionise internet access in **remote and underserved areas** and promote **technological collaboration** under the **Digital India** initiative.
- The **first round of negotiations** for the **India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** concluded in **New Delhi in May 2025**. Both countries are committed to enhancing **bilateral trade and economic cooperation**, with total **merchandise trade** having grown significantly in the past year. The **FTA** will focus on **trade in goods and services, trade facilitation, and boosting mutual economic cooperation**. The agreement is expected to improve **market access** and integrate **global supply chains**, with a goal to conclude the **FTA** by the end of **2025**. The next round of negotiations is scheduled for **July 2025**. Key terms include the **48.6% growth in trade** and the growing importance of both nations in each other's **economic agendas**.
- **Ant Group**, via **Antfin Netherlands**, has announced the sale of a **4% stake** in **Paytm** (One97 Communications) for **₹2,066 crore** through a **bulk deal** on the **BSE and NSE**. The shares will be sold at a **6.5% discount** to the market price, with **Goldman Sachs and Citigroup** acting as placement agents. This move is part of Ant's broader **portfolio adjustment** and marks a significant foreign exit from the Indian **fintech ecosystem**, where Ant and Alibaba have invested **\$851 million** since 2015.
- The **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** Monthly Bulletin for **April 2025** introduces a revamped methodology delivering high-frequency estimates of key labour indicators such as **LFPR, WPR, and UR** under the **Current Weekly Status (CWS)**. With an overall LFPR of **55.6%**, WPR of **52.8%**, and unemployment at **5.1%**, the data reveals critical insights into India's labour market dynamics. The **female workforce**

participation, especially in urban areas, remains significantly lower, spotlighting gender gaps. The survey covered **over 89,000 households**, using a **monthly rotational panel** design for increased statistical robustness and policy relevance.

- India's **export sector** recorded a strong start to FY2025, with **merchandise exports** growing by **9%** in April, led by **engineering and electronics goods**. The spike was largely driven by **tariff uncertainty** in the **US**, resulting in a **27% surge in exports to Washington**. Despite a rise in **imports** widening the **trade deficit**, the growth in **services exports**, along with solid performance in **gems and jewellery, pharmaceuticals, and textiles**, indicates **resilience and diversification** in India's trade strategy.
- **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** injected **₹4,452 crore** into **Indian equities** this week, pushing **total May inflows** to **₹18,620 crore**, per **NSDL** data. Despite earlier **net outflows** in 2025, this rebound highlights renewed **investor confidence**, driven by **domestic economic stability**, easing **global uncertainty**, and strong **sectoral performance** in **defence, capital markets, and real estate**. The **Sensex and Nifty** also surged, reflecting the **positive market sentiment**.
- India's **core sector growth** for **April 2025** slowed sharply to **0.5%**, marking the **lowest performance in eight months**. Key sectors like **refinery products, fertilisers, and crude oil** witnessed contraction, while only **coal and natural gas** posted minor gains. The **Index of Core Industries (ICI)**, which constitutes **40.27% of the IIP**, struggled under the weight of a **high base effect** from last year. Economists expect **April's IIP** to remain subdued around **1%**, reflecting a broader **slowdown in industrial activity**.
- The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has launched the **Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)** to tackle rising incidents of **cyber fraud** associated with **UPI transactions**. Integrated into the **Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)**, the FRI classifies mobile numbers as **Medium, High, or Very High** risk based on inputs from **cybercrime portals, banks, and financial institutions**. Major UPI platforms like **PhonePe, Paytm, and Google Pay** are already incorporating these alerts to **prevent financial crimes**, making this a crucial **cybersecurity measure** in India's digital economy.
- **IREDA**, the country's largest **green financing NBFC**, has secured an **'Excellent'** rating from the **Department of Public Enterprises (DPE)** for FY **2023-24**, ranking among the **top 4 CPSEs in India**. The recognition reflects its outstanding performance and leadership in the **Power and NBFC sectors**. Under the leadership of **CMD Pradip Kumar Das**, IREDA has consistently contributed to India's **renewable energy** mission and demonstrated its commitment to **sustainable development and nation-building**.





Economy/Business Current Affairs of April 2025

GDP & GROWTH RATE as per April 2024

- **BSNL has achieved a financial turnaround** by recording back-to-back quarterly profits in FY 2024–25, thanks to strong revenue growth, strategic cost management, and record-breaking investments in infrastructure and spectrum. While short-term profit may fluctuate due to high depreciation, the company's fundamentals are solid, and its commitment to 4G/5G deployment under the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission is paving the way for a **sustainable and inclusive telecom future**. Key metrics such as a 58% reduction in annual loss, a 77% rise in asset monetisation, and a 13-percentage-point rise in EBITDA margin mark a pivotal transformation for BSNL.
- India's **industrial activity growth** weakened to its **lowest in eight months** in April 2025, signaling a slowdown across key economic sectors. According to data released by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**, the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** grew by just **2.7%** in April, compared to a growth rate of **5.8% in March 2025** and a contraction of **0.1% in August 2024**, the last time growth was this sluggish.
- India's aviation manufacturing capabilities are set to soar higher as **Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL)** and **European aerospace giant Airbus** join hands to establish the **country's first privately-led helicopter Final Assembly Line (FAL)**. The strategic move places India on the global aerospace map, boosting its ambition of becoming an indigenous defence and aviation manufacturing hub.
- Bengaluru-based pet food company **Drools** has officially become a unicorn (a startup valued at \$1 billion or more). This happened after Nestle, a famous Swiss company, bought a small part of Drools. With this deal, Drools becomes the fourth Indian startup in 2025 to reach unicorn status, after Netradyne, Porter and JSW One Platforms.

- India's **GST collections** surged **9.9% YoY** in **March 2025**, reaching **Rs 1.96 lakh crore**, driven by **economic activity** and **increased compliance**. The breakdown includes **CGST (Rs 38,100 crore)**, **SGST (Rs 49,900 crore)**, **IGST (Rs 95,900 crore)**, and **GST Cess (Rs 12,300 crore)**. Net GST collections after refunds stood at **Rs 1.76 lakh crore (7.3% YoY growth)**. For **FY25**, total **GST revenue** hit **Rs 22.08 lakh crore (9.4% YoY growth)**, aligning with the **government's 11% GST revenue projection**.
- The **EY Economy Watch report** projects India's **GDP growth** at **6.5% for FY26**, stressing the need for a **balanced fiscal strategy** that promotes **economic expansion while maintaining fiscal prudence**. It highlights the importance of **government investment in education and healthcare**, a higher **revenue-to-GDP ratio**, and **equalization transfers** to reduce regional disparities.
- India's **Wholesale Price Inflation (WPI)** eased to **2.05% in March 2025**, down from **2.38% in February**, mainly due to a steep **15.88% deflation in vegetable prices**, leading to a drop in **food inflation** to **1.57%**. However, **manufactured product inflation** rose to **3.07%**, indicating a **mixed inflation trend**, with **food prices softening** while **fuel, power, and manufactured goods** witnessed price increases.
- **Morgan Stanley** has **lowered India's FY26 GDP growth forecast** to **6.1%** (from 6.5%) and slashed its **Sensex year-end target** to **82,000** (from 93,000), citing global uncertainty triggered by **US President Donald Trump's new tariffs**. Announced on **April 2, 2025**—dubbed "**Liberation Day**"—these **protectionist tariffs** impacted 70 nations, including a **26% tariff on India**, stoking fears of a **global slowdown**. Other brokerages like **UBS, Goldman Sachs, and Citi** also trimmed India's growth outlook.
- India is projected to remain the **fastest-growing major economy** in **2025** with a **6.5% GDP growth**, according to **UNCTAD's Trade and Development Foresights 2025** report, driven by **robust public spending** and **supportive RBI monetary policies**. While the **global economy** faces a potential **recession** amid **geopolitical tensions**, **sluggish trade**, and **tight financial conditions**, **China** is expected to grow at **4.4%**, and the **US** and **EU** at **1%**.
- The **World Bank** has revised India's **GDP growth forecast** for **FY26** downward to **6.3%**, citing **global economic weakness** and **domestic policy uncertainty**. This follows a similar move by the **IMF**, which reduced its forecast for **FY26** to **6.2%** and **FY27** to **6.3%**. These revisions reflect concerns about a **slowing global economy** and an **uncertain investment climate**, despite **supportive domestic measures** like **monetary easing**. The **RBI's growth projection** of **6.5%** for **FY26** also indicates a slowdown across the year.





- The IMF has revised India's FY26 GDP growth forecast down to 6.2% (from 6.5%) and FY27 to 6.3%, citing **US-imposed 26% tariffs and trade tensions** as key factors. Despite the downgrade, **India remains the fastest-growing major economy**, outperforming **China (4%)** and the **US (1.8%)**. The **global growth forecast for 2025** was also lowered to **2.8%** (from 3.3%), with **tariffs contributing to rising inflation** and slowing economies worldwide. **Strong domestic consumption**, especially in **rural India**, is expected to cushion India against global headwinds.

ECONOMY NEWS

- Effective **April 22, 2025**, the **Income Tax Department** has mandated a **1% Tax Collected at Source (TCS)** on the sale of **luxury goods priced above ₹10 lakh** under **Section 206C of the Income Tax Act**, as announced in the **Finance Act (Union Budget)**. This move aims to **enhance transparency and tax compliance** in high-value retail. Covered items include **luxury watches, handbags, antiques, yachts**, and more. The **seller collects 1% TCS**, deposits it under the buyer's **PAN**, and buyers can **claim it as tax credit** while filing their **ITR**.
- The **Indian life insurance industry** recorded a **5.13% growth** in **new business premium** for **FY25**, collecting **₹3,97,336 crore**, up from **₹3,77,960 crore** in **FY24**. The **individual new business premium** rose sharply by **11.17%** to **₹1,66,590.81 crore**, driven by increased **first-time policyholder** participation. **LIC** led the sector with **₹2,26,669 crore** in total new business premium and a **record ₹62,404 crore** in individual premium, capturing a **57.05% market share**.

BUSINESS NEWS

- Renault Group** will acquire the remaining **51% stake** in **Renault Nissan Automotive India Private Ltd (RNAIPL)** from **Nissan Motor Corp**, gaining **100% ownership** of the **Chennai manufacturing facility**. This follows a **2023 agreement** where Renault and Nissan invested **\$600 million** to develop **six new models** for the Indian market. RNAIPL, established in 2010 as a joint venture, saw Nissan reduce its stake to 51% in 2023. This acquisition strengthens Renault's control over its **Indian manufacturing** and supports its broader **global restructuring strategy**.
- UPI transactions** hit a **record high** in **March 2025**, reaching **Rs 24.77 trillion** in value and **19.78 billion** in volume, marking a **13% increase in value** and **14% rise in volume** from February. This milestone reflects **strong digital payment adoption** in India. For **FY25**, UPI saw **Rs 260.56 trillion** in transaction value (**+30% YoY**) and **131.14 billion** transactions (**+42% YoY**), reinforcing its **dominance** in India's digital economy.

- Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL)** has successfully **amalgamated** its NBFC subsidiary **Aditya Birla Finance Ltd. (ABFL)**, effective **April 1, 2025**, after approvals from **SEBI, RBI, NCLT, shareholders, and creditors**. The merger aims to **simplify the corporate structure, enhance financial stability, and improve efficiency**. **Vishakha Mulye** has been appointed as **MD & CEO**, while **Rakesh Singh** will serve as **Executive Director & CEO (NBFC)**.
- HIL Ltd** has rebranded itself as **BirlaNu Limited**, aligning its identity with its core values of **innovation, quality, and sustainability** in the **building materials** industry. With a strong presence in **India and Europe**, the company aims to better serve **homeowners, builders, and designers**. Having been operational for over **eight decades**, BirlaNu is deeply rooted in **Hyderabad, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh**.
- Juspay**, a Bengaluru-based **payments infrastructure provider**, became India's first **unicorn of 2025** after raising **\$60 million** in a **Series D funding round**, led by **Kedaara Capital**, with participation from **SoftBank and Accel**. This funding pushed Juspay's valuation past the **\$1 billion** mark. The company plans to enhance its technology through **AI** and expand into international markets, including **APAC, Latin America, Europe, UK, and North America**. Despite facing challenges like the **loss of major clients** such as **Razorpay and PhonePe**, Juspay aims to focus on **AI-led productivity and global expansion** to maintain growth momentum.
- BlackRock**, along with other US and European investors, participated in a **\$750 million private bond issue** by the **Adani Group** to fund **Renew Exim's acquisition of ITD Cementation**. This marks a cautious return of investor confidence despite ongoing legal challenges, including a **\$256 million bribery case** involving **Gautam Adani**.
- Milkfed Punjab** has launched a new **mascot 'Veera'**—a smiling **Sikh boy with folded hands**—for its flagship dairy brand **Verka**, aiming to boost national recognition similar to the **Amul Girl**. The launch, symbolizing **Punjabi warmth and hospitality**, coincided with a **₹135 crore dairy expansion project** in **Amritsar**, enhancing Verka's production of **flavored milk and fermented dairy products**. As the **7th largest milk cooperative** in India, Milkfed also announced **e-commerce integration** to expand Verka's **global market reach**.
- In **March 2025**, India's **exports** grew marginally by **0.7%** to **\$41.97 billion**, while **imports** surged by **11.3%** to **\$63.51 billion**, widening the **trade deficit** to **\$21.54 billion**. For the **fiscal year 2024–25**, **merchandise exports** saw a slight **0.08% increase** to **\$437.42 billion**, while **imports** rose by **6.62%** to **\$720.24 billion**. Overall **exports** (goods + services) grew by **5.5%** to **\$820.93 billion**, indicating resilience in **service exports**, despite a growing **trade deficit** driven by rising import demand.





- India's **foreign trade** for FY2024–25 showed contrasting trends with key global partners. **Exports to the United States** rose by **11.59%** to **\$86.5 billion**, leading to a **trade surplus** of **\$41.2 billion**. Meanwhile, **exports to China** fell by **14.49%** to **\$14.25 billion**, while **imports from China** grew by **11.52%** to **\$113.45 billion**, deepening the **trade deficit** with China to **\$99.2 billion**. Key import drivers from China included **electronics, EV batteries, solar cells, and industrial inputs**, with **PLI schemes** boosting demand for imported components.
- India's **pharmaceutical exports** hit a historic high of **\$30.47 billion** in FY25, surpassing the target of \$29.38 billion, driven by a **31.21% YoY surge** in **March 2025**. Key contributors included **drug formulations and biologicals** (\$20.12 billion) and robust demand from the **United States** (\$8.95 billion, up 14.29%), with **NAFTA accounting for 36.6%** of exports.
- To **protect India's domestic steel industry**, the government has imposed a **12% provisional safeguard duty** on specific **steel imports** effective **April 21, 2025**, targeting low-cost inflows from **China, South Korea, and Japan**. Triggered by a **DGTR investigation** into **unfairly priced imports** causing "serious injury" to local manufacturers, this move addresses a surge in steel imports—**9.5 million metric tons** in FY 2024–25—making India a **net importer for the second year**.
- India's **smartphone exports** crossed a record **₹2 lakh crore** in **FY25**, marking a major milestone driven by the **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme**. Announced by **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw**, this **54% export growth** highlights India's rising role in **global supply chains**, with **Apple's iPhone exports** being a key contributor.
- Zepto**, a leading **quick-commerce startup** in India, has rebranded its parent company from **Kiranakart Technologies Private Limited** to **Zepto Private Limited**. This name change, approved by the **Registrar of Companies (RoC)** in Mumbai, aligns the company's **corporate identity** with its **consumer-facing brand** in preparation for a potential **Initial Public Offering (IPO)**.
- South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)** has made history as the first coal PSU in India to implement **paste fill technology** for **underground coal mining**, marking a significant leap in **sustainable mining practices**. This initiative, aimed at minimizing environmental impact while extracting coal in surface-constrained areas, is backed by a ₹7040 crore partnership with **TMC Mineral Resources Private Limited**.
- Campbell Wilson** is stepping down as **Chairman of Air India Express** as part of a broader **Tata Group airline restructuring** to boost operational and commercial synergy. **Nipun Aggarwal, Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) of Air India**, will take over as Chairman, aligning both airlines' strategies. **Captain Basil Kwauk** is set to replace Wilson on the board, pending approval. The move follows Tata's **January 2022 acquisition of Air India and Air India Express** and aims to optimize **fleet, routes, and loyalty programs** across the group.

Economy/Business Current Affairs of March 2025

GDP & GROWTH RATE as per October 2024

- Crisil** has forecasted **India's GDP growth** to stay at **6.5%** in **FY26**, with the **RBI's MPC** likely to reduce the **repo rate** by **50-75 basis points** to boost growth. While lower than the previous year's **9.2%**, it aligns closely with the **pre-pandemic average** of **6.6%**, maintaining India's position as the **fastest-growing major economy**.
- Morgan Stanley** projects India's **GDP** will reach **\$5.7 trillion** by **fiscal 2028**, making it the **third-largest economy**, surpassing **Germany** and **Japan**. India, currently the fifth-largest economy, is expected to overtake Japan by **2026**. India's share in **global GDP** will rise from **3.5%** in 2023 to **4.5%** by **2029**, driven by strong policies, improved infrastructure, and a growing consumer market. In a bullish scenario, GDP could reach **\$10.3 trillion** by **2035**.

ECONOMY NEWS

- GST collections** in **February 2025** rose by **9.1% YoY**, totaling **₹1.84 lakh crore**, reflecting strong domestic economic activity and improved compliance. The breakdown includes **Central GST (CGST)** ₹35,204 crore, **State GST (SGST)** ₹43,704 crore, **Integrated GST (IGST)** ₹90,870 crore (with ₹41,702 crore from imports), and **Compensation Cess** ₹13,868 crore.
- India's **circular economy** is expected to generate over **\$2 trillion** in market value and create nearly **10 million jobs** by **2050**, as per **Union Minister Bhupender Yadav**. At the **12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum**, he highlighted the shift towards a sustainable, **reuse and recycle-based system**. India is also interested in hosting the **World Circular Economy Forum 2026**, launching key initiatives, MoUs, and reports to promote **sustainable waste management** and urban **circular economy practices**.
- India's **agriculture trade surplus** has been shrinking despite growth in exports like **basmati rice, spices, coffee, and tobacco**. The surge in imports of **pulses and edible oils** has contributed to this decline. The surplus peaked at **\$27.7 billion** in 2013-14, and dropped to **\$16 billion** in 2023-24. For **April-December 2024**, the surplus fell to **\$8.2 billion**, down from **\$10.6 billion** in the previous year.
- India's **retail inflation** dropped to a **seven-month low** of **3.61%** in February 2025, driven by a decline in **food inflation** to below 4% for the first time in nearly two years. This broad-based reduction, particularly in perishable goods and protein-based food items, has raised expectations for a potential **rate cut** by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** in the upcoming April meeting.
- India's **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for **February 2025** shows a **year-on-year inflation** of **3.61%**, marking the **lowest inflation rate** since **July 2024**. This represents a **65 basis points** decline from **January 2025**. A significant drop in **food inflation**, especially in **rural areas**, contributed to this moderation.





- India's **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** for January 2025 showed a **5.0% growth**, up from **3.2%** in December 2024. The **manufacturing sector** led the growth at **5.5%**, followed by **mining** (4.4%) and **electricity** (2.4%). The IIP index for January 2025 stands at **161.3**, up from **153.6** in January 2024.
- Moody's Ratings** projects India's **economic growth** to exceed **6.5%** in FY 2025-26, up from **6.3%** in FY 2024-25. The growth will be fueled by increased **government capital expenditure**, **tax cuts**, and **monetary easing**. However, Moody's warns of a moderate decline in **asset quality** in the **banking sector**, particularly due to stress in **unsecured retail loans**, **microfinance**, and **small business loans**.
- Fitch Ratings** has affirmed the **Long-Term Issuer Default Rating (IDR)** of Union Bank of India and Punjab National Bank (PNB) at '**BBB-**' with a stable outlook. The **Viability Rating (VR)** has been upgraded to '**bb-**' from '**b+**', reflecting improved **financial performance** and **asset quality**. The ratings reflect strong **government support** and a favorable **operating environment**.
- India's **net FDI** dropped significantly to **\$1.4 billion** during April 2024–January 2025, down from **\$11.5 billion** a year earlier. This decline was due to increased **repatriation by investors** and higher **outward FDI** by Indian firms. However, **gross FDI** grew by **12.4% YoY**, reaching **\$67.7 billion**, as per the RBI's March 2025 bulletin.
- India's **foreign exchange reserves** surged by **\$15.267 billion** to reach **\$653.966 billion** during the week ending **March 7, 2025**, marking the sharpest rise in over two years. This increase was driven by a **\$10 billion forex swap** by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on **February 28, 2025**. The previous week's reserves were **\$638.698 billion**, and the all-time high remains **\$704.885 billion** (September 2024).
- India's **wholesale inflation** rose to **2.38%** in **February 2024**, slightly up from **2.31%** in January. The increase was driven by higher prices in **manufactured food products**, **textiles**, and **non-food articles**, though a decline in the **Food Index** provided some relief.
- In **February 2025**, India's **digital payments ecosystem** showed mixed trends, with **UPI** transactions declining **MoM**, while **FASTag** and **AePS** saw steady growth. Despite this, the industry continued expanding **YoY**, driven by increased adoption of **cashless transactions** across the country.
- Razorpay**, a leading **fintech company**, has launched its **payment solutions** in **Singapore**, marking a major expansion after its success in **India** and **Malaysia**. The move aligns with Singapore's **digital-first economy** and growing **real-time payments** ecosystem. Razorpay aims to simplify **cross-border transactions**, reduce **payment costs**, and introduce **AI-driven financial tools** to empower businesses in Singapore.
- SBI Life Insurance** has launched two new **child insurance** products—'**SBI Life – Smart Future Star**' and '**SBI Life – Smart Platina Young Achiever**'—to secure children's **financial future**. These products aim to provide **financial safeguards** amidst rising **education costs**, evolving **career aspirations**, and increasing **lifestyle expenses**, ensuring children can pursue their dreams without financial constraints.
- GRM Overseas Limited** has launched a new marketing campaign for its **10X Classic Chakki Fresh Atta**, with **Bollywood actor Salman Khan** as the brand ambassador. Titled "**Better Half Ki Better Choice**", the campaign highlights the product's **quality**, **hygiene**, and **nutrition**, positioning it as the preferred choice for households. With the tagline "**10 Ka Dum**", the campaign promotes **branded packaged wheat flour** over traditional unpackaged options.
- Star Health Insurance** launched the **SheTARA** campaign in **Tamil Nadu** to celebrate **International Women's Day**. The initiative promotes **preventive healthcare** among women and encourages more women to join as **insurance agents**. With **42% of India's women workforce** (6.3 lakh) based in Tamil Nadu, the state is an ideal location for this campaign.
- Credit disbursement to **priority sectors** like **agriculture**, **MSME**, and **social infrastructure** has grown by **85%**, rising from **₹23.01 lakh crore** in 2019 to **₹42.73 lakh crore** in 2024. The **RBI** and **government** have implemented measures to ensure **credit discipline**, **responsible lending**, and **technological adoption**. **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** are collaborating with **FinTechs** to enhance **banking services** and facilitate **seamless lending**.

BUSINESS NEWS

- Paytm** has partnered with **Perplexity**, an **AI-driven answer engine**, to integrate **AI-powered search** into the Paytm app, enabling users to ask questions, explore topics in **local languages**, and make informed **financial decisions**. Perplexity offers **real-time responses** with **in-line citations**, providing **accurate** and **reliable** answers, especially for **finance** and **market trends**.
- PhonePe** has launched the '**Insuring HEROES**' campaign ahead of **International Women's Day 2025**, aiming to **enhance financial security for women** by offering **exclusive discounts on term life and health insurance**. Available on the **PhonePe app** from **March 6 to March 9, 2025**, the campaign provides **up to 30% off on term life insurance** and **15% off on health insurance**, making **affordable insurance** more accessible for women.
- Digital payment transactions in India surged from **8,839 crore** in FY 2021-22 to **18,737 crore** in FY 2023-24, reflecting a **46% CAGR**. This growth was led by **UPI**, which grew at **69% CAGR**, contributing to over **70%** of digital payments. The **Incentive Scheme for RuPay Debit Cards** and **BHIM-UPI** transactions has been pivotal in boosting **digital transactions** nationwide.
- India's **digital payment ecosystem** saw over **18,000 crore** transactions in FY 2024-25 (till January 2025), driven by **UPI adoption**, **fintech collaborations**, and **government initiatives**. To ensure security, **RBI** and **NPCI** implemented **AI-driven fraud detection** systems and awareness campaigns, while the government strengthened **cybercrime reporting** mechanisms to enhance **user safety** in digital transactions.





- The **MSME sector** in India has seen significant growth in **credit availability** and a reduction in **Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)**, with the **gross NPA ratio** decreasing from **11% in 2020** to **4% in 2024**. Measures by the **government** and **RBI** have strengthened **loan recovery mechanisms** and ensured financial stability, improving the health of the MSME credit sector.
- In 2024, **India** became the top source of **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** into **Dubai**, surpassing the **United States**, **France**, and the **United Kingdom**. Dubai maintained its status as the world's leading destination for **Greenfield FDI projects** for the fourth consecutive year, driven by its **business-friendly environment**, **tax policies**, and **infrastructure**, positioning it as a global investment hub.
- IIFL Finance has rebranded seven of its branches as **'Shakti' branches** to mark **Women's Day**, staffed entirely by women in the **Delhi NCR** and **Mumbai MMR**. This initiative aims to empower women in the **financial services sector**, promote **diversity**, **equity**, and **inclusion**, and support **women entrepreneurs** while advancing **financial literacy** in underserved communities.
- The **Finance Ministry** has approved the issuance of **Zero Coupon Bonds (ZCBs)** by **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** to raise up to ₹10,000 crore. ZCBs are issued at a discount and redeemed at full face value upon maturity, with the return for investors being the difference between the issue price and the face value.
- In **February 2025**, **UPI** saw a 5.2% decline in transaction volume, totaling **16.11 billion** transactions. Despite this drop, **PhonePe**, **Google Pay**, and **Paytm** maintained their market dominance, with **Flipkart's Super.money** debuting in the top five UPI apps. This decline signals a possible shift in **user behavior** or market **saturation**.
- In a historic move, the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** granted **Valueatics Reinsurance**, backed by **Prem Watsa** and **Kamesh Goyal**, the **first private reinsurance license** in India. This marks a significant step in fostering competition in the reinsurance sector, ending **GIC Re's monopoly** that has lasted since 1972. The approval was granted during **Debasish Panda's** final board meeting as IRDAI Chairperson on **March 12, 2025**.
- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has re-designated **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**, **The New India Assurance Company**, and **General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re)** as **Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs)** for **2024-25**. These insurers are deemed critical to the stability of the Indian financial system due to their size, market importance, and interconnectedness with both the domestic and global economy.
- **Adar Poonawalla**, CEO of **Serum Institute of India**, sold his stake in **Magma General Insurance** to **Patanjali Ayurved** and **DS Group** for **₹4,500 crore**, giving them a **98% stake**. This strategic acquisition strengthens **Magma Insurance's** position, leveraging Patanjali's rural reach and DS Group's financial expertise. The company offers over **70 insurance products**, with a **gross written premium (GWP)** of **₹3,295 crore** in 2024, projected to rise to **₹3,650-3,700 crore** in 2025.
- The **Union Cabinet** approved a ₹1,500 crore incentive scheme for banks to promote **UPI transactions** below ₹2,000 in FY 2024-25. Banks will receive a 0.15% incentive on transactions by **small merchants**, with part of the payout based on maintaining reliable **UPI infrastructure**. The initiative aims to boost **digital payments** adoption, especially among **small businesses**, without imposing merchant fees.
- The **Union Cabinet**, led by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved the **Revised Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)** with an allocation of ₹3,400 crore (plus ₹1,000 crore) for the 15th Finance Commission cycle (2021-26). The mission focuses on boosting **milk production**, **genetic improvement**, and **farmer incomes**, while preserving **indigenous bovine breeds** through scientific interventions.
- **BPCL** has inaugurated a **3.2 MW AC floating solar power plant** at the **Kochi Refinery**, marking a major step toward **sustainable energy**. **Chief Secretary Sarada Muralleedharan** inaugurated the project on **March 22, 2025**. Built on an **8-acre rainwater harvesting pond**, the plant is part of BPCL's efforts to integrate **renewable energy**, with an investment of **₹28.93 crore**.
- The **Indian government** has formed the **Inter-Ministerial-Industry Committee on Fintech (IMICF)** to address **regulatory concerns** and create a long-term strategy for the **financial technology (fintech)** sector. Chaired by the **Secretary of the Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, the committee will evaluate fintech's impact on the **banking and financial services industry (BFSI)**, identify growth obstacles, and study **global best practices in governance and regulation**.
- **Adar Poonawalla**, CEO of **Serum Institute of India**, sold his stake in **Magma General Insurance** to **Patanjali Ayurved** and **DS Group** for **₹4,500 crore**, giving them a **98% stake**. This strategic acquisition strengthens **Magma Insurance's** position, leveraging Patanjali's rural reach and DS Group's financial expertise. The company offers over **70 insurance products**, with a **gross written premium (GWP)** of **₹3,295 crore** in 2024, projected to rise to **₹3,650-3,700 crore** in 2025.





Economy/Business Current Affairs of February 2025

GDP & GROWTH RATE as per October 2024

- India's economy is expected to grow at **6.5%** in FY26, up from 6.4% in FY25, according to **Crisil's report**. Key growth drivers include **lower inflation**, **rate cuts by the RBI**, **normal monsoon**, and **stable global crude oil prices**. However, challenges such as **global trade barriers**, **weak exports**, and the need for stronger **private sector investments** remain.
- Indian banks are expected to see a **decline in net interest margins (NIMs)** by 10 basis points in FY 2025-26 due to the **RBI's rate cut** of 25 basis points to 6.25%. This cut will impact **floating rate loans** like housing, SME, and retail loans, leading to **lower interest rates** and margin compression. **Non-banking financial institutions (NBFI)s** will also face challenges, with increased **competition** and declining **yields**, affecting profitability.
- India's urban unemployment rate remained steady at **6.4%** in the October-December quarter of **FY25**, according to the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)**. This shows stability in urban employment, despite shifts in **gender-specific job trends**, **youth employment**, and **labor force participation**. The data offers crucial insights into **urban labor market** conditions for policymakers.
- India's total **exports** grew **7.2% YoY** from **April 2024 to January 2025**, driven by key industries like **electronics manufacturing** and **aerospace**. This growth reflects India's increased **global trade engagement**, though **U.S. tariffs** pose a potential challenge to sustaining this momentum.
- India's economy is projected to grow at **6.4%** in **Q3 FY25**, up from **5.4%** in the previous quarter. This growth is driven by **higher government spending** and a **rebound in exports**. **Gross Value Added (GVA)** is expected to rise by **6.6%**, with **industry** at **6.2%**, **services** at **7.7%**, and **agriculture** at **4.0%**. A key highlight is the record **\$36.9 billion** in **service exports** in December 2024.
- State Bank of India (SBI)** has revised **India's GDP growth forecast** for **FY25** to **6.3%**, slightly below the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** projection of **6.4%**. This adjustment reflects concerns over slowing economic momentum, especially in **lending**, **manufacturing**, and **aggregate demand**. Policymakers are focusing on sustaining growth through **fiscal** and **monetary measures**.

ECONOMY NEWS

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** has released the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** for **January 2025**, reporting an annual inflation rate of **2.31% (provisional)** compared to January 2024. The increase in inflation is primarily due to the rising prices in the categories of **manufactured food products**, **food articles**, **non-food articles**, and **textiles**. The **month-over-month (MoM) WPI change** for January 2025 stood at **(-) 0.45%** compared to December 2024, indicating a marginal decline in wholesale prices.

- India's **retail inflation**, measured by the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**, eased to **4.31%** in **January 2025**, its lowest in five months, down from **5.22%** in December. This decline is primarily due to a sharp drop in **food prices**, especially **vegetables**, which saw a rise of only **11.35%** compared to **26.6%** in December, driven by fresh **winter supplies**.
- India's **industrial output growth** slowed to **3.2%** in **December 2024**, down from **5%** in November, according to the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**. The slowdown was mainly due to weaker performance in the **manufacturing sector**, which grew only **3%**, while **electricity generation** saw strong growth. This decline raises concerns about the country's **economic momentum** heading into **2025**.

RBI

BUSINESS NEWS

- The **Financial Intelligence Unit of India (FIU-IND)** imposed a **₹9.27 crore penalty** on **Bybit Fintech Limited** for violating the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)**. The penalty follows Bybit's expansion in **India** without proper **registration** with the FIU-IND, as required by Indian laws. The action reflects the government's heightened scrutiny of **crypto platforms**, with additional measures including blocking Bybit's **websites** under the **Information Technology Act, 2000** for **non-compliance**.
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has proposed an increase in **ATM interchange fees** for both **cash** and **non-cash** transactions to address rising **operational costs** and support **ATM network expansion**. The last fee revision was in **2012**, and rising costs of **ATM maintenance**, **security**, and **cash loading** prompted this move. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** formed a committee in **2019** to review the fees, leading to the recommendation for higher interchange charges.
- Zomato** has rebranded itself as **"Eternal"** from February 6, 2025, reflecting a shift in its vision and consolidating its business verticals. The name **"Eternal"** had been used internally for over two years, signaling a transformation. The new identity integrates four key divisions while keeping the original **Zomato** brand for **food delivery**.
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** and **PNB MetLife India Insurance** have formed a **bancassurance partnership** to make **life insurance** more accessible across India. The collaboration leverages IPPB's extensive network to offer PNB MetLife's solutions, particularly in **remote** and **underserved regions**, aiming to bridge the **financial security gap** and provide affordable insurance to a broader customer base.
- Gopal Vittal**, Vice Chairman and MD of **Bharti Airtel**, became the **Acting Chair** of the **GSMA Board**, following the resignation of **José María Álvarez-Pallete**, Chairman and CEO of **Telefónica**. This leadership transition highlights changes in the **global telecommunications industry** and its influential roles.





- Zepto, the Indian **quick commerce** startup, became the second most downloaded app globally in the **food and drinks category**, surpassing **KFC** and **Domino's**, with **McDonald's** at the top. The company's **300% growth** in the second half of 2024, driven by features like **"buy now, pay later"**, highlights the rapid expansion of India's quick commerce sector, with **Blinkit**, **Zomato**, and **Swiggy** also ranking in the top 10.
- India is introducing new **HSN codes** for **Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged rice** varieties like **Red Rice**, **Black Rice**, and **Kalanamak Rice** to improve export processes. These distinct codes will help **recognize** specialty rice varieties, avoid trade barriers, and ensure fair pricing and **global recognition** for premium rice.
- **Reliance Consumer Products Ltd (RCPL)** has launched a **sports hydration drink** brand, **Spinner**, co-created with **Muttiah Muralitharan**. Priced at ₹10 for a 150 ml bottle, it offers an affordable alternative to brands like **Gatorade** and **Powerade**. Spinner plans to collaborate with **IPL teams** and aims to create a **\$1 billion** sports beverage category within three years.
- **Tata Elxsi** and **Garuda Aerospace** have partnered to create a **Centre of Excellence** for **drone design, engineering, and certification**. The **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**, signed at **Aero India 2025**, supports India's **self-reliance** in **UAV technology** and aligns with the **'Make in India'** initiative. The collaboration aims to develop **indigenous drone solutions** for **defence, agriculture, and smart city** applications.
- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has secured a major IT transformation deal with **UPM**, a Finland-based sustainable materials company. The partnership will focus on **cloud migration, digital transformation, and enhancing operational efficiency**. TCS will manage IT functions such as **data center operations, network services, and end-user support** for UPM's 19,000 employees, ensuring a seamless technology-driven ecosystem.
- Actor **Pankaj Tripathi** has co-founded **Velvet**, a **cinematic audio storytelling platform** launched in **October 2024**. The platform, which focuses on **Hindi audio content**, aims to deliver immersive storytelling experiences. Velvet has already gained significant traction, attracting over **10,000 listeners** on its platform and over **1 million** through distribution partners like **Josh App** in India and **Future Today Group** in the US. Tripathi aims to elevate India's rich **storytelling tradition** into an engaging audio experience.
- Indian banks are expected to see a **decline in net interest margins (NIMs)** by 10 basis points in FY 2025-26 due to the **RBI's rate cut** of 25 basis points to 6.25%. This cut will impact **floating rate loans** like housing, SME, and retail loans, leading to **lower interest rates** and margin compression. **Non-banking financial institutions (NBFI)s** will also face challenges, with increased **competition** and declining **yields**, affecting profitability.
- **Reliance Industries** and **Disney** have launched **JioHotstar**, merging **JioCinema** and **Disney+ Hotstar**. This new platform offers a **comprehensive streaming experience**, combining **live sports, premium entertainment, and exclusive international content**. Users of the original platforms will need to transition to JioHotstar for uninterrupted access to their favorite **shows, movies, and sports events**.
- **Campa Cola**, owned by **Reliance Consumer Products**, has secured the **Rs 200 crore co-presenting rights** for **IPL 2025**, replacing **Coca-Cola's Thums Up**. This move signifies Reliance's strategy to scale its **market presence** and introduce new **sports drinks** during the IPL season, challenging global beverage giants.
- Meta's **Project Waterworth** is a groundbreaking initiative to lay a **50,000-kilometer undersea cable** connecting **India, the US, Brazil, and South Africa**. The project aims to improve **high-speed internet services** and facilitate **digital inclusion**, supporting everything from **cloud computing** to **AI applications**. It is designed to meet the growing demand for fast, secure, and reliable digital infrastructure, boosting economic growth and innovation across five continents.
- **IRDAI** launched the **Bima Trinity** plan at the 9th **Bima Manthan** to transform India's insurance sector. The plan includes **Bima Sugam**, a unified digital marketplace aimed at simplifying the process of buying, servicing, and claiming insurance policies. This initiative seeks to make insurance **accessible, affordable, and efficient** for all, driving **inclusive growth** in the industry.
- **Reliance New Energy Battery Limited**, a subsidiary of **Reliance Industries**, has secured a **10 GWh capacity** under the **PLI Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage**. The **Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)** signed a **Programme Agreement** with the company on **February 17, 2025**, marking a significant step in **India's domestic battery manufacturing** and reducing **import dependence**.
- **N. Chandrasekaran**, Chairman of **Tata Group**, has been awarded an **honorary knighthood** by the **United Kingdom** on **February 14, 2025**. This prestigious recognition honors his exceptional role in enhancing **India-UK business relations**, particularly through his leadership in **Tata Group's investments and collaborations** in the UK.
- India's **smartphone exports** hit a record **Rs 1.55 trillion** in the April 2024 to January 2025 period, a 56% rise from the previous year. This growth, driven by the **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme**, has been fueled by global giants like **Apple** and **Samsung**, with Apple contributing 70% of total exports. The government's push for local production has transformed India into a major smartphone manufacturing hub.
- **360 ONE Asset** plans to acquire a **15% stake** in **Bharti AXA Life Insurance**, bringing fresh capital to support its **expansion and innovation**. This investment will enhance **product offerings, distribution networks**, and enable the company to strengthen its position in the competitive **life insurance market**, catering to the growing demand for **tailored insurance solutions**.





- LIC has launched the 'One Man Office' (OMO) initiative on **February 17, 2025**, aimed at enhancing the efficiency of its agents by providing **24x7 digital services**. The initiative supports LIC's vision of 'Insurance for All by 2047' by offering tools for **policy sales, customer service, and business management**. This digital transformation allows agents to work independently and productively without a traditional office setup, benefiting both **policyholders** and LIC.
- **Tata Power** has partnered with **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** to modernize its **digital infrastructure** and support India's shift to a **smarter, sustainable energy ecosystem**. The collaboration focuses on using **cloud technology** to improve **operational efficiency**, enhance **grid resilience**, and provide consumers with advanced **energy management tools**.
- **Zomato** has launched 'Nugget', an **AI-powered customer support platform** that automates and streamlines customer service. Developed over three years, it now handles **15 million monthly interactions** across Zomato's ecosystem, including **Blinkit** and **Hyperpure**. This initiative underscores Zomato's focus on **AI-driven solutions** to enhance **customer experience** and **operational efficiency**.
- India achieved a **36% reduction** in **GDP emission intensity** from 2005 to 2020, aligning with its **climate action targets** under the **Paris Agreement**. In 2020, total **greenhouse gas emissions** were **2,959 million tonnes** (excluding LULUCF), showing a **7.93% decrease** from 2019. This progress supports India's goal to meet its **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)** target of a **45% emissions reduction** by 2030.
- **Nomura** revised its forecast for **India's fiscal year 2025 GDP growth** to **6.7%**, down from **6.9%**, following a **6.7% growth** in the **April-June quarter**, below expectations. Key factors influencing the downgrade include **reduced government spending** during elections, **weak consumer demand** due to high **interest rates** and **moderating wage growth**, and a slowdown in **industrial activity**, reflected in declining sales of **passenger and commercial vehicles**.
- The **Government of India** plans to update the base year for calculating **GDP** from **2011-12** to **2022-23** to better reflect the current economic landscape. This is the first revision in over a decade. A **26-member Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics (ACNAS)**, chaired by **Biswanath Goldar**, has been formed to identify new data sources and refine the methodology for compiling **National Accounts Statistics**.
- India's GDP is projected to grow by **6.4%** in 2024-25, down from **8.2%** in 2023-24. Key sectors showing strong growth include **Agriculture (3.8%)**, **Construction (8.6%)**, and **Financial, Real Estate, and Professional Services (7.3%)**. **Private Final Consumption Expenditure** is expected to rise by **7.3%**, reflecting stronger consumer spending, while **Government Final Consumption Expenditure** is forecasted at **4.1%**, signaling increased government spending.
- India's **GDP growth forecast** for FY25 has been revised down to **9.7%**, slightly below the earlier estimate of **10.5%**. Despite this, the government's **fiscal deficit target** of **4.9% of GDP** remains on track. To offset the lower growth, **capital expenditure** will be reduced by **₹1-1.5 trillion**, ensuring fiscal discipline and keeping the **deficit** within the target of **₹16.13 trillion**.
- **SBI** has revised its **GDP growth forecast** for FY25 to **6.3%**, slightly lower than the **NSO's** projection of **6.4%**. The adjustment reflects concerns over **slowdown in lending** and **manufacturing**, along with a **high base effect**. Key factors include **agriculture growth** of **3.8%**, a **slowdown in industry (6.2%)** and **services (7.2%)**, and a rise in **private consumption (7.3%)**. **Investment growth** is expected at **6.4%**, lower than the previous year. Despite these challenges, **per capita nominal GDP** is set to rise by **₹35,000**.
- India's economy is projected to grow by **6.6% to 6.8%** in **FY2025-26**, reflecting its resilience and role in regional economic growth. **Bank of Baroda** forecasts **6.8% growth**, driven by strong indicators like **increased air passenger traffic**, **higher PMI**, **GST collections**, and **enhanced rabi crop sowing**, supporting agricultural growth and overall economic expansion.

Economy/Business Current Affairs of January 2025

GDP & GROWTH RATE as per October 2024

- India's economy is projected to grow at **6.5-6.8%** in FY2025, driven by **domestic consumption, infrastructure development, and digitisation**, with growth rising to **6.7-7.3%** in FY2026. However, challenges like **geopolitical tensions, trade disputes, and global liquidity** may affect the long-term outlook. India's **resilience in services, manufacturing exports, and stable capital markets** can offset global uncertainties and support growth.
- India's **GST collection growth** slowed to **7.3% YoY** in **December 2024**, with gross revenue at **₹1.77 lakh crore**, compared to **₹1.65 lakh crore** in December 2023. This marks the slowest growth in three months, reflecting a slight dip in **consumer spending** post-holidays. Despite this, **GST revenues** remained above **₹1.7 lakh crore** for **10 consecutive months**, with the **December quarter** averaging **₹1.82 lakh crore** (up **8.3% YoY**). **Domestic transactions** grew by **8.4%** to **₹1.32 lakh crore**, while revenue from **imports** rose by **3.9%**. **Net GST collections** grew **3.3% YoY**, influenced by higher **refunds**.
- India's coffee exports reached a record **\$1.14 billion** between April and November FY24, marking a **29% growth** from the previous year. This surge is driven by rising global demand for **Robusta coffee** and challenges in major coffee producers like **Brazil** and **Vietnam**. India's premium coffee, especially from **Karnataka**, is gaining traction in markets like **Italy, Russia, UAE, Germany, and Turkey**. Total exports for FY24 are projected to reach **\$1.28 billion**, a **12.22% increase**.





- India's **GDP growth** is projected to rise to **6.7%** in FY25, after moderating to **6.4%** in the current fiscal year, down from **8.2%** previously. **Food inflation** declined, with **CPI inflation** cooling to **5.2%** in December. This trend, alongside stable **non-food inflation** at **3.1%**, may pave the way for a potential **rate cut** by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- India is projected to become the world's **fourth-largest economy** by 2026, surpassing **Japan**, driven by **6.8% GDP growth** in FY2024-25 and **7.7% growth** in FY2025-26, according to **PHDCCI**. Strategic policies aim to boost economic **resilience** and **sustainable development**.
- India is projected to remain the fastest-growing major economy, with a 6.7% growth rate for fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27, according to the World Bank. Key drivers include the expanding **services sector**, strengthening **manufacturing**, and government initiatives to improve **logistics infrastructure** and **tax reforms**.
- FICCI revised India's economic forecast, projecting a **6.4% GDP growth** and **4.8% CPI-based inflation** for fiscal year **2024-25**, reflecting a cautious outlook due to **global uncertainties** and **domestic challenges**.
- The **IMF** has revised India's **FY25 economic growth forecast** to **6.5%**, down from earlier projections, citing **global economic uncertainties**, **domestic inflation**, and **investment slowdown**. Despite this, the IMF maintained a stable outlook for **FY26**. The revision reflects challenges impacting India's post-pandemic recovery, including **geopolitical risks** and inflation.
- The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** projects India's **GDP growth** at **7%** for **FY 2025-26**, driven by rising **private investments** and **employment generation**. A CII survey reveals that **75%** of respondents view the economic climate as favorable for investments, with **70%** of firms planning to invest in FY'26.
- Deloitte India has revised its **GDP growth** projection for the **fiscal year 2024-25** to a **range of 6.5% to 6.8%**, citing global trade uncertainties and domestic challenges. The firm emphasizes the need for cautious optimism as the economy navigates these complexities.

ECONOMY NEWS

- India's **net direct tax collection** reached **₹16.90 lakh crore** by **January 12, 2025**, a **15.88% increase** year-on-year. Key highlights include **₹8.74 lakh crore** from **personal income tax**, **₹7.68 lakh crore** from **corporate tax**, and **₹44,538 crore** from **Securities Transaction Tax (STT)**, reflecting robust economic activity and market trading.
- India's **retail inflation** dropped to **5.22%** in **December 2024**, from **5.48%** in November, mainly due to slower food price increases, especially in **vegetables**, **cereals**, and **pulses**. **Food inflation** fell to **8.39%**, while **core inflation** decreased to **3.5%**. **Rural areas** saw inflation at **5.76%**, compared to **4.58%** in urban areas.

- India's **wholesale price inflation** rose to **2.37%** in **December 2024**, up from **1.89%** in November. Key drivers included **manufactured products** (+2.14%), **non-food articles** (+2.46%), and **fuel and power** (improved deflation of -3.79%). The rise in non-food articles reflects increased costs in sectors like **oilseeds**. India's **wholesale price inflation** rose to **2.37%** in **December 2024**, up from **1.89%** in November. Key drivers included **manufactured products** (+2.14%), **non-food articles** (+2.46%), and **fuel and power** (improved deflation of -3.79%). The rise in non-food articles reflects increased costs in sectors like **oilseeds**.
- The global ratings agency **Moody's** has downgraded India's economic growth forecast for the fiscal year 2024-2025 to **7%**, **down from the 8.2% growth recorded in the previous fiscal year**.

BUSINESS NEWS

- Reliance Industries**, led by **Mukesh Ambani**, acquired **Karkinos Healthcare** for **₹375 crore** through **Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Ltd (RSBVL)**. The deal involves 10 million equity shares and 36.5 million optionally convertible debentures. Karkinos, founded in 2020, specializes in **early cancer detection** and management, with partnerships across **60 hospitals** and plans for a **150-bed cancer hospital** in **Imphal, Manipur**.
- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** has partnered with **boAt**, an Indian audio and wearables brand, to support **DPIIT-recognized startups** in the **D2C** and **manufacturing** sectors. The collaboration aims to provide **mentorship**, **resources**, and **guidance**, helping startups scale locally and globally. Key initiatives include **tailored mentorship programs** covering stages like **prototype development**, with expert support from both **boAt's industry expertise** and government backing.
- BharatPe**, India's leading **fintech** company, plans to sell up to **25%** of its **49% stake** in **Unity Small Finance Bank** to raise around **\$800 million (Rs 6,500 crore)**. This move aims to meet **RBI's regulatory requirements**. BharatPe has appointed **Rothschild & Co** to manage the stake sale.
- Suzuki Motor Corporation** will acquire a **26% stake** in **NDDB Mirda Ltd**, a bio-gas venture by the **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)**, with an initial investment of **₹8.84 crore**. The deal supports Suzuki's use of **Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG)** for enhancing vehicle performance and sustainability. Suzuki has the option to increase its stake to **49%** over time.
- Bajaj Broking** has partnered with **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB)** to offer a **3-in-1 account** that integrates **banking**, **broking**, and **investment services**. TMB customers can now trade online, access a unified platform, and benefit from **easy fund transfers**, reduced paperwork, and **advanced trading features** supported by **research insights** for informed decisions.



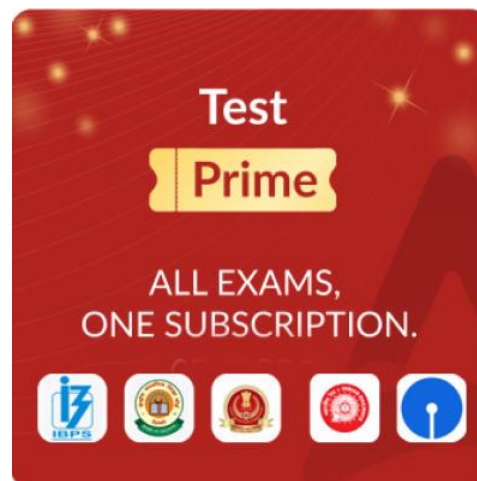


- Ahead of the **Maha Kumbh Mela** (January 13 - February 26, 2025) in **Prayagraj**, **PhonePe** has partnered with **ICICI Lombard** to offer specialized insurance for attendees. **Coverage options** include ₹59 for train/bus travelers and ₹99 for domestic flight travelers. The insurance provides **hospitalization** up to ₹50,000, **personal accident cover** up to ₹1 lakh, **OPD treatment**, **trip cancellation** up to ₹5,000, and more, including **baggage loss** and **missed flight** reimbursements.
- **Swiggy** launched 'Snacc' on **January 7, 2025**, in select **Bengaluru** areas, offering snacks, beverages, and meals with a **15-minute delivery** promise. The app features a menu with items like **chocolate cookies**, **Indian breakfast**, **coffee**, **eggs**, and **sandwiches**. Collaborating with brands like **Blue Tokai** and **The Whole Truth**, Snacc operates independently from **Swiggy's Bolt**. In a competitive **quick commerce** market, **Zomato** (with **Blinkit's Bistro**), **Zepto**, and **Magicpin** (with **magicNOW**) have also introduced rapid food delivery services.
- India aims for **\$100 billion** in combined exports from the **Food & Beverage (F&B)**, **agriculture**, and **marine sectors** over the next five years, with a targeted **14-15% annual growth**. This goal was highlighted by **Piyush Goyal** at **Indusfood 2025**. Last year, India achieved **\$50 billion** in exports, with contributions from **APEDA** and **MPEDA**.
- India's **factory output** surged by **5.2%** in **November 2024**, the highest in six months, driven by a **favorable base effect** and increased demand during the festive season. The **cumulative growth** for **April-November 2024** stands at **4.1%**, down from **6.5%** in the same period last year, reflecting a slowdown. Key contributors include **manufacturing**, **capital goods**, and **consumer durables**.
- On **January 10, 2025**, the **Indian rupee** hit an all-time low of **₹86** against the **US dollar**, driven by factors such as the **strengthening US dollar**, **FII outflows** (₹7,170.87 crore on January 9), and **rising crude oil prices**. These factors contributed to a significant depreciation of the rupee, marking economic challenges.
- In **December 2024**, **e-way bills** reached 8.8 crore, marking a **9.3% increase** from the previous month and a **7.4% rise** from December 2023. This reflects a **strong economic recovery**, driven by increased **transportation** and **trade movements**. The surge aligns with seasonal trends, highlighting higher consumption during the festive season.
- **NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL)** has partnered with UAE-based **fintech firm Magnati** to enable **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** transactions for Indian travelers in the UAE. This collaboration aims to integrate **UPI** into the UAE's **payment ecosystem**, allowing Indian visitors to make seamless payments using their preferred method.
- **Shriram Housing Finance** has rebranded as **Truhome Finance** following its acquisition by **Warburg Pincus** and **QIA**, Qatar's sovereign wealth fund. The rebranding reflects the company's focus on enhancing **accessibility to affordable home loans** across diverse **socio-economic segments**.
- The government has launched **Entity Locker**, a secure, cloud-based digital platform developed by the **National eGovernance Division (NeGD)** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**. Building on the success of **DigiLocker**, Entity Locker is designed to streamline the management, verification, and secure sharing of documents for a wide range of entities, including corporations, MSMEs, trusts, startups, and societies. By leveraging advanced technology, the platform aims to enhance operational efficiency and establish a more secure and efficient digital governance system.
- In a decisive move to address liquidity constraints in the **Indian banking system**, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has conducted a series of **Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auctions**, infusing a substantial **₹76,000 crore** into the financial ecosystem. This initiative aims to alleviate the liquidity deficit and stabilize short-term interest rates, particularly the call money rates, which had been trading above the **RBI's repo rate of 6.5%**.
- **Bharti Airtel** and **Bajaj Finance** have formed a partnership to create one of **India's largest digital platforms** for financial services, leveraging Airtel's customer base and distribution network with Bajaj Finance's diverse product offerings. The collaboration aims to enhance financial inclusion through a seamless user experience on the **Airtel Thanks App**, offering products like gold loans and business loans. This strategic move builds on **India's growing digital infrastructure**, with a focus on underserved regions and accessible financial solutions.
- **Tata AIG General Insurance Company** has launched **CyberEdge**, a comprehensive cyber insurance solution designed to protect Indian businesses from **escalating cyber risks**. This initiative aligns with the company's strategic goal to **capture 25% of the cyber insurance market** within the **next five years**.
- **Tata AIA Life Insurance** has unveiled 'Shubh Muhurat,' a life insurance solution designed to assist families in financially preparing for their children's weddings. This initiative aims to address the escalating costs associated with weddings in India, a sector valued at **over ₹10.7 lakh crore in 2024**.
- **Skydo Technologies**, a Bengaluru-based fintech firm, has received **in-principle authorization** from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to function as a **Payment Aggregator-Cross Border (PA-CB) entity**. This approval underscores Skydo's commitment to providing compliant, seamless, and cost-effective cross-border payment solutions for Indian exporters.
- **Shri Vikram Dev Dutt**, **Secretary of the Ministry of Coal**, virtually inaugurated digital classrooms in government schools across Jharkhand. These classrooms are part of 'Digi Vidya,' a **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative** by **Coal India Limited (CIL)** subsidiaries. The event was attended by **Shri PM Prasad**, **Chairman of CIL**, **Smt. Rupinder Brar**, **Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Coal**, and other senior officials.





- The **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** issued notices to **Ola** and **Uber** over claims of **differential pricing** based on mobile operating systems, with **iPhone users** allegedly charged higher fares than **Android users**. **Union Minister Pralhad Joshi** directed the CCPA to investigate, ensuring **consumer rights** and **fair trade practices**. In response, both companies denied the allegations, stating they do not differentiate pricing based on the **mobile device** used and are willing to cooperate with the CCPA.
- In 2024, **UPI** accounted for **83%** of India's **digital transactions**, up from 34% in 2019, highlighting its rapid adoption. The total transaction volume exceeded **208.5 billion**, while traditional payment methods like **NEFT, RTGS**, and **IMPS** saw a decline from **66%** in 2019 to **17%** by 2024.
- The **Government of India** has approved a **₹500 crore capital infusion** into the **Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI)** for **2024-25**. This move, aimed at strengthening IFCI's financial health, comes ahead of its **restructuring and consolidation**. The infusion includes ₹499.99 crore for **share capital subscription** and efficient use of savings to avoid extra cash outflow.
- **CheQ**, an Indian fintech company, has launched **Wisor**, India's first **AI-driven credit card expert**. Wisor offers **personalized credit assistance** with an intuitive Q&A interface, **comprehensive spend analysis** across cards and merchants, and **optimized rewards management**. This tool helps users maximize credit card rewards and manage spending efficiently with personalized insights.
- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)** is facing a slowdown, with **recovery rates** for banks dropping from 40% in **2022-23** to 28% in **2023-24**. This decline, due to prolonged **resolution timelines** and the erosion of **non-performing assets (NPAs)**, has led banks to explore alternative recovery methods. The number of cases admitted to the **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** also decreased, from 501 to 417 cases.
- India's **foreign exchange reserves** declined to **\$625.87 billion** as of **January 10, 2025**, from **\$634.59 billion** the previous week. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has been intervening in the **forex market** to stabilize the **rupee**, which has depreciated against the **U.S. dollar**, leading to a depletion of reserves amidst global economic challenges.
- **Jio** has launched **JioSoundPay**, a free feature on the **JioBharat** phone to simplify **UPI payments** for small businesses in India. This feature provides **instant, multilingual audio confirmations** for every transaction, helping small merchants like **kirana stores, vegetable vendors**, and **roadside eateries** handle payments seamlessly, reflecting Jio's commitment to simplifying digital tools for everyday users.
- **CRED** has launched the **beta version** of the **e₹ wallet**, making it the first **fintech platform** to adopt India's **central bank digital currency (CBDC)**, the **e-rupee**. This initiative, in collaboration with the **RBI** and **YES Bank**, enables users to store and transact using digital currency, marking a significant step in India's **digital payments** transformation.
- The Indian government has launched the **Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme (MCGS-MSME)** with a ₹100 crore corpus to boost the **MSME manufacturing sector**. The initiative aims to enhance **credit availability** for MSMEs, enabling them to acquire essential equipment and machinery without requiring **collateral**.
- **Tata Steel** has become the first Indian company to develop **hydrogen-compliant pipes** for transporting hydrogen, marking a significant step in **India's clean energy transition**. The **API X65 pipes**, produced at Tata Steel's **Khopoli plant** and made from steel at its **Kalinganagar facility**, align with **India's National Hydrogen Mission** and global sustainability goals. This innovation highlights Tata Steel's commitment to **clean energy** and infrastructure development.
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** is enforcing new compliance measures for **UPI transactions** starting **February 1, 2025**. **UPI transaction IDs** will now be strictly **alphanumeric**, with special characters like **@, #, \$, %** banned to enhance **security**, ensure **uniformity**, and improve **transaction efficiency** in India's growing digital payments ecosystem.
- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has introduced a new directive to protect **senior citizens** from sharp increases in **health insurance premiums**. Insurers are now restricted from raising premiums for individuals aged **60 and above** by more than **10% per year** without prior approval. This initiative aims to ensure **affordable** and **accessible health insurance** for the elderly.





Defense Current Affairs

Defense Current Affairs of June 2025

EXERCISE

Exercise Name	Venue / Participating Countries	Key Notes
Exercise Tiger Claw 2025	India – Garud Regimental Training Centre, Uttar Pradesh Participants: India (IAF Garud Commandos), USA (USAF Special Forces)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First-ever joint special forces exercise between Indian Air Force's Garud Commandos and USAF Special Forces (May 26 – June 10, 2025). Aimed at enhancing interoperability, sharing air-based special operations tactics, and boosting combat readiness. Adds a new layer to India–US military ties beyond Yudh Abhyas, Vajra Prahar, and Cope India.
Exercise Khaan Quest 2025	Mongolia Participants: Multinational (including India)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India sent a 40-member team, including women soldiers, to this U.N.-mandated multinational peacekeeping drill (June 14–28, 2025). Training includes civilian evacuation, cordon & search, counter-IED ops, and combat medical care. Reinforces India's commitment to peacekeeping and international defense diplomacy.
Cyber Suraksha	India Organizer: Defence Cyber Agency (Integrated Defence Staff)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 12-day cybersecurity exercise involving 100+ defence personnel. Includes CISOs leadership conclave, threat simulations, and decision-making drills. Aims to strengthen cyber resilience and promote a cybersecurity-first culture in defence. Will be made a regular initiative by the Ministry of Defence.
Exercise Shakti 2025	France – Camp Larzac Participants: India, France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8th edition of Indo-French military exercise focusing on sub-conventional and counter-terrorism operations. 90-member Indian contingent from Jammu and Kashmir Rifles trained alongside France's 13th Foreign Legion Half-Brigade. Simulated urban warfare scenarios conducted under UN Chapter VII mandate to improve coordination and readiness.

TESTING

- The **Indian Army** has successfully conducted trials of **Rudrastra**, an **indigenously developed VTOL drone** by **Solar Aerospace and Defence Limited (SDAL)**. The trials, held at the **Pokhran range**, validated the drone's ability to execute **deep-cross border strikes** with **precision-guided airburst munitions**. With a total **range of 170 km**, **1.5-hour endurance**, and **real-time live video relay**, Rudrastra enhances India's **stand-off strike capability**.
- India is developing next-generation variants of the **Pinaka rocket system**, with ranges up to **300 km**, to boost its **artillery strength** and achieve **defence self-reliance**. Developed by **DRDO**, the Pinaka-3 and Pinaka-4 systems will support **precision strikes**, rapid deployment, and **high-volume firepower**. With the successful **trials of the Guided Pinaka** and the Army planning to induct **22 regiments by 2030**, these developments reinforce India's commitment to **indigenization, modernization**, and enhanced **national security**.

DEAL & MoU's

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

- In a historic **first visit**, European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) ships — **ESPS Reina Sofia** and **ITS Antonio Marceglia** — docked in **Mumbai** from **26 May to 1 June 2025**. The port call featured **Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEEs)**, a **Table Top Exercise**, and discussions with the **Indian Navy** on boosting **maritime security cooperation**. These engagements serve to enhance **interoperability**, reflect the outcomes of the **4th India-EU Maritime Security Dialogue**, and underscore shared interests in tackling **piracy, smuggling**, and **IUU fishing** in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.





- Air Marshal Jasvir Singh Mann has assumed the role of **Senior Air Staff Officer** in the **Western Air Command of the Indian Air Force**, bringing with him a vast range of operational and strategic experience, having served in several critical commands and earned prestigious honours during his decades-long career in the armed forces.
- On **June 1, 2025**, **Shailendra Nath Gupta**, a seasoned officer from the **Indian Defence Estates Service (IDES)**, took charge as the **Director General of Defence Estates (DGDE)**. Having held various leadership positions across **Cantonment Boards, Defence Estates Circles, and Commands**, Gupta now oversees **18 lakh acres of defence land**. The **DGDE**, through its six regional commands, plays a crucial role in **land management, urban governance in cantonments, and coordination with the Ministry of Defence**.
- The **Tri-Services All-Women Sailing Expedition Team** completed a **historic 1,800-nautical-mile international voyage** to **Seychelles**, marking the **first of its kind** by the **Indian Armed Forces**. The mission, conducted aboard 'Triveni', not only showcased the **resilience and operational capability** of women officers from the **Army, Navy, and Air Force**, but also contributed to **India's maritime diplomacy**. Their return on **June 4, 2025**, is a tribute to **Nari Shakti, Tri-services synergy, and India's strategic vision** for gender inclusion and oceanic outreach.
- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** has commissioned a **dedicated jetty at Vizhinjam Harbour, Kerala**, marking a vital development in India's maritime security network. Inaugurated on **June 7, 2025**, by **DG Paramesh Sivamani**, this 76.7-metre jetty lies just 10 nautical miles from key international shipping lanes and aims to strengthen operations related to **coastal surveillance, anti-smuggling, and search & rescue**. The event was attended by high-ranking officials from various defense and maritime bodies. The initiative underscores India's strategic efforts to secure its southwestern coastline and bolster integrated coastal management.
- **Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi** visited **Uttarakhand's Garhwal region** to evaluate the **readiness of deployed troops** and to boost morale. During this visit, he launched **Ibex Tarana 88.4 FM**, a **community radio station** in **Jyotirmath** envisioned to promote **local culture, education, and disaster awareness**. The station aims to empower **youth voices** and connect the people with their **cultural roots**. Additionally, the Army Chief honoured **veterans** for their **nation-building contributions**, marking a notable blend of **military vigilance and community development**.
- **Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai** has been appointed as the new **Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy)**, a key role overseeing **Operations and Intelligence Directorates**, while continuing as **DGMO**, marking a major move in the Indian Army's **strategic leadership** to strengthen **threat anticipation, integrated command, and inter-departmental synergy** through a unified **operational oversight** structure.
- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** chaired the **137th Offshore Security Coordination Committee (OSCC)** meeting in **New Delhi** on **June 12, 2025**, to reinforce the **security of India's offshore installations**. Senior representatives from the **armed forces, ministries, ONGC, and state police** discussed enhancing **joint response frameworks and inter-agency coordination**. Established in **1978**, OSCC plays a pivotal role in safeguarding India's **strategic energy infrastructure**, making the meeting a crucial step toward **energy security and maritime safety**.
- In a proud moment for India, a **10-member NCC team**, including **five girls and five boys**, successfully **summitted Mount Everest** on **May 18, 2025**, marking NCC's **third successful expedition** to the world's highest peak. The team was **felicitated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** on **June 12, 2025**, and awarded a **₹10 lakh reward**. The expedition showcased **courage, discipline, and patriotism**, reinforcing the **NCC's role** in developing **resilient, confident youth**.
- A major marine emergency has unfolded off **Kerala's coast** as the **Singaporean vessel MV Wan Hai 503**, engulfed in flames since June 9, 2025, continues to drift with a dangerous cargo of **fuel and hazardous containers**. The **Indian Coast Guard** has deployed multiple ships, aircraft, and salvage teams to control the fire and **tow the ship away from the shore**. Despite reducing the visible flames, **internal fires still pose significant risks**, underscoring the urgent need for continued **aerial, sea, and technical operations** to avert an **environmental and maritime crisis**.
- On **13 June 2025**, the **Indian Navy** executed a **daring aerial insertion** of a salvage team aboard the **burning cargo ship MV Wan Hai 503** using a **Seaking helicopter** from **INS Garuda**. The operation involved connecting the vessel to the **salvage tug Offshore Warrior** and successfully extracting the team post-mission. Supported by **INS Sharda, MV Triton Liberty, and Indian Coast Guard**, the mission highlighted India's **maritime emergency response capabilities**, ensuring the vessel could be safely towed and maritime safety maintained.
- **INS Arnala**, the first of the **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** series, was **commissioned by the Indian Navy** at **Visakhapatnam** on **June 18, 2025**, in a ceremony led by **CDS General Anil Chauhan**. Built by **GRSE** in partnership with **L&T Shipbuilders**, the vessel showcases **80% indigenous content**, aligning with the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative**. Designed for **coastal and littoral warfare**, it enhances India's **anti-submarine capabilities** and secures the nation's interests in the **Indian Ocean Region**.





- **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.
- 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.

Defense Current Affairs of May 2025

EXERCISE

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
HADR exercise	India-Maldives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The INS Sharda's deployment to the Maldives for a week-long HADR exercise symbolizes India's proactive engagement in regional disaster preparedness and defence diplomacy. • Aligned with India's MAHASAGAR vision, the exercise involves joint drills, SAR operations, and medical support, deepening ties with the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF). • India also supports Maldives through training, infrastructure, and healthcare aid, reinforcing its role as a key maritime partner in the Indian Ocean.
IMDEX Asia 2025	Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INS Kiltan's participation in IMDEX Asia 2025 in Singapore demonstrates India's growing maritime diplomacy, defence cooperation, and commitment to regional security. • The event, hosting navies from over 70 countries, provides a platform for strategic engagement, showcasing of indigenous naval capabilities, and fostering interoperability through joint activities and professional exchanges.
Tabletop Exercise	Quad countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Quad countries recently conducted a Tabletop Exercise in Honolulu to initiate the Indo-Pacific Logistics Network (IPLN), which aims to enhance shared logistics for civilian disaster response in the Indo-Pacific. • The effort underscores the Quad's strategic goal of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, highlighting cooperation, resilience, and non-military humanitarian support in a geopolitically sensitive region.
Military Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT	India-Mongolia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indian Army contingent has officially departed to participate in the 17th edition of the India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT, set to take place from 31st May to 13th June 2025 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. • This joint training event reflects the deepening military cooperation between the two friendly nations and aims to enhance tactical and operational synergy between their armed forces.
Operation Abhyas	Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation Abhyas, a civil defence mock drill in Bengaluru, was conducted by the Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services under the guidance of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). • The exercise involved rescue simulations, fire control measures, and public awareness activities. Prompted by the recent Pahalgam terrorist attack, the drill highlighted the importance of emergency preparedness amid a rising threat perception across the country. • Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara stressed public cooperation and readiness in times of national crisis.





EXERCISE NAME	VENUE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
Golden Dragon-2025 joint military drill	China and Cambodia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Golden Dragon-2025 joint military drill, held in Cambodia, signifies a deeper defense partnership between China and Cambodia. The exercise covers counter-terrorism, humanitarian relief, and multi-domain military operations, including the use of unmanned systems. The involvement of the Ream Port Joint Support and Training Center and integrated training phases reflect growing military trust and strategic cooperation between the two nations.

TESTING

- DRDO** successfully conducted the **maiden flight trial** of its **Stratospheric Airship Platform**, developed by **ADRDE, Agra**, from **Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh**. The airship reached a **stratospheric altitude of ~17 km** and flew for **62 minutes**, testing key systems like the **envelop pressure control and emergency deflation system**.

DEAL & MoU's

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, in collaboration with the Indian Navy, has successfully validated the **Multi-Influence Ground Mine (MIGM)** through combat firing with reduced explosives. Developed by **NSTL Visakhapatnam** with support from other DRDO labs and manufactured by **Bharat Dynamics Limited** and **Apollo Microsystems**, the system is designed to enhance India's undersea warfare capabilities against modern stealth threats. With its readiness confirmed, MIGM is poised for induction into the Indian Navy, marking a significant boost to indigenous defence production under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative.
- The Indian Navy has inducted **Arnala**, the first indigenously designed **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)**, developed through a **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** between **GRSE** and **L&T Shipyard**. With **over 80% indigenous content**, this 77-meter warship boosts **coastal defence**, especially for **low intensity maritime operations and mine laying**. The delivery supports the vision of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and strengthens **India's maritime security architecture**.
- India's **Bhargavastra** represents a groundbreaking **indigenous anti-drone system** that effectively counters the growing menace of **drone swarms** using a mix of **hard-kill micro rockets, soft-kill jamming, and advanced sensors**. Developed by **Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL)**, it can operate across diverse terrains and integrates seamlessly with India's **network-centric warfare** infrastructure. This innovation is pivotal in enhancing **national security** amid evolving **aerial threats** and recent hostile drone incursions near India's borders.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully designed a **high-pressure nanoporous polymeric membrane** for **sea water desalination**, marking a breakthrough in India's drive for **self-reliance** in defence and marine technology. Developed by **DMSRDE** in just **eight months**, the membrane was successfully tested on an **Offshore Patrolling Vessel (OPV)** of the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**. The innovation addresses challenges posed by **chloride ions in saline water** and is a critical step under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative. After 500 hours of testing, it is set to be operationally deployed, with future scope for civilian coastal use.
- The **Indian Navy**, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Culture** and **M/s Hodi Innovations**, is inducting an **Ancient Stitched Ship**, a replica of a **5th-century CE vessel** inspired by **Ajanta cave paintings**. Built using **traditional hand-stitching techniques** by **Kerala artisans**, and supported technically by **IIT Madras**, the ship highlights India's **maritime heritage** and **naval craftsmanship**. A planned **voyage from Gujarat to Oman** will retrace **historic trade routes**, reinforcing India's ancient identity as a **seafaring nation**.

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

- The **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** accomplished a major milestone by **scaling Mt. Makalu**, the **world's fifth highest mountain**, as part of a **historic twin expedition**. While the **Mt. Annapurna** attempt was halted near the summit due to a **blizzard**, the Makalu team achieved an **83% success rate**. Led by **Anoop Kumar Negi**, the climbers also contributed to environmental sustainability by collecting **150 kg of waste** under the '**Clean Himalaya – Save Glacier**' campaign.
- India** has finalized a **\$131 million agreement with the US** for **HawkEye 360** satellite-based RF surveillance technology, significantly enhancing its ability to monitor maritime activity and detect dark ships. The deal supports **QUAD** goals and boosts India's coastal security infrastructure, especially in its **Exclusive Economic Zone**. Integrated with existing systems like **P-8I aircraft** and **IFC-IOR**, the tech offers **24/7 real-time, weather-proof monitoring**. This development marks a new chapter in **US-India strategic defense cooperation** in the **Indo-Pacific region**.





- **Lt Cdr Roopa A** and **Lt Cdr Dilna K** of the Indian Navy have completed a **historic circumnavigation** under **Navika Sagar Parikrama II**, covering **25,400 nautical miles** aboard **INS Tarini** in **eight months**. The voyage exemplified **Nari Shakti**, endured **cyclonic seas**, and fostered **global maritime diplomacy**. Their mission culminates on **May 29, 2025**, at **Mormugao Port**, led by **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh**, marking a proud moment in India's **naval and gender-inclusive** legacy.
- In a significant step towards **green aviation** and **indigenous technological innovation**, India has launched the development of the **Electric Hansa (E-HANSA)** — a next-generation, **two-seater electric trainer aircraft**. This initiative was revealed by **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, during a high-level review meeting with top science department officials.
- **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** has approved the **grant of "Miniratna" Category-I status** to three key **Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)** — **Munitions India Limited (MIL)**, **Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL)**, and **India Optel Limited (IOL)**. This recognition acknowledges their rapid transformation into **profit-making corporate entities** within a short span of **three years**.

Defense Current Affairs of April 2025

EXERCISE

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
INIOCHOS-25	Greece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indian Air Force (IAF) participate in Exercise INIOCHOS-25, a multi-national air exercise hosted by the Hellenic Air Force at Andravida Air Base, Greece, from March 31 to April 11, 2025. • The IAF will deploy Su-30 MKI fighters, IL-78 aerial refuelers, and C-17 transport aircraft alongside 15 nations to enhance combat interoperability, joint air operations, and tactical expertise. The biennial exercise features realistic combat scenarios, strengthening India's defense cooperation and reinforcing strategic partnerships through mutual learning and operational planning.
Exercise Tiger Triumph 2025		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise Tiger Triumph 2025, the fourth edition of the India-US bilateral Tri-Service HADR exercise, will take place from April 1-13, 2025, on the Eastern Seaboard. • Aimed at enhancing interoperability in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations, it will focus on developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and a Combined Coordination Center (CCC) for joint crisis response. • The exercise includes a Harbour Phase in Visakhapatnam (April 1-7) and a Sea Phase off Kakinada (April 8-13), featuring joint maritime, amphibious, and medical aid operations.
INDRA 2025 exercise		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The INDRA 2025 exercise, held from March 28 to April 2, 2025, was the 14th edition of the bilateral naval drill between the Indian Navy and Russian Navy. • The exercise focused on strengthening interoperability, simulating coordinated manoeuvres, and countering maritime security threats. • Key activities included complex combat drills, enhancing joint operational readiness, and exchanging best practices to improve mutual understanding and effectiveness in addressing contemporary maritime challenges.
Exercise DUSTLIK (DUSTLIK-VI)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 6th edition of Exercise DUSTLIK (DUSTLIK-VI) between India and Uzbekistan commenced on April 16, 2025, at the Foreign Training Node, Aundh, Pune, and will run until April 28, 2025. • The exercise focuses on enhancing bilateral military cooperation, tactical interoperability, and coordination between the armed forces of both nations.
Exercise 'Aakraman'		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted Exercise 'Aakraman', a major military drill involving Rafale and Su-30MKI fighter jets to simulate attacks on mountainous and ground targets, test electronic warfare, and conduct live fire operations. • With cutting-edge systems like the Meteor and Rampage missiles, and the S-400 air defense system, the exercise aimed to enhance combat readiness amid rising India-Pakistan tensions following the Pahalgam terror attack.





DEAL & MoU's

- India's **defence exports** hit a record **Rs 23,622 crore (US\$ 2.76 billion)** in **FY 2024-25**, marking a **12.04% growth** from the previous year. This surge, driven by **Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)** and **private industry**, reflects India's growing self-reliance and **global competitiveness** in defence manufacturing. **DPSUs** recorded a **42.85% rise**, contributing **Rs 8,389 crore**, while the **private sector** accounted for **Rs 15,233 crore**.
- India and France** are set to finalize a **₹63,000-crore G-to-G deal** on **April 28, 2025**, for **26 Rafale-Marine (Rafale-M) jets—22 single-seaters** and **4 twin-seater trainers**—to enhance **India's naval aviation**. These jets will be deployed on **INS Vikramaditya** and **INS Vikrant**, bridging the capability gap until the indigenous **Twin Engine Deck-Based Fighter (TEDBF)** is ready. **Deliveries will begin in 3.5 years**, with full delivery in **6.5 years**, strengthening **India–France strategic defence ties**.

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

- The **Navika Sagar Parikrama II (NSP-II)**, a **global circumnavigation expedition** by **Indian Navy women officers Lt Cdr Dilna K and Lt Cdr Roopa A**, reached **Cape Town, South Africa**, marking the fourth leg of its **23,400-nautical-mile journey**. **Flagged off on October 2, 2024, from Goa**, the expedition aims to **promote women empowerment, marine research, and maritime cooperation**. The vessel **INSV Tarini** previously stopped at **Fremantle (Australia), Lyttelton (New Zealand), and Port Stanley (Falklands, UK)** and will return in **May 2025**.
- The **Indian Army** organized the **Batalik Cricket League** at **Jubar Stadium, Batalik** in **April 2025** to celebrate **Kargil Vijay Diwas**. The event aimed to promote **sports, engage local youth, and support regional development**. **13 teams** participated, with **Batalik A** winning by 47 runs. A unique initiative involved purchasing locally made **Ladakhi Willow Cricket bats** from a young entrepreneur, supporting **local artisans**.
- The **Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM)**, developed by **DRDO** and **Israel Aerospace Industries**, has successfully passed critical trials, proving its operational readiness for the **Indian Army**. Designed to target and destroy a wide range of **aerial threats**, the missile system underwent four successful flight tests at **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island**, targeting **long-range, short-range, high-altitude, and low-altitude** threats.
- India has approved a **₹63,000 crore (\$7+ billion)** deal with **France** for **26 Rafale Marine fighter jets** under a **Government-to-Government (G2G)** agreement, enhancing **naval aviation and carrier-based air power** on **INS Vikrant**. Cleared by the **Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)**, the deal includes **22 single-seaters, 4 twin-seater trainer jets**, along with **fleet maintenance, weapon systems, training, and offset obligations** to boost **indigenous manufacturing** and the **defense ecosystem**.
- The **Defence Literature Festival 'Kalam & Kavach 2.0'** was held on **April 15, 2025**, at the **Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi**, organized by **CENJOWS** and **HQ IDS**, with the theme '**Securing India's Rise through Defence Reforms**'. The event focused on **defence technology**, including **AI, cyber technologies, quantum computing, drones, space tech, and semiconductors**. It emphasized **Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliance) in defence manufacturing**.
- The **Indian Navy** hosted the **3rd edition of Meghayan-25** on **April 14, 2025**, at **Nausena Bhawan, New Delhi**, to celebrate **World Meteorological Day 2025** under the theme "**Closing the Early Warning Gap Together**." The symposium aimed to enhance awareness and collaboration in **Marine Meteorology and Oceanology**.
- Under **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh**, India is setting ambitious goals for **defence production**, targeting **₹1.60 lakh crore** in 2025 and **₹3 lakh crore** by 2029, with a focus on **Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India)**. The country aims to increase **defence exports** to **₹30,000 crore** in 2025 and **₹50,000 crore** by 2029, reducing dependency on imports, fostering **indigenous innovation**, and enhancing global **supply chain resilience**. This strategic vision seeks to establish India as a self-reliant leader in **defence manufacturing**.
- During **President Droupadi Murmu's April 2025 visit to Slovakia**, **India and Slovakia** signed their **first-ever defence MoU**, marking a major step in boosting **India's indigenous defence manufacturing**. The deal involves **JCBL Group's defence arm, ADSL**, collaborating with Slovakia to **co-develop advanced technologies for light tanks**, including **turrets, protection systems, and remote weapon systems**.
- INS Sunayna** docked at **Nacala Port, Mozambique**, on **April 17, 2025**, as part of India's **IOS SAGAR mission**, strengthening **maritime partnerships** in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**. Launched on **April 5, 2025**, by India's **Defense Minister**, the mission features multinational participation, with 44 naval personnel from nine countries, including **Mozambique, Kenya, and South Africa**, aboard the ship.





- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has deployed a contingent to **Al Dhafra Air Base, UAE**, for **Exercise Desert Flag-10**, running from April 21 to May 8, 2025. This multinational **air combat exercise** underscores India's commitment to **enhancing military cooperation** and operational capabilities.
- In a major breakthrough for **India's hypersonic weapons programme**, **DRDL (a DRDO unit)** successfully conducted a **1,000+ second ground test** of an **Active Cooled Scramjet Subscale Combustor** on **April 25, 2025**, at the **Scramjet Connect Test Facility in Hyderabad**. This long-duration test of the **air-breathing scramjet engine**, which enables speeds above **Mach 5**, validates key technologies for future **hypersonic cruise missiles** and marks a leap in **indigenous defence capabilities**, with **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** calling it a testament to India's advanced research commitment.

Defense Current Affairs of March 2025

EXERCISE

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
Sea Dragon 2025	India, Japan (JMSDF), Australia (RAAF), and South Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sea Dragon 2025, a multilateral anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercise, has begun off the Guam coast from March 4 to March 19, 2025. Hosted by the U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet, it includes India, Japan (JMSDF), Australia (RAAF), and South Korea (ROKN). The drill aims to enhance maritime security coordination and strengthen tactical interoperability among allies.
KHANJAR-XII	India-Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 12th edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR-XII will be held in Kyrgyzstan from 10 March to 23 March 2025. Since its inception in 2011, the exercise has become a key annual event to strengthen military cooperation between the two countries. KHANJAR-XII underscores the growing strategic partnership between India and Kyrgyzstan, emphasizing their shared commitment to regional peace, stability, and security.
Theatre Level Operational Exercise (TROPEX) 2025	Indian Ocean Region (IOR), including the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Theatre Level Operational Exercise (TROPEX) 2025, India's premier large-scale combat drill, was held from January to March 2025. The exercise aimed to validate operational concepts, test combat readiness, and enhance joint-force coordination. Conducted in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), including the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal, it saw extensive participation from the Indian Army, Indian Air Force (IAF), and Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
6th edition of CORPAT and the 4th edition of 'BONGOSAGAR'	Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 6th edition of CORPAT and the 4th edition of 'BONGOSAGAR' between the Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy began on March 10, 2025, and will run until March 12, 2025, in the Bay of Bengal. These exercises aim to enhance maritime security, strengthen cooperation, and combat criminal activities at sea, under the supervision of Commander Flotilla West.
VARUNA	India and France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 23rd edition of VARUNA, a bilateral naval exercise between India and France, will be held from March 19-22, 2025. Established in 2001, the exercise focuses on enhancing naval interoperability and operational synergy. This year's drill features aircraft carriers Vikrant and Charles de Gaulle, along with fighter aircraft, destroyers, frigates, and a Scorpene-class submarine. The exercise aims to strengthen air defence, anti-submarine warfare, and surface combat capabilities.





TESTING

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully tested an **indigenous Integrated Life Support System (ILSS)** for the **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas**. This **Oxygen Generating System-based (OBOGS)** ILSS eliminates the need for conventional liquid oxygen cylinders, generating breathable oxygen for aircrew during flight. Conducted by the **Defence Bio-Engineering & Electro Medical Laboratory (DEBEL)** in Bengaluru, the trial proved the system's effectiveness under extreme conditions, paving the way for its use in other aircraft like the **MiG 29K**.
- India's **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** successfully tested the **Astra BVRAAM** (Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile) from the **LCA Tejas AF MK1 prototype** off the **Chandipur coast, Odisha**. Developed by **DRDO**, the missile hit a flying target accurately, demonstrating a range of **over 100 kilometers** and enhancing India's **air defense capabilities** with advanced, indigenous missile technology.

DEAL & MoU's

- India has signed a **\$248 million agreement** with **Russia's Rosoboronexport** to procure **1,000 horsepower engines** for its **T-72 battle tanks**, aiming to boost **battlefield mobility** and **offensive capability** of the **Indian Army**. The deal also includes **technology transfer** to **Armoured Vehicles Nigam Ltd** for the **licensed production** of these engines, strengthening India's **defense manufacturing sector**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** signed a **₹2,906 crore** contract with the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** for the procurement of the **Low-Level Transportable Radar (LLTR) Ashwini**. Developed by **DRDO's LRDE**, this **solid-state technology** radar can track **drones, helicopters, and fighter jets**. The deal supports **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**, boosting **indigenous defence production**.

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

- **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** made history by becoming the first **Defence Minister of India** to visit the **Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM)** in Bengaluru, Karnataka, on **March 09, 2025**. His visit highlighted the significance of **aerospace medicine** in India's **defence and aviation sectors**. Singh was briefed on IAM's role in **pilot training, aeromedical research, and medical evaluation** of Air Force personnel. He also inaugurated a key **research project** and emphasized the growing importance of **space medicine** as India advances in both air and space domains.
- **HDFC Bank**, in partnership with the **Indian Army** and **CSC Academy**, has renewed its **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to expand **Project NAMAN**, which supports **Army veterans**, their families, and next of kin. The agreement will establish **Common Service Centres (CSCs)** at **26 Directorate of Indian Army Veterans (DIAV)** locations, offering **pension services, Government-to-Citizen (G2C) services, and Business-to-Consumer (B2C) services** at defense establishments. This initiative is part of HDFC Bank's **Parivartan programme**, aimed at promoting **economic inclusiveness** for veterans and their families.
- The **First Training Squadron (1TS)** of the **Indian Navy**, including **INS Sujata, INS Shardul, and ICGS Veera**, successfully completed its visit to **Phuket Deep Sea Port, Thailand**. The visit involved **coordinated tactical maneuvers, professional exchanges, and joint exercises** with the **Royal Thai Navy (RTN)**, strengthening the maritime partnership between **India and Thailand**.
- India is set to enhance **maritime security** cooperation with **Mauritius** through a **white shipping agreement**. The deal, expected to be signed during **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** visit, will enable the exchange of **commercial shipping information** between the **Indian and Mauritian navies** and coast guards, strengthening ties in the **Western Indian Ocean** amid rising **Chinese presence** and shifting **geopolitical dynamics**.
- The keel-laying ceremony for the second **Fleet Support Ship (FSS)** was held on **March 12, 2025**, at **L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli**. The event, attended by **Vice Admiral Rajaram Swaminathan** and senior officials, marks a significant milestone in India's maritime capabilities. The project is part of a **contract signed in August 2023** between the **Indian Navy** and **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)** for five FSS vessels, with deliveries starting by mid-2027. The initiative showcases the success of the **public-private partnership (PPP)** model, with **L&T** constructing two ships to boost India's **shipbuilding capacity**.
- India and **Australia** have agreed to strengthen **defence cooperation** and **interoperability** across **maritime, land, and air** domains. This was discussed during the **9th India-Australia Defence Policy Talks** in **New Delhi** on **March 17, 2025**. Key areas include enhancing **maritime domain awareness, information sharing, and science & technology collaboration**, with a focus on the upcoming **2+2 Ministerial Dialogue** in Australia.





Defense Current Affairs of February 2025

Aero India 2025: India's Largest Defence Expo Begins

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated **Aero India 2025**, the **15th edition of India's premier aerospace and defence exhibition**, on **February 10, 2025**, at **Yelahanka Air Force Station, Bengaluru**. This **five-day event**, regarded as **Asia's largest** in the sector, is a key platform showcasing **India's advancements in defence technology, aerospace innovations, and global collaborations**.

What Makes Aero India 2025 the Largest Edition Yet?

The scale of **Aero India 2025** is unprecedented, spanning **42,438 square meters** with participation from **30 defence ministers, 43 military chiefs, and representatives from 90 countries**. The exhibition features an extensive display of **70 fighter jets, transport aircraft, and trainer aircraft**, along with **30 helicopters performing aerial maneuvers**.

One of the major highlights is the presence of **Russian and American fifth-generation stealth fighter jets**, including the **Russian Su-57** and **Lockheed Martin's F-35 Lightning II**. Their participation signals **India's growing stature as a global defence and aerospace hub**. Another key attraction is the **India Pavilion**, which showcases over **275 cutting-edge defence exhibits**. Notable innovations on display include the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)**, **Combat Air Teaming System (CATS)**, and **Twin-Engine Deck-Based Fighter (TEDBF)**. Alongside, the **iDEX Pavilion**, dedicated to Indian defence startups, features **indigenously developed advanced technologies**, reinforcing India's push for self-reliance in defence.

How is the Indian Government Supporting Defence Growth?

The Indian government has made a strong commitment to defence modernization. The **Union Budget 2025-26** allocated **₹6.81 lakh crore** to the **Ministry of Defence**, with **₹1.80 lakh crore set aside for capital acquisition**. Importantly, **75% of this modernization budget is earmarked for domestic procurement**, strengthening the Indian defence ecosystem.

Rajnath Singh also emphasized **public-private collaboration** in boosting India's defence manufacturing capabilities. A notable example is the **Tata Advanced Systems Limited-Airbus joint venture** for manufacturing **C-295 transport aircraft in Gujarat**. Such initiatives highlight the growing synergy between the **government, private companies, and international defence firms**.

How is India's Defence Industry Growing in Manufacturing and Exports?

India's **domestic defence production** is set to **exceed ₹1.25 trillion (\$14.24 billion) by March 2025**, a major boost to its **Make in India** initiative. This growth is driven by **indigenous production of advanced fighter jets, missiles, drones, and defence systems**.

On the export front, **India's defence exports are expected to cross ₹210 billion**, setting a new record. The Indian government has been **aggressively promoting defence exports**, securing deals with countries in **Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Africa**.

Aero India's Journey from 1996 to 2025

Since its launch in **1996**, **Aero India** has grown into one of the **world's most significant aerospace exhibitions**. The **2023 edition** recorded over **seven lakh visitors**, representatives from **98 countries**, and **809 exhibitors**, resulting in over **₹75,000 crore in MoUs and technology transfers**. The **2025 edition aims to exceed these milestones**, reinforcing India's **strategic position in global aerospace and defence**.

Aero India 2025 is not just about showcasing military strength; it represents **India's ambitions to become a global defence hub**, attract foreign investments, and **strengthen international defence collaborations**. The event reflects **India's vision for self-reliance, technological innovation, and strategic global partnerships** in the aerospace sector.

EXERCISE

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
Ekuverin	Maldives	The 13th edition of the India-Maldives military exercise 'Ekuverin' is being held from 2-15 February 2025 in the Maldives. This biennial exercise, alternating between the two countries, strengthens their defence cooperation . The opening ceremony took place on 2 February 2025 at the Maldives National Defence Forces (MNDF) training center in Maafilaafushi .
TROPEX-25	Indian Army, Indian Air Force, and Indian Coast Guard	TROPEX-25 (Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise 2025) is a major Indian Navy-led military exercise held in January 2025. It involves the Indian Army, Indian Air Force, and Indian Coast Guard . The biennial exercise showcases jointness among armed forces, emphasizing fleet coordination, rapid response, and India's combat readiness in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) . It highlights integrated operations and India's evolving military doctrine .





EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
Cyclone 2025'	India and Egypt	The joint military exercise 'Cyclone 2025' between India and Egypt has begun at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan, lasting 14 days. The exercise aims to enhance defense cooperation, focusing on improving interoperability of special forces in counter-terrorism, reconnaissance, and specialized operations. Key areas include sniping, combat free fall, surveillance, and target designation under harsh desert conditions, boosting operational capabilities in challenging environments.
'Winged Raider' joint military exercise	The Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF)	The Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted the 'Winged Raider' joint military exercise in the Eastern Theater to enhance coordination and improve rapid deployment capabilities. The exercise focused on special airborne operations, using both fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft, including the Chinook helicopter for the first time in the region. The drill emphasized airborne insertion techniques, special forces, and tactical maneuvering, showcasing inter-service synergy and mission readiness.
CYCLONE-III	India and Egypt	India and Egypt have launched the CYCLONE-III joint special forces exercise in Rajasthan, from February 10 to 23, 2025. This exercise enhances military cooperation by focusing on special operations tactics, counter-terrorism drills, and advanced military strategies. The Indian and Egyptian contingents consist of 25 personnel each, with Indian troops from Special Forces Battalions and Egyptian personnel from the Special Forces Group.
Exercise Dharma Guardian	India and Japan	The sixth edition of Exercise Dharma Guardian will be held from February 25 to March 9, 2025, at Mount Fuji, Japan. This Indo-Japanese military exercise will focus on urban warfare tactics and counter-terrorism operations under the UN mandate. It strengthens India-Japan defence ties, following India's Army Chief's visit to Japan in October 2024, and underscores the commitment to regional stability and security in the Indo-Pacific.
NAVDEX 2025		Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) is showcasing its indigenously designed Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) and Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) at NAVDEX 2025 in Abu Dhabi. The FPV is 50 meters long, capable of reaching 35 knots, and is designed for patrolling, anti-smuggling, anti-terrorist operations, and wartime communication. It features three 2,720 kW diesel engines for high maneuverability and can accommodate 35 personnel in fully air-conditioned conditions. These vessels highlight India's maritime capabilities under the "Make in India" initiative.

TESTING

MISSILES NAME	FEATURES
1.	DRDO conducted three successful flight trials of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) at the Chandipur test range, Odisha. The system demonstrated its precision, reliability, and effectiveness in targeting high-speed aerial threats, especially drones and loitering munitions, enhancing India's air defence capabilities.

DEAL & MoU's

- India's defense and aerospace sectors received a boost with the development of the Large Area Additive Manufacturing (LAAM) system at the DRDO-Industry-Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE) at IIT Hyderabad. This collaboration between IIT Hyderabad, DRDO's Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), and industry partners enables the large-scale production of metal parts through additive manufacturing, paving the way for India's growth in advanced manufacturing technology.
- The Union Budget 2025-26 allocated Rs 6,81,210.27 crore to the Ministry of Defence (MoD), marking a 9.53% increase from the previous year. This accounts for 13.45% of the total Union Budget, the highest among all ministries. The budget aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Viksit Bharat @ 2047', focusing on a technologically advanced and 'Aatmanirbhar' Armed Forces.





- India's **domestic defense production** has surpassed **₹1.27 lakh crore**, marking a historic milestone in its defense sector. This accomplishment highlights India's growing **self-reliance** and prominence in global defense manufacturing. The announcement was made by **Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** ahead of **Aero India 2025**, Asia's largest aerospace and defense exhibition in **Bengaluru**, showcasing India's **defense capabilities** and inspiring innovation in the sector.
- Saab** and **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** on **February 13, 2025**, to collaborate on the **Electronic Warfare Laser Warning System-310 (LWS-310)**. This partnership aims to strengthen **India's defense sector**, supporting the '**Make in India**' initiative by enabling HAL to domestically manufacture and maintain the advanced system. **Technology transfer** under a **Maintenance Transfer of Technology (ToT)** agreement will enhance **self-reliance** in critical **defense technology**.
- India is in talks for a **\$200 million deal** to supply its **Akash missile system** to the **Philippines**, marking a significant step in its defense exports. The **Akash missile** is a **medium-range surface-to-air missile** with a range of up to 25 kilometers, capable of targeting various threats. Known for its **mobility** and **cost-effectiveness**, the system has been operational with the **Indian Army** and **Air Force** since 2009, making it a reliable choice for enhancing **air defense capabilities**.
- India** and **Malaysia** have strengthened **defence cooperation**, focusing on the maintenance and operational expertise of their **Sukhoi-30 (Su-30)** fleets. During **Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh's visit** to **Kuala Lumpur**, both nations finalized key agreements between the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and **Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF)**. The discussions, held during the **13th Malaysia-India Defence Cooperation Committee (MIDCOM)** meeting, also covered **cybersecurity**, **artificial intelligence**, **maritime security**, and **defence industry partnerships**.

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

- India's **Defence Ministry** conducted a pilot study on **Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)**, in collaboration with the **Manohar Parrikar Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses**. The study focuses on the role of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** in modern warfare, exploring its integration into India's defence strategy while addressing **ethical**, **legal**, and **accountability** challenges.
- The **Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS)**, including **INS Sujata**, **INS Shardul**, and **ICGS Veera**, visited **Changi Naval Base** in **Singapore** on **6th February 2025**. This visit, part of a **Long-Range Training Deployment**, strengthens **maritime cooperation** and mutual understanding between India and Singapore. **Dr. Shilpak Ambule**, High Commissioner of India, highlighted India's role in **Indo-Pacific maritime security** during the visit, which included **professional exchanges** and **friendly sports fixtures**.
- DRDO** announced an expansion of its **Research Verticals and Thrust Areas** through its **Industry Academia – Centres of Excellence (DIA-CoEs)**. This initiative, led by the **Directorate of Futuristic Technology Management (DFTM)**, aims to streamline research, integrate advanced technologies, and bolster **India's defense capabilities**.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has renamed its **HJT-36** jet training aircraft to '**Yashas**' after extensive upgrades to improve **flight characteristics**. Unveiled at **Aero India 2025**, the aircraft now features enhanced **departure characteristics**, **spin resistance**, advanced **avionics**, and a modern **cockpit** for better **pilot training** and **operational use**. The renaming marks a significant milestone in HAL's development of advanced training systems.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** successfully concluded the **Mehar Baba Competition-II (MBC-II)**, focused on advancing India's **unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)** capabilities. Launched on April 6, 2022, the competition aimed to develop **swarm drone-based systems** for detecting foreign objects on aircraft surfaces. The initiative, which wrapped up on July 29, 2024, strengthened collaboration between **Indian industry**, **academia**, and **end-users**.
- The **Matsya-6000** is a **fourth-generation deep-ocean submersible** developed under India's **Deep Ocean Mission** and the **Samudrayan Project**. Designed by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** and **National Institute of Ocean Technology**, it can carry three people and operates at depths of up to **500 meters**. Successfully tested for **operational efficiency**, it aims to advance India's **deep-ocean exploration capabilities**.
- Indian Navy** launched its **eighth Missile Cum Ammunition (MCA) Barge, LSAM 11**, in **Mira Bhayandar**, Maharashtra. The barge plays a key role in **logistical support**, transporting ammunition and supplies to Navy platforms, especially at **outer harbors** and **jetties**, enhancing operational capabilities during maritime missions.
- The **Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS)**, consisting of **INS Sujata** and **ICGS Veera**, concluded a three-day **goodwill visit** to **Sihanoukville, Cambodia** on 17 February 2025. During the visit, **Capt Anshul Kishore** and commanding officers engaged with the **Royal Cambodian Navy (RCN)**, including a meeting with **Admiral Tea Vinh**, focusing on **bilateral cross-training**, **interoperability**, **joint exercises**, **regional security**, and enhancing **maritime cooperation** in line with India's **SAGAR vision**.





Defense Current Affairs of January 2025

- **Vitul Kumar**, a 1993-batch **IPS officer** from the **Uttar Pradesh cadre**, has been appointed as the **officiating Director General (DG)** of the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** following the retirement of **Anish Dayal Singh** on **December 31, 2024**. Kumar, currently serving as **Special Director General**, will lead the CRPF during a crucial period, especially with challenges in **Chhattisgarh** and **Manipur**, ensuring continuity in leadership until a permanent successor is named.
- The **Abdali Missile** (Hatf 2) is a **short-range, road-mobile** ballistic missile developed by **Pakistan Space Research Commission (SUPARCO)**. It has a **range of 180-200 km**, a **payload** of high explosives or submunitions, and uses an **inertial guidance system**. The missile is transported on a **Transporter-Erector-Launcher (TEL)** vehicle, which elevates and launches the missile. Its **destructive power** is moderate, suitable for targeting **military bases, airfields, and critical infrastructure**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi commissioned three significant naval assets—INS Surat, INS Nilgiri, and INS Vagsheer—at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai. This event underscores India's commitment to enhancing its maritime capabilities and achieving self-reliance in defense production.
- **DRDO** unveiled the **HIMKAVACH** multi-layer clothing system, designed to improve military personnel's efficiency in extreme cold, tested between **+20°C to -60°C**. It offers **insulation, breathability, and moisture protection**, with outer layers repelling **water and wind**, and inner layers trapping **heat**.
- India successfully conducted field trials of the **Nag Mk 2 Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM)** at **Pokhran Field Firing Range**, Rajasthan. Developed by **DRDO**, the missile is part of India's **Integrated Missile Development Program** and enhances the **Indian Army's anti-tank warfare** capabilities. The **Nag Mk 2** features **infrared** and **fire-and-forget** technology, making it a **precise and versatile** weapon system.
- The Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), a Hyderabad-based facility under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has made significant strides in developing next-generation hypersonic technology. This advanced technology revolves around the **Supersonic Combustion Ramjet (Scramjet)**, a revolutionary propulsion system designed for hypersonic missiles. Recently, DRDL achieved a historic milestone by successfully conducting a **ground test of an Active Cooled Scramjet Combustor** for 120 seconds, marking a first for India. This accomplishment brings India closer to operationalizing hypersonic missiles capable of unprecedented speed and agility.
- India became an **Observer State** in the **Eurodrone programme**, led by **Airbus Defence and Space** under the **Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation (OCCAR)**. The programme, involving **Germany, France, Italy, and Spain**, focuses on developing a **Medium Altitude Long Endurance Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (MALE RPAS)** for **ISTAR**, maritime surveillance, and more. The **Eurodrone** is expected to enter service by **2030**, enhancing India's **defence collaboration** with European nations.

EXERCISE

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
Surya Kiran	India-Nepal joint military exercise/ Saljhandi in Nepal	The 18th edition of the India-Nepal joint military exercise "Surya Kiran" is underway at Saljhandi, Nepal , from December 29, 2024, to January 13, 2025 . The exercise focuses on enhancing interoperability in jungle warfare, counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrains , and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief . Indian Army's Kumaon Regiment and Nepalese Army's Tara Dal Battalion are participating.
La Perouse	Malacca, Sunda, and Lombok straits	The Indian Navy's guided-missile destroyer, INS Mumbai , is actively participating in the fourth edition of the multinational exercise La Perouse , which commenced on January 16, 2025 . This exercise involves nine nations and is being conducted in the strategic waterways of the Malacca, Sunda, and Lombok straits , vital corridors for global maritime trade.
Operation Sard Hawa'	Jaisalmer	Ahead of Republic Day , the Border Security Force (BSF) has heightened its vigilance along the India-Pakistan border at Jaisalmer to prevent any potential infiltration attempts. The BSF has initiated a special operation named ' Operation Sard Hawa' ', starting on January 22 , aimed at foiling infiltration efforts by taking advantage of the reduced visibility caused by the dense winter fog . The operation will continue until January 29 , with a focus on strengthening security along the border during this critical period.





TESTING

- India has successfully tested its first indigenous **micro-missile system**, '**Bhargavastra**,' designed to counter swarm drone threats. This development marks a significant milestone in enhancing the nation's defense capabilities against emerging aerial threats.

DEAL & MoU's

- India's **defence exports** have surged to a record **Rs 21,000 crore**, up from Rs 2,000 crore a decade ago. **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** set a target of **Rs 50,000 crore** in defence exports by **2029**. This growth reflects India's expanding global presence in **defence production**, driven by **indigenous manufacturing** and **technological advancements**. Singh stressed the need to master **frontier technologies** to tackle challenges like **AI-based warfare**, **cyber-attacks**, and **space warfare**.
- India and the U.S. will collaborate on the **co-production** of **sonobuoys** to enhance the **Indian Navy's** submarine detection capabilities. The **final assembly** of U.S.-specification sonobuoys will take place in India, with production set to begin by **2027**. The partnership involves **Ultra Maritime** and **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)**, boosting India's **undersea warfare** capabilities.

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

- The **Indian Army** unveiled a statue of **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** at **Pangong Tso** in **Ladakh** on December 26, 2024, symbolizing India's strategic and cultural assertion near the **India-China border**. Installed by the **Fire and Fury Corps** at **14,300 feet**, the statue honors Shivaji's legacy of **valor** and **foresight**, while reinforcing India's position along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)**. This move, part of a broader **infrastructure push**, aims to enhance **mobility**, **surveillance**, and **defensive readiness** but has sparked debates over **cultural relevance**, **consultation**, and **ecological concerns**.
- Raksha Mantri **Rajnath Singh** chaired a meeting with Ministry of Defence (MoD) Secretaries, designating **2025 as the 'Year of Reforms'**. This initiative aims to transform India's Armed Forces into a **technologically advanced**, **combat-ready force** for integrated **multi-domain operations**. The focus will be on **modernizing defence infrastructure**, fostering **efficiency**, **innovation**, and **collaboration** across stakeholders.
- On **January 1, 2025**, **Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra** took command of the **Indian Air Force's Western Air Command**, succeeding **Air Marshal Pankaj Mohan Sinha**. Commissioned in **1986** as a fighter pilot, Mishra has over **3,000 flying hours** and holds degrees from prestigious institutions like the **National Defence Academy** and **Royal College of Defence Studies**. His career includes key roles such as **Commanding Officer**, **Chief Test Pilot**, and **Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff**.
- India and the U.S. have partnered to co-produce **sonobuoys** for the **Indian Navy** to enhance **undersea domain awareness (UDA)**. The collaboration between **Ultra Marine (UM)** and **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** aims to manufacture sonobuoys to **U.S. Navy standards** under the '**Make in India**' initiative. These sonobuoys will improve submarine detection in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**, strengthening maritime security and interoperability with allied nations like **Australia** and **Japan**.
- Indian Navy's **second Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV)**, '**Utkarsh**', was launched at **L&T Shipyard**, Kattupalli, Chennai.
- The event, attended by **Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh**, marks a significant step in **India's indigenous shipbuilding** and **self-reliance in defense manufacturing**. The vessel is designed for a **multi-dimensional role**, reflecting its name, meaning "Superior in Conduct."
- The **Indian Armed Forces** are conducting **Exercise Devil Strike** from **January 16 to 19, 2025**, under the leadership of the **Indian Army**. The exercise aims to boost **combat readiness** by simulating high-intensity combat operations, featuring **advanced strategies** and **innovative combat techniques**. It will test **synchronization** between various military branches, ensuring a coordinated response to external threats and strengthening **national security**.
- Indian Navy** celebrated the '**Year of Naval Civilians**' at the **Dr DS Kothari Auditorium**, New Delhi. The event, attended by **Raksha Mantri**, honored the crucial contributions of **Naval Civilians** in supporting the Navy's operations. It showcased their **dedication**, **innovation**, and **service** through **exhibitions**, **performances**, and **awards**.
- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** flagged off '**SANJAY – The Battlefield Surveillance System (BSS)**' from the **South Block, New Delhi**. This indigenously developed system marks a major milestone in India's defense technology, strengthening the surveillance capabilities of the **Indian Army**. **SANJAY** is designed to enhance battlefield transparency, improve situational awareness, and optimize intelligence collection, thus transforming the battlefield in the era of modern warfare.





Awards & Recognition

Awards & Recognition of June 2025

Important Awards

Award Name	Award Winner	Key Notes
Global Leadership Award	Kumar Mangalam Birla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of the Aditya Birla Group, has been honoured with the Global Leadership Award by the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) at its 8th annual summit in Washington D.C. The award recognises Birla's visionary leadership, which led the group to invest over \$15 billion in the U.S. economy, creating over 5,400 jobs. With a presence in 15 American states, Aditya Birla Group represents one of India's largest global footprints. Birla emphasized a long-term, people-first investment approach.
knighthood	David Beckham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Beckham, the globally celebrated footballer, philanthropist, and environmental advocate, is set to receive a knighthood in the upcoming King Charles III Birthday Honours. Having already earned an OBE in 2003, Beckham's continued dedication to UNICEF, his ambassadorship with The King's Foundation, and his public service mark a transformation from sports icon to national role model. This honour will formally bestow the title "Sir David Beckham", celebrating decades of achievements both on and off the field.
National e-Governance Awards 2025	Rohini Gram Panchayat from Dhule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a groundbreaking achievement, Rohini Gram Panchayat from Dhule, a 100% tribal village, has bagged the Gold Award at the National e-Governance Awards 2025 for its digital governance model. Recognized under the Grassroots Level Initiatives category, the Panchayat has provided over 956 online services, including digital delivery of certificates via WhatsApp and streamlined e-services in health, education, and welfare. This award underscores the transformative potential of Digital India in rural and tribal regions, with Rohini emerging as a national role model for technology-enabled governance.
Pardo d'Onore (Honorary Leopard award)	American filmmaker Alexander Payne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 78th Locarno Film Festival, scheduled from August 6–16, 2025, will bestow its highest honour, the Pardo d'Onore (Honorary Leopard award), upon renowned American filmmaker Alexander Payne. Payne, celebrated for his emotionally grounded storytelling in films such as <i>Sideways</i>, <i>Nebraska</i>, and <i>The Holdovers</i>, will also interact with festival audiences through retrospectives and discussions. This tribute places him among a prestigious list of global cinema icons, reaffirming his role as a master of modern humanist cinema.
Food Planet Prize 2025	NitroCapt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swedish startup NitroCapt has won the \$2 million Food Planet Prize 2025 for its green fertiliser technology that eliminates fossil fuels by using plasma and renewable energy to extract nitrogen from air. With the potential to reduce CO₂ emissions by over 90%, the innovation addresses one of agriculture's biggest environmental challenges. As fertilisers contribute to 2.7% of global emissions, NitroCapt's scalable, locally-produced solution could transform food security and climate resilience worldwide.
2025 Skytrax World Airline Awards	IndiGo Airlines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a major achievement, IndiGo Airlines ranked 3rd globally in the 2025 Skytrax World Airline Awards under the Best Low-Cost Airlines category, following AirAsia and Scot, showcasing India's rising stature in global aviation. The Skytrax Awards, often called the "Oscars of aviation", reflect votes from 22.3 million passengers. While no Indian full-service airline made the top 10, IndiGo's efficiency, affordability, and expanding global reach earned it this prestigious international recognition.





Award Name	Award Winner	Key Notes
Padma Bhushan	Shri Ram Bahadur Rai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Padma Bhushan was awarded to Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, veteran journalist, cultural thinker, and President of IGNCA Trust, in a special ceremony organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs on June 18, 2025. Acknowledging his over 40 years of service in journalism and his active participation in the JP Movement, the event celebrated his impact on Indian media, democracy, and intellectual thought. Through numerous editorial roles, publications, and leadership in cultural institutions, Shri Rai has left an indelible mark on India's journalistic landscape.
Champion of Digital Media Awards South Asia 2025	The Hindu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hindu emerged as the Champion of Digital Media Awards South Asia 2025, winning 10 accolades including four golds for innovations in video storytelling, AI integration, native advertising, and podcasting. Held in Chennai, the event was organized by WAN-IFRA, celebrating digital excellence across South Asian newsrooms. With recognitions in data visualisation, audience engagement, and digital subscriptions, <i>The Hindu</i> solidified its place as a digital leader in journalism. The awards reflect the organisation's collaborative approach and its commitment to tech-driven, reader-centric journalism.
Jury Prize at the Annecy International Animation Festival 2025	<i>Desi Oon</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian animation film <i>Desi Oon</i>, directed by Suresh Eriyat, won the Jury Prize at the Annecy International Animation Festival 2025, one of the most respected awards in global animation. Rooted in Indian culture, the film also won at the WAVES Awards of Excellence, was a standout in the Create in India Challenge, and earned a place in MoMA's archive. It has been shortlisted for Cannes Lions, recognized at the AICP Show, and earned accolades like the D&AD Wooden Pencil and Good Ads Matter Golds. Government leaders and animation bodies hailed the film as a milestone in India's journey to becoming a global AVGC-XR powerhouse.
Digital Payments Award 2024–25	India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
JCB Prize for Literature		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

Awards & Recognition of May 2025

S.No.	Name of Award	Winner
1.	Humanitarian Award at the 72nd Miss World Festival	Sonu Sood
2.	2025 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize	La Prensa, Nicaragua's oldest newspaper
3.	World Jurist Association's Medal of Honour	Bhuwan Ribhu
4.	2025 World Food Prize	Mariangela Hungria





S.No.	Name of Award	Winner
5.	58th Jnanpith Award	Gulzar, a renowned poet and lyricist, and Rambhadracharya, a spiritual scholar and Sanskrit poet
6.	International Booker Prize 2025	Banu Mushtaq
7.	American Music Award (AMA)	Indian-American rapper and singer-songwriter Raja Kumari
8.	Sadhguur	Sadhguur, a well-known spiritual leader and the founder of the Isha Foundation, has received the 'Global Indian of the Year' award from the Canada India Foundation (CIF). This award was given to him for his strong efforts in spreading awareness about human consciousness and environmental protection.
9.	Talent Finale of Miss World 2025	Monica Kezia Sembiring

Awards & Recognition of April 2025

Award Name	Award Winner	Key Notes
Prestigious Ugadi Award	Archaeologist MyNaa Swamy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Andhra Pradesh government honor renowned historian and archaeologist MyNaa Swamy with the prestigious Ugadi Award for his exceptional contributions to historical research and social service. Conferred by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, the award includes the 'Kalaratna' title, 'Hamsa' medal, a certificate of appreciation, and a cash prize. The ceremony will be held at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram, Vijayawada
Gold Mercury Award for Peace and Sustainability	The Dalai Lama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Dalai Lama was awarded the Gold Mercury Award for Peace and Sustainability on April 1, 2025, at his residence in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh. Presented by Gold Mercury International, a global think tank, the award recognizes his lifelong commitment to non-violence, human dignity, interfaith dialogue, and environmental conservation. This honor comes as the Dalai Lama nears his 90th birthday and celebrates his advocacy for peace and leadership.
Uttar Pradesh Anmol Ratan Award	Nikhil Singhal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nikhil Singhal, Founder of Vigor Media Worldwide and President of the Noida High Rise Federation, received the Uttar Pradesh Anmol Ratan Award at the Taj Lucknow on March 31, 2025, organized by the Tapasya Foundation Trust. The award, presented by Akhilesh Yadav, recognized his leadership in PR and strategic communication. In his speech, he credited his team's dedication and commitment to excellence.
National Youth Award	Akarsh Shroff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Akarsh Shroff, founder of YuvaSpark, was awarded the National Youth Award on April 3, 2025, for his impactful work in early childhood education, especially through anganwadi digitisation and rural education innovation. Presented by Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya at Parliament House, New Delhi, the award, given by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, honors individuals under 30 for their exemplary social service and national development efforts, with 22 young changemakers recognized this year.





Award Name	Award Winner	Key Notes
Fred Darrington Award for Excellence in Art and Culture	Sudarsan Pattnaik	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sudarsan Pattnaik made history by winning the inaugural Fred Darrington Award for Excellence in Art and Culture for his Lord Ganesha sand sculpture, which conveys the message of "World Peace". The sculpture, standing 10 feet tall, is on display at SandWorld in Weymouth, Dorset, until November 2025. Pattnaik, a Padma Shri awardee, is the first Indian sculptor to exhibit at SandWorld. The award, launched to mark 100 years since Fred Darrington's first sand sculpture in 1925, includes a gold medal with Darrington's caricature and a glass wave containing sand from Pattnaik's sculpture.
'Master Humor Award'	Bollywood icon Aamir Khan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bollywood icon Aamir Khan made headlines at the Macau International Comedy Festival 2025 in China, where he was honored with the 'Master Humor Award' from April 9-13, 2025. Known as 'Uncle Mi' in China, Aamir has enjoyed immense popularity, with his films like 3 Idiots (2009), PK (2014), and Dangal (2016) earning huge success in the country, particularly the latter, which grossed over ₹1000 crore (~\$193M).
Verchol Dalit Literary Award	Renowned writer, retired IAS officer, and social activist P. Sivakami	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renowned writer, retired IAS officer, and social activist P. Sivakami received the Verchol Dalit Literary Award from Neelam Cultural Centre, founded by Pa. Ranjith, in Chennai, along with a ₹1 lakh prize. In her speech, Sivakami emphasized Dalit identity, the resistance and power of Dalit literature, its role in challenging dominant narratives, and the importance of writing in English for broader impact, while celebrating the rise of Dalit voices in literature.
'Legends of Endoscopy' award	Dr. D. Nageshwar Reddy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. D. Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman of AIG Hospitals, Hyderabad, was honored with the prestigious 'Legends of Endoscopy' award by the Japanese gastroenterology community at the Tokyo Live Global Endoscopy 2025 event held at SHOWA Medical University, Tokyo. Recognized for his pioneering contributions in Gastrointestinal (GI) Endoscopy.
Best-performing state in two categories: mandatory biometric updates of children and verification of adult Aadhaar enrolment	Meghalaya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meghalaya was recognized by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) as the best-performing state in two categories: mandatory biometric updates of children and verification of adult Aadhaar enrolment. The awards were presented in New Delhi, with Shai Kupar War, Aadhaar nodal officer from the General Administration Department, receiving the honors on behalf of the state.
MacGregor Memorial Medal	Wing Commander D. Panda and Electrical Artificer Rahul Kumar Pandey for 2023, and Chief Electrical Aircraft Artificer Ram Ratan Jat, Sergeant Jhumar Ram Poonia, and Colonel Ranvir Singh Jamwal (Director, NIMAS) for 2024.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MacGregor Memorial Medal was awarded to five distinguished military personnel for 2023 and 2024 in recognition of their exceptional contributions to military reconnaissance, exploration, and adventure. The awards, conferred by Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan at a ceremony hosted by the United Service Institution of India (USI), honored Wing Commander D. Panda and Electrical Artificer Rahul Kumar Pandey for 2023, and Chief Electrical Aircraft Artificer Ram Ratan Jat, Sergeant Jhumar Ram Poonia, and Colonel Ranvir Singh Jamwal (Director, NIMAS) for 2024.





Award Name	Award Winner	Key Notes
Gurudev Kalicharan Brahma Award 2025	Achyuta Samanta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achyuta Samanta, founder of KIIT and KISS, was conferred the Gurudev Kalicharan Brahma Award 2025 in Kokrajhar, Assam, for his exceptional work in education and social empowerment. Instituted by the Gurudev Kalicharan Brahma Trust to honor contributions aligned with the legacy of Gurudev Kalicharan Brahma—the “Mech Gandhi of Assam”—the award includes a citation, memento, and ₹1 lakh cash prize, which Samanta generously donated back to the Trust.
Global Vanguard Honor for her impactful 25-year career bridging Bollywood and Hollywood	Priyanka Chopra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 4th Annual Gold House Gold Gala will take place on May 10, 2025, at the Music Centre, Los Angeles, celebrating cultural changemakers under the theme “First Light”, which honors pioneers who’ve opened paths for others. Priyanka Chopra will receive the inaugural Global Vanguard Honor for her impactful 25-year career bridging Bollywood and Hollywood.
Prime Minister’s Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2024	Ministry of Women and Child Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PoshanTracker Application, developed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), received the Prime Minister’s Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2024 under the Innovation (Centre) category at the 17th Civil Services Day on April 21, 2025. Accepted by Secretary Shri Anil Malik, the award recognizes the app’s impact on tech-driven nutrition governance under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0, promoting community empowerment, inter-departmental convergence, and data-centric service delivery.
Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award 2024	Kumar Mangalam Birla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of the Aditya Birla Group and Padma Bhushan awardee, will receive the prestigious Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award 2024 on April 24 in Mumbai, recognizing his visionary leadership and contributions to India’s economic growth. The award, presented by RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat, coincides with the 83rd Memorial Day of Pandit Deenanath Mangeshkar, organized by the Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Smruti Pratishthan.
Officier dans l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres’ (Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters) by the French Government	Payal Kapadia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payal Kapadia, a Mumbai-based filmmaker, has been awarded the prestigious ‘Officier dans l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres’ (Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters) by the French Government. The ceremony, held at the French Consulate in Mumbai, recognizes her significant contribution to cinema. Kapadia’s breakthrough came with her film ‘All We Imagine As Light’, which won the Grand Prix at the 77th Cannes Film Festival and was nominated for a Golden Globe.
National Maritime Varuna Award	Rajesh Unni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rajesh Unni, founder of Synergy Marine Group, was honored with India’s highest maritime recognition, the National Maritime Varuna Award, during the 62nd National Maritime Day celebrations in Mumbai. The award, presented by the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS), acknowledges individuals for their extraordinary contributions to the maritime sector.

Awards & Recognition of March 2025

Award Name	Award Winner	Key Notes
Icon of Excellence at the Forbes India Leadership Awards (FILA 2025)	Jay Shah	Jay Shah , Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) , was awarded the Icon of Excellence at the Forbes India Leadership Awards (FILA 2025) for his significant contributions to cricket administration , introducing new ideas, and making the game more inclusive and competitive globally.





Award Name	Award Winner	Key Notes
'Lifetime Achievement in Hospitality and Education Through Technology' award at the Vibrant Bharat Global Summit 2025	Dr. Suborno Bose	Dr. Suborno Bose, Chairman of the International Institute of Hotel Management (IIHM), received the 'Lifetime Achievement in Hospitality and Education Through Technology' award at the Vibrant Bharat Global Summit 2025. Awarded by Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Shekhawat, the recognition honors Dr. Bose's work in integrating AI and technology into hospitality education. His new book, <i>Harmonizing Human Touch and AI in Tourism & Hospitality</i> , was also launched, highlighting IIHM's AI-driven initiatives like NamAiste IIHM HospitalityGPT.
Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados	Prime Minister Narendra Modi	Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the prestigious 'Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados' for his strategic leadership and support during the COVID-19 pandemic. Union Minister Pabitra Margherita accepted the award on his behalf at a ceremony in Bridgetown, attended by Barbadian President Dame Sandra Mason, PM Mia Amor Mottley, and Foreign Minister Kerrie Symmonds. This honor underscores India's strong diplomatic ties with Barbados and its commitment to global cooperation and development.
Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Airport Experience Award 2024	Delhi International Airport Limited	GMR Airports Infrastructure Limited announced that its subsidiary, Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), has won the Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Airport Experience Award 2024 for the Best Airport Over 40 Million Passengers in the Asia-Pacific region. This marks the seventh consecutive year Delhi Airport has been recognized for its excellence in customer service.
Ramsar Award for 'Wetland Wise Use'	Jayshree Vencatesan	Jayshree Vencatesan, co-founder of Care Earth Trust, became the first Indian to receive the Ramsar Award for 'Wetland Wise Use', recognizing her contributions to sustainable wetland management. The award was announced by the Ramsar Secretariat in Geneva on the eve of International Women's Day 2024.
SKOCH Awards 2025	Muthoot Microfin	Muthoot Microfin, a prominent microfinance institution focused on empowering women entrepreneurs, has won two Gold Awards at the SKOCH Awards 2025. The awards highlight its exceptional contributions to digital financial inclusion and innovative insurance solutions, solidifying its position as a key player in India's microfinance sector.
Lifetime Achievement Award	Chiranjeevi,	Chiranjeevi, the veteran Telugu cinema superstar, was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to Indian cinema, cultural influence, and public service. The award was presented by Bridge India at the House of Commons, UK Parliament, recognising his impact on the film industry and philanthropic efforts.
Maharashtra Bhushan award	Ram Sutar	Renowned sculptor Ram Sutar, known for designing the Statue of Unity, has been honored with the Maharashtra Bhushan award. The decision was announced by Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis on March 12, 2025. At 100 years old, Sutar continues to contribute to India's artistic heritage, including sculpting a statue of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar for Chaityabhoomi.
Knight's Cross of the Order of Dannebrog by the King of Denmark	Vijay Sankar	Vijay Sankar, Honorary Consul General of Denmark for Southern India and Chairman of The Sanmar Group, has been awarded the Knight's Cross of the Order of Dannebrog by the King of Denmark. This honor recognizes his contributions to Indo-Danish relations. The award was presented by Rasmus Abildgaard Kristensen, Ambassador of Denmark in India, on March 18, 2025 in Chennai. The event also celebrated the Sankar family's five-decade-long association with Denmark's consular services.
2025 Stockholm Water Prize	Günter Blöschl	Günter Blöschl, a renowned hydrologist, has been awarded the 2025 Stockholm Water Prize for his pioneering research in flood hydrology. His work in understanding flood risks and water resource management under climate change has significantly improved global flood prediction models, aiding communities in preparing for extreme weather events.





Award Name	Award Winner	Key Notes
2024 ACM A.M. Turing Award	Andrew G. Barto and Richard S. Sutton	The 2024 ACM A.M. Turing Award was presented to Andrew G. Barto and Richard S. Sutton for their groundbreaking work in reinforcement learning (RL) , which laid the foundation for AI advancements. Their key contributions include temporal difference learning , policy-gradient methods , and neural network-based function representations . Their influential publication, <i>"Reinforcement Learning: An Introduction"</i> (1998), has been cited over 75,000 times . The award, often called the "Nobel Prize in Computing," carries a \$1 million prize, sponsored by Google .

Awards & Recognition of February 2025

Grammy Awards 2025: Complete List of Winners, Key Highlights, and Record-Breaking Moments

Grammy Awards 2025: The **67th Annual Grammy Awards** held on February 2, 2025, at the **Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles** marked a milestone in the music industry. With host Trevor Noah bringing charm and excitement to the event, the night became a celebration of musical talent across various genres. Beyoncé made history, while Kendrick Lamar dominated the evening with multiple awards, cementing his place as one of the most influential artists.

Full List of Major Grammy Winners in 2025

Award Category	Winner(s)
Album of the Year	Beyoncé – "Cowboy Carter"
Record of the Year	Kendrick Lamar – "Not Like Us"
Song of the Year	Kendrick Lamar – "Not Like Us"
Best New Artist	Chappell Roan
Best Pop Solo Performance	Sabrina Carpenter – "Espresso"
Best Pop Vocal Album	Sabrina Carpenter – "Short n' Sweet"
Best Country Album	Beyoncé – "Cowboy Carter"
Best Country Duo/Group Performance	Beyoncé & Miley Cyrus – "II MOST WANTED"
Best Rap Album	J. Cole – "The Off-Season"
Best Rock Album	The Black Crowes – "Shake Your Money Maker"
Best R&B Song	Kehlani – "After Hours"
Best Dance/Electronic Performance	Justice & Tame Impala – "We Are the People"
Best Score Soundtrack	Bear McCreary – "God of War Ragnarök: Valhalla"
Dr. Dre Global Impact Award	Alicia Keys

2025 Australian Cricket Awards

Aspects	Details
Travis Head's Dominant Year	Scored 1,427 runs across formats, including 4 centuries . Excelled in Tests, ODIs, and T20Is. Played crucial innings under pressure.
Allan Border Medal Winner	Travis Head secured 208 votes , finishing 50 votes ahead of Josh Hazlewood and 61 votes ahead of Pat Cummins .
Men's ODI Player of the Year	Travis Head won the award, edging past Alex Carey . Known for aggressive batting and anchoring key ODI innings.
Shane Warne Test Player of the Year	Josh Hazlewood won after taking 30 Test wickets at an average of 13.17 . Excelled in home conditions.
Men's T20I Player of the Year	Adam Zampa won for his impactful leg-spin, taking key wickets in the middle overs.
Belinda Clark Award Winner	Annabel Sutherland won her first Belinda Clark Award for all-round performances across formats.
Women's Test Performances	Annabel Sutherland scored 210 vs. South Africa and a century in the Ashes Test vs. England .
Women's ODI Player of the Year	Ashleigh Gardner won after scoring 385 runs and taking 23 wickets .





Aspects	Details
Women's T20I Player of the Year	Beth Mooney won after scoring 618 runs at an average of 47.53 and a strike rate of 129.83 .
BBL Player of the Tournament	Glenn Maxwell & Cooper Connolly were joint-winners for their standout performances.
WBBL Player of the Tournament	Ellyse Perry & Jess Jonassen were joint-winners for their batting and bowling contributions.

Sportstar Aces Awards 2025: Find Out The Winners

The **2025 Sportstar Aces Awards** celebrated India's finest sporting talents at the Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai, on February 14, 2025. The event recognized top athletes for their remarkable performances, with hockey legend P.R. Sreejesh and shooter Manu Bhaker clinching the top honors. Notable achievements in chess, cricket, and football were also acknowledged.

Winners List of All Category

- 1. Special Recognition Game Changer Award** – Jay Shah
- 2. Best State for Promotion of Sports** – Madhya Pradesh
- 3. Best Corporate to Promotion of Sports** – Reliance
- 4. Best PSU for Promotion of Sports** – Railway Sport Promotion Board
- 5. Best University for Promotion of Sports** – Kalinga Institute Industrial Technology (KIIT)
- 6. Sports Women of the Year (Non-Olympic Sport)** – Divya Deshmukh (Chess)
- 7. Sports Women of the Year (Para Sport)** – Avani Lekhara (Shooting)
- 8. Club/State Team of the Year** – Mumbai Cricket Team – 2023-24 Ranji Trophy Champions
- 9. National Team of the Year** – Indian Men's & Women's Chess Teams – Gold at 45th Chess Olympiad
- 10. Young Achiever of Year (Male)** – Parth Manek (Shooting)
- 11. Young Achiever of Year (Female)** – Neha Sangwan (Wrestling)
- 12. Lifetime Achievement Award (Male)** – Gurbux Singh (Hockey)
- 13. Lifetime Achievement Award (Female)** – Mary D'Souza Sequeira (Hockey)
- 14. Super Achievers Para Athletes** – Avani Lekhara (Shooting), Navdeep Singh (Para-Athletics), Harvinder Singh (Para-Archery)
- 15. Sportsman of the Year (Olympic Sport)** – Swapnil Kusale and Sarabjot Singh (Shooting)
- 16. Inspirational Icon Award** – PV Sindhu (Badminton)
- 17. Coach of the Year** – Jaspal Rana (Shooting)
- 18. Sportstar of the Year (Female)** – Manu Bhaker (Shooting)
- 19. Sport Women of the Year (Olympic Sport)** – Manu Bhaker (Shooting)
- 20. Sportstar of the Year (Male)** – PR Sreejesh (Hockey)

BAFTA Awards 2025: Full Winners List Unveiled!

The **78th BAFTA Awards** celebrated the finest achievements in cinema, with Conclave and The Brutalist emerging as the biggest winners of the night, each securing four awards. The French musical crime drama Emilia Pérez continued its dominance, winning Best Film Not in the English Language, beating Payal Kapadia's All We Imagine As Light, marking its third major loss to Emilia Pérez this year. Meanwhile, director Brady Corbet (The Brutalist) and lead actor Adrien Brody (The Brutalist) secured top honors. The awards also saw Dune: Part Two winning in technical categories, while Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl took home Best Animated Film.

Winners list in the Table

Category	Winners Name
Best Film	Conclave
Best Director	Brady Corbet (The Brutalist)
Best Actor in a Leading Role	Adrien Brody (The Brutalist)
Best Actress in a Leading Role	Mikey Madison (Anora)
Best Actor in a Supporting Role	Kieran Culkin (A Real Pain)
Best Actress in a Supporting Role	Zoe Saldaña (Emilia Pérez)
Best Original Screenplay	Jesse Eisenberg (A Real Pain)
Best Adapted Screenplay	Peter Straughan (Conclave)
Best Animated Film	Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl





Category	Winners Name
Best Documentary	Super/Man: The Christopher Reeve Story
Best Film Not in the English Language	Emilia Pérez
Best Casting Anora	(Sean Baker and Samantha Quan)
Best Cinematography	The Brutalist (Lol Crawley)
Best Costume Design	Wicked (Paul Tazewell)
Best Editing	Conclave (Nick Emerson)
Best Makeup & Hair	The Substance
Best Original Score	The Brutalist (Daniel Blumberg)
Best Production Design	Wicked
Best Sound	Dune: Part Two
Best Special Visual Effects	Dune: Part Two
Outstanding British Film	Conclave
Outstanding British Debut	Kneecap (Rich Peppiatt)
Best British Short Animation	Wander to Wonder
Best British Short Film	Rock, Paper, Scissors
Best Children's & Family Film	Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl
EE Rising Star Award	David Jonsson

Awards in Arts & Culture / Films

Award Name	Award Winner	Key Notes
Grammy Award for Best New Age, Ambient, or Chant Album for her project 'Triveni'	Chandrika Tandon	Chandrika Tandon , an Indian-American musician , won the Grammy Award for Best New Age, Ambient, or Chant Album for her project ' Triveni ', created with Wouter Kellerman and Eru Matsumoto . The award was presented at the 67th Grammy Awards on February 2, 2025 , in Los Angeles . Tandon, known for blending ancient mantras with modern music, expressed gratitude, emphasizing the album's focus on peace and healing .
'CA in Public Service' Award from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)	Deepak Kumar Kedia	Deepak Kumar Kedia , Inspector General at NSG , received the ' CA in Public Service ' Award from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on February 1, 2025 . The award recognizes his contributions to public service , especially in law enforcement and national security . Kedia, known as the ' CA in Uniform ', has made significant impacts in counter-terrorism and national security .
Sahitya Akademi Award 2024 in Dogri	Chaman Arora	For his book Ik Hor Ashwthama , a collection of short stories. The book was unanimously selected by a three-member jury. The award will be presented to his family or nominee at a ceremony in New Delhi on March 8, 2025 .
NETPAC Award	Varsha Bharath's	Varsha Bharath's directorial debut, Bad Girl , has won the prestigious NETPAC Award at the International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) 2025 . Presented by Anurag Kashyap and Vetrimaaran , the film initially faced mixed reactions due to its bold themes but has now gained critical recognition. This win places Bad Girl alongside notable Indian films like Nasir (2019), Naukar ki Kameez (1999), and Vidheyan (1995), all previous recipients of the award.
Grande Médaille the highest honor from the Aero-Club de France	Tom Cruise	In recognition of his contributions to aviation and his inspiration to future pilots. The award, presented by Catherine Maunoury , highlights Cruise's passion for flying, performing his own stunts, and incorporating aviation in films like Top Gun: Maverick and Mission: Impossible .





Award Name	Award Winner	Key Notes
Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema' award at IIFA 2025	Rakesh Roshan	Rakesh Roshan will receive the ' Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema ' award at IIFA 2025 for his significant contributions as a director, producer, and actor . The award will be presented during IIFA's 25th anniversary celebrations on March 8-9, 2025 , in Jaipur, Rajasthan .
Forward Faster Sustainability Award 2025	NTPC Ltd	NTPC Ltd. , India's largest power utility, won the Forward Faster Sustainability Award 2025 in the Water Resilience category. Presented by the UN Global Compact Network India in Chennai on February 13, 2025, this award highlights NTPC's dedication to sustainable water management, conservation, and environmental stewardship .
Nita Ambani		Nita Ambani , Founder and Chairperson of Reliance Foundation , has been awarded the Governor of Massachusetts' Citation for her significant contributions to education, healthcare, sports, arts, culture, and women's empowerment . This recognition acknowledges her leadership in philanthropy and her positive societal impact in India and beyond.
Nagaland Forest Management Project		The Nagaland Forest Management Project (NFMP) won the SKOCH Award 2024 for its contributions to national development . Presented at the 100th SKOCH Summit in New Delhi , the award was accepted by Ango Konyak and Wennyei Konyak . The project, supported by JICA , focuses on improving forest ecosystems , rehabilitating jhum areas , and promoting sustainable livelihoods .

Awards & Recognition of January 2025

ICC Awards 2024

- **ICC Emerging Women's Cricketer of the Year:** Annerie Dercksen (South Africa) – Recognized for exceptional rise in Women's cricket with consistent performances.
- **ICC Emerging Men's Cricketer of the Year:** Kamindu Mendis (Sri Lanka) – Young all-rounder showcasing impressive talent.
- **ICC Women's Associate Cricketer of the Year:** Esha Oza (UAE) – Outstanding contributions in Women's Associate cricket.
- **ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year:** Gerhard Erasmus (Namibia) – Continued brilliance as a key player for Namibia.
- **Umpire of the Year:** Richard Illingworth – Acknowledged for excellence and consistency in officiating.
- **ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year:** Melie Kerr (New Zealand) – Consistent performer with both bat and ball.
- **ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year:** Arshdeep Singh (India) – Known for lethal pace and accuracy in death overs.
- **ICC Women's T20I Team of the Year:** Captain: Laura Wolvaardt, Smriti Mandhana, Chamari Athapaththu, Hayley Matthews, Nat Sciver-Brunt, Melie Kerr, Richa Ghosh, Marizanne Kapp, Orla Prendergast, Deepti Sharma, Sadia Iqbal.
- **ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year:** Captain: Rohit Sharma, Travis Head, Phil Salt, Babar Azam, Nicholas Pooran, Sikandar Raza, Hardik Pandya, Rashid Khan, Wanindu Hasaranga, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh.
- **ICC Men's Test Team of the Year:** Captain: Pat Cummins, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ben Duckett, Kane Williamson, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Kamindu Mendis, Jamie Smith, Ravindra Jadeja, Matt Henry, Jasprit Bumrah.
- **ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year:** Captain: Laura Wolvaardt, Smriti Mandhana, Chamari Athapaththu, Hayley Matthews, Marizanne Kapp, Ashleigh Gardner, Annabel Sutherland, Amy Jones, Deepti Sharma, Sophie Ecclestone, Kate Cross.
- **ICC Men's ODI Team of the Year:** Captain: Charith Asalanka, Saim Ayub, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Mendis, Sherfane Rutherford, Azmatullah Omarzai, Wanindu Hasaranga, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf, AM Ghazanfar.
- **ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year:** Smriti Mandhana (India) – Key contributions in India's success in various series.
- **ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year:** Azmatullah Omarzai (Afghanistan) – Elevated Afghanistan's cricketing stature with exceptional performances.
- **ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year:** Jasprit Bumrah (India) – Exceptional performance, solidifying his status as a top Test bowler.
- **ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year:** Melie Kerr (New Zealand) – Key player in New Zealand's first T20 World Cup win.
- **ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year:** Jasprit Bumrah (India) – Outstanding performances across all formats.




BCCI Awards 2024: Honoring Cricket Legends and Rising Stars
BCCI Awards 2025 winners list

- **Col. C. K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award - Men:** Sachin Tendulkar
- **Polly Umrigar Award - Best International Cricketer - Men:** Jasprit Bumrah
- **Best International Cricketer - Women:** Smriti Mandhana
- **Best International Debut - Men:** Sarfaraz Khan
- **Best International Debut - Women:** Asha Sobhana
- **BCCI Special Award:** Ravichandran Ashwin
- **Highest Run-Getter in ODIs - Women:** Smriti Mandhana
- **Highest Wicket-Taker in ODIs - Women:** Deepti Sharma
- **Best Umpire In Domestic Cricket:** Akshay Totre
- **M.A. Chidambaram Trophy - Highest Run-Getter in U-19 Cooch Behar Trophy:** Kavya Teotia
- **M.A. Chidambaram Trophy - Highest Wicket-Taker in U-19 Cooch Behar Trophy:** Vishnu Bhardwaj
- **Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy - Best Woman Cricketer Senior Domestic:** Priya Mishra
- **Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy - Best Woman Cricketer Junior Domestic:** Ishwari Awasare
- **Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy - Highest Wicket-Taker in U-16 Vijay Merchant Trophy:** Hemchudeshan Jeganathan
- **Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy - Highest Run Getter in U-16 Vijay Merchant Trophy:** Lakshya Raichandani
- **MA Chidambaram Trophy - Highest Wicket-Taker in U-23 CK Nayudu Trophy (Plate Group):** Neizekho Rupreo
- **MA Chidambaram Trophy - Highest Run Getter in U-23 CK Nayudu Trophy (Plate Group):** Hem Chetri
- **MA Chidambaram Trophy - Highest Wicket-Taker in U-23 CK Nayudu Trophy (Elite Group):** P Vidyuth
- **MA Chidambaram Trophy - Highest Run Getter in U-23 CK Nayudu Trophy (Elite Group):** Aneesh KV
- **Madhavrao Scindia Award - Highest Wicket-Taker in Ranji Trophy (Plate Group):** Mohit Jangra
- **Madhavrao Scindia Award - Highest Wicket-Taker in Ranji Trophy (Elite Group):** Tanay Thyagarajan
- **Madhavrao Scindia Award - Highest Run Getter in Ranji Trophy (Plate Group):** Agni Chopra
- **Madhavrao Scindia Award - Highest Run Getter in Ranji Trophy (Elite Group):** Ricky Bhui from Andhra Pradesh was the winner.
- **Lala Amarnath Award for the Best All-Rounder in Domestic Limited-Overs Competitions:** Shashank Singh from Chhattisgarh received this medal.
- **Lala Amarnath Award for the Best All-Rounder in Ranji Trophy:** Tanush Kotian
- **Best Performance in BCCI Domestic Tournaments:** Mumbai

82nd Annual Golden Globe Awards (2025)
Awards in Arts & Culture / Films

- **Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture — Drama:** Adrien Brody, "The Brutalist"
- **Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture — Drama:** Fernanda Torres, "I'm Still Here"
- **Best Motion Picture — Drama:** "The Brutalist"
- **Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role in any Motion Picture:** Zoe Saldaña, "Emilia Pérez"
- **Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role in Any Motion Picture:** Kieran Culkin, "A Real Pain"
- **Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series — Musical or Comedy:** Jean Smart, "Hacks"
- **Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series — Drama:** Hiroyuki Sanada, "Shōgun"
- **Best Screenplay — Motion Picture:** Peter Straughan, "Conclave"
- **Best Original Song — Motion Picture:** "El Mal," by Clément Ducol, Camille, and Jacques Audiard (from "Emilia Pérez")
- **Best Motion Picture — Non-English Language:** "Emilia Pérez"
- **Best Director — Motion Picture:** Brady Corbet, "The Brutalist"
- **Best Motion Picture — Animated:** "Flow"
- **Best Television Series — Drama:** "Shōgun"
- **Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series — Musical or Comedy:** Jeremy Allen White, "The Bear"
- **Best Television Series — Comedy or Musical:** "Hacks"
- **Best Performance by an Actress in a Limited Series, Anthology Series or Motion Picture Made for Television:** Jodie Foster, "True Detective: Night Country"
- **Best Television Limited Series, Anthology Series or Motion Picture Made for Television:** "Baby Reindeer"
- **Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role in a Television Series:** Jessica Gunning, "Baby Reindeer"
- **Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role in a Television Series:** Tadanobu Asano, "Shōgun"
- **Best Performance in Stand-Up Comedy on Television:** Ali Wong, "Single Lady"
- **Best Cinematic and Box Office Achievement:** "Wicked"
- **Best Original Score — Motion Picture:** Trent Reznor, Atticus Ross, "Challengers"




Other Important Awards

Award Name	Award Winner	Key Notes
Electronic Media Award	Doordarshan	Recognized for "Chunav Ka Parv Desh Ka Garv" during Lok Sabha Elections 2024; award presented by President Droupadi Murmu.
Padma Shri	Hariman Sharma	Honored for developing the HRMN-99 apple variety, which thrives in tropical and subtropical regions.
Academy Award Nomination	<i>Anuja</i> (Short Film)	Nominated for Best Live Action Short Film at the 97th Academy Awards; produced by Priyanka Chopra and Guneet Monga.
Maharaja Hari Singh Award	Manoj Sinha	Recognized for contributions to reforms and planning in Jammu & Kashmir; ceremony held in Jammu.
Great Place to Work Certification	Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)	Re-certified as a 'Great Place to Work' for January 2025 to January 2026; recognition for positive work environment, trust, and employee empowerment.
Gangadhar National Award for Poetry 2023	Prativa Satpathy	Awarded on January 5, 2025; includes ₹1,00,000 prize, citation, and shawl; honors excellence in poetry.
Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award 2025	Sai Paranjpye	Awarded at AIFF 2025 for contribution to Indian parallel cinema; includes films like <i>Sparsh</i> , <i>Chashme Buddoor</i> , and <i>Katha</i> .
Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award	Aparna Sen	The West Bengal Film Journalists Association (WBFJA) hosted its annual awards on January 13, 2025 , at Priya Cinema, Kolkata . The event celebrated Bengali cinema with awards in categories like Best Film , Best Actor , and Best Director , and paid tribute to Raj Kapoor on his birth centenary with a thematic tribute to the circus industry .
RK Srikantan Trust Award	T.V. Gopalakrishnan	. A versatile artist, he excels in Carnatic and Hindustani vocals , mridangam , and violin , earning prestigious awards like the Padma Bhushan (2012) and Sangeetha Kalanidhi (2014).
Gates-Cambridge Impact Prize 2025	Professor Urbasi Sinha	Professor Urbasi Sinha , a distinguished faculty member in the Light and Matter Physics theme at the Raman Research Institute (RRI) , has been awarded the prestigious Gates-Cambridge Impact Prize 2025 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation at Cambridge, UK .
Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2025	Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) in Hyderabad	The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) in Hyderabad has been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2025 in the Institutional Category, recognizing its exceptional contributions to disaster management.
Crystal Awards	David Beckham, Diane von Furstenberg, and Riken Yamamoto	The 55th World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting commenced in Davos, Switzerland , with the presentation of the prestigious Crystal Awards to three distinguished individuals: David Beckham , Diane von Furstenberg , and Riken Yamamoto . These awards recognize their significant contributions to social, environmental, and creative progress worldwide.

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International)
Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of June 2025

Category	Event	Key Points
Events	first Assembly of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India hosted the first Assembly of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) in New Delhi, establishing a global coalition for the conservation of seven major big cat species. Chaired by Bhupender Yadav, the meeting saw the endorsement of governance frameworks and leadership roles, uniting nine participating countries. The IBCA, launched in March 2024, seeks to drive international cooperation, knowledge exchange, and financial support to protect biodiversity and habitats across 95 range nations. The event marked a significant milestone in India's vision of global ecological stewardship.





Category	Event	Key Points
Conference	National Conference on Agri Stack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Conference on Agri Stack, held on June 13, 2025, marked a significant step in India's digital agriculture journey. With the launch of ₹6,000 crore funding, DigiLocker-linked DVCs, AI-powered chatbots, and grievance redressal systems, the Centre reaffirmed its commitment to data-driven governance. States like Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Karnataka shared innovative use cases, reflecting collaborative efforts to enhance scheme delivery, credit access, and farmer identity authentication.
Conference	Bonn Climate Change Conference 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bonn Climate Change Conference 2025, held from June 16 in Bonn, Germany, is a vital UNFCCC technical meeting bringing together over 5,000 stakeholders to lay the groundwork for decisions at the next COP summit. It focuses on operational aspects like the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), climate finance, loss and damage, technology transfer, and NDC monitoring. Led by the SBI and SBSTA, the conference plays a key role in ensuring scientific rigor, accountability, and policy readiness in global climate governance.
Conference	Indian Conservation Conference (ICCON) 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of May 2025

Category	Event	Key Points
Summits	The Rising North East Investors Summit 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rising North East Investors Summit 2025, inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi, marks a crucial milestone in the development of India's North Eastern region. With a focus on sectors such as tourism, textiles, agro-food processing, and energy, the summit aims to attract investments and foster sustainable economic growth. Emphasizing the region's cultural diversity and strategic importance, the event aligns with the government's "Act East" policy, promoting regional integration and creating employment opportunities. The summit represents a forward-looking approach to transforming the Northeast into a vibrant hub of prosperity and development.
Summits	9th BRICS Industry Ministers' Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India's participation in the 9th BRICS Industry Ministers' Meeting in Brasília reflected its leadership in promoting inclusive industrial growth through initiatives like the BRICS Startup Knowledge Hub, support for MSMEs, and focus on digital transformation under Industry 4.0. With over 954 million internet users and a robust startup and MSME ecosystem, India advocated for collaborative governance guided by principles of Sahyog, Samanjasya, Samagrata, and Sarvasammatti. This event also marked the inclusion of six new BRICS members, expanding cooperation across the Global South.
Summits	World Air Transport Summit (WATS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Air Transport Association (IATA) is set to host its Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2025 and the World Air Transport Summit (WATS) in New Delhi from June 1 to 3, bringing together the global aviation industry under one roof. This marks a historic moment as India hosts the prestigious event for the first time in 42 years, with the last meeting having taken place in the country in 1983.





Category	Event	Key Points
Events	Wings India 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wings India 2026, scheduled for January 28-31 in Hyderabad, represents a significant platform for India's civil aviation sector, bringing together diverse stakeholders such as airlines, manufacturers, investors, and government agencies. The event will highlight technological innovations, investment prospects, and skill development initiatives across commercial and general aviation, business jets, and advanced air mobility. Organized by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Airport Authority of India, and FICCI, Wings India aims to reinforce India's global aviation stature while supporting sustainable growth and regional connectivity.
Events	78th World Health Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India demonstrated strong global leadership at the 78th World Health Assembly by advocating for health equity, universal coverage, and pandemic preparedness. Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava highlighted the achievements of Ayushman Bharat, India's recognition in maternal and child health by UN bodies, and its WHO certification as Trachoma-Free. India also called for a legally binding global pandemic agreement with a focus on equity, transparency, and technology transfer, especially for the Global South.
Events	67th Governing Body Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India has assumed the Chairmanship of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) for 2025–26 at the 67th Governing Body Meeting in Jakarta, with a strategic focus on sustainability, innovation, digital transformation, and the Green Productivity 2.0 framework. Led by Shri Amardeep Singh Bhatia, India reaffirmed its commitment to APO Vision 2030 and regional collaboration. As a founding member, India contributes significantly through the National Productivity Council (NPC), supporting MSMEs, Industry 4.0, and inclusive growth. The APO, headquartered in Tokyo, comprises 21 member economies working to enhance productivity across the Asia-Pacific.
Events	International Tea Day Convention 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Tea Day Convention 2025 in New Delhi celebrated the cultural, economic, and strategic significance of Indian tea. With vibrant participation from stakeholders, the event emphasized the need for branding, youth engagement, organic innovation, and expanding export potential. Through panel discussions, a tea appreciation zone, and interactive tasting sessions, the convention spotlighted India's effort to strengthen its leadership in the global tea market and promote sustainable and inclusive growth within the sector.
Events	Seatrade Maritime Logistics Middle East (SMLME) 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Seatrade Maritime Logistics Middle East (SMLME) 2025 opened in Dubai, reinforcing the UAE's ambition to lead global maritime logistics. A key highlight was the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) announcing its new office in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, expanding India's maritime footprint. As a full member of IACS, IRS enhances technical compliance, ship classification, and audit services. This move supports both Saudi Vision 2030 and India's strategic role in the Persian Gulf and Red Sea maritime corridors. The event demonstrated regional synergy on sustainability, logistics infrastructure, and innovation in the marine industry.
Conference	World Bank Land Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India's participation in the 2025 World Bank Land Conference is set to highlight the country's leadership in digital land reforms, with a particular focus on the SVAMITVA Scheme and Gram Manchitra platform. These initiatives are revolutionizing rural land governance by offering legal land ownership through advanced technologies such as drones and geospatial data. SVAMITVA has already provided over 24.4 million property cards to households, unlocking significant land value. India's involvement at the conference underscores its role in global discussions on securing land tenure, empowering rural populations, and fostering climate action.





Category	Event	Key Points
Conference	20th UNFF session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India's participation in the 20th UNFF session spotlighted its forest conservation and sustainable management achievements, including significant progress in forest and tree cover. India called for global cooperation through its International Big Cat Alliance and emphasized ecosystem valuation for better forest governance. The session also featured India's commitment to restoring degraded landscapes and managing forest fires, marking a key moment for environmental leadership.
Conference	World Bank Land Conference 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India was recognized as a Country Champion at the World Bank Land Conference 2025 for its digital rural land governance models. SVAMITVA and Gram Manchitra showcased technology-driven, inclusive planning. The initiatives contribute to economic empowerment, climate resilience, and infrastructure development, and serve as a template for the Global South.
Conference	Western Regional Power Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Western Regional Power Conference on May 13, 2025, focused on smart prepaid metering, green energy zones, nuclear power goals, AT&C loss reduction, and financial sustainability of DISCOMs. The Union Power Minister emphasized coordination to achieve Viksit Bharat by 2047 and Net Zero emissions targets. States were urged to ensure smart meter rollout, enhance grid security, and adopt resource adequacy planning.
Conference	Inclusive India Summit 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Inclusive India Summit 2025, organized by DEPwD on the occasion of GAAD, brings together stakeholders to enhance digital accessibility and inclusive development for persons with disabilities. Through panel discussions, partnerships, the launch of an AI chatbot, and a new accessibility-focused curriculum, the summit highlights India's push for technological equity. This collaborative effort underscores the nation's vision for a digitally inclusive future.
Conference	Fisheries Secretaries Conference 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Fisheries Secretaries Conference 2025 in New Delhi marked a strategic push for innovation in India's fisheries sector. The event reviewed progress under PMMSY, FIDF, and PM-MKSSY, with emphasis on drone transport of live fish, aquaculture insurance, and satellite-based fisher safety. Discussions addressed credit barriers, post-harvest gaps, and the need for digital outreach through NFDP. The conference reiterated India's commitment to a tech-driven, sustainable, and inclusive fisheries sector.

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of April 2025

Category	Event	Key Points
Summits	9th Global Technology Summit (GTS) 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 9th Global Technology Summit (GTS) 2025, co-hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs and Carnegie India, will be held in New Delhi from April 10-12 with the theme "Sambhavna" (Possibilities). The summit will explore how emerging technologies can drive inclusive growth, digital governance, and global cooperation, featuring 150+ speakers from 40+ countries.
Summits	IDF World Diabetes Congress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHO and International Diabetes Federation (IDF) co-hosted a hybrid side event at the IDF World Diabetes Congress in Bangkok, themed "Bridging gaps: Integrated strategies to address TB and diabetes". The event addressed the dual burden of TB (10.8M cases, 1.25M deaths in 2023) and diabetes (828M adults in 2024), highlighting their 15% co-morbidity rate. WHO launched new guidance for integrated, people-centered care, focusing on early diagnosis, bidirectional screening, and primary health care strengthening to support UHC, SDG 3, and the End TB & Global Diabetes Compact goals.





Category	Event	Key Points
Events	11th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the 11th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting in Brasilia (April 3, 2025), India called for stronger climate cooperation, emphasizing the Baku to Belem Roadmap to mobilize USD 1.3 trillion for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Represented by Amandeep Garg from MoEFCC, India highlighted sustainable development, energy security, and a Just Transition. India stressed BRICS' global role, covering 47% of the world's population and 36% of GDP, and advocated for enhanced climate finance, energy diversification, and the Green Grids Initiative. The meeting also emphasized resource efficiency and circular economy principles.
Events	United Nations Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India has been appointed to the United Nations Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) for the 2025–2027 term, marking a significant step in shaping global financial reporting frameworks. This appointment underscores India's growing influence and trust in its capabilities, particularly in enhancing transparency, accountability, and corporate governance. As a member of ISAR, India will contribute to the development of international standards for financial and non-financial reporting, including areas like corporate social responsibility, environmental issues, and governance, under the umbrella of UNCTAD.
Events	Global Climate Action Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brazil has proposed the creation of a Global Climate Action Council under the UNFCCC to enhance global coordination and accelerate climate action, ahead of COP30 in Belem, Brazil (November 2025). Aimed at simplifying complex climate negotiations, the proposal seeks to boost effective decision-making. While it has received mixed international reactions, it highlights Brazil's proactive role in addressing the climate crisis.
Events	Buddha Dhamma and the Culture of Northeast India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A two-day conclave titled 'Buddha Dhamma and the Culture of Northeast India' will be held in Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh, from April 21-22, 2025, organized by the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) and the Ministry of Culture. The event will explore Buddhism's influence on the region's art, culture, and history, with a special focus on Theravāda Buddhism practiced by the Tai Khamti tribe.
Conference	National Conference on 'Environment – 2025'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the National Conference on 'Environment – 2025' in New Delhi (March 29, 2025), emphasizing environmental protection as a daily responsibility and urging efforts toward sustainability for future generations. Organized by the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the event discussed environmental challenges, best practices, and policy collaborations.
Conference	Army Commanders' Conference (ACC) 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Army Commanders' Conference (ACC) 2025 is being held in New Delhi from April 1-4, 2025, serving as a biannual platform for senior Army leadership to review national security, operational priorities, and emerging challenges. Key discussions include military preparedness, technological integration, and soldier welfare. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, along with the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and NITI Aayog CEO, will provide strategic insights on India's defence vision and the armed forces' role in nation-building.
Conference	Conference for large NBFCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) hosted a conference for large NBFCs on March 28, 2025, in Chennai, under the theme "Shared Vision, Shared Responsibility: Strengthening the NBFCs." Attended by over 200 participants, including RBI Deputy Governor Swaminathan J and ICAI President Charanjot Singh Nanda, the event focused on regulatory supervision, risk management, fair lending practices, and audit transparency.





Category	Event	Key Points
Conference	6th BIMSTEC Summit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Thailand on April 3, 2025, for a two-day visit to attend the 6th BIMSTEC Summit, aiming to enhance trade, connectivity, and economic collaboration among BIMSTEC countries. The summit will focus on the Bay of Bengal region's growth, with discussions involving leaders from Thailand, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Bhutan. PM Modi highlighted India-Thailand cultural ties and emphasized the strategic importance of the region. After the summit, he is scheduled to visit Sri Lanka to continue diplomatic engagement.
Conference	GITEX Africa 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GITEX Africa 2025 in Marrakesh, Morocco served as a major platform for global discussions on fostering inclusive growth in the digital economy. Shri Jayant Chaudhary, India's Minister of State for Skill Development and Education, highlighted India's achievements in Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), particularly Aadhaar, UPI, ONDC, and healthcare initiatives.

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of March 2025

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Summits	World Sustainable Development Summit	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Union Minister Bhupender Yadav inaugurated the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2025 in New Delhi, organized by TERI, to promote global partnerships for sustainable development and climate solutions. He highlighted India's leadership in climate action through initiatives like the International Solar Alliance (ISA), Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), and Mission LiFE. The summit saw participation from global leaders, including Guyana's PM Brigadier Mark Phillip and Brazil's Minister Marina Silva, reinforcing international cooperation on environmental sustainability.
Summits	WAVEX 2025	Mumbai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WAVEX 2025, launched by the Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and IAMAI, aims to empower startups in the media and entertainment sector. Held at the Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai, from May 1-4, it offers funding, networking, and exposure opportunities. Startups can pitch to venture capitalists and celebrity investors, with a focus on gaming, animation, XR, metaverse, generative AI, and next-gen content platforms.
Events	WAVES India: A Bird's Eye View Challenge		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WAVES India: A Bird's Eye View Challenge is a Create in India initiative organized by BECIL in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The competition invites drone pilots and filmmakers to create 2-3 minute videos showcasing India's landscapes, heritage, and vibrant life through aerial cinematography, capturing the country's beauty from a bird's-eye view.
Events	Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2025	Barcelona, Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Union Minister Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia represented India at the Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2025 in Barcelona, Spain. He highlighted India's 5G expansion, lowest data tariffs, indigenous telecom infrastructure, and cybersecurity framework. Scindia emphasized tech governance, innovation, and global partnerships while unveiling the India Mobile Congress 2025 and inaugurating the Bharat Pavilion to showcase India's telecom capabilities.





Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Events	GRIDCON 2025	New Delhi.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GRIDCON 2025, an International Conference cum Exhibition, was inaugurated by Union Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs, Shri Manohar Lal, on March 9, 2025, at IICC, Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi. • The event, which runs from March 9 to March 11, 2025, is organized by the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) under the patronage of the Ministry of Power and in association with CIGRE India. • It aims to strengthen India's power grid and promote innovations in renewable energy integration, with the Union Minister of State for Power & New & Renewable Energy, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, also in attendance.
Events	69th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW)	New York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India, led by Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Annpurna Devi, participated in the 69th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) from March 10-21, 2025 in New York. • The session focused on gender equality and women's empowerment, with India reaffirming its commitment to holistic development, inclusive policies, and international cooperation for women's rights.
Events	353rd ILO Governing Body Meeting	Genev	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India participated in the 353rd ILO Governing Body Meeting in Geneva (March 10-20, 2025), led by Ms. Sumita Dawra, Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment. • India highlighted its achievements in social protection, living wages, and fair migration, with initiatives like EPFO, ESIC, and e-Shram Portal. • India supported ILO's Global Coalition for Social Justice, the Second World Summit for Social Development, and ILO's Fair Migration Agenda. The country also emphasized its Factories Act, 1948 and Occupational Safety Code, 2020 for worker safety.
Conference	Water Sustainability Conference 2025		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Water Sustainability Conference 2025, organized by BWUE and TERI, focused on enhancing Industrial Water Use Efficiency. Inaugurated by Union Minister C. R. Patil, the conference emphasized the 4R approach (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & Recharge), with Respect added as the 5th principle for sustainable water management in industries.
Conference	4th 'No Money for Terror' (NMFT) Conference		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the 4th 'No Money for Terror' (NMFT) Conference in Munich, India emphasized the need for international cooperation to combat terror financing, particularly concerning cross-border fund flows and digital transactions. • India highlighted the evolving methods terrorists use for financial transfers and called for unified global action to tackle the growing threat.

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of February 2025

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Summits	Global Justice, Love & Peace Summit	Dubai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dubai will host the Global Justice, Love & Peace Summit on April 12-13, 2025, at the Dubai Exhibition Centre. • Organized by the I am Peacekeeper Movement, the summit will feature 2,800 peacekeepers and 72 speakers, including 10 Nobel Laureates and heads of state. • Under the patronage of Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, the event aligns with the UAE's Year of Community initiative and aims to foster justice, love, and peace globally.





Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Summits	BIMSTEC Youth Summit 2025	Gandhinagar, Gujarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BIMSTEC Youth Summit 2025 will be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, from 7th to 11th February 2025, bringing together young leaders from BIMSTEC nations. Inaugurated by Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, the summit aims to strengthen ties among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Focused on youth-led initiatives, leadership, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.
Summits	AI Paris Summit	Paris	<p>Key Takeaways from PM Modi's Speech at AI Paris Summit</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> AI's Transformative Impact – AI is revolutionizing governance, economy, security, and society at an unprecedented pace. Global AI Governance – Collaboration is crucial for fair regulations that promote trust and shared values. Beyond Risk Management – AI governance must balance risk mitigation with fostering innovation and accessibility. AI for Global Good – AI can advance healthcare, education, and agriculture while tackling cybersecurity threats. AI and Jobs – AI reshapes jobs, necessitating investment in skilling and re-skilling workforces. Sustainability in AI – AI's high energy consumption demands green energy solutions and efficient AI models. India's AI Leadership – India's Digital Public Infrastructure and National AI Mission drive inclusive AI growth. Human-Centric AI – AI must serve humanity with ethical responsibility and inclusivity.
Summits	Summit for Action on Artificial Intelligence	Paris	<p>The "Summit for Action on Artificial Intelligence" has started in Paris, co-chaired by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron. The summit brings together world leaders, industry experts, and researchers to discuss AI ethics, regulation, and responsible development, aiming to shape the future of AI as it transforms industries, economies, and governance globally.</p>
Summits	World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES)	Mumbai	<p>India will host the inaugural World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai from May 1 to 4, 2025. The summit aims to establish India as a global media and entertainment hub, bringing together industry leaders, CEOs, professionals, and creative minds to foster collaboration, investment, and technological advancements in the entertainment sector.</p>
Summits	Global AI Summit	Paris	<p>Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India will host the next Global AI Summit, following discussions at the AI Action Summit in Paris. Co-chaired by PM Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron, the summit focused on global cooperation in AI. India's leadership in AI, commitment to inclusivity, and key AI initiatives were highlighted.</p>





Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Summits	World Government Summit (WGS) 2025	Dubai	The World Government Summit (WGS) 2025 was held in Dubai from February 11-13 , focusing on "Shaping Future Governments." India , represented by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav , highlighted its commitment to green growth and climate resilience . Yadav discussed clean technology , electric vehicles , and climate-resilient infrastructure , emphasizing the need for financial resources to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and tackle climate change .
Summits	17th BRICS Summit	Brazil, Russia	The 17th BRICS Summit will be held in Rio de Janeiro on July 6-7, 2025 , bringing together Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa , and invited nations. The summit will focus on global governance reforms , economic cooperation , and shared prosperity among Global South countries. With BRICS expanding to include nations like Iran, Egypt , and Saudi Arabia , this event will shape future global trade, finance , and diplomatic ties .
Events	14th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum	New Delhi	The 14th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (14AFAF) held from February 12-14, 2025 , at ICAR Convention Centre, New Delhi , with the theme "Greening the Blue Growth in Asia-Pacific." Organized by the Asian Fisheries Society (AFS) , ICAR, Department of Fisheries (DoF) , and AFS Indian Branch (AFSIB) , the forum focus on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development . With over 1,000 delegates from 24 countries, the event address issues like resource management , climate change , aquaculture sustainability , and policy advancements . Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh inaugurate the event.
Events	All India Kinnar Mahasammelan	Ajmer	Ajmer hosted the first-ever All India Kinnar Mahasammelan from February 17, 2025, at a private school in Vaishali Nagar. The 10-day transgender conference, organized in memory of Anita Bai , addresses issues faced by the transgender community. Over 2,000 members participated, engaging in religious rituals like Kalash Puja and Chak Puja . The event also features stalls on medical services, banking, and travel, with strict supervision for invited members.
Events	SOUL (School of Ultimate Leadership) Conclave 2025	New Delhi	The SOUL (School of Ultimate Leadership) Conclave 2025 , inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi , focuses on developing future leaders for a Viksit Bharat (Developed India) . The event aims to train individuals in governance , business , technology , sports , and social sectors , fostering strategic decision-making and a solution-driven mindset . A dedicated SOUL campus will be set up near GIFT City, Gujarat to provide world-class leadership training.
Events	Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO)	Bangladesh	India has taken over the Chairmanship of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) from Bangladesh during the 13th Governing Council Meeting in Malé, Maldives . The transition occurred during the "Policy Guidance for Mainstreaming Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) in Small-Scale Fisheries" conference, held from February 20 to 22, 2025 , organized by the Ministry of Fisheries & Ocean Resources of the Maldives in collaboration with BOBP-IGO.





Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Events	SAMVAD programme		Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a video message at the SAMVAD programme in Thailand , emphasizing India's cultural ties with Thailand and Asia. He recalled SAMVAD's origins with former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe in 2015 and its role in promoting debate and understanding . His speech focused on shared Asian heritage , conflict avoidance , environmental harmony , and the teachings of Bhagwan Buddha for a peaceful, prosperous future.
Conference	IIAS-DARPG India Conference 2025		India is hosting the IIAS-DARPG India Conference 2025 in New Delhi from February 10-14, 2025 , marking the first time it's held in the country. The conference brings together experts from over 55 countries to discuss public administration , governance , and policymaking innovations, and includes the annual General Assembly of the International Institute of Administrative Science (IIAS) .

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of January 2025

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Summits	World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India will host the first-ever World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) in New Delhi from February 5-9, 2024. Announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this global event aims to position India as a hub for content creation and creative collaboration, drawing leaders from the media, entertainment, and creative industries worldwide.
Summits	AI Action Summit	Paris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the AI Action Summit in Paris on February 10-11, 2025, hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron. The summit will focus on Public Interest AI, Future of Work, Innovation, Trust in AI, and Global AI Governance, with a special emphasis on combating misinformation and misuse of AI. The event will bring together global leaders, including heads of state, CEOs, academia, and NGOs. India's participation highlights its role in shaping global AI discussions.
Events	Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2025	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2025, organized by the Department of Youth Affairs under Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, began on January 10, 2025, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. This reimagined version of the National Youth Festival aims to celebrate youth leadership, with over 3,000 participants selected from 30 lakh applicants. The event focuses on empowering young leaders to contribute to India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047, through thematic discussions, creative competitions, and cultural experiences.





Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Conference	Sun, Space Weather, and Solar-Stellar Connections'	Bengaluru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An international conference titled 'Sun, Space Weather, and Solar-Stellar Connections' was held in Bengaluru from January 20 to 24, 2025, to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KSO). Organized by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), the event gathered over 200 solar physicists from India and abroad to discuss advancements in solar magnetism, solar-stellar connections, and space weather.
Conference	Raisina Middle East Conference	Abu Dhabi, UAE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first Raisina Middle East Conference was held in Abu Dhabi, UAE, on January 28-29, 2025, with Dr. S. Jaishankar, India's External Affairs Minister, as the Chief Guest. Organized by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in collaboration with the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, the conference focused on regional geopolitics, trade, and strategic partnerships.
Conference	BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Working Group Meeting	India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India will host the BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Working Group Meeting from March 3-7, 2025. The event, themed "Youth Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Growth," will bring together around 45 youth representatives from BRICS nations to strengthen entrepreneurship and innovation cooperation. Key discussions will focus on building a framework for young entrepreneurs and increasing their participation in global markets.

COMMITTEES & MEETINGS

COMMITTEES & MEETINGS of January 2025

Government Forms Committee to Update WPI Base Year

On January 2, 2025, the Government of India established an **18-member committee** to revise the base year of the Wholesale Price Index (**WPI**) from **2011-12 to 2022-23**. This initiative aims to enhance the accuracy of factory-gate inflation measures, reflecting structural changes in the economy over the past decade.

Committee Leadership and Composition

The committee is chaired by **Professor Ramesh Chand**, a member of NITI Aayog. It includes experts from various sectors, such as economics, finance, and statistics, ensuring a comprehensive approach to the revision process.

Terms of Reference

The committee has been tasked with:

- Commodity Selection:** Identifying commodities for inclusion in the WPI and Producer Price Index (PPI) for the 2022-23 base year, considering structural economic changes.
- Price Collection System Review:** Evaluating and recommending improvements to the existing price collection methodology.
- Computational Methodology:** Proposing computational methods for WPI and PPI.
- PPI Compilation Methodology:** Assessing and suggesting enhancements to the PPI compilation methodology approved by the Technical Advisory Committee on Statistics of Prices & Cost of Living.
- Transition Roadmap:** Developing a plan for transitioning from WPI to PPI.
- Reliability Enhancements:** Recommending measures to improve the reliability of WPI and PPI data.

The committee is expected to submit its final report within 18 months.

Context and Implications

The last revision of the WPI occurred in 2015, updating the base year from 2004-05 to 2011-12. The upcoming revision to 2022-23 aims to incorporate significant economic developments, including the expansion of the service sector, which constitutes over half of India's economic output. Transitioning to a Producer Price Index (PPI) will provide a more comprehensive measure of inflation at the producer level, encompassing both goods and services.





India Joins UN's Big Data for Official Statistics Committee

Summary/Static	Details
Why in the news?	India Joins UN's Big Data for Official Statistics Committee
UN Committee	United Nations Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics (UN-CEBD)
India's Membership	Joined in January 2025 to contribute to global statistical practices
Key Contribution	Shaping global standards for using Big Data in official statistics
India's Innovations	Data Innovation Lab, use of satellite imagery, machine learning
Benefits of Big Data	Enhances real-time insights, reduces time lag, improves data accuracy
Strategic Importance	Aligns domestic advancements with global goals for evidence-based policymaking
Non-Traditional Data Sources	IoT, satellite imagery, private sector data to modernize statistical processes
Policymaking Impact	Provides real-time insights to address socio-economic challenges
SDG Monitoring	Helps in tracking and reporting on sustainable development goals
What is Big Data?	High-volume, high-velocity, and wide-variety digital information generated from GPS, ATMs, sensors, satellites, etc.
Sources of Big Data	GPS devices, ATMs, scanning devices, sensors, mobile phones, satellites, social media
UN-CEBD Formation	Established by the UN Statistical Commission during its 45th session
Purpose of UN-CEBD	To explore benefits and challenges of Big Data for official statistics and SDG monitoring
Key Issues Addressed	Methodology, quality, technology, data access, legislation, privacy, management, and finance
Benefits of Big Data	Real-time insights, monitoring SDGs, timely policy interventions, cost-effective solutions
Focus Areas	Cost-benefit analysis of Big Data usage in official statistics

India to Host 28th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in 2026

Key Points	Details
Why in News	India to host the 28th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CSPOC) in 2026, announced by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, focusing on AI and social media in parliamentary processes.
Last Hosted by India	2010
Previous Hosting Years	1970-71, 1986, and 2010
Establishment of CSPOC	1969, by Lucien Lamoureux, Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada
Frequency of CSPOC Conferences	Biennially
CSPOC Secretariat	Canada
Themes for 2026	AI integration, social media in parliamentary processes
India's Parliamentary Initiative	Lok Sabha's adoption of AI for translations and accessibility
Philosophy Highlighted	"Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" – The world is one family
Key Global Challenges Addressed	Climate change, terrorism, cybercrime, and inequality

RBI Constitutes New Advisory Committee for Bank Licensing

On January 20, 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) established a new **Standing External Advisory Committee (SEAC)** to evaluate applications for **Universal Banks and Small Finance Banks (SFBs)**. This committee is chaired by former **RBI Deputy Governor M. K. Jain** and comprises five members.

Committee Composition and Tenure

The SEAC includes:

- **M. K. Jain:** Chairperson and former Deputy Governor, RBI.
- **Revathy Iyer:** Director, Central Board, RBI.
- **Parvathy V. Sundaram:** Former Executive Director, RBI.





- **Hemant G. Contractor:** Former Managing Director of State Bank of India and former Chairman of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority.
- **N. S. Kannan:** Former Managing Director and CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance.

The committee's tenure is set for three years, with secretarial support provided by the RBI's Department of Regulation.

Background and Evolution

This initiative follows the **precedent set in March 2021**, when the RBI formed a similar committee led by former **Deputy Governor Shyamala Gopinath**. The SEAC's role is to assess applications for Universal Banks and SFBs, ensuring applicants meet the necessary criteria. Notably, applications from existing SFBs seeking Universal Bank licenses may bypass this vetting process, as their credentials were previously evaluated during their initial licensing.

Current Applications Under Review

The RBI is currently reviewing applications from:

- **Annapurna Finance:** Seeking a Universal Bank license.
- **AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB):** Applied for a Universal Bank license.
- **Fino Payments Bank:** Applied for an SFB license.
- **VFS Capital:** Applied for an SFB license.

Waqf Amendment Bill Cleared by Joint Parliamentary Committee: Key Changes and Implications

The **Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)** approved the Waqf Amendment Bill, a significant legislative reform aimed at restructuring the management of Muslim charitable properties in India. The bill proposes 44 amendments to the existing framework, with the JPC approving 14 key alterations. This article delves into the specifics of the bill, its proposed changes, and the political dynamics that shaped its approval.

What is Waqf Amendment Bill?

The Waqf Amendment Bill seeks to overhaul the administration of Waqf properties across the country by introducing 44 changes to the current system. These changes were drafted and tabled in the Lok Sabha in August 2024. The bill aims to bring about greater inclusivity and transparency in the functioning of Waqf boards and the

Central Waqf Council.

- **Key Objective:** Improve the governance of Waqf properties to benefit marginalized communities, including the Pasmanda Muslims.
- **Amendments Proposed:** A total of 66 amendments were suggested—23 by MPs from the ruling BJP and 44 by opposition members.

Political Dynamics of the Committee

The Joint Parliamentary Committee tasked with examining the bill comprises 31 members from both houses of Parliament:

- **Ruling Party Representation:** 16 MPs from the BJP and its National Democratic Alliance (NDA) allies.
- **Opposition Representation:** 13 MPs, including one from the YSR Congress Party and one nominated member.

Waqf Board Amendment Bill 2024-Voting on Amendments

During the committee's deliberations:

- The **14 amendments** approved were proposed by the ruling BJP and NDA members.
- The **44 amendments** proposed by the opposition were rejected, with voting largely along party lines (16 in favor of the BJP's stance vs. 10 opposing).

Details of the Approved Amendments

- **Inclusion of Non-Muslim Members:** The composition of state Waqf boards will now allow for non-Muslim CEOs and at least two non-Muslim members.
- **Changes in the Central Waqf Council:** The council will now include a union minister, three Members of Parliament, two ex-judges, four individuals of 'national repute,' and senior government officials. None of these members are required to belong to the Islamic faith.
- **Property Ownership Disputes:** Section 3C(2) of the bill empowers the state government, through the jurisdictional Collector, to determine whether a property claimed as Waqf is actually government land. This change shifts the authority from Waqf Tribunals to Collectors.





Rejected Opposition Amendments

The opposition's proposed changes, aimed at strengthening the autonomy of Waqf boards and safeguarding against government overreach, were voted down. Key suggestions included:

- Increasing representation from minority communities.
- Retaining the Waqf Tribunal's authority in property disputes.
- Ensuring transparency in the appointment of board members.

Opposition members alleged bias in the voting process, highlighting the dominance of the ruling party in the JPC.

Timeline and Next Steps

- **Initial Deadline:** The committee was originally required to submit its report by November 29, 2024.
- **Extension:** The deadline was extended to February 13, 2025, coinciding with the final day of the Budget Session.
- **Final Voting:** The approved amendments will be confirmed through voting on January 29, 2025.
- **Report Submission:** The final report is expected by January 31, 2025.

Impact of the Proposed Changes

On Waqf Property Management

The bill introduces significant changes to the way Waqf properties are governed:

- Greater government oversight through the inclusion of non-Muslim members.
- A shift in dispute resolution authority from Waqf Tribunals to state-appointed Collectors.

On Minority Representation

While the amendments aim to enhance inclusivity, critics argue that the inclusion of non-Muslim members could dilute the community-specific focus of Waqf boards.

On Marginalized Communities

The government asserts that the bill will benefit poor and Pasmanda Muslims by improving the efficiency and transparency of Waqf property administration.

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports)

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on June 2025

RANKINGS

Rank Category	Details
IGIA Airport (Delhi)	Ranked among top 10 hub airports in Asia-Pacific and the Middle East by Airports Council International (ACI APAC & MID) . Only Indian airport in the list; connects to 153 destinations.
Mumbai (Data Centres)	Ranked 6th globally and 1st in Asia-Pacific for under-construction data centre capacity , per Cushman & Wakefield 2025 . 335 MW capacity under development.
India – Global Gender Gap Report 2025	Ranked 131st out of 148 countries with a gender parity score of 64.1% in WEF's Global Gender Gap Report 2025 . Dropped due to lower female political representation.
India – THE Impact Rankings 2025	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (41) and LPU (48) led India's 135 entries. JSS Academy and Shoolini University also in top 100. Ranked for UN SDGs performance.
India – Energy Transition Index 2025	Ranked 71st globally, falling from 63rd, per World Economic Forum . Improvement in clean energy and efficiency, but gaps in energy equity and grid reliability.
India – Global SDG Index 2025	Ranked 99th with a score of 67 in the UN Sustainable Development Goals Index . First time in top 100. Progress in healthcare, digital access, and infrastructure.
India – Power Generation Growth (IEA)	3rd highest growth in global power generation capacity over the last five years, driven by urbanization, industrial growth, and renewable energy (esp. solar).
India – 360 ONE Wealth Creators List 2025	Highlighted young entrepreneurs under 40. Dominated by Ambani siblings , Nikhil Kamath , and Bhavish Aggarwal . Total wealth nearing ₹100 trillion.
India – TRAI Telecom Report Q1 2025	1.2 billion total subscribers. ₹98,250 crore gross revenue . High ARPU, surge in data consumption. Strong 5G Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) growth.





REPORTS

Report Name	Submitted By	Key Notes
34th CPGRAMS Report (May 2025)	DARPG	78,123 complaints resolved; UP leads in complaints received/disposed. 2 lakh pending grievances; 28,000+ officers trained under Sevottam.
SIPRI Yearbook 2025	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)	India expanding nuclear arsenal and delivery systems. Global nuclear total: 12,241 warheads; US & Russia hold 90%. Warning of renewed arms race.
WMO Climate Report 2024	World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	Asia warming twice as fast as the global rate. India faced extreme heat, glacial melt, and cyclones. Urges climate adaptation and early warning systems.
India's Data Imperative – Future Front Report	NITI Aayog	Highlights poor data quality in governance. Recommends improved accuracy, integration, and standardization to enhance public service delivery.
Sustainable Development Report 2025	UN SDG Network	India ranks 99th. Only 17% of global SDG targets are on track. South and East Asia show fastest progress toward Agenda 2030.

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on May 2025

RANKING

India's Total Fertility Rate Remains at 2.0: SRS 2021 Report

India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) stood at 2.0 in 2021, the same as in 2020, as per the Sample Registration System (SRS) report 2021 released by the Registrar General of India (RGI). The report provides vital insights into the country's changing demographic patterns, including fertility, ageing population, and marriage trends. Notably, Bihar reported the highest TFR at 3.0, while Delhi and West Bengal recorded the lowest at 1.4.

Why in News?

The SRS 2021 report, released on May 7, 2025, provides updated demographic estimates at the national and state levels, a crucial resource in the absence of the 2021 Census, which has been delayed. The report gains added relevance amid the announcement in the 2024 interim budget regarding a high-power committee to address population growth and demographic shifts in India.

Key Highlights of the SRS 2021 Report

Total Fertility Rate (TFR)

- **National average:** 2.0, same as 2020.
- **Bihar:** Highest TFR at 3.0.
- **Delhi & West Bengal:** Lowest TFR at 1.4.

TFR Below Replacement Level (2.1) in many states

- **Includes:** Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, etc.

TFR at or above Replacement Level

- Assam (2.1), Gujarat (2.0), Haryana (2.0).

Age Structure Shift

Decline in 0–14 years population

- From 41.2% (1971) to 24.8% (2021).
- Rise in 15–59 years (working age group):
- From 53.4% to 66.2%.

Increase in elderly population

- 65+ age group: From 5.3% to 5.9%.
- 60+ age group: From 6% to 9%.

Elderly Population by State

Highest

- Kerala: 14.4%
- Tamil Nadu: 12.9%
- Himachal Pradesh: 12.3%





Lowest

- Bihar: 6.9%
- Assam: 7%
- Delhi: 7.1%

Marriage Trends

- Mean age at effective marriage for females:
- Increased from 19.3 years (1990) to 22.5 years (2021).

About SRS Survey

- **Conducted by:** Registrar General of India (RGI).
- Largest demographic survey in India after the Census.
- Covers 8,842 sample units across states.
- **Sample population:** ~84 lakh individuals.

CareEdge State Rankings 2025: Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Karnataka Lead the Way

In the latest CareEdge Ratings State Ranking 2025, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Karnataka have emerged as the top three states based on their overall performance across seven key pillars: economic, fiscal, infrastructure, financial development, social, governance, and environment. The rankings, which are based on a detailed evaluation of 50 indicators, shed light on the diverse strengths and challenges of Indian states.

Why in the News?

The CareEdge Ratings State Ranking 2025 has placed Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Karnataka as the top-performing states in India, based on their performance across multiple metrics.

Aim of the Rankings

- **Evaluate performance:** The CareEdge Rankings aim to assess the overall development and sustainability of Indian states using a comprehensive set of indicators.
- **Focus on holistic growth:** The rankings are based on seven pillars, offering a multi-dimensional view of each state's progress.
- **Encourage informed decision-making:** The rankings provide insights into the investment attractiveness of states, making them a valuable resource for businesses and policymakers.

Significance of the Report

- **Investment attractiveness:** States with high rankings are likely to attract greater investment due to their favorable fiscal, economic, and governance conditions.
- **Regional development insights:** The rankings highlight the regional disparities in development, showcasing the dominance of western and southern states in economic, fiscal, and environmental indicators.
- **Policy formulation:** The rankings provide a foundation for policy-making, encouraging states to focus on areas where they lag, such as social development or environmental governance.

Key Findings

- **Maharashtra:** Ranked first overall, benefiting from a strong performance across financial, economic, fiscal, and social metrics.
- **Gujarat:** Excelled in economic performance, driven by high per capita GSDP, strong FDI inflows, and high gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) for industries.
- **Karnataka:** Ranked third with significant achievements in industrial and environmental indicators.
- **Goa:** Highest-ranked among small states, showing strong performance in fiscal, financial development, and infrastructure metrics.

Regional Patterns

- **Western States:** States like Gujarat and Maharashtra dominate economic and fiscal parameters due to their strong industrial bases and investments.
- **Southern States:** Karnataka, in particular, excels in governance and environmental indicators, reflecting its policies on sustainable growth and good governance.

Forbes W-Power List 2025 Recognizes India's Leading Women Achievers

In a world that is increasingly recognizing the power and potential of women leaders, Forbes India has released its much-anticipated W-Power List 2025, spotlighting the nation's most influential and self-made women. These women come from diverse backgrounds — from global finance and filmmaking to sports, science, and entrepreneurship — and are breaking barriers while setting new benchmarks in their respective domains.





Why in News?

Forbes India recently published the W-Power 2025 list, celebrating self-made women from various sectors who have significantly influenced their fields, challenged norms, and redefined success in India and beyond.

About the W-Power List 2025

- An annual feature by Forbes India recognizing self-made, influential Indian women across sectors.
- Focuses on women leading from the front, whether in business, politics, science, arts, or sports.
- Aims to inspire the next generation of women by showcasing real success stories.

Notable Names Featured

- Gita Gopinath – First Deputy Managing Director, IMF
- Leena Nair – Global CEO, Chanel
- Smriti Mandhana, PV Sindhu, and Manu Bhaker – International sportspersons
- Payal Kapadia – Award-winning filmmaker
- Dr. Pratima Murthy – Director, NIMHANS
- Rohini Iyer – PR and marketing entrepreneur
- Shefali Goradia – Chairperson, Deloitte South Asia
- Vishakha Mulye – CEO, Aditya Birla Capital Limited

India Justice Report 2025: Where Do We Stand?

The **India Justice Report (IJR) 2025**, published earlier this year, delivers a comprehensive analysis of the **institutional capacity of the justice delivery system in India**. Now in its fourth edition, the IJR has become the **only quantitative index** of its kind in India, relying entirely on **government data** to assess how well states are equipped to deliver justice to their citizens.

Launched first in 2019 with the support of **Tata Trusts**, the 2025 report has been jointly produced in partnership with **DAKSH, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Common Cause, Centre for Social Justice, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, and TISS-Prayas**.

Why the IJR Matters: A Tool for Accountability

The **IJR 2025** evaluates the justice system using five key pillars: **police, prisons, judiciary, legal aid, and human rights commissions**. These pillars are measured using a mix of indicators related to **human resources, infrastructure, budgetary allocations, workload, and diversity**.

Unlike qualitative assessments or opinion-based rankings, the IJR is rooted in **hard statistics**. This makes it a vital tool not just for policymakers, but also for **UPSC aspirants**, civil society groups, and legal practitioners aiming to understand the practical strengths and weaknesses in India's justice infrastructure.

State Rankings: Karnataka Leads, UP and WB Languish

In the **overall ranking of large and mid-sized states**, **Karnataka retained its first position**, followed by **Andhra Pradesh**, which jumped from 5th to 2nd. **Telangana** and **Kerala** follow closely.

At the bottom of the list:

- **Uttar Pradesh** ranks **17th**, up by one place
- **West Bengal** slips to **18th**, down from 17th

State	IJR 2025 Rank	IJR 2022 Rank
Karnataka	1	1
Andhra Pradesh	2	5
Telangana	3	3
Kerala	4	6
Uttar Pradesh	17	18
West Bengal	18	17

India and the Rule of Law Index 2024

In a related development, the **World Justice Project (WJP)** released the **Rule of Law Index 2024**, in which **India ranks 79 out of 142 countries**. The index assesses countries across **eight dimensions**:





- Constraints on government powers
- Absence of corruption
- Open government
- Fundamental rights
- Order and security
- Regulatory enforcement
- Civil justice
- Criminal justice

India's **criminal justice system** ranks **89th**, indicating weak mechanisms to prosecute offenses and deliver fair outcomes. Its **civil justice system** performs even worse, at **111th**, largely due to issues such as **accessibility, delays, corruption, and lack of impartial dispute resolution**.

Human Development Index 2025: A Detailed Analysis

India improved its rank to **130 out of 193 countries** on the **Human Development Index (HDI)** in 2023, according to the **UNDP Human Development Report 2025**. This marks a three-place rise from its 2022 rank of 133. India also demonstrated notable improvement in reducing gender inequality, climbing from 108 (out of 166 countries) in 2022 to **102 out of 193 countries** in 2023 on the **Gender Inequality Index (GII)**. The theme of the Human Development Report "**A matter of choice: People and possibilities in the age of AI**".

Despite this progress, India scored **0.874 on the Gender Development Index (GDI)**, placing it among Group 5 countries which are considered to have **low success in closing the gender gap**. On the HDI front, with a value of **0.685**, India remains in the **medium human development category**, but is inching closer to the threshold of high human development, set at **0.700**.

Top 10 Country in Human Development Index 2025

HDI Rank (2023)	Country	HDI Value (2023)
1	Iceland	0.972
2	Norway	0.970
2	Switzerland	0.970
4	Denmark	0.962
5	Germany	0.959
5	Sweden	0.959
7	Australia	0.958
8	Hong Kong, China (SAR)	0.955
8	Netherlands	0.955
10	Belgium	0.951

Bottom 10 Country in Human Development Index 2025

HDI Rank (2023)	Country	HDI Value (2023)
184	Yemen	0.470
185	Sierra Leone	0.467
186	Burkina Faso	0.459
187	Burundi	0.439
188	Mali	0.419
188	Niger	0.419
190	Chad	0.416
..	Central African Republic	0.414
192	Somalia	0.404
193	South Sudan	0.388





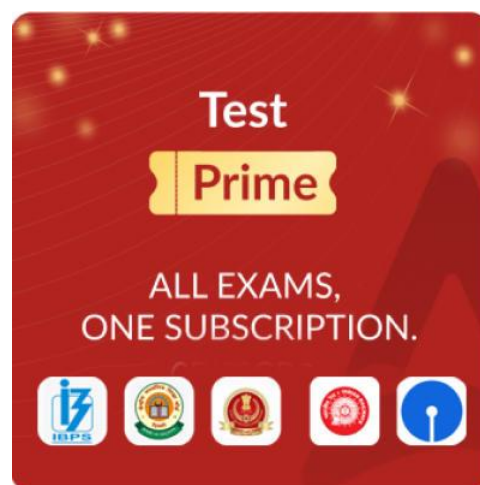
REPORT

- India's steady progress on the **Human Development Index (HDI)** reflects notable improvements in health and education, including a rise in life expectancy and increased school attendance. However, disparities in income and gender persist, with inequality **lowering India's HDI by over 30%**. The report also emphasizes India's growing potential in artificial intelligence, which is expected to play a key role in its future development. **Despite these advancements, global progress in human development remains slow, marking the 2025 HDR as an important indicator of both achievements and ongoing challenges.**
- The IEA's **Global Methane Tracker 2025** reveals that **methane emissions from the energy sector remain high and underreported**, with **abandoned infrastructure and fossil fuel operations** driving much of the pollution. Although technological solutions and international pledges exist, their **implementation is weak**, and **satellite data continues to expose hidden emissions**. The report urges immediate action to **enhance monitoring, enforce policies, and unlock energy security benefits** by reducing leaks and flaring.
- NITI Aayog's **"Designing a Policy for Medium Enterprises"** report marks a critical step toward enhancing the competitiveness of a largely untapped segment of the MSME sector. Despite representing just **0.3%** of MSMEs, medium enterprises contribute significantly to exports, showcasing immense potential. The report presents a policy framework centered on **financial support, Industry 4.0, R&D, testing infrastructure, custom skilling**, and a **centralized digital portal** to strengthen their capabilities. These measures aim to position medium enterprises as the **backbone of industrial growth**, aligning with the **Viksit Bharat @2047** vision.

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on April 2025

RANKING

- India ranks **10th globally** with a **private AI investment of Rs. 11,943 crore (US\$ 1.4 billion)** in 2023, marking significant progress in the global AI landscape. It improved its position in the **UNCTAD 'Readiness for Frontier Technologies' Index**, moving from 48th in 2022 to 36th in 2024. India faces competition from nations like **Germany in wind energy, Japan in electric vehicles, and South Korea in 5G**. With 13 million **software developers**, India is a leader in **AI research and nanotechnology**, but to maintain its position, continued investment in **R&D** and workforce **skill development** is essential. The **economic impact** of AI is projected at **Rs. 4,09,48,800 crore (US\$ 4.8 trillion)** by 2033.
- On **April 7, 2025**, MeitY, through CERT-In, along with CSIRT-Fin and SISA, released the **Digital Threat Report 2024** for the **BFSI sector**, offering a deep analysis of **cyber threats** and a roadmap for **cybersecurity resilience**. Launched by top officials from **DFS, MeitY, and SISA**, the report highlights the risks from **AI-driven attacks, expanded digital attack surfaces, and compliance challenges**. It emphasizes a **unified cybersecurity strategy** and recommends measures across **People, Process, and Technology**, aiming to **anticipate threats, strengthen defenses, and build a secure digital economy** through collaborative intelligence-sharing.
- According to **Ookla's Speedtest Global Index (Feb 2025)**, **Mumbai** recorded the **lowest fixed broadband speed** among Indian cities, ranking **123rd globally** with a **download speed of 58.24 Mbps**, while **Delhi** topped nationally at **89th rank with 91.11 Mbps**. This disparity contributed to **India's overall slip** in global broadband rankings from **94 to 95**, with national averages at **61.66 Mbps download, 57.89 Mbps upload, and 7 ms latency**. Mumbai's poor performance is attributed to **dense population and challenging terrain**.
- Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport** has been ranked the **9th busiest airport in the world** in **2024** by **Airports Council International (ACI) World**, handling **77 million passengers**. This marks a steady rise from **17th in 2019 to 10th in 2023**, showcasing India's growing **aviation footprint**, world-class **infrastructure**, and expanding **international connectivity**. IGI remains the **only Indian airport** in the global top 10. Operated by **Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL)** under the **GMR Group**, IGI joins a list topped by **Atlanta and Dubai** amidst **9.5 billion global passengers** in 2024.
- NITI Aayog's report titled **'Unlocking \$25+ Billion Export Potential - India's Hand & Power Tools Sector'** explores how India can tap into the global **hand and power tools** market, currently valued at **\$100 billion** and expected to grow to **\$190 billion by 2035**. India's export potential is significant, with targets to reach **\$25 billion in exports** and generate **35 lakh jobs** over the next decade. However, India faces **cost disadvantages** due to higher raw material and logistics costs.





- The **2025 TIME 100 Most Influential People** list features global figures like **U.S. President Donald Trump**, **Tesla CEO Elon Musk**, **UK PM Keir Starmer**, and **Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus**, recognized for their significant impact on **politics, innovation, and social entrepreneurship**. Notably, **no Indian personalities** were included this year, unlike 2024 when **Alia Bhatt** and **Sakshi Malik** were featured.

REPORT

Report Name	Submitted By	Key Notes
UNESCO report	UNESCO report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 'Nutrition for Growth' event, hosted by France on March 27-28, 2025, highlighted concerns over the nutritional quality of school meals worldwide. According to a UNESCO report, while 47% of primary school pupils received meals in 2024, many lacked adequate nutrition, impacting child health and academic performance. Key findings include 27% of school meals lacking nutritionist input, only 93 out of 187 countries having school food legislation, and 65% setting food standards.
2025 Technology and Innovation Report	2025 Technology and Innovation Report	India has made significant strides in adopting frontier technologies, improving its rank from 48th in 2022 to 36th globally in the 2025 Technology and Innovation Report by UNCTAD . The country's progress is attributed to advancements in ICT deployment, research and development (R&D), industrial capacity, and finance , particularly in AI and nanotechnology . India is now part of a group of developing countries exceeding expectations in technology readiness .

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on March 2025

RANKING

India Ranks 4th in Global Wealth Rankings: Knight Frank's Wealth Report 2025

In March 2025, the London-based global property consultancy firm, **Knight Frank**, released the 19th edition of '**The Wealth Report 2025**', providing a comprehensive analysis of the global distribution of wealth. The report highlights the growing number of **High Net-Worth Individuals (HNWIs)** worldwide, with India securing the **4th position globally**, boasting an estimated **85,698 HNWIs in 2024**, marking a **6% increase** from the previous year.

With **3.7% of the world's wealthy population**, India continues to strengthen its presence among the top wealth-generating nations. The **United States of America (USA)** remains the leader with **905,413 HNWIs**, followed by **China (471,634 HNWIs)** and **Japan (122,119 HNWIs)**.

Key Global Findings from The Wealth Report 2025

The Growth of High Net-Worth Individuals Worldwide

The report defines **HNWIs** as individuals possessing at least **USD 1 million** in investable assets. According to the findings, the number of **HNWIs increased by 4.4% globally**, reaching **2,341,378 in 2024**, up from **2,243,300 in 2023**.

The top three regions that experienced the highest percentage growth in their **HNWI** populations are:

- United States – 5.2% growth**
- Asia – 5% growth**
- Africa – 4.7% growth**

Other notable regional **HNWI** population growth rates:

- Australasia – 3.9%** (owing to strong ties with Asian and North American markets)
- Middle East – 2.7%**
- Latin America – 1.5%**
- Europe – 1.4%**





Top 5 Countries with the Highest Number of HNWI's in 2024

Rank	Country	Number of HNWI's	Percentage of Global HNWI's
1	United States	905,413	38.7%
2	China (Mainland)	471,634	20.1%
3	Japan	122,119	5.2%
4	India	85,698	3.7%
5	Germany	69,798	3.0%

Glass-Ceiling Index 2025: Best Countries for Working Women

International Women's Day (IWD), celebrated annually on **March 8**, serves as a global platform to recognize the achievements of women in **cultural, political, and socio-economic spheres**. It is also a moment to assess progress in gender equality and the challenges that remain in workplaces worldwide. The **Glass-Ceiling Index (GCI)**, compiled by **The Economist**, provides a comparative analysis of the best and worst countries for working women.

The **2025 Glass-Ceiling Index** reveals that while significant improvements have been made globally, disparities still persist. This year, **Sweden** has reclaimed its position as the best country for working women, surpassing **Iceland**, which held the top spot for the past two years. Meanwhile, countries like **Japan, Turkey, and South Korea** continue to struggle due to entrenched societal norms and wage gaps.

Global Trends in Women's Workforce Representation

Political Landscape: A Historic Year for Elections

The year **2024** was remarkable for women's participation in politics. According to the **OECD**, the average **women's parliamentary representation** rose to **34%**, a testament to global efforts toward gender inclusivity.

- **Japan** saw a substantial increase in representation, jumping from **10% to 16%**.
- **Britain** experienced notable growth, with representation rising from **35% to 41%**.
- **The United States**, however, witnessed a slight decline, with female parliamentary representation falling to **28.7%**.

This data highlights the evolving role of women in governance, though many nations still lag behind in achieving gender parity in politics.

Economic Indicators: Progress and Challenges

On the economic front, the **percentage of women on corporate boards** reached **33%**, reflecting a growing acceptance of gender diversity in leadership roles. Additionally, the **labour-force participation rate** for women increased to **66.6%**, up from **65.8%** in the previous year. However, this figure remains significantly lower compared to the **81% male participation rate**.

Despite these advancements, women continue to face obstacles such as **wage disparities, unequal career advancement opportunities, and underrepresentation in top managerial positions**.

Top 10 Best Countries for Working Women in 2025

According to **The Economist's 2025 Glass-Ceiling Index**, the following countries ranked highest in fostering **gender equality, workplace inclusion, and career growth** for women:

Rank	Country	Region
1	France	Europe
2	Spain	Europe
3	Australia	Oceania
4	Sweden	Europe
5	Portugal	Europe
6	Norway	Europe
7	Finland	Europe
8	Denmark	Europe
9	New Zealand	Oceania
10	Iceland	Europe





LIC Ranked World's 3rd Strongest Insurance Brand

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has been ranked the third strongest insurance brand globally, with a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 88 out of 100, according to the Brand Finance Insurance 100 (2025) report. Poland-based PZU topped the rankings with a BSI score of 94.4, followed by China Life Insurance in second place with 93.5. LIC also holds the 12th position in brand value among global insurers, while SBI Life ranks 76th, making them the only two Indian insurers in the top 100.

Key Highlights

LIC's Global Ranking

- Ranked 3rd strongest insurance brand globally.
- Achieved a BSI score of 88/100.
- Holds the 12th position in brand value worldwide.
- SBI Life is the only other Indian insurer in the top 100, ranking 76th.

Global Insurance Market Trends

- The top 100 insurance brands grew by 9% in brand value in 2025.
- Growth driven by higher investment income, rising interest rates, and increased profitability.
- Market capitalization rose due to increasing demand for insurance products.
- Economic recovery, strategic mergers, acquisitions, and tech advancements accelerated industry growth.

LIC's Financial Performance

- Standalone net profit rose 17% YoY in the December quarter to ₹11,056.47 crore (from ₹9,444.42 crore).
- Consolidated net profit increased 16% YoY to ₹11,000 crore.
- Management expenses decreased, with employee compensation and welfare costs dropping 30%.
- Expense ratio reduced by 231 basis points (bps) to 12.97% from 15.28%.

India ranks **11th globally** in pharmaceutical exports, accounting for **3%** of total pharmaceutical exports in 2023. The **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)** and the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** have implemented measures to ensure **drug quality, safety, and efficacy**, including **risk-based inspections, regulatory amendments, stricter penalties** for non-compliance, and **training programs** to improve manufacturing standards. These initiatives aim to strengthen the **pharmaceutical sector** in India.

Amul, India's leading **dairy cooperative**, secured **3rd position** in the **YouGov India Value Rankings 2025**, making it the only **FMCG brand** in the top three. It stands alongside **Amazon** (1st) and **Flipkart** (2nd), reflecting its strong **consumer trust** and **value-for-money proposition**. This achievement underscores the strength of Amul's **cooperative model**, ensuring fair pricing for **farmers** and delivering **high-quality, affordable dairy products** to Indian households.

The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** released the '**Handbook on Indian Insurance Statistics 2023-24**' in March 2025, providing insights into the **Claim Settlement Ratio (CSR)** of various insurers. CSR is a key metric that reflects an insurer's reliability, representing the percentage of claims settled within a specified time, helping stakeholders make informed decisions about insurance companies.

India's Free Speech Ranking in Global Index

Summary/Static	Details
Why in the news?	India's Free Speech Ranking in Global Index
Survey Conducted By	The Future of Free Speech (U.S.-based think tank)
Survey Date	October 2024
India's Rank	24th out of 33 countries
India's Score	62.6
Comparison with Other Countries	India ranked between South Africa (66.9) and Lebanon (61.8)
Highest Ranked Nations	Norway (87.9), Denmark (87.0)





Summary/Static	Details
Most Improved Countries	Indonesia (56.8), Malaysia (55.4), Pakistan (57.0)
Global Free Speech	Trend Declined in many democratic nations, including U.S., Israel, and Japan
Public Perception in India	Indians believe free speech has improved, despite global rankings showing decline
Support for Government	Criticism in India 37% support restricting criticism (highest among surveyed nations)
Lowest Support for Restricting Criticism	U.K. (5%) and Denmark (3%)
India's Free Speech Exception	Despite public support, actual protection remains low (similar to Hungary, Venezuela)
Key Expert Opinion	Free speech needs public commitment beyond legal protections (Jacob Mchangama)

Finland Tops the World Happiness Rankings for the Eighth Consecutive Year

Finland has once again secured its position as the world's happiest country for the eighth consecutive year, according to the latest global happiness rankings. The study, conducted by the **Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford in collaboration with Gallup and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network**, revealed that the United States has dropped to its lowest-ever ranking at 24th place. The rankings are based on people's self-assessment of their quality of life, highlighting factors such as social trust, economic stability, and life expectancy.

Global Happiness Rankings: Finland Remains on the Top

The 2024 World Happiness Report has reaffirmed Finland's position as the happiest country in the world. Other Nordic nations, including Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, and the Netherlands, rounded out the top five.

The rankings are derived from individuals' responses to survey questions about their overall life satisfaction. Despite Finland's geographical proximity to Russia and increasing geopolitical tensions, its citizens continue to report high levels of happiness.

Factors Influencing Happiness Rankings

The happiness rankings are based on a three-year average of a population's self-assessment of life quality. The factors considered in the ranking include:

- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita** – Economic stability contributes significantly to life satisfaction.
- **Healthy life expectancy** – Access to quality healthcare and a longer lifespan improve well-being.
- **Social support** – Having a reliable network of family and friends enhances happiness.
- **Freedom to make life choices** – A sense of autonomy and personal control is linked to higher life satisfaction.
- **Generosity** – Acts of kindness and donations contribute positively to societal happiness.
- **Perceptions of corruption** – Lower levels of corruption improve trust in government institutions and social systems.

The Role of Social Trust in Happiness

One of the key findings of the 2024 report is the strong correlation between happiness and **belief in the kindness of others**. The report highlights that people who believe in social trust—such as the likelihood of someone returning a lost wallet—tend to experience greater happiness.

Nordic countries, which consistently rank at the top in happiness indices, also excel in social trust metrics. This suggests that interpersonal trust and societal stability play an essential role in overall well-being.

United States Sees a Decline in Happiness

The United States, which ranked 13th in 2016, has now dropped to **24th place**, marking its lowest position ever in the global rankings. Experts attribute this decline to increasing **income inequality, political divisions, and social unrest**.

Similarly, the United Kingdom also fell to its lowest ranking since 2017. Researchers have observed that while happiness disparities between countries have remained stable, **happiness inequality within countries has increased by about 25% over the past two decades**.

Geopolitical Challenges and Their Impact on Happiness

Despite facing increased geopolitical tensions due to its **proximity to Russia**, Finland has continued to rank as the happiest nation. Over recent years, Finland and other European countries have experienced a rise in cyberattacks, GPS jamming, and suspected sabotage of critical infrastructure in the Baltic Sea. However, these external challenges have not significantly impacted the Finnish people's reported happiness levels.





India's **happiness ranking** has improved steadily, reaching **118th** in the **World Happiness Report 2025**, up from **126th** in **2023** and **139th** in **2020**. Key factors include **economic growth**, **better corruption perception** (rank improved from **71** in **2022** to **56** in **2024**), and **rising personal freedom** (ranked **23rd** in **2024**, highest in five years). India's **GDP per capita rank** also improved to **93rd** in **2024**. However, it still lags behind **Pakistan (109th)** and **Nepal (92nd)** due to **lower social support and economic inequality**.

REPORT

Report Name	Submitted By	Key Notes
The Lancet	The Lancet	A study published in The Lancet predicts that by 2050, 44.9 crore Indians will be overweight or obese , with 21.8 crore men and 23.1 crore women affected. This accounts for nearly one-third of India's projected population. India also had the highest number of overweight or obese young adults in 2021 , surpassing China and the U.S. .
Knight Frank's 'The Wealth Report 2025'		Knight Frank's 'The Wealth Report 2025' highlights the global distribution of High Net-Worth Individuals (HNWIs) , with India ranking 4th worldwide. The report estimates 85,698 HNWIs in India in 2024 , reflecting a 6% year-on-year growth and 3.7% of the world's wealthy population .
OAG report		IndiGo Airlines is the world's second fastest-growing airline in seat capacity , with a 10.1% YoY increase to 134.9 million seats in 2024 , as per the OAG report . It follows Qatar Airways (10.4% growth). The report highlights IndiGo's flight frequency growth , expanding international operations , strong financial performance , and future plans .

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on February 2025

RANKING

Henley Passport Index 2025: Singapore Ranks No. 1, India at 80th

The **2025 Henley Passport Index**, compiled by Henley & Partners, **ranks 199 passports** based on their visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to global destinations. The rankings are based on International Air Transport Association (IATA) data, highlighting global mobility trends. **Singapore holds the top spot**, while **India ranks 80th**, sharing the position with **Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, and Tajikistan**. The report also highlights countries gaining or losing mobility privileges over the years.

Key Highlights of the Henley Passport Index 2025

Top-Ranking Passports

- **1st Place: Singapore**
- Visa-free access to 193 out of 227 destinations.
- **2nd Place: Japan & South Korea**
- Visa-free access to 190 countries.
- Japan regained visa-free access to China, lost during Covid-19.
- **3rd Place: European Nations**
- Finland, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Ireland
- Access to 189 destinations.

India's Position (Rank 80)

- Shared with **Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, and Tajikistan**.
- Indian passport holders can travel to **62 countries visa-free** or with visa-on-arrival.

Bottom Ranking Passports

- **99th (Last): Afghanistan** – Access to 25 destinations.
- **98th:** Syria – Access to 27 destinations.
- **97th:** Iraq – Access to 30 destinations.
- Countries Showing Growth & Decline



**Significant Gainers**

- **UAE (Rank 8, 185 destinations)**
- Gained access to 72 more destinations in the past decade.
- Only Arab nation in the top 10.
- **China (Rank 59, 58 destinations)**
- Improved from 94th in 2015 to 59th in 2025.
- Secured 29 new visa-free access destinations in the past year.

Significant Decliners

- **Venezuela** – Suffered the biggest drop in rankings over the past decade.
- **USA** – Experienced an unexpected decline in its ranking.
- **Afghanistan** – Widening mobility gap, losing access to two more destinations.

Top 10 Rankers in Index

- **1st.** Singapore
- **2nd.** Japan, South Korea
- **3rd.** Finland, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Ireland
- **4th.** Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden
- **5th.** Greece, New Zealand, Switzerland
- **6th.** Australia, United Kingdom
- **7th.** Canada, Czechia, Hungary, Malta, Poland
- **8th.** Estonia, UAE
- **9th.** Croatia, Latvia, Slovakia, Slovenia, United States
- **10th.** Iceland, Lithuania

Note: Many Countries are tied with same number of score in the index and they have same number of position in the index.

India and Its Neighbor Country Rankings

- **China** – 59th
- **India** – 80th
- **Bhutan** – 83rd
- **Sri Lanka** – 91st
- **Bangladesh** – 93rd
- **Nepal** – 94th
- **Pakistan** – 96th
- **Afghanistan** – 99th

India's Rank in Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2024

Corruption remains a significant global challenge, affecting governance, democracy, and development. **The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2024**, released by Transparency International, ranks India at 96th position out of 180 countries, with a score of 38—a decline from 39 in 2023 and 40 in 2022. The CPI evaluates nations based on perceived levels of public sector corruption, using a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

Key Findings of CPI 2024**India's Ranking and Score**

- **India** ranked **96th** out of 180 countries.
- **Score:** 38 (down from 39 in 2023 and 40 in 2022).
- India ranked 93rd in 2023 and 40th in 2022.

Global and Regional Rankings

- **Denmark (1st) is the least corrupt nation**, followed by **Finland (2nd) and Singapore (3rd)**.
- South Sudan, Somalia, Venezuela, and Syria are ranked among the most corrupt nations.

India's neighbors

- **Pakistan:** 135th
- **Sri Lanka:** 121st
- **Bangladesh:** 149th
- **China:** 76th





Most Corrupt Nations (Bottom Rankings)

- **South Sudan** – Lowest score (8 points), displacing Somalia.
- **Somalia** – 9 points.
- **Venezuela** – 10 points.
- **Syria** – 12 points.

Corruption and Climate Action

- Corruption threatens climate initiatives, hindering emission reductions and adaptation efforts.
- Misuse of funds meant for climate action worsens global heating effects.
- Undue influence and bribery obstruct policies aimed at environmental protection.

Global Corruption Trends

- **United States dropped** from 69 to 65 points, ranking 28th (down from 24th).
- **France fell** from 71 to 67 points, ranking 25th (down from 20th).
- **Germany dropped** from 78 to 75 points, ranking 15th (down from 9th).
- **Mexico** dropped five points to 26 due to judicial inaction on corruption.
- **Russia** fell from 26 to 22 points, further impacted by its invasion of Ukraine.
- **Ukraine** declined one point to 35, but showed progress in judicial independence and anti-corruption efforts.

Trends in Corruption Levels

- 32 countries have reduced corruption levels since 2012.
- 148 countries have either stagnated or worsened in the same period.
- The global average CPI score remains at 43, indicating limited improvement.
- More than two-thirds of countries score below 50, showing widespread corruption issues.

Challenges and Recommendations

- Corruption fuels democratic decline, instability, and human rights violations.
- Developed nations with high CPI scores often protect fossil-fuel interests rather than fighting corruption.
- Financial hubs in wealthy nations facilitate illicit funds, worsening corruption worldwide.
- Urgent global action is required to combat corruption for a sustainable and democratic future.

India Ranks 3rd in Global LEED Green Buildings 2024

Key Points	Details
Why in News?	India ranked 3rd globally in LEED green building certifications 2024, with 370 projects covering 8.50 million GSM of certified space.
Top Countries in LEED 2024	1. China – 25+ million GSM 2. Canada – 10 million GSM 3. India – 8.50 million GSM
India's Previous Rankings	2023: 3rd (7.23 million GSM, 248 projects) 2022: 2nd (10.47 million GSM, 323 projects)
LEED Certification Body	U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)
India's Green Building Authority	Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI)
US LEED Market	Largest globally with 56+ million GSM certified
GBCI India Head	Gopalakrishnan Padmanabhan
LEED Certification Criteria	Sustainability, Energy efficiency, Water conservation, Carbon footprint reduction
India's Climate Goal Link	Supports UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030

India's Logistics Performance Sees Major Leap in Global Rankings

India has achieved a remarkable milestone in the **World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) 2023**, securing the **22nd rank in the International Shipments category** and moving up to **38th place overall** among **139 countries**. This improvement underscores the country's focused efforts on enhancing logistics efficiency, reducing costs, and integrating advanced technology.





What Led to India's Rise in the LPI Rankings?

India's progress in the logistics sector can be attributed to multiple factors, including **policy reforms, technology-driven initiatives, and improved infrastructure**. The country has significantly enhanced its global trade competitiveness by streamlining supply chains, cutting delays, and boosting efficiency in freight movement.

- **International Shipments Rank Improvement:** In 2018, India was ranked **44th** in the International Shipments category. The jump to **22nd place** in 2023 highlights the success of government policies aimed at easing global trade.
- **Turnaround Time at Ports:** Indian ports have significantly reduced processing times, with an **average turnaround time of 0.9 days**, outperforming major economies such as **the USA (1.5 days), Australia (1.7 days), and Germany (1.3 days)**. This has been possible due to port modernization and automation.

How Have Government Policies Boosted Logistics Growth?

The government has launched key policy initiatives aimed at strengthening **India's logistics infrastructure** and reducing inefficiencies. Some of the most impactful policies include:

- **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan:** Launched in **October 2021**, this initiative focuses on multimodal connectivity to integrate various transport networks and improve cargo movement. The aim is to reduce **logistics costs** and drive economic growth by **2024-25**.
- **National Logistics Policy (NLP):** Introduced in **September 2022**, this policy seeks to address last-mile delivery challenges, reduce bottlenecks, and enhance overall logistics efficiency. The policy plays a crucial role in making India's logistics sector more structured and cost-effective.

What Role Does Technology Play in India's Logistics Transformation?

Technology has been a game-changer in India's logistics sector. Some of the significant tech-driven improvements include:

- **Logistics Data Bank Project:** Implemented by **NICDC**, this initiative uses **radio frequency identification (RFID) tags** to track containers in real time. This has significantly **reduced delays and improved supply chain transparency**.
- **Automation and AI Integration:** Indian ports and warehouses are increasingly adopting **automation, AI, and digital tracking systems** to enhance cargo handling efficiency.

What is India's Vision for the Future of Logistics?

India is planning long-term improvements in logistics under the **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**, which aims to **position the country as a global logistics hub**.

Key focus areas include:

- **Port Capacity Expansion:** The government is working on **greenfield and brownfield developments** to accommodate growing trade demands.
- **Sustainability Measures:** Plans are in place to develop **hydrogen hubs** and implement **eco-friendly logistics solutions**.
- **Boosting Shipbuilding:** India aims to become a **leading player in shipbuilding and repair**, increasing its presence in the global maritime industry.

The Road Ahead

India's consistent rise in the **World Bank's Logistics Performance Index** from **54th in 2014 to 38th in 2023** is a reflection of its **policy-driven and technology-backed transformation**. With further advancements in **infrastructure, digitalization, and sustainability**, India is poised to strengthen its position as a key player in global trade logistics.

Mukesh Ambani Tops Asia's Wealthiest Families List

Asia's wealthiest families continue to shape the global economy, with their influence spanning across diverse industries such as technology, finance, real estate, and energy. **According to Bloomberg's 2025 rankings, Mukesh Ambani and the Ambani family have retained the top position**, reaffirming their dominance in business and wealth creation. The rankings highlight the remarkable legacy of Asia's top business dynasties, showcasing their ability to sustain and expand their financial empires over generations.





Top Ranked Families in the List

Rank	Family Name	Business Group	Country
1	Ambanis	Relaince Industries	India
2	Chearavanonts	Charoen Pokphand Group	Thailand
3	Hartonos	Djarum, Bank Central Asi	Indonesia
4	Mistrys	Shapoorji Pallonji Group	India
5	Kwoks	Sun Hung Kai Properties	Hong Kong
6	Tsai Family	Cathay Financial,	Taiwan
7	Jindals	OP Jindal Group	India
8	Yoovidhya Family	TCP Group	Thailand
9	Birlas	Aditya Birla Group	India
10	Lees Family	Samsung	South Korea
11	Zhangs	China Hongqiao	China
12	Cheng	(New World Development)	Hong Kong
13	Bajaj's	Bajaj Group	India
14	Pao/Woos	BW Group	Hong Kong
15	Kwek/Queks	Hong Leong Group	Singapore/Malaysia
16	Kadoories	CLP Holdings	Hong Kong
17	Chirathivats	Central Group	Thailand
18	Hindujas	Hinduja Group	India
19	Sys	SM Investments	Philippines

Forbes India 30 Under 30 2025

The Forbes India **30 Under 30 list for 2025** has been released, showcasing **42 young achievers** under the **age of 30 across 19 diverse categories**. This year's list introduces the **Artificial Intelligence (AI) category** for the **first time**, highlighting the growing impact of **AI-driven innovations**. The honorees include entrepreneurs, professionals, and artists who have made remarkable contributions in their respective fields while also driving social change through sustainability and community-focused ventures.

What Makes the Forbes India 30 Under 30 List 2025 Special?

The Forbes India 30 Under 30 list, now in its 12th edition, has evolved significantly over the years to reflect changing industry trends. This year's edition is notable for several reasons:

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a New Category:** The addition of AI marks a significant shift, emphasizing how AI-based solutions are transforming industries. This reflects the increasing relevance of AI in business, healthcare, and creative fields.
- **Diverse Sectors Represented:** The list features achievers from sectors including healthcare, entertainment, finance, technology, and social entrepreneurship.
- **Focus on Social Impact:** Many honorees are not only excelling professionally but are also contributing to sustainability, inclusivity, and social progress.

Who Are Some Notable Honorees on the 2025 List?

- **Healthcare Sector:** Devika Gholap, Co-founder and Chief Product Officer of OptraScan, is recognized for her work in digital pathology, helping improve cancer diagnostics.
- **Entertainment Industry:** National Award-winning actress Aparna Balamurali earns a spot for her contributions to Indian cinema.
- **Youngest Achiever:** Devan Chandrasekharan, at just 18, is the youngest honoree. As the Founder and Managing Director of Fuselage Innovations, he exemplifies youthful ingenuity in business and technology.





What Are the Key Highlights of This Year's List?

11 Women Achievers: This year, 11 women feature on the list, reinforcing the rising influence of women in leadership roles across industries.

Recognition of Professionals: Apart from entrepreneurs, 12 professionals have been included for their outstanding work, balancing business ventures with corporate leadership.

Massive Financial Deals: One of the honorees has secured a deal worth \$500 million, showcasing the high economic impact young leaders are making.

How Has the Forbes India 30 Under 30 List Evolved Over Time?

Since its inception, Forbes India 30 Under 30 has consistently reflected the changing business and innovation landscape. The 2025 list continues this tradition by recognizing young individuals who not only excel in their respective industries but also push boundaries in technology, entrepreneurship, and social impact. The inclusion of AI as a category indicates how Forbes is adapting to emerging trends in the global economy.

Women Billionaires Global List 2025: Forbes Billionaire List

Top 10 Richest Women in the World (as of February 2025)

In the 2025 edition of the **Forbes' Women Billionaire List**, while most of the names have remained the same as last year, there have been some notable additions, and shifts in net worth and ranking.

Top 10 Women Billionaires (2025)

Rank	Name	Net Worth (USD)	Source of Wealth
1	Alice Walton	\$112.5 billion	Walmart
2	Francoise Bettencourt Meyers and Family	\$74.4 billion	L'Oréal
3	Julia Koch and Family	\$74.2 billion	Koch Industries
4	Jacqueline Mars	\$42.3 billion	Mars Inc
5	Rafaela Aponte-Diamant	\$39.0 billion	Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) Group
6	Abigail Johnson	\$36.0 billion	Fidelity Investments
7	Savitri Jindal & Family	\$32.3 billion	JSW Group
8	MacKenzie Scott	\$32.3 billion	Amazon
9	Miriam Adelson & Family	\$31.5 billion	Las Vegas Sands
10	Marilyn Simons & Family	\$31.0 billion	Hedge Funds

Other Ranking News

India is facing a rise in **extreme weather events** due to **climate change**, accounting for **10% of global weather-related deaths**. From 1993 to 2022, over 400 events resulted in **80,000 deaths** and **\$180 billion** in economic losses. Rising temperatures have led to **severe monsoons, heatwaves, and lightning**, with recent incidents like **floods and landslides** in northern states and **Kerala**. The increase is driven by **unpredictable weather, deforestation, and carbon emissions**.

The **BJP** is the richest political party in India for FY **2023-24**, with an income of ₹4,340.47 crore, according to the **Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)** report. The **INC** follows with ₹1,225.11 crore, while other national parties like **CPI(M), AAP, BSP, and NPEP** have also reported their financial standings. The report highlights the growing **financial influence** of political parties in India.

Union Minister **Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel** unveiled the report "**Status of Devolution to Panchayats in States**" in New Delhi, assessing the **devolution of power, functions, and finances to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)**. The report shows an increase in devolution to **Rural Local Bodies (RLBs)** from **39.9% in 2013-14 to 43.9% in 2021-22** and ranks states based on their **devolution index**.

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has achieved a major milestone by securing the **second spot** in the **FutureBrand Index 2024**, surpassing global giants like **Apple and Nike**. This is the first time an **Indian company** has entered the **top three** of this global ranking, highlighting **Reliance's strong brand perception** and influence. **Samsung** claimed the top spot, with **RIL** outperforming companies like **Disney, Netflix, and Microsoft**.





REPORT

NITI Aayog Unveils Report on State Higher Education

NITI Aayog has launched a policy report titled ‘**Expanding Quality Higher Education through States and State Public Universities**’. Released by Vice Chairman Suman Bery, along with key officials from NITI Aayog and the Department of Higher Education (DHE), the report is a first-of-its-kind policy document focused on State Public Universities (SPUs). It provides detailed quantitative analysis on key aspects such as quality, funding, governance, and employability over the past decade. The report presents nearly 80 policy recommendations and a strategic roadmap to enhance India’s higher education landscape, aligning with the goals of NEP 2020 and India’s vision for Viksit Bharat 2047.

Key Highlights of the Report

1. Launch and Key Stakeholders

- The report was released by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery, Dr. Vinod Kumar Paul (Member, NITI Aayog), CEO BVR Subrahmanyam, Secretary DHE Vineet Joshi, and AIU Secretary General Dr. Pankaj Mittal.
- It is the first policy document specifically focusing on States and SPUs.
- Based on extensive stakeholder consultations with State Government Officials, Vice-Chancellors of 50 SPUs, and State Higher Education Councils.

2. Role of SPU’s in Higher Education

- 80% of India’s higher education takes place in State Public Universities.
- SPUs must transition from just providing access to delivering world-class education.
- By 2035, enrolment in SPUs is projected to rise to 7 crore students as per NEP 2020 targets.

3. Challenges Identified in SPUs

- **Funding Limitations** – Need for increased investment and better financial management.
- **Governance Issues** – Need for structural reforms and leadership capacity building.
- **Capacity Building** – Training for Vice-Chancellors, teachers, and staff.

4. Policy Recommendations and Key Strategies

- The report includes nearly 80 recommendations covering,
- **Improving Quality:** Enhancing research, pedagogy, and curriculum development.
- **Boosting Funding & Financing:** Strengthening institutional financial capacity.
- **Governance Reforms:** Upgrading governance structures for better accountability.
- **Industry-Academia Linkages:** Enhancing employability through stronger partnerships.

5. Financial Commitments & Government Initiatives

- PM-USHA scheme allocates ₹13,000 crores (2023-26) for SPUs.
- ₹100 crores per SPU for transitioning into Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs).
- 10,000 PMRF research fellows, 6,500 new IIT seats, and the Bharatiya Bhasha textbook scheme to boost higher education.

6. Alignment with National Goals

- Supports NEP 2020 implementation and India’s goal of becoming a knowledge hub.
- Essential for developing human capital and achieving the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

Report Name	Key Notes
International Air Transport Association (IATA) report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India has become the global leader in passenger load factor (PLF), achieving an 86.4% in 2024, surpassing the US (84.1%) and China (83.2%). • The country's booming aviation sector carried 16.3 crore domestic passengers in 2024, showcasing its rapid growth and efficiency. • India’s booming aviation sector carried 16.3 crore domestic passengers in 2024, highlighting its rapid growth and efficiency.





Report Name	Key Notes
Journal Agricultural and Forest Meteorology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new study predicts that climate change will drastically affect cocoa production in West and Central Africa, which supplies over 70% of the world's cocoa. Conducted in Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, and Cameroon, the research warns that by 2050, 50% of cocoa-growing areas may become unsuitable due to rising temperatures and changing rainfall. The study underscores the need for adaptive strategies to sustain production while preventing deforestation.

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on January 2025

RANKING

Hanley Passport Index 2025

India's ranking in the Henley Passport Index for 2025 has dropped to 85th, five points lower than its 80th position in 2024. The index, based on data from the International Air Transport Authority (IATA), is a globally recognized tool for assessing passport mobility. Singapore retains its top spot for the second consecutive year, while Japan ranks second after holding the top position from 2018-2023.

Key Highlights

Henley Passport Index Overview

- Published by **Henley & Partners**, a citizenship advisory firm.
- Based on IATA data with historical data spanning 19 years.
- Includes 199 passports and 227 travel destinations.
- A standard reference for global mobility ranking.

India's Ranking Trends

- 2025:** 85th
- 2024:** 80th
- Best ranking:** 71st (2006)
- Lowest ranking:** 90th (2021)

India and Its Neighbor Country Rankings

- China** – 60th
- India** – 85th
- Bhutan** – 90th
- Sri Lanka**- 96th
- Bangladesh** – 100th
- Nepal** – 101st
- Pakistan** – 103rd
- Afghanistan** – 106th

Top 10 Rankers in Index

- 1st.** Singapore
- 2nd.** Japan
- 3rd.** Finland, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, South Korea
- 4th.** Austria, Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway
- 5th.** New Zealand, Switzerland, Portugal, United Kingdom
- 6th.** Australia, Greece
- 7th.** Canada, Malta, Poland
- 8th.** Czechia, Hungary
- 9th.** Estonia, United States
- 10th.** Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia, UAE





Key Global Ranking

- **Singapore:** 1st (second year in a row)
- **Japan:** 2nd (previously top from 2018-2023)
- **US:** Second-biggest faller over a decade, from 2nd (2015) to 9th (2025).

Notable Climbers and Fallers

- **China:** Improved from 94th (2015) to 60th (2025), gaining 40 visa-free destinations.
- Venezuela, US, Vanuatu, UK, and Canada are the top five fallers over the past decade.

Global Mobility Trends

- Only 22 passports have declined in ranking over the past decade.
- Wealthy individuals increasingly seek alternative residence or citizenship to optimize outcomes amid global volatility.

India Ranked Second for Cyberattacks in 2024

In 2024, **India** became the **second most** targeted nation globally for **cyberattacks**, with 95 entities falling victim to data theft, according to **CloudSEK's ThreatLandscape Report 2024**. The United States topped the **list with 140 attacks**, while **Israel ranked third with 57 attacks**.

Key Findings from the Report

- **Sector-Specific Impact:** The finance and banking sectors were the most affected, with 20 victims. Other impacted sectors included government (13 victims), telecommunications (12), healthcare and pharma (10), and education (9).
- **Major Data Breaches:** Significant breaches included the leak of 850 million records of Indian citizen data from Hi-Tek Group, customer data from Star Health and Allied Insurance, and 2TB of data from Telecommunications Consultants India.
- **Ransomware Incidents:** The report identified 108 ransomware incidents in India, with Lockbit being the most active group, responsible for over 20 incidents. Other notable groups included Killsec and Ransomhub.

Historical Context

- India has faced significant cyber threats in the past. In 2018, it ranked second globally for data breaches, with over 690 million internet subscribers and a growing number of breaches in both private and public sectors.

Implications

- The surge in cyberattacks underscores the critical need for robust cybersecurity measures across all sectors in India. The rapid digitization of services has exposed vulnerabilities, making it imperative to enhance security protocols to protect sensitive data and maintain public trust.

Edelman Trust Barometer 2025 Rankings

The **Edelman Trust Barometer 2025**, an annual survey by the global communications firm Edelman, revealed key insights into public trust levels in government, businesses, media, and NGOs. This year, India has slipped one rank to the **third spot** globally in terms of overall trust, despite its score remaining unchanged. The study, released ahead of the **World Economic Forum Annual Meeting**, highlighted significant disparities in trust levels across income groups and nations.

Key Highlights of the Edelman Trust Barometer 2025

India's Position in Trust Rankings

India ranked third globally in terms of **trust in institutions** (government, businesses, media, and NGOs). The **top three positions** were as follows:

1. **China**
2. **Indonesia**
3. **India**
 - India lost its second position to **Indonesia**, which achieved an **increased score** despite India's score remaining stable.
 - India ranks **13th** in trust for **companies headquartered in Indian origin**, with **Canada, Japan, and Germany** topping this specific category.





Trust Gap Between Income Groups in India

The survey emphasized a stark gap between the **high-income and low-income populations**:

- Among the **high-income group**, India ranks **4th globally** after **Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and China**.
- However, the **low-income group** trusts Indian institutions less, placing India in the **3rd position globally**, following **China and Indonesia**.

Income Group	Rank	Trust Level
High-Income Population	4th	80%
Low-Income Population	3rd	65%

This **15% trust gap** highlights economic inequality and its impact on perceptions of institutional credibility.

Global Trends Highlighted in the Survey

Disparities Between Developed and Developing Nations

The survey revealed a stark contrast between trust levels in **developed and developing nations**:

Developing Nations:

- **China**: 77%
- **Indonesia**: 76%
- **India**: 75%
- **UAE**: 72%

Developed Nations:

- **Japan**: 37% (lowest globally)
- **Germany**: 41%
- **UK**: 43%
- **US**: 47%
- **France**: 48%

This data highlights a trend of **higher institutional trust in developing countries** as compared to wealthier nations.

Tata Tops India, Apple Leads Globally in 2025 Brand Rankings

In the latest Brand Finance Global **500 report for 2025**, Tata Group has solidified its status as India's most valuable brand, achieving a **brand value of \$31.6 billion—a 10% increase** from the previous year. This marks the first time an Indian brand has surpassed the **\$30 billion threshold**. Globally, Apple continues to dominate with a brand value of **\$574.5 billion, maintaining** its lead over competitors.

Tata Group's Consistent Growth

Ranked 60th among the world's top 100 brands, Tata Group has maintained its **AAA- brand strength rating**. This consistent performance underscores the conglomerate's diversified business model and its ability to adapt to evolving market dynamics.

Surge of Indian Brands on the Global Stage

The report highlights significant advancements by other Indian brands:

Infosys: Achieved a 15% increase in brand value, reaching \$16.3 billion, and climbed to the 132nd position globally. Notably, Infosys has recorded the fastest compound annual growth rate (18%) among IT services brands over the past five years.

LIC: Emerged as the fastest-growing Indian brand with a 36% surge in brand value, totaling \$13.3 billion. The company boasts a Brand Strength Index score of 88 out of 100, the highest among Indian brands in the global ranking.

Reliance Group: Experienced a 17% growth in brand value, reaching \$9.8 billion, reflecting its expanding influence across various sectors.

Larsen & Toubro (L&T): Made a notable entry with a brand value of \$7.4 billion, highlighting its significant presence in the diversified sector.

Global Brand Valuations

On the international front, technology giants continue to lead:

1. **Apple**: Retains the top spot with a brand value of \$574.5 billion, an 11% increase from the previous year.
2. **Microsoft**: Holds the second position with a brand value of \$461.1 billion, marking a 35% growth.
3. **Google**: Ranks third with a brand value of \$413 billion, up by 24%.





These valuations underscore the enduring strength and global influence of technology brands.

Indian Banking Sector's Rising Influence

The report also highlights the ascent of Indian banking brands in the global arena:

HDFC Group: Entered the global ranking with a brand value of \$14.2 billion.

SBI Group: Secured a position with a brand value of \$9.6 billion.

ICICI Group: Marked its presence with a brand value of \$6.4 billion.

Top 10 Indian brands

Rank	Brand	2025 Ranking	2024 Ranking	Brand Value
1	Tata Group	60	64	\$31.6 billion
2	Infosys	132	145	\$16.3 billion
3	HDFC Group	164	228	\$14.2 billion
4	Reliance Group	237	261	\$9.8 billion
5	LIC	117	222	\$13.3 billion
6	L&T Group	316	456	\$7.4 billion
7	SBI Group	241	330	\$9.6 billion
8	ICICI Group	–	–	\$6.4 billion
9	Mahindra Group	–	–	–
10	Bharti Airtel	–	–	–

Globally, Apple is the most valued brand at \$574.5 billion, ahead of Microsoft at \$461 billion, said the Brand Finance report.

Brand Finance IT Services rankings

Why in News	Key Points
Top IT Services Rankings for 2025	Accenture, TCS, Infosys, and HCLTech rank among the top global IT services brands for 2025.
Accenture's Brand Value	Accenture leads with a brand value of \$41.5 billion, maintaining its top spot for seven years.
TCS's Growth	TCS holds the second position with a brand value of \$21.3 billion, an 11% increase.
Infosys's Brand Performance	Infosys reaches \$16.3 billion, with a 15% increase in brand value.
HCLTech's Rapid Growth	HCLTech's brand value increased by 17%, reaching \$8.9 billion.
Wipro and Tech Mahindra's Rankings	Wipro has a brand value of \$6 billion, and Tech Mahindra ranks in the top 10.
Global IT Market Influence	Indian IT companies are showing significant growth, contributing to India's influence in the global IT services sector.

Global Firepower Index 2025: India's Position

In the 2025 edition of the **Global Firepower Index**, **India** maintains its position at number **four**, with a score of **0.1184**. The index evaluates the military strength of 145 countries based on over 60 parameters, including manpower, natural resources, finance, and geography. A score of 0.0000 represents an ideal military strength, which no country possesses. The top ten countries in the 2025 ranking are:

1. **United States of America – Score: 0.0744**
2. **Russia – Score: 0.0788**
3. **China – Score: 0.0788**
4. **India – Score: 0.1184**
5. **South Korea – Score: 0.1656**
6. **United Kingdom – Score: 0.1785**
7. **France – Score: 0.1878**
8. **Japan – Score: 0.1839**
9. **Turkey – Score: 0.1902**
10. **Italy – Score: 0.2164**





NITI Aayog Unveils Fiscal Health Index 2025 in New Delhi

Key Point	Details
Why in News	NITI Aayog launched the “Fiscal Health Index 2025” on January 24, 2025, in New Delhi, evaluating the fiscal performance of 18 Indian states. Odisha ranked first, followed by Chhattisgarh and Goa.
Top-Ranked States	Odisha (67.8), Chhattisgarh (55.2), Goa (53.6)
States with Challenges	Karnataka faced issues with expenditure quality and debt management.
Odisha (Static Data)	CM: Mohan Charan Majhi ; Capital: Bhubaneswar
Purpose of Index	Assesses revenue mobilization, expenditure management, and debt sustainability to guide policy reforms for economic growth.
Framework Alignment	Supports “Viksit Bharat @2047” vision for sustainable and balanced regional development.

India’s Coffee Journey: From Roots to Global Reach; World’s 7th Largest Coffee Producer

India has ascended to the position of the **world’s seventh-largest coffee producer**, with exports reaching **\$1.29 billion** in the fiscal year **2023-24**, nearly **doubling from \$719.42 million in 2020-21**.

World’s Largest Coffee Producers (Ranked)

1. **Brazil** – The largest coffee producer, contributing approximately 37% of global coffee supply.
2. **Vietnam** – The second-largest, known primarily for its Robusta coffee.
3. **Colombia** – A major Arabica coffee producer, ranked third globally.
4. **Indonesia** – A key producer, particularly known for its robusta and specialty coffees.
5. **Honduras** – One of the leading coffee producers in Central America.
6. **Mexico** – A major exporter of Arabica coffee, ranked sixth globally.
7. **India** – Seventh-largest, growing both Arabica and Robusta beans.

World University Rankings by Subject 2025

The Times Higher Education (THE) **World University Rankings by Subject 2025** have been released, highlighting the leading institutions across various disciplines. Notably, the United States continues to dominate, securing top positions in nine out of eleven subjects. This trend underscores the nation’s sustained excellence in higher education.

Engineering Excellence: Harvard Leads

In the Engineering category, Harvard University maintains its position at the top, a feat it achieved in 2024. The top ten universities in this field are predominantly from the U.S., reflecting the country’s leadership in engineering education. The rankings are as follows:

1. **Harvard University**
2. **Stanford University**
3. **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**
4. **University of California, Berkeley**
5. **California Institute of Technology (Caltech)**
6. **Princeton University**
7. **Georgia Institute of Technology**
8. **University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)**
9. **Yale University**
10. **Carnegie Mellon University**

These institutions are recognized for their research excellence, innovation, and comprehensive engineering programs. The consistent performance of U.S. universities in this category highlights their significant contribution to global engineering education.

Subject-Specific Highlights

Arts and Humanities: MIT has ascended to the top position, overtaking Stanford University. This shift marks a significant change in the traditional hierarchy of leading institutions in this field.

Business and Economics: The University of Pennsylvania leads this category, reflecting its strong programs and research output in business and economics.





Computer Science: The University of Oxford has secured the top spot, indicating its growing influence and excellence in computer science education.

Education Studies: Stanford University leads this category, underscoring its commitment to educational research and innovation.

Law: Stanford University also tops the law rankings, reflecting its prestigious law program and research contributions.

Life Sciences: Harvard University leads this category, highlighting its extensive research and contributions to life sciences.

Medical and Health: Harvard University also tops this category, reflecting its excellence in medical research and education.

Physical Sciences: The California Institute of Technology (Caltech) leads this category, underscoring its strength in physical sciences research.

Psychology: Stanford University leads this category, reflecting its influential psychology programs and research.

Social Sciences: Harvard University leads this category, highlighting its comprehensive social sciences programs and research output.

REPORT

India's 4th Biennial Report to UNFCCC Submitted

India submitted its 4th Biennial Update Report (BUR-4) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on 30th December, 2024. This report builds upon the Third National Communication (TNC) and provides a comprehensive update on India's National Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory for the year 2020. It also includes critical information on national circumstances, mitigation actions, and the associated finance, technology, and capacity-building needs.

Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, highlighted India's leadership in sustainable growth, emphasizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to balancing economic progress with meaningful climate action.

Key Highlights of BUR-4 Report

1. GHG Inventory for 2020

- **Total GHG emissions in 2020,**
- **Without LULUCF** (Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry): 2,959 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e).
- **With LULUCF:** 2,437 million tonnes of CO₂e.
- **Reduction In Emissions:** A 7.93% decrease in total GHG emissions compared to 2019.

2. Sectoral Contributions to Emissions

- **Energy sector:** 75.66% of total emissions.
- **Agriculture:** 13.72%.
- **Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU):** 8.06%.
- **Waste:** 2.56%.

3. Forest and Tree Cover Contributions

- Forests and tree cover sequestered 522 million tonnes of CO₂ in 2020, reducing 22% of total CO₂ emissions.
- India's forest and tree cover stands at 25.17% of the total geographical area.

Achievements in NDC's Targets

1. Decoupling Economic Growth Emissions

- Between 2005 and 2020, India's emission intensity of GDP reduced by 36%, exceeding its target of 33-35%.

2. Renewable Energy Progress

- By October 2024, the share of non-fossil sources in installed electricity generation capacity reached 46.52%.
- Renewable power capacity (excluding large hydro): 156.25 GW (4.5 times increase from 35 GW in March 2014).
- Total installed renewable capacity (including large hydro): 203.22 GW.

3. Additional Carbon Sink

- Between 2005 and 2021, India created an additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through increased forest and tree cover.

Commitment to Climate Action

- Despite contributing minimally to historical and current global emissions, India remains proactive in combating climate change, aligning with the principles of equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), as stated in the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.





Decline in Student Enrolment: UDISE+ Report 2023-24

The Ministry of Education's Unified District Information System for Education Plus (**UDISE+**) report for **2023-24** reveals a significant decline in **student enrolment**, marking a notable shift from the stable figures observed in previous years.

What is UDISE+?

UDISE+ (Unified District Information System for Education Plus) is an online data collection system developed by the Department of School Education & Literacy in 2018-19. It was introduced to replace the manual paper-based data collection process, with improvements in data capture, mapping, and verification.

Key Findings

Overall Enrolment Decline

The total student enrolment decreased to 24.8 crore in 2023-24, a drop of over one crore compared to the previous years. This marks a 6% decline from the 26.02 crore recorded in 2018-19.

Gender-wise Enrolment Trends

Boys: Enrolment fell from 13.53 crore in 2018-19 to 12.87 crore in 2023-24, a 4.87% decline.

Girls: Enrolment decreased from 12.49 crore in 2018-19 to 11.93 crore in 2023-24, a 4.48% decline.

Regional Variations

Bihar: Enrolment dropped from over 2.49 crore in 2018-19 to over 2.13 crore in 2023-24, a decrease of over 35.65 lakh students.

Uttar Pradesh: Enrolment fell from 4.44 crore in 2018-19 to 4.16 crore in 2023-24, a reduction of 28.26 lakh.

Maharashtra: Enrolment decreased from over 2.32 crore in 2018-19 to 2.13 crore in 2023-24, a decline of 18.55 lakh students.

School Infrastructure:

- Over 90% of schools have basic amenities like electricity and gender-specific toilets.
- 57.2% of schools have functional computers.
- 53.9% of schools have internet access.
- 52.3% of schools are equipped with ramps.

Implications

The substantial drop in enrolment raises concerns about the effectiveness of current educational policies and the need for targeted interventions. The data collected through UDISE+ will be crucial in informing future strategies aimed at improving student enrolment and retention rates across various states and demographics.

Books & Authors

Books & Authors of June 2025

Book Name	Author	Key Notes
Indira Gandhi and the Years that Transformed India	TCA Srinivasa Raghavan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deeply researched analysis of Indira Gandhi's tenure, focusing on the 1975–77 Emergency • Highlights democratic struggles, executive dominance, and key policy shifts • Released ahead of the 50th anniversary of the Emergency with insights into India's political evolution
India: 5000 Years of History	Audrey Truschke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive account of India's history by an expert in South Asian history • Blends archival research, narrative analysis, and pluralistic perspectives • Challenges simplistic historical narratives
The Stars Light the Way	Sucheta Raj Khanna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debut novel following Shazma's spiritual and political journey • Explores ancestral wisdom, identity, and personal transformation • A meditation on faith, courage, and belonging





Book Name	Author	Key Notes
India's Finance Ministers III: Different Strokes (1998–2014)	A.K. Bhattacharya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explores the economic decisions of four finance ministers post-liberalisation Narrative-driven account of key policy shifts and fiscal reforms Non-judgemental tone, ideal for economists and civil services aspirants
"Woman! Life! Freedom!"	Chowra Makaremi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chronicles Iran's 2022 uprising after Mahsa Amini's death Merges anthropology, personal narrative, and political protest Reflects Iran's history of resistance and feminist revolution
The Emergency Diaries	Not Mentioned (Released by Amit Shah)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Released on the 50th anniversary of the Emergency Chronicles PM Narendra Modi's underground resistance during the Emergency Draws from personal accounts and archives to highlight democratic resilience
The One: Cricket, My Life and More	Shikhar Dhawan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memoir detailing Dhawan's cricket career and personal struggles Features teammate reflections and focuses on mental health Published by HarperCollins India on June 26, 2025

Books & Authors of May 2025

Book Name	Author	Key Notes
PMO: Prime Minister's Office Through the Years	Himanshu Roy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The book "PMO: Prime Minister's Office Through the Years" by Himanshu Roy, published by Rupa on April 15, 2025, offers a deep dive into the evolution, structure, and significance of the PMO in India. It discusses how successive Prime Ministers, from Nehru to Modi, have shaped the PMO's influence on governance and policy-making.
Janta Ki Kahani – Meri Aatamkatha'	Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar released 'Janta Ki Kahani – Meri Aatamkatha', the autobiography of Bandaru Dattatraya, Governor of Haryana.
Transforming Lives		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Nagaland released a Coffee Table Book on May 16, 2025, titled "Transforming Lives", showcasing the impact of PMAY-U in the state. The publication highlights success stories of affordable housing, urban development, and community empowerment under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban, launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The mission has significantly improved the lives of thousands of urban poor in Nagaland through its inclusive and sustainable approach.
Original Sin	Jake Tapper and Alex Thompson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original Sin by Jake Tapper and Alex Thompson investigates President Joe Biden's cognitive decline, focusing on how it was concealed from the public by his inner circle. The book outlines troubling incidents, from memory lapses to debate struggles, and critiques the media's failure to highlight these issues.
The Diary of a Cricketer's Wife	Puja Pujara's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puja Pujara's memoir, The Diary of a Cricketer's Wife, provides a rare behind-the-scenes look at the emotional challenges, public scrutiny, and family sacrifices involved in the life of an Indian cricketer's spouse. Triggered by Cheteshwar Pujara's exclusion from the Test team post-World Test Championship 2023, the book candidly explores themes of resilience, media pressure, and personal strength.




Books & Authors of April 2025

Book Name	Author	Key Notes
The Great Conciliator: Lal Bahadur Shastri and the Transformation of India	Sanjeev Chopra's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanjeev Chopra's book, The Great Conciliator: Lal Bahadur Shastri and the Transformation of India, delves into the life and legacy of India's second Prime Minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri. Chopra highlights Shastri's often overlooked contributions, including the formation of the Border Security Force (BSF) and the iconic "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan" slogan.
The India I Saw	S. Ambujammal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S. Ambujammal (1899–1981), born into a prestigious Iyengar family in Madras, overcame early struggles, including emotional neglect, an unwanted birth, and a troubled marriage, to become a prominent Gandhian and social reformer. Her autobiography, Naan Kanda Bharatham (translated as The India I Saw), chronicles her journey through India's freedom movement and her commitment to women's welfare. A dedicated follower of Gandhi's ideals, her life is a testament to resilience, personal transformation, and social service.
Sarah Wynn-Williams'	Careless People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sarah Wynn-Williams' memoir, Careless People, exposes the toxic inner workings of Facebook (now Meta) during its global rise. As a former director of global public policy, Wynn-Williams reveals the unethical leadership and personal misconduct within the company, particularly under Mark Zuckerberg, Sheryl Sandberg, and Joel Kaplan. The book highlights Facebook's involvement in the 2016 U.S. election, its role in the Myanmar crisis, and its controversial push into China.
I Am Circular'		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), in collaboration with the International Council for Circular Economy (ICCE), launched the 'I Am Circular' Coffee Table Book on 23 April 2025, showcasing 30 groundbreaking Indian innovations in the circular economy. Curated around core themes—Design to Last, Work with Nature, and Use Existing Resources—the book highlights innovations like e-waste recycling, IoT-enabled circular systems, and biodegradable packaging.
Sanskriti Ka Paanchva Adhyay'		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On April 18, 2025, the book 'Sanskriti Ka Paanchva Adhyay' (The Fifth Chapter of Culture), a compilation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speeches, was launched at the IGNCA in New Delhi. The event, attended by prominent figures such as Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Pujya Swami Avdheshanand Giri Maharaj, Shri Harivansh, and Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, celebrated India's cultural, spiritual, and traditional heritage.

Books & Authors of March 2025

Book Name	Author	Key Notes
March of Glory'	K. Arumugam and Errol D'Cruz,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To celebrate the Golden Jubilee of India's first Hockey World Cup victory in 1975, the book 'March of Glory' was launched on March 18, 2025 at Shivaji Stadium, New Delhi. Co-authored by K. Arumugam and Errol D'Cruz, the book chronicles India's journey to World Cup glory in Kuala Lumpur on March 15, 1975.
To the Seventh Generation: The Journey of CMC Vellore	V.I. Mathan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> V.I. Mathan, former director of Christian Medical College (CMC) Vellore, launched the book "To the Seventh Generation: The Journey of CMC Vellore" in Chennai. The first copy was presented to Dr. Vikram Mathew, the current director, and the second to Dr. V.V. Bashi. The book details CMC Vellore's history, including insights from its founder, Ida Scudder.




Books & Authors of February 2025

Book Name	Author	Key Notes
I Am a Soldier's Wife: The Life and Love of Toni Lidder'	Geetika Lidder	Honors the legacy of Brigadier LS Lidder, a distinguished Indian Army officer. The memoir celebrates his dedication to the nation, compassionate nature, and inspirational character. Launched in the presence of Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, the book highlights his extraordinary humanity and professional grace.
The New Icon: Savarkar and the Facts'	Arun Shourie	The book critically examines the controversial legacy of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, challenging historical narratives, similar to his 1997 work on B R Ambedkar. With Savarkar lacking political protection, the book is expected to significantly influence national discourse.
I Am?	Gopichand P. Hinduja	Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar launched the book "I Am?", compiled by Gopichand P. Hinduja, Chairman of the Hinduja Group. The event was attended by an elite gathering of political leaders, business magnates, and diplomats, marking it as a prestigious occasion.

Books & Authors of January 2025

Book Name	Author	Key Notes
Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh Through the Ages: A Visual Narrative of Continuities and Linkages	Indian Council of Historical Research	The book, published by National Book Trust, documents India's geo-cultural unity from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, counters myths of disunity, and highlights Kashmir's integral role in India's history for over 8,000 years.
Parliament: Powers, Functions & Privileges; A Comparative Constitutional Perspective	Dr. K.S. Chauhan	Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar launched Dr. K.S. Chauhan's book, "Parliament: Powers, Functions & Privileges; A Comparative Constitutional Perspective". The book explores Parliament's role, functions, privileges, and its influence on democratic accountability. Dhankhar praised the author for his in-depth analysis of Parliament's critical role in maintaining the country's democratic fabric.
The World After Gaza	Pankaj Mishra	Pankaj Mishra's latest book, The World After Gaza, offers a profound examination of the ongoing war in the Palestinian Gaza Strip, which he views as a devastating blow to human rights and morality.
How India Scaled Mt G20: The Inside Story of the G20 Presidency" (Rupa Publications).	Amitabh Kant	Amitabh Kant, India's G20 Sherpa, has unveiled the behind-the-scenes journey of India's G20 Presidency in his book "How India Scaled Mt G20: The Inside Story of the G20 Presidency" (Rupa Publications).
Soumitra Chatterjee and His World	Soumitra Chatterjee	His new biography, Soumitra Chatterjee and His World by Sanghamitra Chakraborty, explores his multifaceted life through journals, letters, and conversations, offering a deep look into his profound impact on Indian cinema and Bengal's cultural landscape.
launch of Indian Renaissance: The Modi Decade	Dr. Aishwarya Pandit	The launch of Indian Renaissance: The Modi Decade, edited by Dr. Aishwarya Pandit, took place at the NDMC Convention Center, New Delhi. Published by Westland Non-Fiction, the book examines India's transformation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi from 2014 to 2024, with contributions from 27 authors. The event was graced by Union Home Minister Amit Shah as the Chief Guest and Manohar Lal Khattar, Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, as the Guest of Honour.





Sports Current Affairs

Sports Current Affairs of June 2025

CRICKET

- **Glenn Maxwell retires from ODIs**
- Glenn Maxwell will retire from One Day Internationals after the 2025 Champions Trophy. He cited fitness issues and the need to create space for younger players. He will continue to play T20Is.
- **Heinrich Klaasen announces retirement**
- South African wicketkeeper-batter Heinrich Klaasen retires from international cricket after the 2025 Champions Trophy, ending a seven-year career with over 3000 white-ball runs.
- **RCB win their first IPL title**
- Royal Challengers Bangalore defeated Punjab Kings by 6 runs in the IPL 2025 final, securing their maiden IPL trophy after years of near-misses.
- **India-England Test series renamed**
- The Test series between India and England will now be called the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy, replacing the Pataudi and de Mello trophies.
- **MS Dhoni inducted into ICC Hall of Fame**
- MS Dhoni is among the seven new inductees in 2025, joining legends like Matthew Hayden, Daniel Vettori, Hashim Amla, Graeme Smith, Sana Mir, and Sarah Taylor.
- **Nicholas Pooran retires from international cricket**
- At age 29, Pooran retires with 106 T20Is and 61 ODIs, finishing as West Indies' most capped T20I player.
- **MCC updates Law 19.5.2 on boundary catches**
- The "bunny hop" catch is now outlawed. Fielders may only make one airborne touch from outside the boundary before landing inside to complete a legal catch.
- **Four-day Tests to be introduced**
- Starting with the 2027–29 World Test Championship cycle, smaller nations will play four-day Tests, while India, Australia, and England will retain five-day matches.
- **Women's ODI World Cup 2025 schedule announced**
- The event will take place from September 30 to November 2 in India and Sri Lanka. Due to political tensions, Pakistan's matches will be held in Sri Lanka.
- **Jasprit Bumrah achieves historic milestone**
- He becomes the first Asian bowler to take 150 Test wickets in SENA countries after his five-wicket haul at Headingley.
- **Rishabh Pant scores twin centuries at Headingley**
- Pant scores centuries in both innings, amassing 252 runs and becoming the highest-scoring Indian wicketkeeper in a Test.
- **Rinku Singh to become education officer**
- Rinku Singh will be appointed as a District Basic Education Officer in Uttar Pradesh under a state sports policy. His wedding is postponed to February 2026 due to cricketing commitments.

- **Stop clock introduced in Test cricket**
- A new 60-second timer is in place between overs in the 2025–27 WTC cycle. Three violations will result in a five-run penalty. Rules on saliva and short runs have also been updated.

BADMINTON AND TENNIS

- **Carlos Alcaraz wins French Open 2025**
- Alcaraz defeated Jannik Sinner in a five-hour thriller, claiming his second French Open title and fifth Grand Slam.
- **Indonesia Open 2025 highlights**
- Anders Antonsen and An Se-young won singles titles. France secured its first Super 1000 mixed doubles title.
- **Wimbledon 2025 prize money increased**
- Total prize pool is now 53.5 million pounds. Singles champions will earn 3 million pounds each.
- **Taylor Fritz wins Stuttgart Open 2025**
- Fritz beat Zverev in straight sets, securing his ninth career title and moving to World No. 4.

CHESS

- **D Gukesh defeats Magnus Carlsen**
- Gukesh beat Carlsen in a classical game at Norway Chess 2025, his first win over the world champion.
- **Magnus Carlsen wins Norway Chess 2025**
- Carlsen secured his seventh title with 16 points, narrowly beating Fabiano Caruana and Gukesh.
- **Aravindh Chithambaram wins in Armenia**
- He clinched the 6th Stepan Avagyan Memorial title, edging out Praggnanandhaa on tiebreaks.
- **Praggnanandhaa wins UzChess Cup Masters**
- This is his third classical title of the year. He is now World No. 4 in live ratings.

HOCKEY

- **India begins Women's Asia Cup 2025 campaign**
- India will face Thailand on September 5 in Hangzhou, aiming to win the title and qualify for the 2026 World Cup.
- **Hockey India Masters Cup 2025 held in Chennai**
- Features veteran players across men's and women's age groups, promoting active aging and celebrating hockey legends.

ATHLETICS AND FOOTBALL

- **Portugal wins UEFA Nations League 2025**
- Portugal defeated Spain on penalties after a 2–2 draw, becoming the first team to win the title twice.
- **Cristiano Ronaldo becomes Esports World Cup ambassador**
- Ronaldo is named global ambassador for the 2025 edition in Riyadh and appears as a playable character in FATAL FURY.
- **FIFA Club World Cup 2025 expanded**
- Now a 32-team event in the United States, with concerns raised over player fatigue and scheduling.





- **Oscar Piastri wins Spanish Grand Prix 2025**
- The McLaren driver claimed his fifth win of the season, leading from pole to finish.
- **Armand Duplantis breaks pole vault world record again**
- Cleared 6.28 meters at the Stockholm Diamond League, setting a new personal and global best.
- **Neeraj Chopra wins Paris Diamond League**
- With a throw of 88.16 meters, Neeraj returns to top form and builds momentum for upcoming championships.
- **Carlos Alcaraz wins Queen's Club title again**
- Alcaraz beat Jiri Lehecka in three sets and extended his grass-court winning streak to 18 matches.
- **Oklahoma City Thunder win NBA Finals 2025**
- Thunder beat Indiana Pacers in Game 7, with Shai Gilgeous-Alexander named Finals MVP.
- **India to host 2025 World Para Athletics Championships**
- The event will be held in New Delhi from September 27 to October 5. The mascot 'Viraj' symbolizes resilience.
- **Lalit Upadhyay retires from international hockey**
- The Olympian ends his career with over 179 caps and significant contributions to India's hockey success.
- **Neeraj Chopra wins Ostrava Golden Spike**
- Achieved a throw of 85.29 meters in the Czech Republic, his fifth outing of the season.
- **India to host 2029 World Police and Fire Games**
- Gujarat will host the event across Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, and Ekta Nagar, with participation from over 70 nations.

Sports Current Affairs of May 2025

CRICKET

- **Kerala Cricket Association (KCA)** suspended former India pacer **S. Sreesanth** for **three years** from all association-related cricketing activities following his **public criticism** of the KCA over **Sanju Samson's exclusion** from India's **ICC Champions Trophy** squad. The decision, made during a **special General Body meeting in Kochi**, highlights concerns over the **conduct of franchise co-owners**, as Sreesanth currently serves as **co-owner of the Aries Kollam Sailors** in the **Kerala Cricket League (KCL)**.
- On **May 7, 2025**, **Rohit Sharma**, India's **red-ball captain** and one of the country's most **accomplished batters**, announced his **retirement from Test cricket**, just ahead of the **India vs England** series. Having debuted in **2013** with back-to-back centuries, Rohit's **Test career** was a journey of **resilience and reinvention**, marked by **leadership and challenges**.
- The **ECB** has banned **transgender women** from all **women's cricket** formats following a **UK Supreme Court** ruling that defines **legal gender** as **biological sex**. While **mixed** and **open categories** remain accessible to transgender players,

this policy shift mirrors decisions by other sports bodies such as **FA, England Netball**, and **ICC**. The move has sparked debate between **inclusivity** and **fair competition**, marking a turning point in **gender policy in sport**.

- The **IPL 2025** has been suspended for a week following **escalating tensions between India and Pakistan**. This decision by the **BCCI** was prompted by security concerns voiced by franchises and stakeholders, especially after the cancellation of the May 8 Dharamsala match. The board, while acknowledging the nation's defense readiness, opted to prioritize **stakeholder safety** and is awaiting a reassessment before resuming. The event underscores the **influence of international conflict on sporting schedules**, with logistics and player welfare at the center of the BCCI's crisis response.
- **Virat Kohli** has announced his retirement from **Test cricket**, ending a remarkable **14-year career** marked by **9230 runs**, **30 centuries**, and a transformative stint as **India's most successful Test captain**. His leadership saw India achieve milestones like the **2018–19 Test series win in Australia** and the rise to **No. 1 in ICC rankings**. With **Rohit Sharma** also retiring, Indian cricket enters a new phase, with **Shubman Gill** likely to take over leadership as India prepares for the upcoming **England Test series**.
- Bangladeshi cricketer **Mehidy Hasan Miraz** has been named **ICC Men's Player of the Month** for **April 2025** due to his brilliant **all-round performance** against **Zimbabwe** in a two-Test series. He made a remarkable impact with both **bat and ball**, scoring **116 runs** and claiming **15 wickets**, including a century and multiple **five-wicket hauls**.
- The **ICC** has announced that the winners of the **WTC Final 2025**, contested by **South Africa** and **Australia**, will earn a record **USD 3.6 million**, more than double the previous prize. The **runners-up** will receive over **USD 2.1 million**, while even lower-placed teams like **India** and **New Zealand** are set for substantial payouts. This major financial boost highlights ICC's efforts to promote **Test cricket**, reward **consistency**, and sustain global interest in the **longest format** of the game.
- On **May 16, 2025**, the **Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA)** unveiled the **Rohit Sharma Stand** at **Wankhede Stadium**, commemorating the cricketer's Test and T20I retirement and his achievements, including leading India to **T20 World Cup 2024** and **Champions Trophy 2025** victories. The MCA also honoured **Ajit Wadekar**, India's 1971 series-winning captain, and **Sharad Pawar**, former MCA, BCCI, and ICC president. The **MCA Office Lounge** was dedicated to **Amol Kale**, further celebrating cricketing contributions. The ceremony was attended by the **Mumbai Indians squad**, dignitaries, and past players.





- Joe Root, during a Test against **Zimbabwe** at **Trent Bridge** on **May 22, 2025**, became the **fastest cricketer to reach 13,000 Test runs**. Surpassing **Jacques Kallis'** record, Root achieved this feat in **153 innings**, further solidifying his stature as one of the modern greats of **Test cricket**.
- **Rohit Sharma**, one of the most prolific and celebrated batters in Indian Premier League (IPL) history, etched his name into the record books once again by becoming the **first Indian cricketer to hit 300 sixes in the IPL**. The historic moment came during the **IPL 2025 Eliminator match** between **Mumbai Indians (MI)** and **Gujarat Titans (GT)** at **New Chandigarh**.

BADMINTON & TENNIS

- China claimed their **14th Sudirman Cup** title after defeating **South Korea** 3-1 in the **World Mixed Team Badminton Championships 2025** held in **Xiamen**. Despite a heroic win by **An Seyoung**, who extended her **25-match unbeaten streak**, **China's balanced strength** across all five disciplines ensured victory. Key performances by **Shi Yuqi**, **Feng Yanzhe**, and **Tan Ning** were instrumental in continuing China's legacy of dominance in the **BWF's premier team event**.
- **Carlos Alcaraz** clinched his **first Italian Open** title after defeating **Jannik Sinner** in straight sets, marking his **7th ATP Masters 1000** win. The match showcased Alcaraz's evolving **tactical intelligence** and **mental resilience**. With this win, he ended Sinner's **26-match unbeaten run** and asserted dominance in their growing **rivalry**. Alcaraz's victory sets the stage for a strong performance at **Roland Garros 2025**, positioning him as the clear **favorite on clay**.

Chess

- **Srihari LR**, a 19-year-old chess player from **Chennai**, has officially become **India's 86th Grandmaster** after securing his third norm at the **Asian Individual Chess Championship** in **Al-Ain, UAE**. Trained by GM **Shyamsundar** at **Chess Thulir Academy**, Srihari has shown consistent growth, defeating top-rated players and showing the strength of India's chess talent pipeline. His achievement comes nearly a year after India's previous GM title and reflects the **nation's rapid progress in global chess**.

ARCHERY & SHOOTING

- **Kanak Budhwar**, a 17-year-old Indian shooter, claimed **gold in the 10m air pistol** event at the **ISSF Junior World Cup 2025** in **Suhl, Germany**, defeating **European champion and Olympian Anna Dulce**. Her journey from being **underweight** to becoming a **World Cup winner** is marked by **technical improvements, family support, and expert coaching**. With

earlier medals in **Asian Championships** and the **Junior World Championships**, this win strengthens India's future in **international shooting** and may inspire her **Olympic dreams**.

ATHLETIC & FOOTBALL

- FIFA has announced **eight host cities** in **Brazil** for the **2027 FIFA Women's World Cup**, scheduled from **June 24 to July 25**. The **32-team** tournament will utilize **stadiums** that featured in the **2014 Men's World Cup**, including the iconic **Maracanã** in **Rio de Janeiro**. The event aims to promote **women's football**, boost **economic activity**, and enhance **international sports exposure** for Brazil. This announcement marks a milestone in the **global growth of women's sports**.
- **Deepika Kumari** secured a **bronze medal** at the **Archery World Cup Stage 2** in **Shanghai**, overcoming a semifinal loss to **Lim Sihyeon**. Her victory in the **bronze medal** playoff against **Kang Chae Young** contributed to **India's growing medal count**, with a strong performance in both **recurve** and **compound archery** events. **India's** success at this global event highlights the nation's rising stature in **archery**.
- At the **Archery World Cup 2025 – Shanghai, India** secured a total of **7 medals**, including **2 golds, 1 silver, and 4 bronze**. **Deepika Kumari** marked her **18th individual podium** with a bronze in recurve, while **Parth Salunkhe**, the **U21 world champion**, earned his **first senior medal**. India dominated the **compound events**, winning medals across **individual, team, and mixed** categories, reinforcing its global stature in archery.
- **Neeraj Chopra**, **India's Olympic champion**, achieved a **career-defining milestone** by breaching the **90m barrier** in javelin with a **90.23m throw** at the **2025 Doha Diamond League**. He became the **first Indian** and **third Asian** to do so, joining an elite group of **global athletes**. Despite his historic effort, Chopra finished **second**, as **Germany's Julian Weber** produced a **world-leading throw** of 91.06m in the final round. Chopra, expressing **satisfaction and hope**, aims to achieve **more 90m+ throws** in future events.
- **India clinched their second SAFF U-19 Championship title** by defeating **Bangladesh 4-3 on penalties** after a **1-1 draw in regulation time** at the **Golden Jubilee Stadium, Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh** on **May 18, 2025**. Captain **Shami Singamayum** gave India an early lead with a **2nd-minute free-kick**, while **Md Joy Ahamed** equalized for Bangladesh in the **61st minute**. This victory not only marks **India's second SAFF U-19 title** (after 2023) but also reflects the country's rising strength in **youth football**, supported by the **South Asian Football Federation (SAFF)** to promote regional talent and build a pipeline for senior teams.





- Pepe Reina, one of Spain's most respected goalkeepers, will retire at 42 after a 25-year football career. His journey includes playing for elite clubs, winning **international championships**, and earning individual honors like the **Premier League Golden Glove**. His **final appearance for Como** against Inter Milan in Serie A will mark the end of a celebrated era in world football.
- **Tottenham Hotspur** created history by winning the **2025 UEFA Europa League Final** against **Manchester United** with a 1-0 victory. **Brennan Johnson** scored the decisive goal, while a stunning goal-line clearance by **Micky van de Ven** and crucial saves from **goalkeeper Vicario** sealed the win. After **17 years without a trophy**, Spurs have now secured a spot in next season's **Champions League**. The victory is a major breakthrough for manager **Ange Postecoglou** and brings renewed hope to fans after a challenging **Premier League season**.
- **Napoli won the 2024–25 Serie A title** with a decisive 2-0 win over Cagliari, propelled by goals from **Scott McTominay** and **Romelu Lukaku**. Despite Inter Milan's victory, Napoli stayed a point ahead. **Antonio Conte**, coaching from the stands due to suspension, created history by winning Serie A titles with **Juventus, Inter, and Napoli**. With the **Scudetto secured**, Inter Milan now turns its attention to the **Champions League final** against PSG.
- China will host the **FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025** in **Shenzhen** from **July 13–20**, with **Miao Lijie**, a **FIBA Hall of Famer** and national icon, serving as the **event ambassador**. Miao's remarkable career, including **multiple gold medals, Olympic appearances**, and a **WNBA title**, makes her an inspirational figure for the tournament. Her appointment underscores **China's basketball legacy** and aims to attract global attention and local enthusiasm for women's basketball.
- Arsenal stunned **defending champions Barcelona** 1-0 in the **2025 UEFA Women's Champions League Final**, clinching their **second title** after 18 years. **Stina Blackstenius** scored the match-winner in Lisbon, assisted by **Beth Mead**, ending Barcelona's hopes of a **three-peat**. The victory marked a turning point for **English women's football**, highlighting the growing **strength and competitiveness** of WSL clubs in Europe.
- **Cristiano Ronaldo** has once again amazed the football world. On **May 26, 2025**, he scored his 800th club goal in a Saudi Pro League match for Al-Nassr against Al-Fateh. Even though lost 3-2, Ronaldo's goal was historic. At the age of 40, he is still performing at the highest level, making fans wonder what more he can achieve.

- **Neeraj Chopra**, India's javelin star and Olympic gold medallist, has been conferred the **honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel** in the **Territorial Army**, as per a May 13, 2025 government notification. The honour acknowledges his sports excellence and military service as Subedar Major. A former world and Olympic champion, Neeraj joins the ranks of personalities like M.S. Dhoni, reflecting India's respect for civilian achievements in nation-building. The **Territorial Army**, a crucial support wing of the Indian Army, celebrates its **75 years of service**.

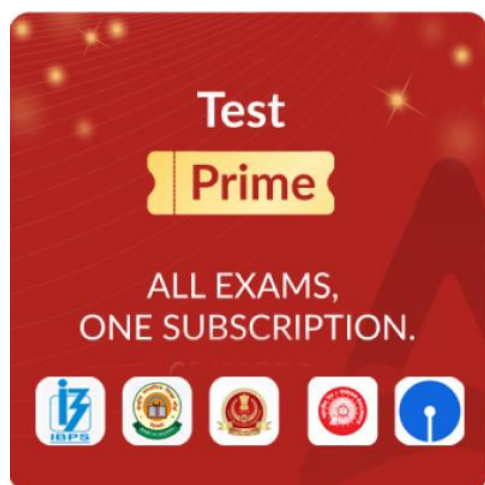
OTHER SPORTS NEWS

- The **Khelo India Youth Games 2025**, hosted in Bihar, marks a transformative moment for the state's sports landscape. With participation from over 6,000 athletes across 27 disciplines, including new sports like sepaktakraw and esports, the event reflects India's commitment to nurturing talent for future global competitions. The program has bolstered Bihar's sports infrastructure, **with 38 Khelo India Centres established, offering training in various disciplines**.
- **Miss Estonia, Eliise Randmaa**, made history by winning **gold** at the **Miss World 2025 Sports Challenge** in **Hyderabad**, securing a **fast-track spot** in the **Top 40 quarter-finalists**. The event saw **108 contestants** compete in diverse sports like badminton and sprinting, and featured a **cultural showcase** of **Mallakhamb, yoga, and skating**. Dignitaries like **Jupally Krishna Rao** and **Rajeev Shukla** graced the occasion. This historic win highlights Estonia's re-entry into the Miss World limelight after **25 years**.
- India's **Olympian javelin thrower, Shivpal Singh**, has failed a **second dope test**, with the **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)** placing him under **provisional suspension**. His **urine sample**, collected during **out-of-competition testing** earlier this year, tested positive for a **banned substance**. A repeat offence under **WADA and NADA rules** could lead to an **eight-year ban**, threatening to end his sporting career. Shivpal previously served a **reduced one-year ban** after testing positive in 2021 and had made a successful comeback in 2023.
- The Indian government has announced the **annual rotation of Khelo India Northeast Games** across the eight northeastern states, aiming to boost regional sports infrastructure, promote traditional games, and discover young talent. With significant **investments in grassroots development**, new **talent scouting technologies**, and dedicated programs like the **ASMITA League**, the initiative positions the Northeast as a crucial player in India's sports future. The announcement reflects India's growing ambitions on the **global sports stage**, including bids for hosting the **2030 Commonwealth Games** and **2036 Olympics**.





- **Kush Maini** has scripted history by becoming the **first Indian** to win a **Formula 2 race**, achieving this remarkable feat at the **Monaco Grand Prix Sprint Race** on **May 24, 2025**. Driving for **Dams Lucas Oil**, Maini's composed drive from **pole to podium** was a moment of national pride, amplified by the presence of Indian motorsport patrons like **Gautam Singhania**. This win is expected to serve as a **turning point** for **Indian motorsport aspirations**.
- India's **Mahendra Gurjar** made the country proud by setting a world record in the men's javelin F42 category at the **Nottwil World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Switzerland**. The 27-year-old athlete won the gold medal with a record-breaking throw, proving his talent and determination.
- **Ahmedabad** will host the **2026 Asian Weightlifting Championships from April 1 to 10**. This big sports event was confirmed by the Indian Weightlifting Federation. It will be the first Asian Championship to follow the new weight categories set by the international Weightlifting Federation. The event was earlier planned in Gandhinagar but later shifted to Ahmedabad.
- India's iconic **javelin thrower and Olympic gold medallist, Neeraj Chopra**, has officially joined hands with **Audi India** as its brand ambassador. This strategic collaboration unites two powerful names — a **world-class athlete** and a **global luxury automobile brand** — both of whom are defined by their **performance, precision, and a relentless drive for excellence**.
- **Lando Norris** dominated the **2025 Monaco Grand Prix**, securing his **second victory** of the season and edging closer to the **championship lead**. Despite challenges from **Charles Leclerc** and **Oscar Piastri**, and a daring strategy by **Max Verstappen**, Norris maintained composure through **pit stops, race traffic, and VSC phases** to win at the historic **Monte Carlo circuit**. The outcome sets up a thrilling title fight, with **McLaren** showing strong momentum.



Sports Current Affairs of April 2025

CRICKET

- **Virat Kohli** made history by becoming the **first Indian cricketer to score 13,000 runs in T20 cricket** during an **IPL 2025** clash between **RCB and MI** at **Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai**. At **36**, the RCB icon became the **fifth player globally** and the **second-fastest ever** to reach this milestone, reinforcing his legendary status in the **shortest format** of the game.
- In a **landmark move** for **inclusivity** and **athlete rights**, the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has formed a **dedicated task force** to support **displaced Afghan women cricketers**, in collaboration with **BCCI, ECB, and Cricket Australia (CA)**. The initiative includes the creation of a **monetary support fund**, a **high-performance programme** offering **advanced coaching, training facilities, and mentorship**. **ICC Chair Jay Shah** stressed the role of cricket as a **unifying force** and reaffirmed the ICC's commitment to **global unity** and **equal opportunities** in cricket.
- **Virat Kohli** achieved a historic milestone in **IPL 2025**, scoring his **100th T20 half-century** with a match-winning **unbeaten 62 off 45 balls** against **Rajasthan Royals** in **Match 28** at **Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur**. This also marked his **66th 50+ score in the IPL**, tying with **David Warner** for the most in league history.
- **Shreyas Iyer** has been named the **ICC Men's Player of the Month for March 2025** for his outstanding role in **India's Champions Trophy 2025 victory**, scoring **243 runs** in 3 matches with an average of **57.33** and a **strike rate of 77.47**. He edged out **Jacob Duffy** and **Rachin Ravindra** of **New Zealand**, delivering key performances including **79 vs NZ**, **45 vs AUS**, and **48 in the final vs NZ**. This marks a **back-to-back win for Indian players**, following **Shubman Gill's February 2025** win.
- In the **Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 2025**, **Jasprit Bumrah** and **Smriti Mandhana** were named the **Leading Cricketers of the Year** for their exceptional performances. Bumrah, with **200 Test wickets** and a stellar year in **2024**, was hailed for his dominance in **Test cricket** and his role in **India's T20 World Cup victory**. Mandhana set a **record** for women with **1659 runs** across formats, including **four ODI centuries**.
- **Virat Kohli** set a new record in **IPL history** by surpassing **David Warner** for the most **fifty-plus scores** with his 67th score, achieved during **RCB's victory over PBKS**. Kohli's **unbeaten 73 off 54 balls** guided RCB to chase down 158, marking his **fourth fifty** of the season. With **322 runs** in 8 innings at an average of **64.40** and a strike rate of **140.00**, Kohli continues his dominance in the IPL, boasting **8,326 runs in 190 matches** overall.





- **Rohit Sharma** has become the **second Indian** after **Virat Kohli** and the **eighth player overall** to score **12,000 runs in T20 cricket**, achieving the milestone during an **IPL 2025** match against **Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH)**. His consistent performances, especially for **Mumbai Indians (MI)** and earlier **Deccan Chargers**, have been crucial in his team's success.

BADMINTON & TENNIS

- The **Indian Open 2025 PSA Copper** event, held at **Bombay Gymkhana, Mumbai** (March 24-28, 2025), saw **Anahat Singh** win her **11th PSA title**, reaffirming her status as **India's top-ranked women's squash player**, while **Kareem El Torkey** (Egypt, World No. 64) triumphed in the **men's singles final** against **Abhay Singh (India)**. With **\$53,500 prize money**, this was **India's highest-rated PSA event since 2018** and the **first-ever PSA Copper event hosted in the country**.
- World No. 1 **Aryna Sabalenka** claimed her first **Miami Open title** by defeating **Jessica Pegula** 7-5, 6-2 in the final, completing the tournament without dropping a set. This victory marked her **19th WTA title**, including **8 WTA 1000 titles** and **3 Grand Slam titles**. Sabalenka's dominance was evident as she broke Pegula's serve to love in the first set and showcased aggressive shot-making in the second.

Hockey

- **Vandana Katariya**, a stalwart of **Indian women's hockey**, announced her retirement from international hockey on **April 2, 2024**, after an illustrious 15-year career. The **32-year-old striker**, with a record of **320 international appearances** and **158 goals**, retires as the **most capped female hockey player** in India's history. Katariya shared her emotional farewell on **Instagram**, emphasizing her decision to step away at the "zenith" of her career, choosing to leave the sport while still performing at her best.

Racing

- **Francesco Bagnaia** secured victory at the **Grand Prix of the Americas** after **Marc Marquez** crashed out on **lap nine** at the **Circuit of the Americas (COTA)**. **Ducati** dominated the podium with **Alex Marquez** in **second** and **Fabio Di Giannantonio** in **third**, marking **Ducati's 20th consecutive grand prix win**, just **two wins shy of Honda's record (22)**.
- **Max Verstappen** won his first race of the **2025 Formula 1** season at the **Japanese Grand Prix**, securing his **fourth consecutive win**. After a close battle with **McLaren's Lando Norris** and **Oscar Piastri**, Verstappen held onto the lead, aided by strategic pit stops and tire choices. He edged out Norris by just **0.012 seconds** in qualifying for **pole position**. This race was also significant for **Red Bull**, marking their last race with **Honda power**. Verstappen extended his lead in

the standings, now just **one point ahead of Norris**. Other notable finishes included **Charles Leclerc (Ferrari)** in **fourth** and **George Russell (Mercedes)** in **fifth**.

- **Oscar Piastri** clinched his **third win of the 2025 season** at the **Saudi Arabian Grand Prix** held on **April 20, 2025**, at the **Jeddah Corniche Circuit**, overtaking **Max Verstappen** in the **Drivers' Championship** standings. Piastri, driving for **McLaren**, capitalized on a **5-second penalty** for Verstappen, finishing with a time of **1:21:06.758**.

ATHLETIC & FOOTBALL

- India made a historic debut at the **2025 World Boxing Cup** in **Foz Do Iguacu, Brazil**, with **Hitesh Gulia** becoming the first-ever Indian boxer to win a **gold medal**. His victory came after his opponent, **Odel Kamara** from England, withdrew due to an injury. **Abhinash Jamwal** secured a **silver medal** in the 65kg category, while **Jadumani Singh Mandengbam**, **Manish Rathore**, **Sachin**, and **Vishal** each won **bronze medals**. India finished with a total of six medals, marking a strong performance in their first participation at the **World Boxing Cup**, providing a significant boost ahead of the **2028 Olympics**.
- **India won 10 medals** at the **2025 Senior Asian Wrestling Championship** in **Amman**, showcasing strong performances in **freestyle** and **Greco-Roman wrestling**. **Manisha Bhanwala (62kg)** won **gold**, while **Deepak Punia (92kg)**, **Udit (61kg)**, and **Reetika Hooda (76kg)** secured **silver**. Six wrestlers, including **Antim Pangal (53kg)** and **Dinesh (125kg)**, won **bronze**. The **30-member squad** featured top talents like **Mansi Lather** and **Mukul Dahiya**, reinforcing India's dominance in continental wrestling.

OTHER SPORTS NEWS

- The **Aditya Birla Memorial Polo Cup 2025** concluded with **Rajnigandha Achievers** defeating **Jindal Panther** in a thrilling final in **New Delhi**. The winning team, featuring **Dino Dhankhar**, **Shamsheer Ali**, **Abhimanyu Pathak**, and **Daniel Otamendi**, secured the prestigious trophy, presented by **Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar**, **Rajashree Birla**, and **Askaran Agarwala**. The tournament, honoring **Aditya Vikram Birla's passion for polo**, also saw participation from **Cavalry Royal Enfield**, showcasing top international polo talent.
- **Niharika Singhania**, a young Indian equestrian, secured **first place** in the **Azelhof CSI Lier equestrian competition** in **Belgium**, held from **March 25-30, 2025**. Competing in the **CSI/2-1- YH – LIER – Spring Tour**** category, Niharika demonstrated exceptional skill and determination. Riding **Hotese Charboniere**, she finished with **penalty points of 34.48** and **31.95** in the final **Two-Phase Special** event to clinch the gold.





- **India's recurve men's archery team—Dhiraj Bommadevara, Atanu Das, and Tarundeep Rai—clinched a silver medal at the Archery World Cup 2025, Stage 1 in Auburndale, Florida, after a 1-5 loss to China in the final.** Despite being the **world number two** team, India fell short against the **third-seeded Chinese trio—Li Zhongyuan, Kao Wenchao, and Wang Yan.** India had earlier defeated **Spain** in the semi-finals.
- **Oscar Piastri of McLaren triumphed at the 2025 Bahrain Grand Prix, securing his second win of the season** by a dominant **15.499 seconds.** Starting from pole, Piastri's performance marked **McLaren's first-ever victory** at the **Bahrain Circuit** and his **50th Formula One race.** He now sits **second in the championship,** just 3 points behind teammate **Lando Norris,** who finished third on the podium.
- India made a **strong start** to the **2025 ISSF World Cup,** finishing **2nd overall** with **8 medals** (4 Gold, 2 Silver, 2 Bronze) across rifle, pistol, and shotgun events. The standout performers included **Sift Kaur Samra, Rudranksh Patil, Suruchi,** and **Vijayveer Sidhu,** each clinching gold. Held ahead of the **Paris Olympics,** the event highlighted India's **growing shooting prowess** and blend of **youth and experience,** with **China** topping the medal table.
- **Carlos Alcaraz clinched the Rolex Monte Carlo Masters 2025 title** with a stunning **comeback victory** over **Lorenzo Musetti,** winning 3-6, 6-1, 6-0 in a 1-hour 54-minute final. Despite losing the first set, Alcaraz capitalized on **Musetti's leg injury** in the deciding set to dominate and secure his **6th ATP Masters 1000** and **18th career title.** The **reigning French Open champion** now rises to **World No. 2,** further cementing his status among tennis's elite ahead of his **22nd birthday.**
- The **Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2025** will be held for the **first time in Bihar** from **May 4 to May 15,** with **PM Narendra Modi** inaugurating the event in **Patna.** The **launch ceremony** on **April 14** at **Samvad Hall** featured the unveiling of the **logo, mascot, and theme song** by **CM Nitish Kumar** and **Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.** The mascot **Gajsingh,** inspired by **Pala-period temples,** and design elements like the **Mahabodhi Temple, Nalanda University, Peepal Tree, Gangetic Dolphin, and Madhubani art,** highlight Bihar's **rich heritage, cultural vibrancy,** and **environmental awareness.**
- **Mohun Bagan Super Giant** made history by winning the **2024-25 Indian Super League (ISL) title** with a **2-1 victory** over **Bengaluru FC** at the **Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan** in **Kolkata.** This win marked a significant achievement as it was the first time an ISL final was won at home, and **Mohun Bagan** became the first team to secure both the **ISL title** and the **ISL League Shield** in the same season.
- **Saurabh Chaudhary, a 22-year-old shooter from Uttar Pradesh,** made a stunning **comeback** by winning the **bronze medal** in the **10m Air Pistol** event at the **ISSF World Cup 2025** in **Lima, Peru.** Competing after a **2+ year break,** he showed great **resilience** in a closely contested final, outperforming top shooters like **Yu Xie** and **Christian Reitz.** With a final score of **219.1,** he marked his **first World Cup medal in over two years,** signaling a strong **return to international form.**
- **16-year-old Nishchay** from **Haryana** clinched a **silver medal** in the **boys' shot put** at the **Asian U-18 Athletics Championship** in **Dammam, Saudi Arabia,** with a **personal best throw of 19.59 meters,** surpassing his previous best of 18.93m. His stellar performance on the **third day** of the championship highlights his **rapid progress** and **international promise.**
- The **South Asian Senior Athletics Championships 2025,** set for **May 3–5** in **Ranchi,** has been **postponed again** due to **visa clearance issues** for **Pakistani athletes,** including **Olympic javelin champion Arshad Nadeem.** Originally scheduled for **October 2024,** the event is now tentatively moved to **mid-June 2025,** pending resolution. Hosted at the **Birsa Munda Athletics Stadium,** top athletes from **India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,** and other South Asian nations were expected, including **sprinter Yupun Abeykoon** and **400m medallist Aruna Darshana** of **Sri Lanka.**
- **India** delivered a stellar performance at the **2025 ISSF World Cup** in **Lima, Peru** (April 13–22), clinching **7 medals—2 Gold, 4 Silver, and 1 Bronze—to finish third** in the overall medal tally behind **China** and the **USA.** Standout shooters like **Suruchi Singh** (Women's 10m Air Pistol, Mixed Team with **Saurabh Chaudhary**) and **Manu Bhaker** helped secure spots for the **ISSF World Cup Final 2025** in **Doha.** With over **400 shooters from 43 nations,** India's **42-member squad** was one of the largest and most successful at the event.





Sports Current Affairs of March 2025

CRICKET

- **Virat Kohli** played his historic **300th ODI** on **March 2, 2025**, against **New Zealand** in **Dubai**, becoming the **7th Indian** and **22nd player** globally to reach this milestone. Kohli joins cricket legends like **Sachin Tendulkar** (463 ODIs) and **MS Dhoni** (347 ODIs) in this exclusive club.
- **Vidarbha** won their **third Ranji Trophy** title in seven seasons, defeating **Kerala** in the **2024-25 final** in **Nagpur**. Led by **Akshay Wadkar**, Vidarbha secured the victory on **March 2** after the final ended in a draw, thanks to their **first-innings lead** at the **Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium**.
- **Steve Smith**, the Australian cricketing great, announced his retirement from **One-Day Internationals (ODIs)**, ending a remarkable career in the 50-over format. With **170 matches**, **5800 runs**, and **two World Cup victories**, Smith leaves a lasting legacy in **Australian cricket**. Known for his unorthodox yet effective batting, he will continue playing **Test** and **T20 cricket** in future international assignments.
- **Mushfiquir Rahim** has announced his **retirement from ODIs** after **Bangladesh's Champions Trophy campaign**, ending his **19-year ODI career**. The **37-year-old wicketkeeper-batsman** shared his decision on **Instagram**, citing recent challenges but reaffirming his **dedication and honesty** toward Bangladesh cricket.
- In **December 2024**, **Jay Shah** stepped down as **ACC president** after three terms and was elected **ICC chairman**, assuming office on **December 1, 2024**. Following his departure, **Shammi Silva** became the new **ACC president**, while **Rajeev Shukla** and **Ashish Shelar** took on key roles in the **ACC Board**. This transition comes ahead of major cricket events like the **2025 Asia Cup** in the **UAE** and the **ICC Champions Trophy**.
- **Harry Brook**, the **England batter**, has withdrawn from the **Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025** for the second consecutive year, despite being signed by **Delhi Capitals (DC)** for **₹6.25 crores** in the previous year's auction. His decision could lead to a **two-year ban** from future IPL editions, in accordance with new rules introduced by the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)**.
- A **one-off day-night Test match** between **Australia** and **England** will be held at the **Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG)** from **March 11 to March 15, 2027**, to celebrate the **150th anniversary** of the first-ever Test match. This landmark **pink-ball Test** marks a significant moment in the evolution of **Test cricket**, blending tradition with modernity and drawing global attention to the game's longest format.

- India's **Shubman Gill** won the **ICC Men's Player of the Month** for February 2025, while **Australia's Alana King** claimed the **ICC Women's Player of the Month** title, both recognized for their **outstanding performances**.
- **Delhi Capitals (DC)** has appointed **Axar Patel** as the team's **captain** for the **2025 IPL season**. The **31-year-old all-rounder**, with the franchise since 2019, takes over after serving as **vice-captain** for two seasons. Known for his consistency with both bat and ball, Axar Patel is set to lead DC towards success with a well-balanced squad.

BADMINTON & TENNIS

- **Achanta Sharath Kamal**, India's legendary **table tennis** player, announced his retirement, with his farewell tournament being the **WTT Star Contender** in **Chennai** from **March 25-30, 2025**. A **10-time National Champion** and **five-time Olympian**, Sharath has earned recognition at the **Commonwealth Games**, **Asian Games**, and **Olympics**.

ATHLETIC & FOOTBALL

- Indian football legend **Sunil Chhetri** has made a remarkable comeback to the national team at the age of **40**, reversing his retirement decision from **June 2024**. The former captain and **India's all-time leading goal scorer**, who had retired after a World Cup qualifier against **Kuwait**, was recalled by **head coach Manolo Marquez** for India's pursuit of **2027 AFC Asian Cup** qualification.
- **Japan** secured its spot in the **2026 FIFA World Cup** as the first team to qualify after the host nations. A **2-0 win** over **Bahrain** at **Saitama Stadium** on **March 20, 2025** confirmed their place. **Daichi Kamada** and **Takefusa Kubo** scored in the second half, marking Japan's **eighth consecutive World Cup appearance**.

OTHER SPORTS NEWS

- **Gulmarg**, the famous ski resort in **Jammu and Kashmir**, will host the **Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) 2025** from **March 9 to 12**. Originally scheduled for **February 22-25**, the event was postponed due to a lack of snow but has been rescheduled following **moderate to heavy snowfall** in the region.
- **Brandon Holt** of the **United States** won the **2025 Bengaluru Open ATP 125 Challenger**, defeating **Shintaro Mochizuki** of **Japan** in the final on **March 2, 2025** at the **KSLTA Tennis Stadium**. The tournament, part of the **ATP Challenger Tour**, had a **\$200,000 prize pool** and was played on **hard courts**.





- The **Khelo India Para Games (KIPG) 2025** will be held in **New Delhi** from **March 20-27**, featuring **1,230 para athletes**, including top performers from the **2024 Paris Paralympics** and **2022 Asian Para Games**. Announced by **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, the event aims to promote **para sports** in India and will include six major disciplines, hosted at **premier sports venues** across the city.
- The **Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF)** has rebranded itself as **Commonwealth Sport**, a move unveiled on **March 10, 2025**, during **Commonwealth Day**. The rebranding reflects the organization's transformation from a **sports federation** to a global **sports movement**, focusing on **unity, development, and inclusion** through sports.
- The **Khelo India Winter Games 2025 (KIWG 2025)** was held in two phases from **January 23 to March 12, 2025**, with over **400 athletes** from **19 teams** participating. The event took place in **Leh, Ladakh** and **Jammu & Kashmir**, and the **Indian Army** emerged as the overall champion, winning the most **gold medals**.
- India had a remarkable showing at the **Special Olympics World Winter Games 2025** in **Turin, Italy**, securing **33 medals**: **8 gold**, **18 silver**, and **7 bronze**. **Snowshoeing** was a strong area, with 10 medals, including **silver** for Vasu Tiwari, Shalini Chauhan, and Tanya, and a **bronze** for Jahangir. In **Alpine Skiing**, India won 10 medals, including **silver** for Radha Devi, Nirmala Devi, and Abhishek Kumar in various categories.
- **India Masters** won the inaugural **International Masters League (IML) 2025**, defeating **West Indies Masters** by **six wickets** in a thrilling final at the **SVNS International Stadium**. Led by **Sachin Tendulkar**, India Masters triumphed in front of nearly **50,000 fans**. The match, featuring **Brian Lara** and a star-studded lineup, celebrated cricket's golden era. India Masters also earned a **₹1 crore** prize for their victory.
- The **Kabaddi World Cup 2025** begins in **England**, marking the first time the tournament is hosted outside Asia. **India's men's team** will face **Italy** in **Wolverhampton**. The event spans **seven days**, with **60+ matches** across venues like **Birmingham, Coventry, Walsall, and Wolverhampton**.
- The **Khelo India Para Games 2025** will be held from **March 20 to 27, 2025** in **New Delhi**. **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, launched the official anthem at **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium**. The mascot '**Ujjwala**', inspired by the house sparrow, symbolizes **resilience** and **determination**. The **Games logo**, featuring Delhi landmarks, was unveiled by **Devendra Jhajharia** and **Sminu Jindal**.

- **Hockey Jharkhand** won their first-ever **15th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2025** title, defeating defending champions **Hockey Haryana** in a thrilling final at **Tau Devi Lal Complex, Panchkula**. The match ended in a **1-1 draw**, and **Hockey Jharkhand** triumphed in the **penalty shootout**, making history in Indian women's hockey.

Sports Current Affairs of February 2025

CRICKET

- **Wriddhiman Saha**, the former India wicketkeeper-batter, has announced his retirement from all formats of cricket at 40. Known for his exceptional **wicketkeeping skills**, Saha played his final match for **Bengal** against **Punjab** in the **Ranji Trophy 2024-25**. He had retired from **international cricket** in November 2024 and thanked his **family, coaches**, and cricketing associations for their support.
- The **ICC** launched the theme song '**Jeeto Baazi Khel Ke**' for the **ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025**, sung by **Atif Aslam**. The song is designed to build excitement as the countdown begins, with just **12 days** left before the tournament starts.
- **Marcus Stoinis**, the Australian all-rounder, has announced his **retirement from ODI cricket**, ruling him out of the **2025 ICC Champions Trophy**. The 35-year-old, who played a key role in Australia's **2023 ODI World Cup victory**, will now focus on **T20 cricket**. His decision comes amid **injuries** to key Australian players like **Mitchell Marsh, Pat Cummins**, and **Josh Hazlewood**.
- At **33 years and 164 days**, **Varun Chakravarthy** became India's second-oldest cricketer to make an **ODI debut**, after **Farokh Engineer**. The **Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR)** spinner made an impact by dismissing **Phil Salt** in his opening spell. His performance could influence his selection for the upcoming **Champions Trophy**, possibly replacing a specialist **spinner**.
- **Dimuth Karunaratne**, former **Sri Lankan captain** and veteran opener, retired from **international cricket** after his 100th **Test** against **Australia** in **Galle**. The 36-year-old scored 36 and 14 in his farewell match, which Australia won. The **ICC**, led by Chairman **Jay Shah**, praised his exceptional career, with Karunaratne retiring as one of Sri Lanka's most accomplished **Test openers**, scoring **7,222 Test runs** and **16 centuries**.
- **Rohit Sharma** delivered a stellar performance in the second **ODI** against **England** in **Cuttack**, scoring **119 runs** off 90 balls, with **12 fours** and **7 sixes**. His knock helped India secure a **four-wicket win**. Rohit surpassed **Chris Gayle** to become the second-highest **six-hitter** in **ODI history**, behind **Shahid Afridi**, and overtook **Sachin Tendulkar** as the second-highest run-getter for India as an **opener** in international cricket.





- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has launched the 'Donate Organs, Save Lives' campaign to raise **organ donation awareness**. The initiative will kick off on **February 12, 2025**, ahead of the third ODI between **India and England** in Ahmedabad. The campaign aims to leverage cricket's influence to encourage people to **pledge organ donation** and save lives. **ICC Chief Jay Shah** emphasized the role of sports in driving positive **social change**.
- **Reliance Industries**, through its subsidiary **RISE Worldwide**, has acquired a **49% stake** in **Oval Invincibles**, a franchise in the ECB's **The Hundred** league. This deal expands **Mumbai Indians' (MI)** global cricket presence. **Surrey County Cricket Club** remains the primary stakeholder, sharing ownership and decision-making with Reliance.
- The **ICC** announced the **Players of the Month** for **January 2025**, awarding **Jomel Warrican** (West Indies) and **Beth Mooney** (Australia). **Warrican** won the **Men's Player of the Month** for his key role in West Indies' historic **Test victory** in Pakistan, while **Mooney** was named **Women's Player of the Month** for her explosive batting in **Australia's Ashes triumph**.
- The **ICC Champions Trophy** will take place from **February 19 to March 9, 2025**, in **Pakistan** and **Dubai**. **Shikhar Dhawan**, former India opener, has been named one of the **official event ambassadors**, adding excitement to the tournament. The event promises thrilling cricket action, with Dhawan's involvement further engaging fans.
- **Shohely Akhter** of **Bangladesh** has become the first **woman cricketer** banned by the **ICC** for **corruption**. The **36-year-old** was found guilty of attempting to **fix matches** during the **2023 Women's T20 World Cup** and has received a **five-year ban** from all forms of cricket.
- **Babar Azam**, Pakistan's star batter, became the **joint-fastest player** to score **6,000 ODI runs** in just **123 innings**, matching **Hashim Amla's** record. He achieved this milestone during the **final of the ODI tri-series** against **New Zealand** at the **National Stadium**, further cementing his place in cricket history.
- **G Kamalini**, a 16-year-old **India U19 star**, made history as the youngest debutant in the **Women's Premier League (WPL)**. She received her **Mumbai Indians (MI)** cap on **February 18, 2025**, during their match against **Gujarat Giants (GG)** at **Kotambi Stadium, Vadodara**, surpassing her **U19 teammate Shabnam Shakil** for the record.
- **Mohammed Shami** became the **fastest Indian bowler** to reach **200 ODI wickets** during the **India vs Bangladesh** match in the **ICC Champions Trophy 2025**. He broke **Ajit Agarkar's** record, achieving the milestone in **133 matches**.

Globally, **Shami** ranks joint second with **Saqlain Mushtaq**, behind **Mitchell Starc**. He also became **India's highest wicket-taker** in **ICC ODI events** with **60 wickets** in 19 matches, surpassing **Zaheer Khan's** record.

- **Rohit Sharma** became the **second fastest batsman** to score **11,000 runs** in **One-Day Internationals (ODIs)** during India's **Champions Trophy 2025** match against **Bangladesh** on **February 20, 2025**. He is now the **fourth Indian** and **10th player overall** to achieve this milestone in ODI cricket. ()

BADMINTON & TENNIS

- **Simona Halep**, a **two-time Grand Slam champion** and former **World No. 1**, announced her retirement from tennis at 33 after an injury-plagued comeback post-doping suspension. She retired following a **first-round loss** at the **Transylvania Open**. Halep's career highlights include winning **Wimbledon 2019** and the **French Open 2018**, **24 WTA singles titles**, and earning over **\$40 million** in prize money.
- **Carlos Alcaraz** won his first **indoor hardcourt title** at the **Rotterdam Open**, defeating **Alex de Minaur** 6-4, 3-6, 6-2. This victory, his **17th ATP Tour title**, made him the first **Spanish champion** in the tournament's 52-year history. Despite battling a cold and tough three-set matches, Alcaraz demonstrated resilience and adaptability, further enhancing his tennis legacy.
- **Jil Teichmann**, from **Switzerland**, won the **2025 Mumbai Open** singles title by defeating **Mananchaya Sawangkaew** of **Thailand** in the final. The **WTA 125** event, held at the **Cricket Club of India** from **February 3-9, 2025**, marked Teichmann's second **WTA 125** title, following her 2024 **Ljubljana** victory.
- **Kyrian Jacquet** of **France** won his first **ATP title** by clinching the **2025 Chennai Open** men's singles title, defeating **Elias Ymer** of **Sweden** in the final on **February 9, 2025**. The **ATP 100 Challenger** event took place at the **SDAT Tennis Stadium** in **Nungambakkam, Tamil Nadu**, from **February 3-9, 2025**.

CHESS

- **R Praggnanandhaa** won the **Tata Steel Masters chess tournament** in the Netherlands on **February 2, 2025**, defeating **D Gukesh** 2-1 in a thrilling tie-breaker. This victory marked his **first-ever Tata Steel Masters title**, with a pivotal contribution from **Arjun Erigaisi**, who defeated Gukesh earlier in the tournament. Praggnanandhaa's win is a significant milestone in his career.





ATHLETIC & FOOTBALL

- **Marcelo**, the legendary **Brazilian footballer**, announced his retirement at 36 after a stellar career. He won **25 major trophies** during his **15 years at Real Madrid**, including **five UEFA Champions League** titles. Marcelo also played for **Fluminense** and **Olympiacos**. Real Madrid president **Florentino Perez** praised him as one of the greatest left-backs in football. Marcelo expressed gratitude and hinted at staying involved in football in the future.
- **Cristiano Ronaldo** tops the 2025 list of **highest-paid athletes**, earning **\$285 million**, with **\$200 million** from **Al Nassr** and **\$65 million** from endorsements. Other top earners include **Jon Rahm** (\$218 million), **Lionel Messi** (\$135 million), **LeBron James** (\$128.7 million), and **Neymar** (\$110 million). This highlights the rising commercial value of football, especially with Middle Eastern investments.

HOCKEY

- **Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers** won the **Men's Hockey India League (HIL) 2024-25** with a **4-3** victory over **Hyderabad Toofans** in the final. Held at **Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium, Rourkela**, the Tigers secured the championship with **Jugraj Singh's hat trick** and **Sam Lane's late goal**.

OTHER SPORTS NEWS

- **Meghalaya** will host the **39th National Games** in **February/March 2027**, as officially announced by the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**. IOA President **PT Usha** conveyed the decision to **Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma**. Meghalaya will receive the **IOA flag** during the closing ceremony of the **38th National Games** in .
- **Pankaj Advani**, India's most decorated cueist, won his **36th national title** and **10th men's snooker championship** by defeating **Brijesh Damani** in the final. This victory, following an earlier group-stage loss, solidifies his legacy and secures his place in **upcoming international championships**.
- **Kevin Durant** became the **eighth NBA player** to surpass **30,000 career points** during a game against the **Memphis Grizzlies**, reaching the milestone with two free throws in the third quarter. He finished the game with **34 points**, despite the **Phoenix Suns** losing 119-112. Durant joins NBA legends like **LeBron James**, **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar**, **Kobe Bryant**, and **Michael Jordan** in the **30,000-point club**, achieving the feat in his **1,101st game**, tying Abdul-Jabbar for the third-fastest.
- The **9th Asian Winter Games** were held in **Harbin, China**, from **February 7-14, 2025**, with athletes from **34 countries** competing in **11 winter sports**. **China** topped the medal tally with 85 medals, followed by **Republic of Korea** and **Japan**.

India, sending its largest-ever contingent of 59 athletes, did not win medals but saw growth in winter sports, with **Tara Prasad** achieving her **personal best** in figure skating, finishing 8th.

- **Jacob Kiplimo** of **Uganda** set a new **world half-marathon record** in **Barcelona**, completing the **21.0975 km** race in **56 minutes and 42 seconds**. This was **48 seconds faster** than the previous record set by **Yomif Kejelcha** of **Ethiopia** in November 2024. Kiplimo's performance is being celebrated as the **greatest single improvement** in the **men's world half-marathon record** in history.
- Indonesia achieved a historic **first-ever Asia Mixed Team Badminton Championship** title, defeating **defending champions China** 3-1 at the **Conson Sports Centre** in Qingdao, China. The team showcased outstanding skill and determination, securing the win with a dominant performance in the **men's doubles match**, marking a major milestone in Indonesia's badminton legacy and breaking China's stronghold in the tournament.
- In July 2023, the **IOC** announced the launch of the **Olympic Esports Games**, with **Saudi Arabia** set to host the inaugural event in **2027**. The **Saudi Olympic and Paralympic Committee** and the **Esports World Cup Foundation** are key partners in this historic initiative. The event aims to bridge **esports** with traditional sports, expanding opportunities for global players and making a significant impact on the gaming industry.

Sports Current Affairs of January 2025

National Sports Awards 2024 Announced

The **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** has announced the prestigious **National Sports Awards for 2024**, recognizing outstanding sportspersons, coaches, universities, and entities for their exemplary contributions to sports. The awardees will receive their honors from the **President of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan on January 17, 2025**. These awards aim to motivate and acknowledge the dedication, performance, and progress made by individuals and institutions in the realm of sports.

National Sports Awards 2024 Recipients

1. Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2024

Given For: Awarded for the most outstanding performance in sports over the past four years.

Sr. No	Name of Recipient	Discipline
1	Shri Gukesh D	(Chess)
2	Shri Harmanpreet Singh	(Hockey)
3	Shri Praveen Kumar	(Para-Athletics)
4	Ms. Manu Bhaker	(Shooting)





2. Arjuna Awards for Outstanding Performance in Sports 2024

Given For: Awarded for excellence in sports and showing leadership, sportsmanship, and discipline.

Sr. No	Name of Recipient	Discipline
1	Ms. Jyothi Yarraji	(Athletics)
2	Ms. Annu Rani	(Athletic)
3	Ms. Nitu	(Boxing)
4	Ms. Saweety	(Boxing)
5	Ms. Vantika Agrawal	(Chess)
6	Ms. Salima Tete	(Hockey)
7	Shri Abhishek	(Hockey)
8	Shri Sanjay	(Hockey)
9	Shri Jarmanpreet Singh	(Hockey)
10	Shri Sukhjeet Singh	(Hockey)
11	Shri Rakesh Kumar	(Para-Archery)
12	Ms. Preeti Pal	(Para-Athletics)
13	Ms. Jeevanji Deepthi	(Para-Athletics)
14	Shri Ajeet Singh	(Para-Athletics)
15	Shri Sachin Sarjerao Khilari	(Para-Athletics)
16	Shri Dharambir	(Para-Athletics)
17	Shri Pranav Soorma	(Para-Athletics)
18	Shri H Hokato Sema	(Para-Athletics)
19	Ms. Simran	(Para-Athletics)
20	Shri Navdeep	(Para-Athletics)
21	Shri Nitesh Kumar	(Para-Badminton)
22	Ms. Thulasimathi Murugesan	(Para-Badminton)
23	Ms. Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan	(Para-Badminton)
24	Shri Sajan Prakash	(Swimming)
25	Shri Aman	(Wrestling)
26	Ms. Manisha Ramadass	(Para-Badminton)
27	Shri Kapil Parmar	(Para-Judo)
28	Ms. Mona Agarwal	(Para-Shooting)
29	Ms. Rubina Francis	(Para-Shooting)
30	Shri Swapnil Suresh Kusale	(Shooting)
31	Shri Sarabjot Singh	(Shooting)
32	Shri Abhay Singh	(Squash)

3. Arjuna Awards (Lifetime) for Outstanding Performance in Sports 2024

Given For: Awarded to retired sportspersons who continue to contribute to the promotion of sports.

Sr. No	Name of Recipient	Discipline
1	Shri Sucha Singh	(Athletics)
2	Shri Murlikant Rajaram Petkar	(Para-Swimming)

4. Dronacharya Award for Outstanding Coaches in Sports and Games 2024

Given For: Awarded for consistent excellence in coaching and enabling athletes to excel in international events.

Regular Category

Sr. No	Name of Recipient	Discipline
1	Shri Subhash Rana	(Para-Shooting)
2	Ms. Deepali Deshpande	(Shooting)
3	Shri Sandeep Sangwan	(Hockey)

Lifetime Category

Sr. No	Name of Recipient	Discipline
1	Shri S Muralidharan	(Badminton)
2	Shri Armando Agnelo Colaco	(Football)

5. Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar

Given For: Awarded to entities that have made significant contributions to the promotion of sports in the country.

Sr. No	Name of the Entity
1	Physical Education Foundation of India

6. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2024

Given For: Awarded to the top-performing university in the Khelo India University Games.

Sr. No	Position	Name of University
1	Overall Winner University	Chandigarh University
2	1st Runner Up University	Lovely Professional University, (PB)
3	2nd Runner Up University	Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

CRICKET

- **Jasprit Bumrah** became the **fastest Indian bowler** to reach **200 wickets** in Test cricket during the **Border-Gavaskar Trophy** at the **MCG** in Melbourne, achieving the milestone in just **44 Tests**, surpassing **Mohammed Shami**. His performance in the **Boxing Day Test**, including **four wickets** in the first innings, solidified his position among the **fastest bowlers** globally to 200 Test wickets.
- The **Santosh Trophy 2024** final witnessed **West Bengal** clinching their record **33rd title** with a **1-0 victory** over **Kerala** at **Gachibowli Stadium**, thanks to **Robi Hansda's** decisive goal in **added time**, making him the **tournament's top scorer** with **12 goals**.
- **Devajit Saikia**, former **Assam cricketer**, become the new **BCCI secretary**, while **Prabhtej Singh Bhatia** from **CSCS** take over as **treasurer**. Both are set to be **elected unopposed** at the **BCCI Special General Meeting (SGM)** on **January 12, 2025**, in **Mumbai**.





- **Martin Guptill**, New Zealand's prolific opener, retired after a **14-year career**. He scored **14,877 runs** across formats, including **7,346 runs** in ODIs, ranking third on New Zealand's all-time list. His record **237*** in the 2015 **World Cup** remains the highest individual score. Guptill also led New Zealand in **T20Is** with **3,531 runs** and scored **2,586 runs** in **Test matches**, with three centuries.
- **Shreyas Iyer** has been appointed **captain** of **Punjab Kings** for the **IPL 2025** season. The announcement was made during a segment on '**Bigg Boss**', where Iyer was joined by teammates **Yuzvendra Chahal** and **Shashank Singh**.
- **Jasprit Bumrah** (India) and **Annabel Sutherland** (Australia) were awarded the **ICC Men's and Women's Players of the Month** titles, recognizing their exceptional performances in international cricket.
- **Smriti Mandhana** set a record for the **fastest century by an Indian** in women's ODIs during the 3rd ODI against **Ireland Women** at **Rajkot**. Leading in **Harmanpreet Kaur's** absence, Mandhana's performance, along with a strong partnership with **Pratika Rawal**, bolstered India's dominant display in the series.
- In a remarkable achievement, **Arshdeep Singh** has overtaken **Yuzvendra Chahal** to become **India's highest wicket-taker in T20 Internationals**. This milestone was reached during the first T20I against England on January 22, 2025, at Eden Gardens in Kolkata.
- The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) has introduced a new **World Cricket Connects advisory board**, which will replace the club's previous **World Cricket Committee**. In a significant development for global cricket, **Jay Shah**, the current **ICC Chair** and former **Secretary of the BCCI**, has been named as one of the **13 founding members** of the newly formed advisory board.
- Former Australian cricket captain **Michael Clarke** has been inducted into the prestigious **Australian Cricket Hall of Fame**, becoming the 64th cricketer to receive this remarkable honor. The announcement, which has been widely celebrated, was made at the iconic **Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG)**, a venue that holds significant sentimental value in Clarke's illustrious career. The induction acknowledges Clarke's exceptional contributions to Australian cricket, both as a player and as a leader.
- Australia won the **ICC Women's Championship** for the third consecutive time, securing 39 points from 24 matches. The championship, introduced in 2014, acts as a pathway to the **ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025**. **Alyssa Healy** received the trophy in Melbourne, with **India, England, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and New Zealand** also qualifying for the 2025 World Cup. The remaining teams will compete in a **Qualifier tournament**.
- On **January 29**, **Steve Smith** became the **15th player** and **fourth Australian** to score **10,000 runs** in **Test cricket** during the first Test against **Sri Lanka** in **Galle**. This milestone cements his legacy as one of the **all-time greats**, showcasing his resilience, determination, and unique batting style.

- **Dinesh Karthik** has surpassed **MS Dhoni** to become the **highest run-scoring Indian wicket-keeper in T20 cricket**. With a **21-run** knock in a recent match, Karthik's total T20 runs now stand at **7,451** in **361 innings** (409 matches), solidifying his place as one of the most **consistent** and **impactful wicket-keeper batters** in the shortest format.
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BADMINTON & TENNIS

India Open 2025: Viktor Axelsen and An Se-young Dominate Singles Titles

India Open 2025 Winners List: Final Results and Scores

Category	Winners	Runners-up
Men's Singles	Viktor Axelsen (DEN)	Lee Cheuk Yiu (HKG)
Women's Singles	An Se-young (KOR)	Pornpawee Chochuwong (THA)
Men's Doubles	Goh Sze Fei / Nur Izzuddin (MAS)	Kim Won-ho / Seo Seung-jae (KOR)
Women's Doubles	Arisa Igarashi / Ayaka Sakuramoto (JPN)	Kim Hye-jeong / Kong Hee-yong (KOR)
Mixed Doubles	Jiang Zhenbang / Wei Yaxin (CHN)	Thom Gicquel / Delphine Delrue (FRA)

- **Jannik Sinner** defended his **Australian Open** title with a dominant 6-3, 7-6(4), 6-3 victory over **Alexander Zverev**, becoming the youngest player since **Jim Courier** to win back-to-back titles at Melbourne Park. This historic win marks the first **Men's Final** between the **World No. 1** and **No. 2** since **2019**, and Sinner's straight-set victory highlights his growing dominance in **men's tennis**.

ATHLETIC & FOOTBALL

- **Lionel Messi**, captain of **Argentina's football team**, was awarded the **United States Presidential Medal of Freedom**, the highest civilian honor. Messi is the second footballer ever to receive this recognition, after **Megan Rapinoe** in 2022. He could not attend the White House ceremony due to prior commitments.
- **Anju Bobby George**, a **2003 World Championships bronze medalist**, was appointed **Chairperson** of the **Athletics Federation of India (AFI) Athletes Commission**. The commission includes prominent retired athletes, with **Neeraj Chopra**, a **two-time Olympic medalist**, as a key male member. It reflects progress towards **gender parity**, with **six women** out of **nine members**.





OTHER SPORTS NEWS

- **Koneru Humpy**, at **37**, won her **second Women's World Rapid Chess Championship** in New York, marking a triumphant return after contemplating retirement. Her journey highlights **resilience**, **passion for chess**, and the ability to balance **motherhood**, **family support**, and a challenging chess career.
- **Lakshya Sen**, India's badminton star, secured **third place** at the **inaugural King Cup International Badminton Open** in **Bangkok, Thailand**. The **23-year-old** from Almora defeated **Alex Lanier** in the bronze-medal playoff, showcasing his **consistency** and **resilience** despite a narrow loss in the semifinals.
- **Kerala** won their **first-ever Senior National Men's Handball Championship** title, defeating **Chandigarh** 34-31 in a thrilling final. The team's success was marked by standout performances, with **Devendar** named the **Best Player** and **Rahul** awarded **Best Goalkeeper** for his exceptional efforts.
- **Haryana Steelers** won their **first-ever Pro Kabaddi League (PKL)** title by defeating **Patna Pirates** 32-23 in the final at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Pune. The victory was driven by strong performances from key players, with solid offensive and defensive strategies maintaining their control throughout the match.
- **Hemanth Muddappa**, also known as the "Drag King" of Indian motorsport, won a **triple crown** at the final round of the **MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Drag Racing Championship** at the **Madras International Circuit**. This victory brought his total **National titles** to **15**, solidifying his status as India's most decorated motorsport athlete, despite competing with a **fractured thumb** from a previous crash.
- The **World Blitz Championship** title was controversially shared by **Magnus Carlsen** and **Ian Nepomniachtchi** at the **FIDE Rapid and Blitz Championship** in New York, sparking outrage in the **chess world**. A video surfaced showing the players possibly **strategizing** to pressure **FIDE** into allowing the co-win, leading to accusations of **match-fixing** and **manipulation** of tournament rules. Prominent **grandmasters** and analysts have strongly criticized the decision.
- The inaugural **Kho Kho World Cup** began on **January 13, 2025**, at the **Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium** in **New Delhi**, with **23 nations** participating. The opening ceremony featured **cultural performances** and the unveiling of the **World Cup trophy**, marking a significant step in promoting **Kho Kho**, an indigenous Indian sport, on the international stage.
- Indian grandmaster **Arjun Erigaisi** triumphed in **Titled Tuesday** by defeating **World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen** and **World No. 2 Fabiano Caruana**. Erigaisi scored **10 points** out of **11 rounds**, showcasing his dominance in the competition.
- **PV Sindhu**, the two-time **Olympic medallist**, has entered a multi-year partnership with **PUMA India**, marking the brand's official entry into the **badminton** domain. This collaboration aims to tap into the sport's growing popularity, with a fan base of **57 million** in India. PUMA seeks to strengthen its presence in India's expanding **sports market**, while Sindhu continues to inspire millions with her achievements.
- **Novak Djokovic** broke a tie with **Roger Federer** for the most **Grand Slam matches played** in tennis history, achieving his **430th match** during the second round of the **Australian Open**. Djokovic won a challenging match against **Jaime Faria**, further solidifying his legacy as one of tennis' greatest players.
- India's ambition to host the **2036 Olympics** has taken a significant step forward, as officials from the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** and experts from diverse fields gather in Gujarat for a pivotal four-day event. This meeting, organized in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, focuses on developing strategies and innovative economic models to build sustainable sports infrastructure, essential for positioning India as a strong contender for hosting the prestigious global event.
- The **Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) 2025** were inaugurated amidst great enthusiasm at the iconic **NDS Stadium** in **Leh, Ladakh**, marking the commencement of the fifth edition of this national-level winter sports event. The first phase, hosted by the **Union Territory of Ladakh**, will run from **January 23 to January 27, 2025**, while the second phase, focusing on snow games, will be held in the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** from **February 22 to February 25, 2025**.
- **Indian Grandmaster Iniyen Panneerselvam** won the **9th Johor International Open Chess Tournament** in **Malaysia**, finishing 1.5 points ahead of his closest rival. The **22-year-old** from **Erode, Tamil Nadu** also triumphed at the **Chennai Open** earlier in January, strengthening his reputation as a rising star in **chess**.
- **Australia** won the **ICC Women's Championship** for the third consecutive time, securing 39 points from 24 matches. The championship, introduced in 2014, acts as a pathway to the **ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025**. **Alyssa Healy** received the trophy in Melbourne, with **India, England, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and New Zealand** also qualifying for the 2025 World Cup. The remaining teams will compete in a **Qualifier tournament**.
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- The **Odisha Warriors**, led by **Janneke Schopman**, won the inaugural **Women's Hockey India League (HIL)** title, defeating **Soorma Hockey Club** 2-1 in a thrilling final. The match, held at **Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Stadium** in

Ranchi, marked a redemption for Schopman. The Warriors' **resilience** and **tactical brilliance**, especially from **Ruturaj Dadaso Pisal**, secured their historic win.

- The **2025 Senior National Table Tennis Championships** concluded on **January 26** in **Surat**, with **Manush Shah** and **Diya Chitale** winning the **men's** and **women's singles** titles. Both champions represented the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, delivering exceptional performances in their respective finals.
- The **23rd National Para Athletics Championship 2025** unveiled its **official logo** and **mascot** on **January 16, 2025**. The **mascot** symbolizes the **determination** and **resilience** of para athletes, while the **logo** reflects the dynamic and inclusive nature of the event. Set in **Tamil Nadu**, the championship emphasizes **empowerment**, **equality**, and **inclusivity** in para sports.

Science & Technology

Science & Technology of June 2025

SATELLITES LAUNCHES

- India is embarking on the construction of its **first-ever Polar Research Vessel (PRV)** through an MoU signed between **GRSE** and **Norway's Kongsberg**. This vessel, to be used by **NCPOR**, will enhance India's role in **polar research** and reflect its **Make in India** prowess. Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal**, attending the **Nor-Shipping 2025** event in Norway, also promoted India's **MAHASAGAR vision**, encouraged **sustainable maritime investments**, and highlighted opportunities in **shipbuilding** and **green logistics**. This development marks a critical step in India's maritime transformation and global collaboration.
- **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**.

NATIONAL

- India is taking a **major step in AI infrastructure** by launching its first **AI-focused Special Economic Zone (SEZ)** in **Nava Raipur**, Chhattisgarh, with a **₹1,000 crore** investment by **RackBank Datacenters**. This **carbon-neutral data hub** aims to foster **AI research, development**, and employment, offering incentives under the **SEZ framework**. It is expected to attract **global tech giants** like **Google, Microsoft, and OpenAI**, and will provide **job opportunities** to local youth while supporting **digital transformation** nationwide.

- For the first time in Kerala, the **State Public Health Laboratory** has confirmed the presence of *Acanthamoeba spp.*—a fatal brain-infecting amoeba—in a human sample using **in-house developed molecular diagnostic kits**. This scientific advancement allows Kerala to carry out its own **confirmatory testing** for **amoebic encephalitis**, bypassing national labs and enabling early, effective treatment.
- Union Minister **Kamlesh Paswan** inaugurated **Garuda Aerospace's Agri-Drone Indigenization Facility** in **Chennai**, launching **300 Centres of Excellence (CoEs)** and the **DGCA-approved Train the Trainer (TTT)** programme. The 35,000 sq. ft. facility is equipped to manufacture **1 lakh drones by 2026**, aligning with **Prime Minister Modi's vision** of making India a **Global Drone Hub**. Live demonstrations by **Drone Didis**, collaboration with the **Bharat Drone Association**, and a focus on **self-reliance, skilling, and innovation** marked a transformative moment for the country's drone industry.
- India has marked a significant milestone in **cancer research** by developing a **one-step synthesis method** for **PEGylated nano-cups**, offering a **non-toxic, efficient alternative** for **photothermal therapy (PTT)**. Spearheaded by **INST Mohali** with contributions from **IIT Bombay** and **ACTREC**, this breakthrough utilizes **ZIF-8 MOF** and **ascorbic acid** to create **semi-shells** that can precisely **target and destroy cancerous tumors**, especially in **advanced breast cancer**. The innovation not only enhances **therapeutic efficacy** but also opens pathways for **biosensing** and **chemo-photothermal treatments**, making it a game-changer in **minimally invasive oncology**.





- India's participation in **international commercial spaceflight** has reached new heights as the **Axiom Mission 4** launch, featuring **Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla**, has been **rescheduled to June 22** due to safety checks in the **Zvezda module** of the **ISS**. The mission, led by **NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson** and operated by **Axiom Space**, includes astronauts from **India, Poland, and Hungary**, and will fly aboard the **SpaceX Falcon 9** using the **Dragon capsule**. With **ISRO's support**, this mission reflects India's evolving space ambitions and boosts its role in **low-Earth orbit (LEO)** scientific operations.
- Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has laid the **foundation stone** for a **Mini Planetarium and Astro Globe** at the **Hanle Dark Sky Reserve** in **Ladakh**, with a project outlay of **₹276.65 lakh** under the **Special Development Package**. The initiative supports **astro-tourism, public astronomy education, and local employment**, complementing the work of advanced observatories like **MACE**. The Minister also engaged with **nomadic communities**, distributing **goat-shearing machines**, and allocated **₹50 lakh** under **SBI's CSR** for constructing community tents.
- In a move set to accelerate India's entry into the **commercial space launch market**, **HAL** has secured a **₹511 crore** deal to manufacture and operate **SSLVs** under **ISRO's technology transfer programme**. The process will include **two years of support and training**, after which **HAL** will independently handle **SSLV** production. This milestone reflects India's strategic intent to empower its public sector units in **space commercialisation**, foster **private collaboration**, and position the country as a global **launch service provider** for small satellites.
- 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.
- 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**.
- 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.

INTERNATIONAL

- China launched the **Tianwen-2 mission** on **May 30, 2025**, targeting **asteroid 2016HO3** for **sample collection** and later exploring **comet 311P**. Led by **CNSA**, the mission is designed to yield **scientific insights** about the **solar system's origins**, particularly Earth's **water sources**. The mission represents China's growing role in **deep-space exploration**, further advancing its **space technology** after previous successes like **Tianwen-1** and its **lunar missions**.
- Snap Inc.** has announced the **launch of its first consumer-ready smart glasses**, called **Specs**, in **2026**, marking its serious entry into the **wearable augmented reality (AR)** market. This move challenges **Meta**, whose **Ray-Ban smart glasses** are gaining popularity. **Snap's** new product will be **lightweight, AR-integrated, and supported by the Lens Studio platform** in collaboration with **Niantic Spatial**. With **over \$3 billion invested** and five previous developer-only versions, **Snap** aims to expand its ecosystem and reduce dependence on digital ads.
- A **new COVID-19 variant, NB.1.8.1 (Nimbus)**, first identified in **January 2025**, is drawing global concern due to its **rapid spread** and a distinct symptom described as **"razor blade throat"**. Classified by the **WHO** as a **variant under monitoring**, **Nimbus**, a **descendant of Omicron**, has been detected in **22 countries** including the **US, UK, China, and parts of Asia**, accounting for **10.7% of sequenced cases** in late April.
- The **US FDA** has approved **Lenacapavir (Yeztugo)**, a **twice-yearly injectable drug** for **HIV prevention**, showing **99.9% efficacy** in Phase 3 trials. This breakthrough offers a **low-maintenance, long-acting** alternative to current **PrEP options**, with potential to **boost global compliance and reduce stigma**. Though not widely used in **India** due to high costs and absence in **national HIV programmes**, experts say the drug could transform **global public health outcomes** if supported by **WHO and donor agencies**.
- 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.





Science & Technology of May 2025

SATELLITES LAUNCHES

- China's **Tianwen-2 mission** will attempt to explore and collect samples from **469219 Kamo'oalewa**, a rare **quasi-satellite** that could hold answers to the **Moon's origin** and **orbital dynamics**. The mission employs **innovative sampling techniques** and, if successful, will solidify China's position in the global space race. The **scientific significance** and **technical challenges** of this mission mark it as a major step forward in **planetary exploration** and **asteroid science**.
- On **May 18, 2025**, **ISRO** faced a **rare launch failure** with its **PSLV-C61/EOS-09 mission** due to a **fall in pressure** in the **third-stage motor**. The **Earth observation satellite EOS-09**, equipped with **Synthetic Aperture Radar** and weighing over **1,696 kg**, could not be placed into its **targeted orbit**. The **setback** is notable as it breaks ISRO's **long-standing streak of successful PSLV launches**, with **post-failure analysis** currently underway to identify the **technical root cause** and strengthen **future mission reliability**.
- India and Japan's **Chandrayaan-5** (also called **LUPEX**) mission is advancing to the **design phase**, aiming to detect **water and water-ice** at the Moon's **south pole**. Scheduled for launch in **2027–28** on Japan's **H3 rocket**, the **6.5-tonne lander** and a **350-kg rover** equipped with **seven instruments** (from **ISRO, JAXA, ESA, and NASA**) will perform **in-situ scientific experiments**. The project marks a strong symbol of **global collaboration** and follows India's successful **Chandrayaan-3 mission**.

NATIONAL

- India's **Gaganyaan mission**, now in its **final phase**, aims to conduct its **first human spaceflight by 2027**. Announced by **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, this milestone reflects India's **technological self-reliance**, with successful **test missions**, astronaut **training programmes**, and **low-cost innovation**. The mission is propelling **space-tech spinoffs**, supporting **startups**, and aligns with India's vision for a **space station by 2035** and a **Moon mission by 2040**. It stands as a powerful symbol of India's rise as a **global space power**.
- Sarvam AI** has launched **Bulbul-v2**, an advanced **text-to-speech model** supporting **11 Indian languages** with **natural Indian accents**. Built for **real-time speech synthesis**, the model includes features like **pitch, pace, and loudness control**, **smart text preprocessing**, and **multiple audio sample rates**. As the **first Indian startup** chosen to build a **sovereign LLM** under the **IndiaAI mission**, Sarvam AI is contributing significantly to **linguistic accessibility** and **AI innovation** in India.

- India has strengthened its **space surveillance infrastructure** by signing an **MoU between ARIES (DST) and IRDE (DRDO)**. This collaboration aims to enhance **Space Situational Awareness (SSA)** through the use of **observational telescopes, Electro-Optical systems, and AI/ML-based analytics**. By integrating **scientific research** and **defense technologies**, the initiative is a key milestone in India's goal of becoming self-reliant in **space security and satellite tracking**.
- India has initiated a major **green transition** in the **cement sector** by launching five **Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU) testbeds** through a collaborative **academia-industry approach**. Spearheaded by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, this **national initiative** targets **industrial emissions** by capturing **CO₂** and transforming it into **valuable products**. The effort aligns with India's **Net Zero 2070 goals** and **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**, offering **scalable and innovative pathways** for **decarbonizing** one of the most **polluting industrial sectors**.
- The **Samudrayaan mission** marks a **historic step** for India in the field of **deep-sea exploration**, combining **advanced indigenous technology** and **scientific research** to explore ocean depths of **6,000 meters**. With objectives spanning **resource exploration, marine biodiversity study, and strategic maritime presence**, the mission positions India among a handful of nations with **manned ocean exploration capabilities**. This initiative is a vital component of the broader **Deep Ocean Mission**, supporting **sustainable development** and the **Blue Economy**, while showcasing India's growing expertise in **ocean technology and engineering**.
- India has announced its **first-ever biological space experiments** aboard the **International Space Station (ISS)** as part of the **AXIOM-4 mission**, conducted by **ISRO** and the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**. The initiative focuses on studying **microalgae** and **cyanobacteria** under **microgravity conditions** to evaluate their viability as **sustainable food sources** for future **long-duration space missions**. This scientific advancement aligns with the government's **BioE3 Policy (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment, and Employment)**, showcasing India's rising capabilities in **space biosciences** and **biomanufacturing innovation**.
- Doctors at **CHOP** and **Penn Medicine** used **customized CRISPR-based gene editing** to treat a **rare liver disorder** in baby **KJ**, making him the **first person to receive a personalized therapy of its kind**. The technique, known as **base editing**, precisely corrected his unique DNA mutation, showing promising results with improved health and minimal side effects. This breakthrough lays the groundwork for the treatment of **thousands of rare diseases** worldwide.





- NASA's **GRAIL mission**, launched in **2011**, has helped solve the puzzle of the Moon's **asymmetrical appearance**. Using dual satellites **Ebb** and **Flow**, the mission mapped the Moon's **gravity field**, revealing that the **nearside** has a **thinner crust**, **higher heat levels**, and was more **volcanically active** due to **heat-producing elements** like **thorium** and **titanium**. In contrast, the **farside** has a **thicker crust** and fewer lava plains. These differences are due to **gravitational asymmetry** and **tidal flexing**, caused by **Earth's gravitational pull**—a key insight into the Moon's **internal structure and thermal evolution**.
- GS1 has announced the **introduction of new-generation QR codes** from **2027** as part of its **Vision 2030** initiative. These QR codes, tested in **Australia** and other nations, will provide greater **transparency**, **traceability**, and **product information**. **India**, set to become the **third-largest economy**, plays a crucial role in GS1's roadmap, with the rollout depending on the **digital readiness of retailers and manufacturers**. The **GS1 General Assembly** was hosted in India for the first time, reinforcing the country's importance in **digital standardisation and consumer safety**.
- The butterfly species **Euthalia malaccana** has been newly documented in **Arunachal Pradesh**, India, after extensive fieldwork and scientific validation. This discovery extends its known range from Southeast Asia into India and contributes significantly to the understanding of **butterfly biodiversity** in the northeast. The study also highlights the role of **citizen scientists** in advancing ecological knowledge. Important keywords include **Euthalia malaccana**, **Arunachal Pradesh**, **butterfly biodiversity**, **citizen science**, and **Indo-Australian region**.
- Dr. **Jitendra Singh** inaugurated **Sagar Bhavan** and **Polar Bhavan** at **NCPOR, Goa** during its **Silver Jubilee** celebration, enhancing India's capabilities in **polar and ocean research**. These advanced facilities, costing **₹68 crore**, feature **state-of-the-art laboratories**, **3D climate visualization tools**, and India's first **Polar and Ocean Museum**. The initiative strengthens India's leadership in **global ocean governance**, aligns with the **Blue Economy** goals, and is backed by frameworks like the **Indian Antarctic Act (2022)** and **Arctic Policy (2022)**. India maintains robust research stations in the **Arctic**, **Antarctica**, and the **Himalayas**.
- The **Bharat Forecasting System (BFS)**, launched on **May 26, 2025**, is a state-of-the-art weather prediction platform developed by **IITM Pune** and powered by the **supercomputer Arka**. Offering **6-km resolution forecasts**—the **highest in the world**—it enhances localised weather forecasting, especially useful for **agriculture**, **disaster preparedness**, and **public safety**. With nowcasting capabilities and expanding Doppler radar support, BFS marks a **technological milestone** in India's meteorological advancement.
- India has been recognized on the global scientific stage as part of the **2025 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental**

Physics, awarded for groundbreaking research at the **Large Hadron Collider (LHC)**. Indian scientists, particularly in the **ALICE** and **CMS** experiments at **CERN**, contributed to discoveries related to **Higgs boson**, **quark-gluon plasma**, and **physics beyond the Standard Model**. The recognition highlights India's historic and ongoing leadership in **detector development**, **computing infrastructure**, **data analysis**, and **student training**, making it a **key partner** in international scientific collaboration.

- The **DRDO** inaugurated the **Quantum Technology Research Centre (QTRC)** at **Metcalfe House, Delhi**, on **May 27, 2025**, to accelerate **indigenous quantum innovation** in areas like **quantum communication**, **atomic timekeeping**, and **quantum sensing**. The centre includes **state-of-the-art setups** for testing lasers, **Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)** systems, **atomic clocks**, and **magnetometers**, playing a critical role in **post-quantum cryptography** and **national defence**. The initiative supports the **National Quantum Mission** and aligns with **India's vision of strategic self-reliance**.
- India has launched the **Electric Hansa (E-Hansa)** project, an **indigenous two-seater electric trainer aircraft** being developed by **CSIR-NAL**. It aligns with India's **green aviation goals** and is priced at half the cost of imported versions. Announced by **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, the initiative is part of a broader thrust on **technology commercialization**, **public-private partnerships**, and **scientific reforms**. The meeting also praised **ISRO** for the **SPADEX mission** and its role in **Operation Sindoor**, while proposing a **Whole-of-Government** approach to strengthen India's science ecosystem through **region-wise Chintan Shivirs**, **global science collaboration**, and student engagement in CSIR labs.

INTERNATIONAL

- Scientists have created the **first-ever pangenome** of **Asian rice** by analyzing **144 varieties** using advanced **HiFi sequencing**. This new genome map provides a **broader genetic base**, helping researchers design better **rice cultivars** with traits such as **drought resistance**, **disease tolerance**, and **climate resilience**. The study highlights rice's **evolutionary roots** in **Or-Illa wild rice**, offering pathways to improve crop **adaptation**, **yields**, and **food security**, especially in vulnerable regions like **India**.
- **FaceAge**, a new **AI tool** trained on over **58,000 portraits**, estimates a person's **biological age** using a **selfie**. It has shown the ability to improve **cancer survival predictions** and guide doctors on treatment intensity by identifying physiological frailty. The study, published in **The Lancet Digital Health**, noted that cancer patients appear **biologically older** than their real age, which links directly to worse outcomes. While promising for **personalized care**, the algorithm also raises **ethical questions** about potential **bias**, **misuse**, and the psychological impact of knowing one's biological age.





- Assam's debut of **AI anchor Ankita** marks a pivotal move in **digital governance** and **AI in media**. Unveiled by CM **Himanta Biswa Sarma**, Ankita presented **Cabinet highlights** in **Assamese**, including the **renaming of Dibrugarh Airport** and a **time grant for tea garden workers**. While the initiative showcases **technological innovation**, it also raises concerns about **employment displacement** in traditional media roles.
- On **May 22, 2025**, the **MoEFCC** announced the **21 winning ideas** under its '**Ideas4LiFE**' initiative, a citizen-driven program developed under the umbrella of **Mission LiFE**. In partnership with **UNICEF YuWaah**, the Ministry selected ideas focused on **seven sustainability themes**, including energy, water conservation, plastic reduction, and healthy lifestyles. The initiative drew **1384 entries** and was evaluated through a **rigorous three-phase selection process** to identify **innovative, feasible, and scalable solutions** aligned with India's commitment to **sustainable living and climate action**.
- Google Beam**, the latest evolution of **Project Starline**, is set to revolutionize **remote communication** using **AI-powered 3D video** and **light-field displays**. It offers a **realistic, dimensional video experience** that enables users to read emotions and expressions as if meeting in person. With built-in **speech translation** and partnerships with global companies like **Zoom**, **HP**, and **Deloitte**, Google Beam is expected to reshape **enterprise communication and cross-cultural collaboration** worldwide.
- Google's **AI Matryoshka strategy**, unveiled at **I/O 2025**, is a sweeping re-architecture of its services around **Gemini 2.5 models**, powerful **TPU hardware**, and agentic functionalities across search, apps, and commerce. Tools like **SynthID**, **Deep Search**, and **Gemini Canvas** highlight both innovation and the potential for **privacy intrusions**. With a **tiered access model**, concerns arise over whether **AI safety, ethical data usage, and transparency** will be universally enforced or remain features for premium users.
- In a significant boost to India's artificial intelligence ecosystem, **Microsoft** and **Yotta Data Services** have announced a strategic **partnership to support AI adoption** across the country. This collaboration will **integrate Microsoft Azure's AI services** with **Yotta's Shakti Cloud platform**, aiming to strengthen **domestic AI capabilities** and digital infrastructure. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's first **Agentic AI Hackathon**, organized by **Techvantage.ai** in collaboration with **CrewAI**, concluded during **Agentic AI Week** with over **1,500 participants** nationwide. Held across multiple cities and culminating at **Technopark, Kerala**, the month-long event focused on **autonomous AI solutions** for the **BFSI sector**, tackling challenges like **fraud detection, credit scoring, and regulatory compliance**, marking a major leap in India's **AI innovation ecosystem**.
- In a major boost to India's biodiversity documentation, scientists have discovered **six new species of scarab beetles** (Subfamily: **Sericinae**) in **Northeast India** and the **Western Ghats**, as published in *Zootaxa*. Species like **Maladera champhaiensis** (Mizoram), **Maladera onam** (Kerala), and **Serica subansiriensis** (Arunachal Pradesh) reflect the rich endemism of the **Eastern Himalayas** and **Western Ghats**, both key **biodiversity hotspots**.
- India has achieved a **major milestone** in secure communication with the successful testing of the country's **first Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)** over a **4-core Multi-Core Fibre (MCF)** by **C-DOT** and **Sterlite Technologies Ltd. (STL)**. The test sustained QKD transmission over **100 km**, using **one core for quantum signals** and the **other three for high-speed classical data**, showcasing the **cost-effective, interference-free advantages of MCF** for building a **national quantum communication network**.
- Aryabhata**, launched on **April 19, 1975**, was India's **first indigenously developed satellite**, marking a **historic milestone** in the nation's space journey. Developed by **ISRO** with a team of just **25 engineers**, it was launched aboard the **Soviet Kosmos-3M rocket** from **Kapustin Yar, Russia**, due to India's lack of indigenous launch capabilities. Named after the **5th-century mathematician and astronomer**.
- India is set to establish its **first Quantum Computing Village** in **Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh**, led by the **Real-Time Governance Society (RTGS)** with key collaborators **IBM, TCS, and L&T**. Spanning **50 acres**, the facility will feature the **IBM Quantum System Two**, a cutting-edge quantum computer, housed in an **iconic building** designed by **L&T** and conceptualized by **IBM**.
- India marked a major **medical breakthrough** with its **first-in-human gene therapy trial for Haemophilia**, led by **BRIC-inStem** and **CMC Vellore**, as highlighted during **Dr. Jitendra Singh's visit** to **BRIC-inStem, Bengaluru**. Emphasizing **biotechnology as a national pillar**, he noted the sector's rapid rise to **\$165.7 billion in 2024** (target: **\$300 billion by 2030**), powered by **10,000+ startups**, innovations like **anti-viral masks** and **Kisan Kavach**, and infrastructure such as the **Biosafety Level III Lab** and **CRATE Centre**.

Science & Technology of April 2025

NATIONAL

- IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation** successfully completed training for the first batch of **Cyber Commandos**, a specialized program aimed at enhancing **cybersecurity** skills among law enforcement officers in India. The **Cyber Commandos Programme**, initiated by the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs**, trained **37 officers** in advanced cybersecurity techniques to combat growing **cyber threats**.

INTERNATIONAL

- Microsoft** celebrates its **50th anniversary** on **April 4, 2025**, marking its evolution from a **PC software pioneer** to a **global tech leader** in **cloud computing and AI**. Founded in **1975** by **Bill Gates and Paul Allen**, Microsoft revolutionized computing with **MS-DOS**, later dominating with **Windows** and productivity tools. Now, it is focusing on **AI innovation** to drive future growth, solidifying its position as a **technology powerhouse**.





- On April 6, 2025, Meta, led by CEO Mark Zuckerberg, launched its next-gen Llama-4 AI suite, featuring three cutting-edge models — Scout (a top-tier multimodal model), Maverick (Meta's flagship AI assistant), and Behemoth (its most powerful LLM, designed as a teacher model). This strategic move intensifies Meta's position in the global AI race, directly challenging OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Gemini, and rising players like China's DeepSeek.
- Bangladesh became the 54th country to sign the Artemis Accords, promoting peaceful, sustainable, and transparent space exploration. The signing, led by Ashraf Uddin, Bangladesh's Secretary of Defense, emphasizes the country's commitment to safe space exploration and international collaboration. The Artemis Accords, based on frameworks like the Outer Space Treaty, guide nations in cooperative space activities, with NASA's Artemis program aiming to return humans to the Moon and explore Mars. Bangladesh's participation enhances its role in space exploration, fostering ties with spacefaring nations and NASA.
- Colossal Biosciences, a biotech firm based in Dallas, has made history by reviving the extinct dire wolf (Canis dirus) after 12,500 years using CRISPR gene-editing and DNA from ancient fossils. Three dire wolf puppies—Romulus, Remus, and Khaleesi—were born using gray wolf cells and domestic dog surrogates. Though hailed as a major de-extinction milestone, the breakthrough faces ecological and ethical concerns over authenticity and modern adaptability.
- On April 14, 2025, coinciding with World Quantum Day and the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology (IYQST 2025), the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) released India's first International Technology Engagement Strategy for Quantum (ITES-Q). Launched by Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, the strategy aligns with the National Quantum Mission (NQM) and marks India's first outward-facing roadmap in Quantum Science, Technology & Innovation (QSTI), aiming to accelerate innovation, enhance strategic autonomy, and promote global partnerships and standards in quantum technology.
- Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket completed a historic 10-minute suborbital spaceflight from Van Horn, Texas, featuring the first all-female crew since 1963. The crew included Katy Perry, Gayle King, Lauren Sánchez, Aisha Bowie, Amanda Nguyen, and Kerianne Flynn, symbolizing diversity, empowerment, and the fusion of science and pop culture. The mission crossed the Kármán line (100 km), showcased microgravity activities, and was witnessed by celebrities like Oprah Winfrey and Mae Jemison. It marked a milestone in reusable commercial spaceflight, gender representation, and inclusive exploration.
- In a breakthrough discovery, scientists from Cambridge University using NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) have detected potential biosignature molecules—Dimethyl Sulphide (DMS) and Dimethyl Disulphide (DMDS)—in the atmosphere of exoplanet K2-18b, located 124 light-years away in the Leo constellation. These molecules, produced by marine phytoplankton and bacteria on Earth, suggest possible extraterrestrial life, marking a significant advancement in astrobiology.
- The NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) mission, a landmark Earth observation collaboration between ISRO and NASA, is now expected to launch in June 2025 aboard a GSLV. Designed to monitor glacier retreat, vegetation change, earthquakes, and ground deformation with 1 cm precision, it will advance climate and disaster models. Originally set for 2024, the launch was delayed due to a 12-metre antenna issue, which required upgrades in the US. NISAR marks the first major NASA-ISRO Earth science mission, showcasing joint space innovation.
- NASA is developing the Quantum Gravity Gradiometer Pathfinder (QGGPf), a compact (125 kg) and highly sensitive quantum sensor that will map Earth's gravity field with ten times more precision than traditional methods. Designed for space deployment, the QGGPf will detect tiny gravitational shifts linked to subsurface features like moving water, earthquakes, and mineral deposits, with space tests targeted by the end of this decade.
- The Bullseye Galaxy (LEDA 1313424), located 567 million light-years away in the Pisces constellation, is a giant elliptical galaxy about 2.5 times larger than the Milky Way, spanning 250,000 light-years. It features an unprecedented nine glowing star rings, likely formed after a blue dwarf galaxy collided with its core 50 million years ago, triggering ripple effects and new star formation.
- The Spaghetti Bowl Phenomenon, coined by economist Jagdish Bhagwati in 1995, describes the confusing, overlapping network of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) that complicate global trade instead of simplifying it. Caused largely by differing Rules of Origin (ROO) in each agreement, this tangled system creates inefficiencies and challenges for businesses navigating multiple FTAs.
- Beijing hosted the world's first Humanoid Robot Half-Marathon, where robots and humans ran in parallel lanes, marking a symbolic blend of sport and technology. Featuring 20 robot teams with machines ranging from 120 cm to 180 cm, the event highlighted innovations in robot design, AI endurance, and engineering support like battery pit stops. While the fastest human clocked 1:02 hrs, the top robot, Tiangong Ultra, finished in 2:40 hrs.
- Don Pettit, the oldest serving U.S. astronaut, returned to Earth on April 21, 2025, marking his 70th birthday. His spacecraft, Soyuz MS-26, landed in Kazakhstan after completing a 220-day mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS). Pettit, a chemical engineer, has now logged 590 days in space over four missions, reinforcing his legacy as one of NASA's most seasoned astronauts.





Science & Technology of March 2025

SATELLITES LAUNCHES

- NASA's **IM-2 mission**, launched on **February 26, 2025**, targets the **lunar south pole's Mons Mouton** to explore **water ice** and **rare minerals** for future lunar bases. The mission also aims to deploy **Nokia's 4G/LTE network**, enabling **high-speed communication** on the Moon. These objectives could support sustained **lunar habitation** and future **Mars missions**.
- India's **Aditya-L1 mission**, the first dedicated **solar observatory**, has captured the first-ever image of a **solar flare 'kernel'** in the **photosphere** and **chromosphere**. This groundbreaking discovery will enhance understanding of the **Sun's energy bursts** and **solar dynamics**.
- On **March 3, 2025**, **Firefly Aerospace's Blue Ghost spacecraft** successfully landed on the **Moon**, marking a major milestone in **private space exploration**. As part of **NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS)** program, it is the **third private moon mission** and the first with an almost flawless landing. The year 2025 is expected to see more **lunar missions** focused on **scientific research**, **exploration**, and **technology demonstration**.
- SpaceX's Starlink** is set to launch its **satellite-based broadband services** in India, partnering with telecom giants **Reliance Jio** and **Bharti Airtel** to offer **high-speed internet**, especially in **rural and remote areas**. However, **regulatory approvals** from the Indian government are still pending. The impact of Starlink on India's **broadband market** in terms of **speed**, **pricing**, and **availability** remains to be seen.
- NASA is set to launch two groundbreaking missions, **SPHEREx** and **PUNCH**, aboard a **SpaceX Falcon rocket**. **SPHEREx** will map cosmic light from the earliest galaxies using **infrared detectors**, providing insights into the **Big Bang** and **cosmic history**. **PUNCH** will study the **Sun's corona** and **solar wind** using **polarimetric imaging**, enhancing our understanding of **solar storms** and **space weather**.

NATIONAL

- Union IT Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** launched the **IndiaAI Compute Portal** and **AIKosha Dataset Platform** under the **IndiaAI Mission** to accelerate AI innovation in India. The Compute Portal provides access to **18,000+ GPUs**, **cloud storage**, and **AI-related services**, supporting **students**, **startups**, **researchers**, and **government departments**. It aims to offer **affordable**, **high-performance AI computing** and facilitate the development of **India's own foundational AI model**.

- Bharti Airtel** and **Reliance Jio** have signed agreements with **SpaceX** to bring **Starlink** satellite internet to **India**, aiming to bridge the digital divide, especially in **remote and underserved areas**. Starlink, a satellite-based internet service, uses a network of **low Earth orbit (LEO) satellites** to provide high-speed internet without traditional infrastructure. With **7,000 satellites in operation** and **4.6 million users** globally, the service aims to serve India's **670 million people** lacking internet access. The deal is pending **security clearance** from the Indian **Home Ministry**.
- India has become a global space leader, generating **USD 143 million** in foreign exchange by launching **393 foreign satellites** from **34 countries** between **2015 and 2024**. The **ISRO** used **PSLV**, **LVM3**, and **SSLV** vehicles for these launches. This success strengthens India's position in the **global space economy** and sets the stage for future missions like **Gaganyaan** and the **Bharatiya Antariksha Station** by **2035**.
- India's **Chandrayaan-5 mission** was approved on **March 13, 2025**, and announced by **ISRO Chairman V Narayanan**. In collaboration with **Japan (JAXA)**, the mission aims for an advanced study of the **Moon's surface**. Unlike **Chandrayaan-3**, it will deploy a **250 kg rover**, ten times heavier than the '**Pragyan**' rover. The mission will focus on **mineralogical** and **geological analysis** of the Moon.
- ISRO** launched the **Shri S Ramakrishnan Centre of Excellence in Fluid and Thermal Science Research** at **IIT Madras**, inaugurated by **ISRO Chairman V Narayanan**. The facility will focus on **thermal challenges** in space applications, including **heat dissipation** in **satellites** and **launch vehicles**, and develop **cooling solutions**. This initiative aims to enhance **India's self-reliance** in space technologies and strengthen research for **future deep-space missions**.
- ISRO**, in collaboration with **Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL)**, developed two **32-bit microprocessors** for space applications: **Vikram 3201** and **Kalpana 3201**. **Vikram 3201** is India's first indigenous microprocessor qualified for space missions, supporting **floating-point arithmetic** and compatible with previous models. **Kalpana 3201**, a **SPARC V8 RISC** processor, is efficient for high-speed processing and compatible with open-source software. Both processors support India's **self-reliance** in **high-performance computing** for space missions.
- Tata Communications** launched **Vayu**, an **AI-powered cloud solution** offering **cost-effective**, **flexible**, and **intelligent enterprise cloud services**. Vayu integrates **IaaS**, **PaaS**, **AI capabilities**, **security**, **cloud connectivity**, and **professional services**. It provides **15-25% cost savings**, eliminates **data egress charges**, and reduces **multi-cloud complexities**, positioning itself as a next-gen cloud fabric to optimize performance and **cost efficiency**.





- A human coronavirus HKU1 case was reported in **Kolkata**, raising concerns. Medical experts clarified that **HKU1**, identified in **2005**, causes **mild respiratory illnesses** and does not pose a pandemic threat like **Covid-19**. The patient is stable, and the virus spreads through **respiratory droplets** and **surface contact**. Vulnerable individuals, including the **elderly, children, pregnant women**, and those with weakened immune systems, should take precautions.

INTERNATIONAL

- Researchers from **China** and **Japan** have provided evidence that **niobium diselenide (NbSe₂)** could exhibit a **Bose metal** state, where **Cooper pairs** form but fail to condense into a **superconducting state**. This discovery challenges traditional theories about metals and is a significant advancement in **condensed matter physics**, as reported in **Physical Review Letters** on **February 13, 2025**.
- On **March 3, 2025**, **Firefly Aerospace's Blue Ghost spacecraft** successfully landed on the **Moon**, marking a major milestone in **private space exploration**. As part of **NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS)** program, it is the **third private moon mission** and the first with an almost flawless landing. The year 2025 is expected to see more **lunar missions** focused on **scientific research, exploration, and technology demonstration**.
- Mycelium bricks, made from the fibrous network of fungi, are an innovative **eco-friendly** material being explored in the construction industry to reduce **carbon footprint**. These **biodegradable** and **fire-resistant** bricks offer good **insulation** and can help reduce **CO₂ emissions** from traditional fired clay bricks. However, they face challenges such as **structural limitations, moisture vulnerability**, and **higher production costs**, particularly in India's **tropical climate**.
- **Google** has launched **Gemma 3**, a lightweight **AI model** designed for efficient performance on devices like **smartphones, laptops**, and other platforms. Built on the technology of **Gemini 2.0**, Gemma 3 offers **low-latency processing** on a single **GPU** or **TPU** host, enhancing user experience with its efficient capabilities.

Science & Technology of February 2025

SATELLITES LAUNCHES

- The **ISRO**-launched **NVS-02 navigation satellite** on **January 29, 2025**, encountered a **technical issue** post-launch. Although the satellite's **solar panels** deployed and communication was established, a **malfunctioning valve** prevented the **Liquid Apogee Motor (LAM)** from firing, hindering its **orbit-raising maneuvers**. As a result, **NVS-02** remains in an **elliptical Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)** instead of its intended **geostationary orbit**.

- The **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)** successfully launched the **fifth H-3 rocket** carrying the **Michibiki No. 6 satellite** from the **Tanegashima Space Center**. This satellite will enhance Japan's **positioning system**, a counterpart to the **U.S. GPS**. The launch took place at **5:30 p.m.** and successfully placed the satellite into its designated orbit.

NATIONAL

- Researchers at **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)** have discovered a new species of **phytopathogenic fungus, Epicoccum indicum**, responsible for **leaf spot disease** in **Chrysopogon zizanioides (vetiver)**. This significant finding, published in **Fungal Diversity**, enhances agricultural research, as vetiver is vital for **medicinal** and **environmental** uses. The discovery was made by **Raghvendra Singh** and **Soumyadeep Rajwar** using **molecular phylogenetic analysis**.
- **ISRO** unveiled its new **FEAST 2025** software at the **8th National Finite Element Developers'/FEAST Users' Meet (NAFED08)** held at **IIT Hyderabad**. The event, in collaboration with **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**, gathered over 250 experts from **academia, industry, and research institutions** to discuss **advancements in finite element-based structural analysis**.
- **ISRO** and **IIT Madras** have developed the **IRIS (Indigenous RISC-V Microprocessor for Space Applications)**, an **indigenous semiconductor chip**. This achievement supports India's **Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiative, aiming for **self-reliance in space technology** and reducing reliance on **foreign tech**.
- India launched '**Srjanam**', the first **automated biomedical waste conversion system**, at **AIIMS Delhi** on **February 10, 2025**. Inaugurated by **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, this **eco-friendly** and **cost-effective** innovation, developed by **CSIR-NIIST**, aims to reduce environmental hazards by eliminating the need for **incineration**, offering an alternative to traditional **biomedical waste disposal** methods.
- The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** and the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** have signed a **Letter of Intent (LoI)** to explore the potential of **AI-driven digital twin technologies**. This partnership aims to integrate advancements like **5G, IoT, AI, and AR/VR** to create virtual models for **real-time monitoring and simulations**, transforming **urban and infrastructure planning**.
- **Google** has unveiled **Ananta**, its largest campus in **India**, located in **Mahadevapura, Bengaluru**. Named after the Sanskrit word for "infinite," Ananta is a hub of **innovation, collaboration, and sustainability**, emphasizing India's role in global **technology and AI advancements**.





- ISRO has developed a **10-tonne vertical planetary mixer**, the largest of its kind, for **solid propellant production**. Created in collaboration with **Central Manufacturing Technology Institute (CMTI)**, Bengaluru, the mixer enhances the efficiency and safety of **solid rocket motor manufacturing**. This milestone improves productivity, quality, and throughput in rocket motor production, reflecting India's growing **space technology** capabilities and commitment to **self-reliance**.

INTERNATIONAL

- The **Ocean Coordination Mechanism (OCM)** has been launched to address challenges facing the **Caribbean and North Brazil shelf**, aiming to protect **marine life** and ensure **sustainable resource management**. With oceans covering over **70%** of the Earth's surface, OCM focuses on **biodiversity preservation**, **climate change resilience**, and combating **pollution**, **overfishing**, and **habitat destruction**.
- Researchers at the **University of Queensland** have successfully created **kangaroo embryos** through **in vitro fertilization (IVF)**, marking a breakthrough in **conservation science**. This advancement in **assisted reproductive technologies (ART)** could help protect endangered **marsupial species** like **koalas**, **Tasmanian devils**, and **northern hairy-nosed wombats** from extinction.
- Israeli researchers from the **University of Haifa** have discovered brain mechanisms involved in recognizing others' **emotional states**. Their study, published in **Current Biology**, highlights the **medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC)**'s role in **emotional recognition** and behavior. This breakthrough could have implications for treating **social disorders** like **autism**, where emotional perception and social interaction are often challenging. ()
- A research team led by **Professor Wang Min** from the **Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology** has discovered two **Jurassic-era bird fossils** in **Fujian Province, China**, dated to about **149 million years ago**. The findings, published in **Nature**, challenge prior assumptions about bird evolution and show greater **diversification** by the end of the **Jurassic period**. The discovery of **Baminornis zhenghensis**, the oldest **short-tailed bird**, extends the origin of this feature by **20 million years**, refining the understanding of **avian evolution**.
- The **European Space Agency's (ESA) Euclid telescope**, launched on **July 1, 2023**, began its six-year mission to explore the **dark Universe**. In **September 2023**, during initial testing, **Euclid** discovered a rare **Einstein Ring** in **NGC 6505**, located **590 million light-years** away. The ring, formed by **gravitational lensing** from a distant galaxy **4.42 billion light-years** away, underscores **Euclid's** capabilities in uncovering

- cosmic secrets, advancing our understanding of **gravity**, **dark matter**, and **dark energy**.
- The **International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER)**, under construction in **France**, is the world's largest tokamak-based fusion reactor. A collaborative project involving **35 nations**, including the **US**, **China**, **India**, and **EU**, ITER aims to develop **magnetic confinement fusion** as a sustainable, carbon-free energy source. Its main goal is to achieve **burning plasma**, where the fusion reaction sustains itself. While not generating electricity, ITER will be a critical step toward future **commercial fusion power plants**.
 - Elon Musk's **xAI** launched **Grok 3**, a highly advanced AI chatbot, hailed as the **most intelligent AI** ever developed. The launch attracted nearly **100,000 viewers** and highlighted Grok 3's exceptional capabilities. The development required **massive computing power**, with **100,000 GPUs** set up in just **122 days** and the **H100 cluster** doubled in **92 days**. This immense infrastructure has significantly enhanced Grok 3's **speed**, **accuracy**, and **reasoning abilities**, positioning it as one of the **most sophisticated AI systems**.
 - **Microsoft** has unveiled its **Majorana 1 chip**, a quantum processor using a **novel topological core architecture**. This innovation introduces **topological qubits**, which are more **robust against errors** compared to traditional quantum chips, offering a stable and scalable solution for solving **complex industrial and scientific problems**.
 - Chinese researchers at the **Wuhan Institute of Virology** discovered a new bat coronavirus, **HKU5-CoV-2**, which can infect human cells via the **ACE2 receptor**, similar to **SARS-CoV-2**. The virus belongs to the **merbecovirus** subgenus and shares similarities with **MERS**. While it has a lower binding efficiency, the presence of a **furin cleavage site** suggests it could still pose a risk for zoonotic transmission, highlighting the need for continuous surveillance of bat-borne viruses.
 - **Microsoft** introduced **Magma**, a groundbreaking **multimodal AI model** that understands both **images** and **language** in digital and physical environments. Unlike traditional **vision-language models**, Magma integrates **verbal and spatial intelligence**, allowing it to perform **UI navigation** and **robotic manipulation** with greater precision. Developed by researchers from multiple universities, Magma is the first model to interpret and act on multimodal inputs in real-world tasks.
 - **John McFall**, a **British astronaut** and former **Paralympian** with a **prosthetic leg**, has been **medically cleared** by the **European Space Agency (ESA)** for long-duration missions to the **International Space Station (ISS)**. This historic decision highlights ESA's commitment to **inclusive space exploration**. McFall, who lost his leg in a motorcycle accident at 19, is also a **trauma surgeon** and was part of an ESA study exploring astronauts with **physical disabilities**.





Science & Technology of January 2025

SATELLITES LAUNCHES

- India's space journey takes a giant leap as ISRO successfully launched the SpaDeX mission to demonstrate space docking capabilities, marking a key milestone in space exploration. Launched from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC SHAR)** on December 30, 2024, the **PSLV-C60 rocket** carried two small spacecraft, SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target), to low-Earth orbit. This mission sets the stage for autonomous docking and undocking technologies, positioning ISRO as the fourth global player in this field after Russia, the US, and China.
- Blue Origin** is set to launch its **New Glenn rocket** on **January 10, 2025**, from **Cape Canaveral**, marking a key milestone in space exploration. The rocket, standing at **320 feet** tall, can carry up to **45 metric tons** to **low Earth orbit (LEO)**. Powered by **seven BE-4 engines**, the mission will deploy a **Blue Ring payload tug** and a **hoisting platform**. Key objectives include **design validation**, **payload deployment**, and earning **NSSL certification**. Notably, the rocket's **reusable first stage** will land on the **marine vessel "Jacklyn"**, promoting sustainability.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has successfully docked two satellites in space, marking **India as the fourth country to achieve this feat after the United States, Russia, and China**. The docking process, part of the SpaDeX (Space Docking Exercise) mission, demonstrates ISRO's capability to conduct autonomous satellite docking. This milestone is critical for future missions like Chandrayaan-4 and the planned Bharatiya Antariksh Station.
- ISRO** achieved a major milestone in space docking with the **SpaDeX** mission, testing spacecraft **rendezvous**, **docking**, and **undocking** technologies. On **January 12, 2025**, ISRO successfully brought **SDX01 (Chaser)** and **SDX02 (Target)** within **3 meters** of each other. This positions India as the **4th country** to accomplish this complex maneuver, following the **USA, Russia, and China**.
- ISRO** achieved a historic milestone with its **100th launch** from **Sriharikota**. The **GSLV-F15 rocket** successfully placed the **NVS-02** navigation satellite into **Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)**, boosting India's **NavIC system** and enhancing its **self-reliance** in satellite navigation.

NATIONAL

- IIT Madras** has partnered with the **Ministry of Agriculture** to launch **Project VISTAAR**, aimed at digitalizing India's **agricultural extension system**. The project will enhance access to **advisory services**, **innovative technologies**, and government schemes. It will also integrate solutions from over **12,000 agriculture-focused start-ups** through the **Centre for Research on Start-ups and Risk Financing**, improving **crop production**, **marketing**, and **supply chain management**.

- Microsoft**, under **CEO Satya Nadella**, has partnered with the **Indian government** and businesses to boost **AI development** in India. Collaborating with the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** under the **IndiaAI Mission**, the focus is on fostering an inclusive AI ecosystem, promoting **ethical AI**, and investing **\$3 billion** in **cloud and AI infrastructure** over two years. This initiative aims to accelerate AI adoption, skilling, and innovation across the country.
- IIT-Madras** has commissioned **Asia's largest shallow wave basin** at its **Discovery campus** in **Thaiyur, Chennai**, developed using **indigenous technology**. The facility, in collaboration with **NTPCWC** and the **Ministry of Shipping**, simulates complex wave and current interactions. It supports **coastal engineering**, **port research**, and **climate change studies**, enabling testing of **coastal structures**, **floating solar plants**, and post-impact analyses.
- The **Western Ghats** has been identified as a key hotspot for threatened **freshwater species** in the **IUCN Red List** assessment. The study reveals that **one-quarter** of global freshwater species face high extinction risk, with the Western Ghats being crucial for **biodiversity conservation**. The assessment covers **23,496 species**, including **crustaceans**, **fishes**, and **odonates**, highlighting key **extinction risks and threats**.
- India's private space sector achieved a milestone with **Pixxel** and **Digantara** launching satellites aboard a **SpaceX rocket**. **Pixxel** deployed **hyperspectral imaging satellites** to monitor agriculture, defense, and climate, with **high-resolution imagery** for vegetation, water, and atmospheric conditions. Their first **"Firefly" satellites** offer six times the resolution of standard systems, and the company plans further expansion. **Digantara** launched the **SCOT satellite**, a **commercial tracker** for space objects as small as 5 cm in **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**, addressing space debris and congestion. Both missions focus on **sustainability** and **space safety**.
- ISRO** achieved a milestone in **space agriculture** by successfully germinating **black-eyed pea (lobia)** seeds aboard its **Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies (CROPS)**. The **CROPS-1 Mission** demonstrated plant growth in a spacecraft's controlled environment, simulating Earth-like conditions. This breakthrough highlights the potential for sustainable **food sources** for **long-duration space missions**, addressing astronauts' **nutritional** and **psychological needs**.
- Sarla Aviation**, a Bengaluru-based aerospace startup, has unveiled **'Shunya,' India's first electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) air taxi prototype**. This marks a significant advancement in urban air mobility, aiming to alleviate traffic congestion and pollution in Indian cities.





- **DeepSeek** is a leading **AI company** specializing in **machine learning (ML)**, **natural language processing (NLP)**, and **data analytics** to develop intelligent solutions for various industries. By combining advanced AI technologies with real-world problem-solving, DeepSeek aims to create **scalable**, **efficient**, and **ethical AI solutions** to benefit businesses, governments, and individuals.
- India is set to launch its first **human-operated underwater submersible** as part of the **Deep Ocean Mission**. Initially designed for depths of **500 meters**, it aims to reach **6,000 meters** by next year, marking a significant step in **deep-sea exploration**, **resource identification**, and advancing **marine and space technologies**.
- Recent findings show the **Magnetic North Pole** is shifting rapidly toward **Siberia** and **Russia**, impacting navigation, animal migration, and communication systems. Earth's **geomagnetic field** is dynamic, caused by molten metals in the outer core. The **Magnetic North Pole** was first located in 1831 by James Clark Ross and has been moving ever since.
- **BIMTECH** has launched **BIMCOIN**, a **blockchain-powered digital currency** for secure and efficient transactions on its campus. This makes BIMTECH the first business school in India to adopt such technology, following **IIT Madras**. The initiative marks a forward-thinking approach to integrating **blockchain technology** into the academic setting.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV)**, discovered in **2001**, causes respiratory infections similar to **RSV**. It affects **children**, the **elderly**, and **immunocompromised individuals**. Symptoms include **cough**, **fever**, **runny nose**, and **shortness of breath**. HMPV spreads via **respiratory droplets** and can cause **bronchitis** or **pneumonia** in severe cases. **No specific antiviral treatment** or **vaccine** is available. Recently, **India** reported cases in **Bengaluru**, and **China** saw a rise in cases. **Preventive measures** include **handwashing**, wearing **masks**, and avoiding close contact.
- A fragment of the **original Wright Flyer fabric** from the **1903 Kitty Hawk flight** will be unveiled at the **Frontiers of Flight Museum**, Dallas, on **October 2, 2025**. Donated by **Neil Armstrong's family**, this piece was carried by Armstrong during the **Apollo 11 mission** in 1969, symbolizing the link between early aviation and space exploration. The exhibit will also feature an authentic **Apollo 11 patch**.
- **Blue Origin** successfully launched its **New Glenn** rocket on its maiden test flight, named after **John Glenn**, the first American to orbit Earth. The **320-foot rocket** carried a **prototype satellite** into orbit during a **six-hour mission**, with the second stage reaching a **high orbit** to minimize space debris. This milestone marks Blue Origin's entry into competitive **space exploration** alongside **SpaceX** and **NASA**.

- **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)**, also called "**Zombie Deer Disease**", is spreading among wildlife like **deer**, **moose**, and **elk**. While concerns about its transmission to humans have arisen, especially in **hunters** consuming infected meat, the evidence linking CWD to **Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD)** in humans remains inconclusive. Further research is needed to assess the actual risk of human transmission.
- The **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** has discovered a new species of **Indo-Burmese pangolin**, **Manis indoburmanica**, which diverged from the **Chinese pangolin** around **3.4 million years ago**. Using advanced **genetic tools** to analyze mitochondrial genomes, this groundbreaking find sheds light on the species' unique evolutionary history and underscores its importance for **pangolin conservation** and **biodiversity** in the Indo-Burma region, a global biodiversity hotspot.
- **Elon Musk's X** (formerly Twitter) is set to launch **X Money**, a **digital wallet** powered by **Visa**, as part of its strategy to evolve into a "**super app**". This move aims to integrate **payment services** with its existing features, competing with apps like **WeChat**, offering everything from **messaging** to **financial transactions**.
- **Alibaba** launched a new **AI model**, claiming it outperforms **DeepSeek**, **ChatGPT**, and **Llama** in **natural language processing**. The model boasts improved **natural language understanding**, **context-aware responses**, and better performance in handling **complex queries**. With increased **efficiency**, **scalability**, and **real-time response capabilities**, Alibaba aims to position itself as a strong competitor in the **AI landscape**.
- **Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla** will become the first **Indian astronaut** to pilot a space mission to the **International Space Station (ISS)** as part of **Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4)**, a private spaceflight scheduled for spring 2025. The mission, in collaboration with **NASA**, will see astronauts conduct research, educational outreach, and commercial activities aboard the **SpaceX Dragon capsule**. This milestone continues India's **space exploration journey**, following Rakesh Sharma's historic flight.
- **Sunita Williams**, an Indian-origin astronaut, has set a new record for the **longest spacewalking time by a woman**, surpassing **Peggy Whitson's** previous record. Williams now has **62 hours and 6 minutes** of spacewalking time across **nine spacewalks**. This milestone was achieved during a **maintenance spacewalk** on the **International Space Station (ISS)** alongside astronaut **Butch Wilmore**, as they remain stranded on the ISS since June 2024 due to technical issues with **Boeing's Starliner spacecraft**.





Schemes/ Apps / Portal

National Schemes/ Apps of June 2025

CENTRAL GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	Purpose
MGNREGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a significant shift, the Centre has capped MGNREGS expenditure at 60% for the first half of FY 2025–26, bringing the scheme under the MEP/QEP framework for the first time. This move comes amid pending liabilities of ₹21,000 crore, and may affect the scheme's employment generation capacity. With an annual allocation of ₹86,000 crore and an ambitious labour target of 198.86 crore persondays, the decision marks a major policy shift in how the demand-driven MGNREGS is financially managed. While it aims at fiscal control, concerns remain about potential job shortfalls in rural areas.
JAIHIND scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delhi University has launched the JAIHIND scheme to empower Scheduled Tribe (ST) students from remote regions by providing basic computer training and CUET preparation support. The programme targets school students (Classes 9–12) and addresses challenges like lack of digital access and unfamiliarity with online admission processes. With the first batch of 25 students from Ukhrul, Manipur, the initiative is fully funded by DU and is envisioned as an annual skill-building programme to support tribal participation in higher education.
Indian Railways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
NAVYA Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
SIGHT Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Top National Players Stipend Scheme (TNPSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Central Govt NPS retirees (≥10 years service) retired on/before Mar 31, 2025 Apply by: June 30, 2025 Lump sum: 1/10th of last basic + DA per 6 months of service Top-up pension: Difference between UPS & NPS annuity Interest: Arrears at PPF rate Launched: Jan 2025, assures 50% avg last 12-month basic pay





Name of Initiative	Purpose
SPMEPCI (EV Manufacturing Scheme)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15% customs duty on EV CBUs ≥\$35,000 (CIF) • Valid for 5 years • Import quota: 8,000 EVs/year with rollover • Greenfield & brownfield investment eligible • Goal: Promote domestic EV industry, clean mobility • Minister: H.D. Kumaraswamy • Tesla: Interested in showrooms, not manufacturing
Krishi Nivesh Portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrates agri-schemes across 14 central & 9 state depts • Covers: 17 major schemes (AIF, AHIDF, PM-KUSUM, etc.) • Centralized portal for: tracking, applications, scheme info • Focus: PPP, credit-linked, VC, startups • Goal: Boost private agri-investment, improve infra & value chains • FY25 Allocation: ₹1.31 lakh crore
PM-WANI Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRAI capped tariffs for PDOs under PM-WANI • PM-WANI plans previously 2× costlier than FTTH <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 Mbps: ₹1,532.82 (PM-WANI) vs ₹706.82 (FTTH) • Draft Order: 70th Amendment (Aug 2024) • DoT Amendment (Sep 2024): No need for commercial contracts with ISPs • Aim: Affordable, inclusive public Wi-Fi
CEGSSC – SC Credit Guarantee Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched: May 6, 2015 • Agency: IFCI Ltd. • For SC-owned firms/individuals with ≥51% ownership • Guarantee Cover: ₹0.15 – ₹5 crore • Tenure: Up to 7 years • Monitoring by special bank cells & SLBCs

STATE GOVT SCHEMES

Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Himachal Pradesh has launched the Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojana to improve green cover and provide employment opportunities through community participation. • Introduced by CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, the scheme involves Mahila Mandals, Yuvak Mandals, and SHGs in forest restoration on degraded lands. Complementing this is the Green Adoption Scheme, which brings in corporate players like Ambuja, Adani, and UltraTech for large-scale plantations. • Additionally, Van Mitras were inducted to address staff shortages in the forest department, and the event highlighted the state's commitment to women empowerment and sustainable forest management.
Punjab Udyog Kranti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Punjab Udyog Kranti, launched on June 10, 2025, marks a significant shift in industrial governance in India. • With its 12 bold reforms, including the FastTrack Punjab Portal, deemed approvals in 45 days, and colour-coded stamp papers, Punjab aims to eliminate bureaucratic red tape and foster a business-friendly environment. • Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal have positioned Punjab as a national leader in industrial policy reform, making it a potential magnet for investment, innovation, and employment generation.





Karnataka government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Vidya Shakti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Uttar Pradesh Reserves 20% Police Posts for Ex-Agniveers under Agneepath Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a significant step to honour and rehabilitate military-trained youth, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has approved 20% horizontal reservation for former Agniveers in direct police recruitment. Announced the policy will be implemented from 2026, aligning with the return of the first Agniveer batch from the Agneepath scheme.

National Schemes/ Apps of May 2025

CENTRAL GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	Purpose
National Scheme for Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Upgradation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Union Cabinet has cleared the National Scheme for Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Upgradation and the setting up of five National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs) for skilling, with a total outlay of ₹60,000 crore. The scheme, supported by ADB and World Bank, aims to transform 1,000 ITIs and train 20 lakh youth over five years through industry-aligned courses and upgraded infrastructure. Five NSTIs will be upgraded in Chennai, Kanpur, Ludhiana, Hyderabad, and Bhubaneswar. The goal is to create an aspirational skilling ecosystem under a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) model, aligned with India's Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.
Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The expansion of the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS) aims to boost innovation and financial access for startups in India. The increased guarantee cover, reduced fees for Champion Sectors, and operational reforms will encourage more lenders to support early-stage startups, particularly in emerging and self-reliant sectors. This initiative aligns with India's vision of becoming an innovation-driven economy, offering greater financial stability and opportunities for growth in the startup sector.
Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government's Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), launched on May 1, 2025, has attracted 70 applications in a short span, with 80% coming from small and medium enterprises. Aimed at minimizing electronic import dependence, the ₹22,805 crore scheme supports domestic production of sub-assemblies like PCBs, camera modules, and lithium-ion cells. It aligns with Digital India, Make in India, and the goal of achieving \$500 billion electronics output by 2030. Industry giants like Tata Electronics and Foxconn have reportedly shown interest.
"Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the "Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA)". The goal of this campaign is to transform Indian farming with the help of science and technology. It was launched in Sakshigopal, Puri (Odisha) and later at the ICAR-CIFA centre in Bhubaneswar.





Name of Initiative	Purpose
Jan Suraksha Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The three flagship social security schemes under the Jan Suraksha Abhiyan — Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) — have completed 10 successful years since their launch on 9th May 2015 by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. These schemes were introduced with the vision of “Securing the Unsecured” by offering affordable insurance and pension benefits to the poor, underprivileged, and unorganised sector workers. As of April 23, 2025, the schemes have collectively ensured social security coverage to over 82 crore beneficiaries, reinforcing the government’s commitment to financial inclusion and protection. Their 10th anniversary was marked as a significant milestone in India’s journey towards building a robust and inclusive social welfare system.

STATE GOVT SCHEMES

Kerala's 'Jyothi' scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kerala's 'Jyothi' scheme, launched in May 2025, aims to enrol migrant children into anganwadis and public schools while offering integrated health, welfare, and social support. The programme seeks to bridge the educational gap caused by migration, foster cultural inclusion, and promote recreational engagement for migrant kids. It aligns with Kerala’s efforts to modernise its migrant registry and make public services more inclusive.
Pandit Lakhmi Chand Kalakar Samajik Samman Yojana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Pandit Lakhmi Chand Kalakar Samajik Samman Yojana, recently approved by the Haryana Cabinet, provides monthly honorariums of ₹10,000 or ₹7,000 to senior artistes based on income criteria. Open to residents of Haryana aged 60 or above with at least 20 years of experience in arts, the scheme not only offers financial relief but also acknowledges their lifelong cultural contributions. By doing so, the state aims to preserve traditional art forms, support aged artists, and honour regional heritage.
Gujarat Karmayogi Swasthya Suraksha Yojana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Gujarat has launched a comprehensive healthcare scheme named Gujarat Karmayogi Swasthya Suraksha Yojana to provide cashless medical treatment to a wide range of beneficiaries, including All India Services (AIS) officers, state government employees, and pensioners. The initiative is designed to strengthen healthcare accessibility and reduce the financial burden of medical expenses for public service personnel and their families.

National Schemes/ Apps of April 2025

CENTRAL GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	Purpose
Strengthening Multimodal and Integrated Logistics Ecosystem (SMILE) Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance India’s logistics infrastructure, reduce costs, and improve efficiency. Supporting the National Logistics Policy (NLP) and PM Gati Shakti, SMILE promotes multimodal transportation, warehousing standardization, and digital trade logistics.
“One State, One RRB” policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Indian government is launching the “One State, One RRB” policy to enhance operational efficiency and reduce competition by consolidating the existing 43 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) into 28. This move aims to improve credit flow and service delivery, particularly in rural areas, by merging smaller, less efficient banks. The consolidation builds on previous efforts that reduced the number of RRBs from 196 to 43, with states like Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal most affected by the restructuring. The policy focuses on cost rationalisation and strengthening the financial and operational frameworks of RRBs.





Name of Initiative	Purpose
Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On April 5, 2025, Delhi became the 35th state or Union Territory to implement the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), providing healthcare coverage to economically disadvantaged residents. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta hailed the move as historic, while Health Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh criticized the previous government's delays, announcing that registrations would begin on April 10, 2025. The scheme, already operational in 34 states, covers 50 crore people and includes 36 lakh frontline workers. An MoU between the National Health Authority (NHA) and the Delhi government formalized the implementation.
Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 8th April 2025, India celebrates 10 years of the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)—a flagship initiative launched in 2015 to fund the unfunded by offering collateral-free loans to micro and small enterprises. PMMY has democratized access to finance, transformed livelihoods, and shifted the economic narrative from job-seeking to job-creating, especially in semi-urban and rural India. Today, over 52 crore loans worth ₹32.61 lakh crore have been sanctioned under this transformative scheme, empowering entrepreneurs from all walks of life.
Sagarmala Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched in March 2015, the Sagarmala Programme is the flagship initiative of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways aimed at transforming India's maritime sector. With a 7,500 km coastline, 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways, and a strategic location on global trade routes, India has immense potential for port-led economic growth. Sagarmala focuses on modernizing ports, enhancing connectivity, promoting industrial development, and boosting coastal shipping and inland waterways to reduce logistics costs and improve trade competitiveness.
Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of India has notified an increase in wage rates under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) for the financial year 2025-26. The hike ranges from 2.33% to 7.48%, with wages increasing by Rs 7 to Rs 26 per day depending on the state. This marks the first time NREGS wages have reached Rs 400 per day in any state, with Haryana recording the highest increase.

STATE GOVT SCHEMES

Swarna Andhra-2047 vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the Swarna Andhra-2047 vision, Andhra Pradesh will launch the 'Zero Poverty – P4 Policy' on Ugadi (March 30, 2025) to eradicate poverty by 2047. Based on the 'P4' (Public, Private, People Partnership) model, the initiative fosters government-private-public collaboration for sustainable socio-economic development. It focuses on housing, sanitation, tap water, LPG connections, reliable power (including rooftop solar), high-speed internet, and entrepreneurship to empower underprivileged families.
Assam government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Assam government has launched the Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan, its largest initiative to promote women entrepreneurship. Launched by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on April 1, 2025, the scheme aims to empower 30 lakh women by providing ₹10,000 seed capital to establish or expand micro-businesses. The initiative follows a phased financial assistance model, offering ₹25,000 in the second year and ₹50,000 in the third year for successful entrepreneurs.
Stand-Up India Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Stand-Up India Scheme, launched on April 5, 2016, has empowered marginalized entrepreneurs, particularly SC, ST, and women, by providing financial support for new enterprises. With over Rs. 61,000 crore sanctioned in loans, the scheme has seen significant growth, with loan accounts for SCs rising from 9,399 to 46,248, for STs from 2,841 to 15,228, and for women entrepreneurs from 55,644 to 1,90,844. The initiative has been instrumental in fostering entrepreneurship, job creation, and financial inclusion across India.





Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's 135th birth anniversary (April 14, 2025), Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath announced that the upcoming 'Zero Poverty' Mission will be named after Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, aiming to uplift every deprived citizen above the poverty line. Launched at the Ambedkar Mahasabha campus, Lucknow, the mission focuses on a saturation approach to deliver all government benefits to marginalized communities like Musahar, Vantangia, Tharu, Sahariya, Gond, and Kol.
Pink E-Rickshaw Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Pink E-Rickshaw Initiative, launched by Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, empowers women (aged 20–50)—especially widows, divorcees, and low-income groups—by providing 10,000 electric rickshaws across 8 districts, following a successful pilot in Pune. With ₹1 lakh in subsidies (₹25,000 Central + ₹75,000 State), 10% down payment, and 70% low-interest bank loans, the scheme ensures affordable ownership.
Yeshasvini Health Insurance Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Yeshasvini Health Insurance Scheme in Karnataka is set for a major overhaul, with an expert committee recommending a 15%–25% increase in medical procedure rates and a 50% hike for complex treatments like paediatric heart surgeries and oncology. The scheme, relaunched in 2022–23 to boost rural health access, may also see the addition of 69 new procedures and removal of 6 outdated ones. With 45.6 lakh members and only 782 empanelled hospitals, the updates aim to attract more hospitals, enhance financial sustainability, and improve universal health coverage, with an estimated cost of ₹127.5 crore and a proposed budget boost of ₹40 crore.

National Schemes/ Apps of March 2025

CENTRAL GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Purpose
'One Nation- One Port' Initiative	Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways	<p>1. One Nation: One Port Process (ONOP) Aimed at standardizing port operations across India to enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and boost global trade.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uniform operational procedures across all major ports Reduction in logistics costs and elimination of redundant documentation Faster clearance and improved transparency through digitization <p>2. Sagar Ankalan – Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI) 2023-24 A benchmarking tool to assess and improve port efficiency and global competitiveness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluates port performance and turnaround time Focuses on sustainability and cost-effectiveness Encourages competition among ports to enhance service quality <p>3. Bharat Global Ports Consortium Strengthening India's global maritime influence through international collaborations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding India's trade connectivity with global ports Attracting foreign investment in port infrastructure Developing world-class smart, green, and digital ports <p>4. Future Focus Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smart Ports: AI & blockchain-based automation Green Energy: Renewable sources for port functioning Maritime Security: Coastal surveillance & cybersecurity Digitalization: AI-powered tracking & electronic documentation <p>These initiatives align with Sagarmala Project's 'Port-Led Development' vision, positioning India as a leading global maritime hub.</p>





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Purpose
PM-YUVA 3.0	Ministry of Education	<p>The Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education launched PM-YUVA 3.0 (Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors) on March 11, 2025. This initiative aims to train young and budding authors (below 30 years of age) to promote reading, writing, and book culture in India while projecting Indian literature on the global stage. The third edition follows the success of the first two editions, which saw participation in 22 Indian languages and English.</p> <p>Introduction to PM-YUVA 3.0</p> <p>PM-YUVA 3.0 (Young, Upcoming, and Versatile Authors) aligns with the Prime Minister's vision of encouraging the youth to understand and appreciate India's rich culture, heritage, and contributions of visionaries. The scheme is designed to nurture young literary talents, enabling them to write on key themes that define India's progress and historical legacy.</p> <p>Key Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch Date: March 11, 2025 • Implementing Agency: National Book Trust (NBT), India, under the Ministry of Education • Target Audience: Young and budding authors below 30 years • Objective: To develop a new generation of writers focusing on India's cultural and intellectual legacy • Languages: Books will be published in multiple Indian languages and English • Mentorship Period: June 30, 2025 – December 30, 2025 • Platform for Selection: www.mygov.in <p>Objectives of PM-YUVA 3.0</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promoting Reading and Writing Culture The scheme aims to instill a habit of reading and writing among the youth, encouraging them to engage with India's history, culture, and heritage. 2. Encouraging Young Authors By mentoring and guiding young writers, the initiative seeks to create a new literary ecosystem that represents India's diverse perspectives and rich storytelling traditions. 3. Showcasing India's Global Influence Through this program, young authors will be able to articulate the contributions of the Indian diaspora and highlight India's historical and contemporary progress on the world stage. <p>Themes of PM-YUVA 3.0</p> <p>The third edition of PM-YUVA focuses on three major themes, each representing India's evolving identity and global influence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Contribution of Indian Diaspora in Nation Building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlights the political, economic, and socio-cultural contributions of the Indian diaspora. • Focuses on how Indians abroad have influenced their host countries while maintaining deep ties with India. 2) Indian Knowledge System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasizes India's ancient wisdom, scientific contributions, and philosophical traditions. • Showcases how India's intellectual heritage has shaped global thought. 3) Makers of Modern India (1950-2025) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronicles the contributions of visionaries in various fields such as education, science, economy, and social empowerment. • Presents a comprehensive narrative of India's post-independence journey. <p>Role of the National Book Trust (NBT), India</p> <p>The National Book Trust (NBT), India, will execute the program phase-wise, ensuring structured mentorship and high-quality content creation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publishing and Translation: Books developed under this scheme will be published by NBT and translated into multiple Indian languages, fostering cultural exchange and linguistic diversity.





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Purpose
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literary Engagements: Selected young authors will have the opportunity to engage with esteemed writers, participate in literary festivals, and contribute to Indian literature. National Camp: A National Camp for PM-YUVA 3.0 authors will be held during the New Delhi World Book Fair 2026.
PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana		The PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY) reached a milestone of 10 lakh rooftop solar installations by March 10, 2025. Launched on February 13, 2024 , the initiative aims to solarize 1 crore households by 2026-27, reducing electricity costs and promoting clean energy . With ₹4,770 crore in subsidies disbursed to 6.13 lakh beneficiaries and 3 GW solar capacity installed , the scheme accelerates India's shift to renewable energy , supporting Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India .

STATE GOVT SCHEMES

'Rajiv Yuva Vikasam' Scheme,	Telangana CM A. Revanth Reddy launched the 'Rajiv Yuva Vikasam' Scheme , aimed at promoting self-employment and economic development. With a budget of ₹6,000 crore , the scheme provides financial assistance to unemployed youth from SC, ST, BC, and Minority communities . Its goals include creating self-employment opportunities , reducing unemployment , and promoting entrepreneurship among marginalized groups.
Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)	The Uttarakhand Cabinet , led by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami , approved key decisions to enhance governance, pension benefits, and excise policy. Notably, the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) was introduced, aligning with the Central Government's initiative to provide stable retirement payouts for state officers and employees under the National Pension System (NPS) .

National Schemes/ Apps of February 2025

CENTRAL GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Purpose
Centre Unveils New Agri-Tech Schemes for Higher Productivity		<p>The Centre has launched several key schemes to upgrade agricultural technology, focusing on improving productivity, sustainability, and farmers' income. These initiatives incorporate digital technologies, modern farming techniques, and efficient resource management to enhance agricultural output while ensuring environmental sustainability.</p> <p>Key Government Initiatives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Agriculture Mission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data, and geospatial technology for, Better crop monitoring Soil management Weather forecasting Crop Improvement & Agricultural Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed 2,900 crop varieties in the last decade. 2,661 varieties are resistant to biotic and abiotic stresses (diseases, pests, drought, etc.). 156 new technologies/machines introduced for production and post-harvest processing. Technological Advancements in Animal & Fisheries Sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of advanced diagnostics, vaccines, and processing methods. Enhancing animal productivity, aquaculture efficiency, and fish health management.





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Purpose
		<p>4. Farmer Training & Awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) conduct, Training sessions for farmers Field demonstrations Skill development programs to improve farm efficiency <p>5. Agricultural Marketing & Market Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e-NAM (National Agricultural Market) for better price discovery & transparency. Kisan Rail & Kisan Udan for faster transportation of farm produce. Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to reduce intermediaries and enhance farmers' profits. Promotion of Agri-tech startups and digital platforms like AGRI-Bazaar for direct farmer-buyer connections. <p>6. Sustainable Farming & Soil Health Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soil Health Card Scheme promotes balanced fertilizer use. ICAR-recommended soil test-based nutrient management for: Reduced chemical fertilizer dependency Improved soil health Micro-irrigation & efficient irrigation methods under Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) scheme for water conservation. <p>7. Value Addition & Agri-Processing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana focuses on: Value-added processing of farm products Enhancing shelf life Linking farmers with agro-industries
PM-JANMAN Package	Tribal Affairs Ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PM-JANMAN Package (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan), launched in November 2023, aims to improve the living conditions of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in over 22,000 villages. Key interventions include building 4.9 lakh pucca homes, laying 8,000 km of roads, providing pipd water to every household, and deploying 1,000 mobile medical units for healthcare delivery, targeting significant infrastructural and socio-economic improvements.
Swavalambini' initiative	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and NITI Aayog launched the 'Swavalambini' initiative on February 7, 2025, targeting women entrepreneurship in Assam, Meghalaya, and Mizoram. The program offers business skills, mentorship, and financial support to women, focusing on Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) for structured training. It aims to enhance women's participation in the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem.
Government Initiatives to Support Women Employees and Entrepreneurs in India		<p>The Government of India has launched several initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality in the workplace and supporting women entrepreneurs. These initiatives focus on creating a safe, secure, and non-discriminatory environment for women employees while also fostering women-owned enterprises. Through legislative measures and various programs, the government seeks to ensure that women have equal opportunities for career growth, business development, and social security.</p>





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Purpose
		<p>Legal Framework for Women's Empowerment in the Workplace</p> <p>The Companies Act, 2013: Ensuring Gender Diversity in Corporate Boards The Companies Act, 2013, administered by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, contains provisions designed to ensure a gender-equal environment in corporate India. One key provision under the Act mandates that listed companies and other public companies with a paid-up share capital of Rs. 100 crore or more, or turnover of Rs. 300 crore or more, must appoint at least one woman director on their boards. This requirement is outlined in Section 149 of the Companies Act, which is complemented by Rule 3 of the Companies (Appointment and Qualification of Directors) Rules, 2014.</p> <p>In addition, companies must include a statement in their Board Report, which is attached to the annual financial statement, confirming compliance with the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. This ensures that companies have a mandatory Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) to address any grievances related to workplace harassment.</p> <p>Government Schemes Supporting Women Entrepreneurs The Government of India has introduced a variety of schemes aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs by offering financial support, training, and capacity building.</p> <p>Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGS) Under the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGS), women entrepreneurs receive additional benefits compared to other entrepreneurs. This initiative is designed to provide financial support and guarantees to small businesses, helping women access capital to start or grow their enterprises.</p> <p>Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) The Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is a significant credit-linked subsidy scheme designed to generate employment opportunities in rural and urban areas. This program has a substantial focus on women beneficiaries, who receive higher subsidies compared to other non-special category applicants. PMEGP has been instrumental in promoting women entrepreneurship in India, especially in small-scale manufacturing and service sectors.</p> <p>Stand-Up India Scheme (SUI) The Stand-Up India Scheme (SUI) encourages entrepreneurship among women, Scheduled Caste (SC), and Scheduled Tribe (ST) borrowers. The scheme facilitates loans ranging from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 1 crore for greenfield enterprises. Each bank branch is mandated to provide loans to at least one woman borrower and one SC/ST borrower to promote economic inclusion and entrepreneurship in these communities.</p> <p>Yashasvini Initiative Launched on 27 June 2024, the Yashasvini initiative focuses on empowering women entrepreneurs, especially those in Tier-II/III towns. This program aims to enhance the capacity building of women entrepreneurs and to provide them with the necessary tools and support to establish and grow their businesses.</p>





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Purpose
		<p>Legislative Provisions for Women's Protection and Welfare</p> <p>In addition to promoting entrepreneurship, the Government of India has enacted several laws to ensure safe, secure, and non-discriminatory workplaces for women. These provisions also extend to maternity benefits and protection against sexual harassment at the workplace.</p> <p>The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013</p> <p>The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (commonly known as the SH Act) provides a comprehensive legal framework for the prevention and redressal of sexual harassment in the workplace. The law mandates the constitution of an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) in organizations with 10 or more employees. In cases where the workplace has fewer than 10 employees, or when the complaint is against the employer, a Local Committee (LC) must be formed by the District Officer.</p> <p>To facilitate the filing of complaints, the revamped Sexual Harassment electronic-Box (SHe-Box) was launched by the government on 29 August 2024. This initiative provides a centralized platform for women to file complaints related to sexual harassment, regardless of their employment status or the sector they work in.</p> <p>Maternity Benefits and Workplace Equality</p> <p>The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017 requires establishments with 50 or more employees to provide a creche facility for women employees. This measure ensures that working mothers have access to childcare facilities while maintaining their professional responsibilities. Additionally, the Code on Social Security, 2020 and the Code on Wages, 2019 provide maternity benefits and emphasize the need for gender equality in the workplace.</p> <p>Supporting Working Mothers</p> <p>To support working mothers, the government introduced the "Palna" scheme on 1 April 2022. This Centrally Sponsored Scheme provides daycare facilities to ensure that working mothers can balance their professional and parental responsibilities while their children receive care and protection during working hours.</p>
PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana	MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY	<p>The PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY) marks its first anniversary on February 13, 2025, celebrating a year of promoting affordable solar energy for Indian households. Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 13, 2024, the scheme aims to install rooftop solar panels in one crore households by March 2027, reducing electricity costs and promoting sustainability. The scheme has significantly boosted India's renewable energy sector and contributed to environmental conservation.</p> <p>Key Highlights of the Scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largest Rooftop Solar Initiative: The world's largest domestic rooftop solar scheme, aiming to benefit one crore households by 2027. • Current Progress: As of January 27, 2025, over 8.46 lakh households have installed solar panels. • Increased Installation Rate: Monthly installations have surged tenfold, reaching 70,000 per month. • Financial Support: ₹4,308.66 crore in Central Financial Assistance (CFA) has been disbursed to 5.54 lakh households.





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Purpose
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidy Benefit: Up to 40% subsidy, with an average subsidy of ₹77,800 per household. Zero Electricity Bills: 45% of beneficiaries now receive zero electricity bills, depending on usage. Top 5 States: States with the highest number of beneficiaries (data awaited). <p>Key Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free Electricity for Households – Reduced energy bills through subsidized solar panels. Government Savings – ₹75,000 crore saved annually in electricity costs. Renewable Energy Growth – Boosts solar power adoption in households. Reduced Carbon Emissions – Supports India's climate goals.
Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan	Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) scheme has been extended until 2025-26 to provide better income support to farmers. Key components include the Price Support Scheme (PSS) for procurement at Minimum Support Price (MSP), the Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) to manage price volatility, and the Price Deficit Payment Scheme (PDPS) to compensate for price differences, ensuring fair prices and income stability for farmers.
Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY),	Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), launched on February 18, 2016, provides crop insurance to safeguard farmers from risks like natural disasters, pests, and diseases. In its nine years, it has disbursed ₹1.75 lakh crore in claims to over 23.22 crore farmers, stabilizing incomes and promoting sustainable agriculture and innovation.

STATE GOVT SCHEMES

Schemes	State	Purpose
Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme	Odisha	<p>The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme, launched on 22nd January 2015, aims to address gender imbalance and the declining child sex ratio in India. In alignment with the scheme's objectives, the Odisha Government has implemented several initiatives to empower adolescent girls, prevent child marriages, and enhance their education and self-defense skills. These initiatives, launched in different districts, focus on raising awareness, ensuring legal protection, and providing skill-based training to create a safer and more inclusive environment for girls.</p> <p>Key BBBP Initiatives in Odisha</p> <p>1. "Nirbhaya Kadhi" (Fearless Bud) & "Mo Gelha Jiya" (My Dear Daughter) – Ganjam District</p> <p>Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empower adolescent girls and promote gender equality. Prevent child marriage, sex selection, and female foeticide. <p>Coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 183,933 adolescent girls across 3,309 villages in Ganjam. <p>Key Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ganjam declared child marriage-free on 3rd January 2022. 20 out of 953 child marriages successfully prevented (2019-2024). 450,000 students from 3,614 schools took a pledge to say "No" to child marriage. ₹5,000 reward for first information on child marriage cases. OSPCR recognized Ganjam's efforts in preventing child marriages.





Schemes	State	Purpose
		<p>2. “Kalpana Avijan” – Dhenkanal District</p> <p>Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track and monitor adolescent girls (10-19 years). Strengthen community engagement to prevent child marriages. <p>Coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,13,515 adolescent girls identified and enrolled. <p>Key Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 343 child marriages prevented (2019-2024). 4,45,000 students from 3,425 schools pledged against child marriage. Awareness programs held in 1,211 villages. Dhenkanal administration felicitated during International Girl Child Week 2024. Odisha WCD and Mission Shakti recognized the initiative. Barsha Priyadarshini Sahoo awarded for taking a stand against child marriage. A rescued mountaineer became the brand ambassador for Kalpana Avijan. <p>3. “Swarna Kalika” – Keonjhar District</p> <p>Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness about the negative effects of child marriage. Promote community-based interventions. <p>Key Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% reduction in child marriages (by 2024). 2,000 stakeholders engaged in awareness campaigns. ADVIKA app promoted for tracking and intervention. Community leaders and adolescents actively involved in the campaign. <p>4. “Veerangana Yojana” – Deogarh District</p> <p>Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train adolescent girls in martial arts and self-defense. Boost self-esteem and confidence. <p>Coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 adolescent girls trained in a 30-day martial arts camp. 300 teachers and guardians sensitized on girls’ legal rights. <p>Key Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 master trainers developed, who trained 6,000 girl students across 300 schools. Recognized and institutionalized in schools and colleges. Featured in district festivals and won the prestigious SKOCH Award.
Bikashita Gaon Bikashita Odisha	Odisha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi launched the ‘Bikashita Gaon Bikashita Odisha’ (BGBO) scheme in Khordha, aiming to boost rural infrastructure. With a ₹5,000 crore budget over five years, the scheme focuses on road connectivity, civic amenities, education, and micro tourism. It builds on previous initiatives, ensuring holistic village development while keeping development and politics separate.
“Nodi Bandhan” scheme	West Bengal	<p>The West Bengal government has launched the “Nodi Bandhan” scheme and allocated funds for the Ghatal Masterplan in the 2025-26 budget. The Nodi Bandhan scheme focuses on riverine development, erosion prevention along the Ganga-Padma, and enhancing livelihoods through pisciculture and irrigation. A ₹200 crore allocation is dedicated to combat riverbank erosion in Murshidabad and Malda. The Ghatal Masterplan, with ₹500 crore for flood prevention in West Midnapore, requires a total investment of ₹1,500 crore.</p>





Schemes	State	Purpose
Arunachal Pradesh government	Arunachal Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Arunachal Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister Pema Khandu, has introduced initiatives to empower women, support youth, and drive development. The revamped Dulari Kanya Scheme now offers ₹50,000 for girls, with increased financial support for institutional deliveries and educational benefits for Class XI enrollment. The Arun Parivar Patra Authority Bill, 2025 will establish a citizen database for better governance and welfare delivery. Additionally, the Institute for Transforming Arunachal (ITA) will provide research-backed policy recommendations for governance, economic growth, and sustainable development.

APPS & WEB PORTAL

App & Web Name	Launched By	Purpose
'Haj Suvidha App'	Government of India	The Government of India has launched the ' Haj Suvidha App ' to enhance the pilgrimage experience for Indian Haj pilgrims. The app provides essential services to ensure a smooth and fulfilling journey , reflecting the government's commitment to improving accessibility and convenience for pilgrims.
RBIDATA	RBI	The RBI has launched RBIDATA , a mobile app offering easy access to over 11,000 economic data series related to the Indian economy. Available on iOS and Android , it caters to researchers, students, policymakers, and the general public , providing structured, interactive data from the RBI's Database on the Indian Economy (DBIE) .
Jumpp	Yes Bank	Finvasia , a fintech company from Mohali, Punjab , has partnered with Yes Bank to launch Jumpp , an AI-powered super app . Jumpp simplifies personal finance management by offering various services on one platform, focusing on accessibility and ease of use , and aims to revolutionize how users manage their financial lives .

National Schemes/ Apps of January 2025

CENTRAL GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	Purpose
One Nation One Subscription (ONOS)	<p>To provide comprehensive digital access to international scholarly journals for students, faculty, researchers, and scientists across government-managed higher education institutions and R&D centers.</p> <p>Key Features of the ONOS Scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive Access to Scholarly Journals: ONOS offers access to over 13,000 scholarly journals from 30 major international publishers, covering a wide array of disciplines including Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM), Medicine, Social Sciences, Finance, and Accounts. Beneficiaries: The scheme benefits approximately 1.8 crore (18 million) students, faculty, and researchers across more than 6,300 government-managed HEIs and central government-managed R&D institutions. Inclusive Access: ONOS ensures equitable access to research resources, particularly for institutions in tier 2 and tier 3 cities, thereby promoting knowledge dissemination across diverse regions. <p>Implementation and Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centralized Management: The subscription process is centrally coordinated by the Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET), an autonomous inter-university centre under the University Grants Commission (UGC). INFLIBNET manages the distribution of digital access to these journals, ensuring a seamless experience for users. Digital Access: Journals are accessible entirely through a digital platform, minimizing administrative complexities and providing on-demand access to users. Government Allocation: A total of ₹6,000 crore has been allocated for the ONOS initiative, covering three years—2025, 2026, and 2027. This funding covers the subscription charges for all participating institutions across the three-year period.





Name of Initiative	Purpose
UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All) scheme	<p>The UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All) scheme, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 5th January 2015, has completed a decade of impactful service to the nation. This initiative, originally launched as the Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP), revolutionized India's domestic lighting sector by providing affordable, energy-efficient LED bulbs, tube lights, and fans to households across the country. It has contributed to not only lowering energy consumption but also reducing carbon emissions, making India a global leader in energy-efficient lighting. The UJALA scheme, along with the Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP), has significantly impacted the country's energy efficiency, economic savings, and environmental sustainability.</p> <p>Key Highlights of UJALA Scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch Date: 5th January 2015. • Vision: To promote affordable energy-efficient lighting in Indian homes, reduce electricity consumption, and contribute to environmental sustainability. • Partnerships: The scheme is jointly executed by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and DISCOMs under the Ministry of Power. • Scope: Distribution of LED bulbs, tube lights, and fans at affordable prices across India. • Objective: To reduce energy consumption, lower household electricity bills, and decrease carbon emissions. • Impact: As of 6th January 2025, the UJALA scheme has distributed 36.87 crore LED bulbs, leading to savings of ₹19,153 crore annually.
cashless treatment scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, announced a cashless treatment scheme for road accident survivors, covering up to ₹1.5 lakh for seven days. • The pilot, active in states like Assam, Chandigarh, and others, has benefitted 6,840 people and will be expanded nationwide by March 2025. • The scheme aims to save 50,000 lives by ensuring timely treatment. Gadkari also discussed tech interventions for heavy vehicle safety, skilled driver shortages, and updates on emission norms and vehicle safety standards.
Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Rural Development has approved 56 new Watershed Development Projects under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), totaling ₹700 crore. • The projects aim to boost agricultural productivity, combat land degradation, and enhance climate resilience in 10 states, including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, and others.
Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ₹3.39 lakh crore disbursed in Q3 FY25, the highest quarterly disbursement since PMMY's inception in 2015. • Strong demand among micro and small enterprises, supporting entrepreneurship and self-employment. • Disbursement amount of ₹3.39 lakh crore in Q3 FY25, showing a substantial increase from previous quarters. • Strong economic activity and confidence in financial support for small businesses. • Loan limits increased in October 2024, raising the maximum loan limit from ₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh. • Introduction of the 'Tarun Plus' category for higher credit limits for successful borrowers. • Credit Guarantee Scheme launched in July 2024 to assist medium and small enterprises in manufacturing. • Scheme allows businesses to procure machinery and equipment without collateral, reducing financial barriers. • First half of FY25 saw disbursement of ₹1.86 lakh crore, slightly down from ₹1.91 lakh crore in FY24. • Despite a marginal dip, the outlook remains optimistic due to policy interventions. • Disbursements in FY23-24 reached ₹5.20 lakh crore, surpassing ₹4.40 lakh crore in FY23. • Growth driven by lower delinquency rates and proactive monitoring. • Q3 FY25 disbursement expected to positively influence full-year financial results. • Enhanced loan limits and supportive schemes likely to continue driving growth in disbursements. • Financial inclusion efforts and support for marginalized entrepreneurs expected to sustain the upward trend.





Name of Initiative	Purpose
SVAMITVA scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM Modi emphasized the importance of providing property ownership records to rural populations as essential for addressing poverty and distress in villages. SVAMITVA scheme launched in 2020, uses drone-based surveys to provide property cards as legal documents, improving property rights in villages. 6.5 million property cards distributed across 12 states and Union territories, benefiting over 65 lakh families (approximately 2.25 crore individuals). Villagers are using property cards to secure bank loans, enabling them to start small businesses, with a significant impact on Dalit, backward, and tribal families. SVAMITVA scheme aims to unlock over ₹100 lakh crore in economic activities, contributing to India's overall economic growth. PM Modi referenced a United Nations study linking lack of legal property documents to poverty, highlighting the global relevance of the SVAMITVA scheme. The initiative uses advanced drone technology to map residential land, addressing global challenges like climate change, water scarcity, and pandemics.
Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme	<p>10th anniversary of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme commemorated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, launched by PM Modi on January 22, 2015 in Panipat, Haryana.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inaugural Event held on January 22, 2025, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, attended by Union Ministers J.P. Nadda, Annapurna Devi, Savitri Thakur, women officers from armed forces, Anganwadi workers, student volunteers, and representatives from international organizations like UNICEF, UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, World Bank, and GIZ. Anniversary celebrations from January 22 to March 8, 2025, concluding on International Women's Day with rallies, cultural performances, and felicitation ceremonies for women achievers. <p>Key Achievements of BBBP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved sex ratio at birth: From 918 (2014-15) to 930 (2023-24). Girls' enrollment in secondary education: Increased from 75.51% to 78%. Institutional deliveries: Increased from 61% to 97.3%. Antenatal care registrations: Increased from 61% to 80.5%. <p>Notable Initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yashaswini Bike Expedition: Empowering women through adventurous activities. Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav: Re-enrolled 100,000+ out-of-school girls into education. Collaboration with TV Shows: Raised awareness on girl child abandonment. <p>Sustainable Practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nationwide plantation drive as part of the anniversary celebrations. Awareness campaigns through print, digital, and social media to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.
Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY), launched on January 22, 2015 by PM Narendra Modi, has completed 10 years of fostering financial security for India's girl children, with over 4.2 crore accounts opened by November 2024. Investment Details: Guardians can invest a minimum of ₹250 and up to ₹1.5 lakh annually in the name of a girl child, offering attractive interest rates and tax benefits. <p>Interest Rate Trajectory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial Rates (2015-2016): Started at 9.1%, rising to 9.2% for FY 2015-16. Subsequent Adjustments (2016-2020): Rates decreased from 8.6% (April 2016) to 8.1% (January 2018), with a brief rise to 8.5% (October 2018) and stabilized at 8.4% through 2019-2020. Stability and Recent Rates (2020-2025): Rate remained at 7.6% from April 2020 to September 2022, then increased to 8% in April 2023 and 8.2% in January 2024.





Name of Initiative	Purpose
	<p>Subscriber Growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015: 4,20,420 accounts with ₹123 crore in deposits. • 2016: 69,98,870 accounts with ₹6,773 crore. • 2017: 1,00,84,152 accounts with ₹17,156 crore. • 2018: 1,24,28,910 accounts with ₹31,958 crore. • 2019: 1,55,34,417 accounts with ₹50,224 crore. • 2020: 1,92,49,624 accounts with ₹72,880 crore. • 2021: 2,32,67,968 accounts with ₹1,01,258 crore. • 2022: 2,93,74,765 accounts with ₹1,39,296 crore. • Dec 2022: 3,25,12,095 accounts with ₹1,62,154 crore. <p>Eligibility and Account Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Account Opening: Opened for a girl child from birth until she turns 10 years old. • Family Limits: Up to two accounts per family, with exceptions for twins or triplets. • Deposit Period: Can invest for up to 15 years from account opening. • Maturity: Account matures 21 years after opening or upon the girl's marriage (after 18 years), whichever comes first. <p>Interest Calculation and Tax Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest Calculation: Calculated monthly based on the lowest balance between the 5th day and end of the month, credited annually at the end of the financial year. • Tax Benefits: Investments qualify for tax deductions under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act, and the interest earned is tax-free. • Withdrawals: Up to 50% of the balance can be withdrawn once the girl turns 18 to support her higher education. <p>This scheme plays a vital role in promoting financial inclusion and empowering young girls for a brighter future.</p>

STATE GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Purpose
Rythu Bharosa scheme	Telangana government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rythu Bharosa scheme in Telangana has been expanded to provide financial assistance to all farmers cultivating crops in the state. • Financial Assistance: ₹7,500 per acre for each crop season to approximately 70 lakh farmers. • Implementation Timeline: Scheme will begin around the Sankranti festival, with Gram Sabhas scheduled from January 5 to 7 to collect applications. • Financial Implications: Telangana government plans to raise ₹30,000 crore in market borrowings during the last quarter of FY 2024-25. <p>Background and Evolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replaces the previous Rythu Bandhu scheme, which offered ₹5,000 per acre. • Congress party claims misuse of funds in the old scheme, with ineligible beneficiaries receiving excessive funds. • Rythu Bharosa aims to focus on actively cultivated lands to prevent misuse. <p>Implementation Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Cabinet sub-committee led by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has finalized the process to ensure the benefits reach only genuine farmers.





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Purpose
		Financial Management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telangana government plans to raise ₹30,000 crore in market borrowings in three tranches of ₹10,000 crore each in the last quarter of 2024-25. The Reserve Bank of India will conduct securities auctions every Tuesday during this period. Government Borrowing Restrictions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Union Finance Ministry has set limits on state borrowing. Original borrowing projections exceeded ₹61,000 crore but were reduced to ₹49,255 crore. ₹37,850 crore borrowed by the end of November, with additional borrowings in December.
Shahid Madho Singh Haath Kharcha Scheme	Odisha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated the Shahid Madho Singh Haath Kharcha Scheme on January 7, 2025 at Adivasi Mela, Bhubaneswar. The scheme provides ₹5,000 financial assistance to Scheduled Tribe students enrolling in Class IX and XI, aiming to reduce dropout rates. Eligibility: ST students with a family income of ≤ ₹2,50,000. Incentive disbursed directly to the student's bank account. Application process through recommendations from school principals and headmasters via the Odisha State Scholarship Portal. Madho Singh, born around 1786, was a zamindar and tribal leader who led resistance against British rule. He was a prominent figure during the First War of Indian Independence (1857), uniting tribal groups in guerrilla warfare against the British. Captured and executed in 1858, Madho Singh remains a symbol of courage and resilience for Odisha's tribal communities. The scheme helps empower tribal youth, alleviating socio-economic challenges and promoting educational opportunities for future generations.
Jharkhand Mukhyamantri Maiya Samman Yojana	Jharkhand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jharkhand Mukhyamantri Maiya Samman Yojana launched by CM Hemant Soren in August 2024 to empower women through financial assistance. Initial Benefit: ₹1,000/month per beneficiary, revised to ₹2,500/month from December 2024. Total Transfer (Dec 2024 & Jan 2025): ₹5,000 credited in January 2025 due to delays. January 2025: ₹1,415.44 crore transferred to 56.61 lakh beneficiaries, with ₹2,500 disbursed for December 2024. Target Beneficiaries: Women aged 21 to 49 years. Payments made directly to bank accounts, improving household income and financial security, particularly in rural areas. Economic Impact: Boosts low-income family finances, with women reinvesting income in health, education, and family welfare. Encourages financial inclusion by promoting bank account openings. Eligibility: Female, permanent resident of Jharkhand, age 21-49, excluding those employed in Govt. sectors, PSUs, MP/MLA family members, income tax-paying families, and recipients of other social security pensions.





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Purpose
Bima Sakhi Yojana	Goa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goa CM Dr. Pramod Sawant launched 'Bima Sakhi Yojana' on January 7, 2025, under Swayampurna Goa 2.0 to empower women by providing training and opportunities to become LIC agents. Eligibility: Women aged 18-70 years with at least Class X education. Training & Stipend: Participants receive training to become LIC agents, with a stipend of ₹7,000/month (1st year), ₹6,000/month (2nd year), and ₹5,000/month (3rd year), totaling ₹2.16 lakh over three years. Career Advancement: After training, Bima Sakhis can work as LIC agents and may qualify for development officer roles within LIC. Government's Empowerment Commitment: Goal to create 1,000 Bima Sakhis by the Prime Minister's next visit to Goa. Impact on Financial Inclusion: Aims to raise financial literacy and life insurance coverage, promoting financial inclusion for women and the community.
PARTH Yojana	Madhya Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PARTH Yojana is a scheme launched in Madhya Pradesh to provide pre-recruitment training for youth aiming to join the Indian Army, Police, and Para-Military forces. The program focuses on physical fitness, mental agility, and personality development, with training on physical tests, written exams, and general knowledge. Training centers will operate at divisional levels, overseen by District Sports and Youth Welfare Officers and supported by local coordinators. The scheme aims to instill patriotism, discipline, and fitness among participants.
Subhadra Scheme	Madhya Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Subhadra Scheme, launched by the Odisha Government's Women and Child Development Department, empowers women through financial support, digital literacy, and access to social safety nets. Part of the BJP's poll promises ahead of the 2024 elections, the scheme aims to improve women's socio-economic conditions and encourage entrepreneurship. Partnering with IIM Sambalpur, the government seeks research-based guidance to enhance the scheme's impact.
Mahila Evam Kishori Samman Yojana	Madhya Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On National Girl Child Day 2025, Haryana Cabinet Minister Shruti Choudhry launched the 'Samman Sanjeevani' app to improve the 'Mahila Evam Kishori Samman Yojana'. The app aims to provide essential services, including sanitary napkins, to BPL women and girls aged 10-45. The event also marked the 10th anniversary of the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme, focusing on women's empowerment.

APPS & WEB PORTAL

App & Web Name	Launched By	Purpose
e-Shram portal	Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya	The e-Shram portal has been upgraded to support all 22 scheduled languages, enhancing accessibility for unorganised workers across India. Launched by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, this expansion, facilitated by the Bhashini project, allows workers to register and access schemes in their native languages. The portal has seen over 30,000 daily registrations, reflecting growing engagement and trust.





App & Web Name	Launched By	Purpose
Clari5 Portal	Punjab National Bank	Punjab National Bank (PNB) became the first Indian bank to implement Clari5's National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) Integration Solution , enhancing fraud prevention and complaint management . Developed with the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) , the system automates real-time processing of cybercrime complaints across retail banking channels like Internet Banking, ATMs, and UPI .
iSPOT Portal	Securities and Exchange Board of India	The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is launching the Integrated SEBI Portal for Technical Glitches (iSPOT) on February 3, 2025 , to replace the outdated email system. This new, structured portal will allow Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) , including stock exchanges and depositories, to report technical issues with detailed root cause analysis (RCA) . The initiative aims to improve transparency, efficiency, and real-time issue resolution , enhancing the overall financial market infrastructure .
BHARATPOL portal	Amit Shah	Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah , launch the BHARATPOL portal developed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on January 7, 2025, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The portal aims to facilitate real-time international police assistance and enhance India's efforts to combat transnational crimes. Developed by the CBI, which acts as the National Central Bureau (NCB) for INTERPOL in India, the portal will improve communication between law enforcement agencies (LEAs) across India and INTERPOL.
super app	Elon Musk's	Elon Musk's X (formerly Twitter) is set to launch X Money , a digital wallet powered by Visa , as part of its strategy to evolve into a "super app". This move aims to integrate payment services with its existing features, competing with apps like WeChat , offering everything from messaging to financial transactions .
SwaRail' SuperApp	Ministry of Railways	On January 31, 2025 , the Ministry of Railways launched the ' SwaRail ' SuperApp to integrate multiple railway services into one platform. Currently in beta , the app offers ticket bookings, platform and parcel bookings, train and PNR inquiries, food ordering, and Rail Madad for complaints and assistance. This app aims to enhance the user experience and reduce the need for multiple apps.
Portal Baanknet	M. Nagaraju	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shri M. Nagaraju, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, launched revamped e-auction portal 'Baanknet' in New Delhi. This platform consolidates information on e-auction properties from all Public Sector Banks and offers a one-stop destination for buyers and investors to discover a wide range of assets.

Important Days

Important Days of June 2025

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
June 1	Global Day of Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Global Day of Parents, celebrated on June 1, recognizes the immense contributions parents make toward the well-being and development of children. In 2025, global institutions focused on supporting positive parenting, mental health, and inclusive caregiving. With origins dating back to UN resolutions in the 1990s, the day emphasizes that strong family structures are crucial for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The observance brings together global voices to celebrate, support, and empower parents worldwide.





Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
June 1st	World Milk Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Milk Day, celebrated on June 1st, recognizes milk's nutritional power, economic importance, and cultural value. Established by the FAO in 2001, it highlights milk's role in health, rural livelihoods, sustainability, and women empowerment. The 2025 theme, "Let's Celebrate the Power of Dairy," emphasizes dairy's impact across all life stages. In India, the White Revolution, led by Dr. Verghese Kurien and the NDDB, transformed the nation from a milk-deficient country to the world's largest milk producer, ensuring food security and economic growth.
June 2nd	Telangana Formation Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telangana Formation Day, observed on June 2nd, marks the creation of India's 29th state in 2014 after a prolonged struggle for self-determination, cultural identity, and regional autonomy. Far from being symbolic, the day reflects the people's fight against regional imbalances, administrative neglect, and cultural underrepresentation. Rooted in the Hyderabad State's distinct pre-1956 identity, the Telangana Movement ultimately culminated in a political and social victory that empowered its citizens and reshaped India's federal landscape.
June 4	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On June 4, 2025, the world observes the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression, a UN-designated day dedicated to highlighting the suffering of children affected by armed conflict, violence, and exploitation. Originating in 1982 following the violence in Palestine and Lebanon, the observance now encompasses global efforts under frameworks like the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Resolution 51/77, and SDG 16.2. The UN's 2024 report revealed 32,990 grave violations in 2023, including killing, recruitment, abduction, and sexual violence, urging the international community to intensify child protection efforts.
June 5	World Environment Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Environment Day 2025, observed on June 5, focuses on the theme "Beat Plastic Pollution", highlighting the urgent need to tackle the global plastic crisis affecting ecosystems, wildlife, and human health. Celebrated annually since 1973, it is a UN-led initiative involving over 150 countries, urging governments, industries, and individuals to reduce plastic waste and promote sustainable alternatives.
June 5	International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, observed annually on June 5, aims to spotlight global efforts to curb unsustainable and often criminal fishing practices. With support from the UN FAO and the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA), now backed by two-thirds of coastal nations, this initiative enforces port-level regulations to block illegally sourced fish.
June 7	World Food Safety Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Food Safety Day 2025, observed on June 7, promotes the theme "Food Safety: Science in Action", spotlighting the use of technology and innovation to combat food contamination. Established by the UN in 2018, the day raises global awareness about the health, economic, and social consequences of unsafe food. In India, where food adulteration, inspection shortfalls, and poor cold storage pose persistent risks, the observance urges collective action—from authorities to consumers—to ensure safety from farm to fork.





Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
June 8	World Brain Tumour Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Brain Tumour Day 2025 observed on June 8, a day dedicated to raising awareness about brain tumours, promoting early diagnosis, supporting patients and families, and encouraging research and treatment advancements. Although the official theme for 2025 is yet to be announced, global activities like health talks, campaigns, and events will spotlight the serious challenges faced by those affected.
June 9 th	World Accreditation Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Quality Council of India (QCI) celebrated World Accreditation Day 2025 on June 9th at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, under the theme "Accreditation: Empowering SMEs", highlighting its commitment to quality standards, global alignment through NABL and NABCB, and launching the revamped NABL Portal to boost digital access, transparency, and support for MSMEs in the accreditation process.
10 June	International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations, to be observed annually on 10 June, was established by the United Nations in 2024 to promote intercultural dialogue, global solidarity, and peaceful coexistence. The 2025 celebration featured a UNESCO event in Paris focused on the Silk Roads' cultural legacy and youth engagement. The event included thematic panels, expert speakers, and cultural performances, emphasizing the role of dialogue in eliminating prejudice, enhancing mutual respect, and building inclusive societies.
June 11	International Day of Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day of Play, observed annually on June 11, celebrates the essential role of play in promoting child development, mental well-being, and social connection, with the 2025 theme "Choose Play – Every Day" urging individuals, communities, and governments to prioritize daily play across homes, schools, and public life for healthier, happier societies.
June 12	World Day Against Child Labour 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Day Against Child Labour 2025 was observed on June 12, emphasizing the urgent need to eliminate child labour globally. With 138 million children still affected, this year's theme — "<i>Progress is clear, but there's more to do: let's speed up our efforts!</i>" — serves as a powerful reminder that global efforts must intensify. Initiated by the ILO in 2002, the observance aims to promote child rights, ensure education, and reduce poverty-driven exploitation, while in India, various national policies and acts are already supporting the cause.
June 12	World Kidney Cancer Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Kidney Cancer Day 2025, observed on June 12, highlights the importance of kidney health awareness with the theme "Understanding Kidney Health." Organized by the International Kidney Cancer Coalition (IKCC), the campaign promotes early detection, identifies key risk factors like smoking, obesity, and hypertension, and urges people to adopt a kidney-friendly lifestyle. As kidney cancer often shows no symptoms in early stages, routine screenings such as CT scans and urine tests are crucial for timely diagnosis and treatment.
June 13	International Albinism Awareness Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Albinism Awareness Day 2025, observed on June 13, is a UN-recognized global event aimed at protecting the rights and dignity of individuals affected by albinism, a genetic disorder marked by the lack of melanin in the body. The day serves to fight stigma, promote equality, and raise awareness of visual impairments, sun sensitivity, and genetic inheritance patterns associated with the condition. Established in 2014, this initiative is rooted in human rights, public education, and the celebration of diversity.





Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
June 14	World Blood Donor Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Blood Donor Day 2025, observed globally on June 14, honours voluntary blood donors and raises awareness about the importance of safe, regular blood donations. With the theme <i>"Give Blood, Give Hope,"</i> this year's observance highlights how each unit of donated blood brings healing and hope to those in need. Established by the WHO in 2004, the day also commemorates the birthday of Karl Landsteiner, who discovered the ABO blood group system.
June 15	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2025, observed on June 15, aims to address the often-overlooked issue of abuse against older adults, including physical, emotional, financial, and sexual mistreatment. Launched by WHO and INPEA in 2006 and later recognised by the United Nations, the day is marked with global advocacy and community action. Wearing purple, sharing resources, and checking in on elders are simple yet powerful ways to participate.
June 16	International Domestic Workers' Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Domestic Workers' Day 2025, observed on June 16, underscores the urgent need for decent work, fair wages, social protection, and legal rights for millions of domestic workers, especially women and migrants. With only 39 countries ratifying ILO Convention 189, the global community is called to action to recognise domestic work as real work, implement strong laws, and invest in the care economy, in line with the 2024 ILO Resolution—ensuring dignity, justice, and equality for all.
June 16	International Day of Family Remittances 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day of Family Remittances 2025, observed on June 16, recognises the vital financial contributions of migrant workers to their families and communities. The 2025 theme, "Remittances financing development," reaffirms the global commitment to leveraging remittances as tools for sustainable development.
June 17	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2025, observed on June 17, focuses on the theme <i>"Restore the Land. Unlock the Opportunities."</i> It draws attention to the urgent need for land restoration, especially with over 1.5 billion hectares needing revival by 2030. As a global observance driven by the UNCCD, it emphasizes the economic and environmental significance of healthy land and encourages nations like India to scale up sustainable land management, afforestation, and community-led resilience to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.
18 June	International Day for Countering Hate Speech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the International Day for Countering Hate Speech (18 June), global attention turned toward combating the escalating threat of online hate speech. Prominent among voices calling for action was Nazia Rehman, Chair of the Congress Social Inclusion Committee (UK), who emphasized the need for local and regional authorities to adopt practical countermeasures.
June 19	11th International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On June 19, 2025, the world observes the 11th International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, under the theme <i>"Breaking the Cycle, Healing the Scars."</i> The United Nations uses this day to highlight the intergenerational trauma caused by conflict-related sexual violence, such as rape, sexual slavery, and forced marriage. Originating from UNSC Resolution 1820 (2008), this day seeks to end the impunity surrounding war-related sexual crimes, support survivors, and campaign for #EndRapeInWar through global awareness, healing initiatives, and justice reform.





Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
June 20	World Refugee Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Refugee Day 2025, observed on June 20, reaffirms the global commitment to uphold the rights and dignity of refugees. Under the theme "Solidarity with Refugees", this year's observance emphasizes inclusion, fair work opportunities, and equal treatment for the forcibly displaced. It urges governments, employers, and communities to recognize refugees not just as survivors, but as active contributors to economic and social progress. With record levels of displacement worldwide, the day calls for action-oriented solidarity, ensuring that refugees thrive, not just survive.
June 23	United Nations Public Service Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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).
June 23	International Olympic Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
June 23	International Widows Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
June 24	International Day of Women in Diplomacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
June 25	Day of the Seafarer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.





Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
June 27	International Day of Deafblindness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
June 27	International Day of Deafblindness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
29 June	International Day of the Tropics 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
29th June	National Statistics Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

Important Days of May 2025

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
5 May	World Portuguese Language Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Portuguese Language Day, celebrated annually on 5 May, honors the linguistic and cultural unity among Portuguese-speaking nations. Initiated by CPLP in 2009 and globally recognized by UNESCO in 2019, it marks the global spread of the Portuguese language, spoken by over 265 million people. Events include music, literature readings, traditional food, and cultural programs, reflecting the heritage of countries like Brazil, Portugal, Angola, and Mozambique. The day emphasizes multilingualism, identity, and global communication.





Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
6 May	World Asthma Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Asthma Day 2025 is observed on Tuesday, 6 May, to raise awareness about asthma, a chronic respiratory disease affecting over 250 million people globally. Organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) with support from the WHO, the 2025 theme is "Make inhaled treatments accessible for all", emphasizing equitable access to care.
May 7	World Athletics Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Athletics Day 2025, observed on May 7, celebrates youth fitness, sportsmanship, and healthy living through widespread participation in track and field events. Organized by World Athletics, the day plays a pivotal role in shaping sports culture, promoting gender inclusivity, and identifying young athletic talent. With growing emphasis on physical and mental well-being, this observance reinforces the global commitment to health, equity, and empowerment through sports.
May 6	International No Diet Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International No Diet Day 2025, observed on May 6, promotes a powerful message of body positivity, mental wellness, and inclusive health standards. Initiated by Mary Evans Young, it calls for an end to harmful diet culture and highlights the importance of nourishing the body and mind through sustainable, enjoyable habits. The day also provides helpful lifestyle tips, especially for the summer season, to help individuals thrive without guilt or restriction.
May 7	Border Roads Organisation day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Border Roads Organisation (BRO), under the Ministry of Defence, celebrated 64 years of service on May 7, 2025. Tasked with building strategic infrastructure in India's border areas, BRO has constructed over 55,000 km of roads, 450+ bridges, and 19 airfields. It plays a pivotal role in defence logistics, civil development, and international cooperation.
May 8	World Thalassaemia Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Thalassaemia Day 2025, observed on May 8, emphasizes the theme "Together for Thalassaemia: Uniting Communities, Prioritizing Patients". Established by the Thalassaemia International Federation (TIF) in 1994, the day seeks to raise awareness about thalassaemia, advocate for preventive strategies like genetic screening, and ensure equitable access to quality care for patients worldwide. With a significant number of cases reported annually, especially in countries like India, the observed.
May 8	World Red Cross Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Red Cross Day 2025, observed on May 8, honored the legacy of Henry Dunant and the humanitarian work of Red Cross volunteers across the globe. With the theme "Keeping Humanity Alive," the day spotlighted the organization's commitment to neutrality, empathy, and service in crisis zones. The event reaffirmed the role of the Red Cross in fostering compassion and global solidarity, with activities like blood drives, medical camps, and awareness programs.
May 10	World Migratory Bird Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2025 World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) campaign, themed "Creating Bird-Friendly Cities and Communities," focuses on mitigating the impact of urbanization on migratory birds. It emphasizes the need for sustainable urban planning, bird-safe infrastructure, and green spaces to combat threats like habitat loss, light pollution, and building collisions. The initiative calls for joint efforts by governments, NGOs, and citizens to ensure safe and bird-friendly environments during migration seasons.





Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
May 11	National Technology Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Technology Day 2025, celebrated on May 11, marks the anniversary of India's 1998 nuclear tests in Pokhran and celebrates the country's growing strength in science and technology. With the theme "Empowering a Sustainable Tomorrow Through Innovation", the day promotes sustainable tech solutions, encourages youth engagement in STEM, and honors milestones like the Hansa-3 flight and Trishul missile test, all of which symbolize India's progress toward technological sovereignty and a greener future.
May 12	International Nurses Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Nurses Day 2025, celebrated on May 12, focused on the theme "Our Nurses. Our Future. Caring for nurses strengthens economies". It emphasizes the well-being, support, and funding required for nurses to sustain strong healthcare systems and enhance economic resilience. The day, established by the International Council of Nurses, also commemorates Florence Nightingale's contributions. It raises awareness about nurse shortages, burnout, and advocates for policy changes to improve nurse conditions worldwide.
12–18 May 2025	8th UN Global Road Safety Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 8th UN Global Road Safety Week (12–18 May 2025) is a significant global initiative urging stakeholders to enhance road safety for pedestrians and cyclists. With the focus on safe infrastructure, reduced urban speed limits, and responsible driving behavior, the campaign supports the larger goal of halving road traffic deaths by 2030 under the Decade of Action for Road Safety. Through social media outreach and advocacy events, the initiative emphasizes the critical role of safe walking and cycling in promoting public health, environmental sustainability, and transport equity.
May 12	International Day of Plant Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day of Plant Health (IDPH), celebrated on May 12, emphasizes the protection of plants as a key to achieving food security, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable agriculture. Plants provide essential resources like oxygen and nutrition, yet nearly 40% of crops are lost annually due to pests and diseases. With increasing risks from climate change, global trade, and invasive species, the IDPH calls for international cooperation, investment in innovation, and adoption of sustainable practices. The observance is part of a broader One Health approach, linking plant well-being with human, animal, and environmental health.
May 15	International Day of Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day of Families, observed on May 15, was established by the United Nations in 1994 to highlight the importance of families as the foundation of society. It aims to raise awareness about the challenges families face and promote efforts that ensure their well-being, development, and social stability across the globe.
May 16	National Dengue Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Dengue Day, observed on May 16 every year, is a public health initiative by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to raise awareness about dengue fever, a mosquito-borne viral disease. It focuses on early diagnosis, timely treatment, and mosquito control to reduce illness and deaths, especially during the monsoon season. Introduced under the National Health Mission, this day promotes community participation, education on symptoms, and breaking stigma to combat the disease effectively.





Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
May 16	International Day of Light	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day of Light, celebrated on May 16 each year, marks the anniversary of Theodore Maiman's first successful laser operation in 1960. Organized by UNESCO, it aims to promote science, culture, education, and sustainable development through the appreciation of light-based technologies such as lasers, solar energy, fiber optics, and medical imaging. First celebrated in 2018, the day encourages global cooperation, supports STEM education, and contributes to achieving the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, with the 2025 theme being "Light, Innovation, Society."
May 16	International Day of Living Together in Peace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day of Living Together in Peace (16 May) encourages global solidarity, peace, and reconciliation by promoting unity in diversity. Established by the UN in 2017, the day supports activities that foster understanding and eliminate discrimination. It draws from the legacy of past UN efforts to build a culture of peace through education, service, dialogue, and community involvement.
May 17	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) 2025, observed on May 17, highlights the role of communication and information technologies in fostering inclusive development and closing the digital divide. It commemorates the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in 1865, and this year's theme, "Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development", focuses on using tech for climate action, educational access, economic equity, and healthcare inclusion. Through global events, policy dialogues, and tech showcases, WTISD promotes the idea that digital access is a necessity, not a privilege.
May 18	International Museum Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Museum Day is celebrated on May 18 to highlight the role of museums in preserving heritage, promoting education, and fostering cultural exchange. Established by ICOM in 1977, it is observed in over 158 countries. The 2025 theme is "The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities," focusing on innovation, digital transformation, and community engagement. Museums serve as educational hubs, cultural bridges, and promote sustainability and inclusivity worldwide.
May 19	World Fair Play Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 19 has been officially designated as World Fair Play Day beginning in 2025 by the United Nations General Assembly. This global observance recognizes the power of sport to bridge divides, foster equality and inclusion, and promote a more peaceful and just world by instilling values like fairness, honesty, and mutual respect.
May 20	World Bee Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Bee Day 2025, themed "Bee inspired by nature to nourish us all", focuses on the importance of pollinators in agriculture, biodiversity, and climate resilience. With nearly 90% of wild flowering plants and 75% of food crops relying on animal pollination, the decline of species like bees threatens global food security. UN agencies like FAO are leading efforts to conserve pollinators through sustainable practices and international cooperation. Individuals, farmers, and policymakers alike are urged to act to protect pollinator populations and restore ecosystem balance.





Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
May 20	World Metrology Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On World Metrology Day 2025, India commemorated the 150 years of the Metre Convention with transformative announcements in the field of Legal Metrology. Highlights included India becoming the 13th country authorized to issue OIML certificates, mandating 1 mg precision in gold weighing, launching the eMaap portal for digital governance, and rolling out time synchronization under the "One Nation, One Time" initiative. These steps reflect India's commitment to enhancing consumer protection, trade accuracy, and ease of doing business, while aligning with international standards in metrology.
May 21	International Tea Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Tea Day 2025, celebrated on May 21, recognizes the cultural, economic, and health significance of tea, the world's most consumed beverage after water. Originating in ancient China, tea has grown into a global tradition and a source of livelihood for millions, especially in countries like India. This year's theme, "Tea for Better Lives," emphasizes tea's role in promoting sustainability, health, and poverty reduction, while also celebrating its role in women empowerment and rural development.
May 21	National Anti-Terrorism Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Anti-Terrorism Day, observed on May 21 in India, marks the death anniversary of former PM Rajiv Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1991 by the LTTE. The day aims to raise awareness against terrorism, promote peace, unity, and non-violence, and honor the victims of terrorist attacks. Citizens take an anti-terrorism pledge, and various programs are organized in schools, colleges, and public institutions to reinforce the nation's stand against violence and extremism.
May 21	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, observed annually on May 21, was established by the United Nations in 2002 following the 2001 Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. It aims to promote intercultural dialogue, peace, and sustainable development by advancing four key UNESCO goals: supporting cultural governance, enabling the flow of cultural goods and artist mobility, integrating culture in development, and protecting human rights. Organizations celebrate the day by hosting cultural awareness activities, sharing diversity resources, and reaffirming commitment to inclusive workplaces.
May 22	International Day for Biological Diversity 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day for Biological Diversity 2025, observed on May 22, brings renewed focus to the urgent need to conserve nature. With the theme "Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development," this year's observance aligns with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
23 May	International Day to End Obstetric Fistula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observed annually on 23 May, the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula draws global attention to one of the most preventable childbirth-related health conditions—obstetric fistula. With the 2025 theme "Her Health, Her Right," this observance calls for universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare and aims to end the gender-based disparities that allow such a condition to persist in impoverished regions.
May 23	World Turtle Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Turtle Day, celebrated annually on May 23, raises global awareness about the conservation of turtles and tortoises, which are among the oldest and most threatened species on Earth.





Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
25 May	World Football Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In May 2024, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution to mark 25 May as World Football Day. The resolution, led by Libya and supported by over 160 nations, commemorates the 100-year anniversary of football's representation at the 1924 Paris Olympics. Football, governed globally by FIFA, has evolved from medieval England to become the most popular sport in the world. The move celebrates the sport's role in promoting peace, education, development, and health, especially with 2024 Paris Olympics coinciding with this historic centenary.
25 May	World Thyroid Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Thyroid Day 2025, celebrated on 25 May, aims to raise global awareness about thyroid disorders—the second most common endocrine disease after diabetes. With India facing a significant thyroid burden affecting over 4.2 crore people, the day highlights the need for early diagnosis, adequate iodine intake, and public health interventions like salt iodisation. Conditions like hypothyroidism, goitre, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, and thyroid cancer demand attention through education, screening, and lifestyle management.
May 25 to 31	International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, observed from May 25 to 31, reinforces the United Nations' commitment to decolonization and the right to self-determination. Established in 1999, the week focuses on the 17 remaining territories worldwide that have not yet attained full self-governance.
May 28	World Hunger Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Hunger Day 2025, held on May 28, draws global attention to the persistent issue of hunger affecting millions. Founded by The Hunger Project, the day emphasizes sustainable, locally led solutions such as education, climate-resilient farming, and gender empowerment. It is a reminder that lasting food security requires systemic change, not just food aid. Individuals can contribute through advocacy, supporting local agriculture, and community education, aligning with global efforts toward achieving Zero Hunger.
May 29	International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers is commemorated each year on May 29 to pay tribute to the brave men and women who serve in UN peacekeeping missions across the globe. This year's theme, "The Future of Peacekeeping", reflects the global community's commitment to adapt peacekeeping operations in response to the world's evolving security challenges, as emphasized in the Pact for the Future adopted by world leaders in September 2023.
30 May	International Day of Potato	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 30 May 2025, the world will mark the second observance of the International Day of Potato, an initiative designed to spotlight the global importance of one of the world's most versatile and widely consumed crops: the potato (Solanum tuberosum L.). With this year's theme, "Shaping history, feeding the future," the day celebrates the potato's historic legacy, its nutritional value, and its pivotal role in sustainable agrifood systems.
May 30, 2025	Hindi Journalism Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On May 30, 2025, India will observe Hindi Journalism Day, an annual event that commemorates the birth of Hindi-language journalism in the country. This year marks a celebration of nearly two centuries of vernacular media's contribution to democracy, awareness, and cultural expression. As the fourth pillar of democracy, the media plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion and ensuring transparency. Hindi journalism, in particular, has empowered millions by providing news and information in a language understood by a vast majority of the Indian population.





Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
29th May	International Everest Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Everest Day is celebrated every year on 29th May. This day remembers the first successful climb of Mount Everest by Sir Edmund Hillary from New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa from Nepal in 1953. It honors their bravery, strength and spirit of adventure. People all over the world, especially climbers and trekkers, celebrate this special day.
31st May	World No Tobacco Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every year on 31st May, the world comes together to observe World No Tobacco Day, a global campaign spearheaded by the World Health Organization (WHO) to raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use and to promote efforts to protect current and future generations from its devastating health consequences. In 2025, the theme for World No Tobacco Day is: "Bright products. Dark intentions. Unmasking the Appeal."
31st May	Ahilyabai Holkar Jayanti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ahilyabai Holkar Jayanti is celebrated every year on 31st May to honour the birth of one of India's greatest women rulers. In 2025, this day is very special as it marks her 300th birth anniversary. This day will be observed with pride and respect, especially in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, where she is deeply admired for her kind rule and public welfare work.

Important Days of April 2025

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
April 1	Utkal Divas (Odisha Day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utkal Divas (Odisha Day) is celebrated annually on April 1 to commemorate Odisha's formation in 1936 as India's first linguistic state, separating from the Bengal Presidency. The region, historically known as Kalinga, was famed for its prosperity, Kalinga War (261 BCE), and cultural advancements. Under British rule, Odisha was divided, fueling the statehood movement led by Madhusudan Das, Gopabandhu Das, and Fakir Mohan Senapati.
April 2	World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On April 2, 2025, the United Nations (UN) observes World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) under the theme "Advancing Neurodiversity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)." Organized by the Institute of Neurodiversity (ION) and the UN Department of Global Communications, the event highlights the role of inclusive policies in supporting autistic individuals and contributing to the SDGs.
April 4	International Mine Awareness Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Mine Awareness Day is observed annually on April 4 to raise awareness about the dangers of landmines and promote demining efforts. The 2025 theme, "Safe Futures Start Here," emphasizes the importance of addressing the impact of landmines, particularly in war-affected regions. Landmines, including Anti-Personnel Mines (APM), Anti-Vehicle Mines (AVM), and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), cause civilian casualties long after conflicts end.
April 5	Samata Diwas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samata Diwas, celebrated on April 5, marks the birth anniversary of Babu Jagjivan Ram, a renowned freedom fighter, social reformer, and champion of social justice. Known as "Babuji," he dedicated his life to fighting untouchability, casteism, and promoting equality. With a remarkable 50-year tenure as an MP and 30 years as Union Minister, he remains a record-holder in Indian politics. This day, observed as a public holiday in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, inspires people to stand against discrimination and uphold justice and equal rights for all.
April 5	National Maritime Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Maritime Day, celebrated on April 5 each year, honors India's maritime heritage and the crucial role of the shipping industry in trade, economy, and security. First observed in 1964, it commemorates the maiden voyage of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company in 1919, marking India's shift away from British dominance over sea routes. The day acknowledges the contributions of seafarers and maritime professionals and serves as a platform for discussions on maritime safety, sustainable shipping, and technological advancements.





Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
April 6	Swaminarayan Jayanti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swaminarayan Jayanti celebrates the birth of Shri Swaminarayan (born Ghanshyam in 1781), a revered spiritual leader and yogi. He is believed to be an avatar of Lord Krishna and taught values like truth, non-violence, and celibacy. The day falls on the ninth day of Shukla Paksha in the Hindu month of Chaitra, coinciding with Ram Navami. Shri Swaminarayan's journey included learning holy texts and performing spiritual travels across India. His teachings continue to inspire millions even after his passing at age 49. Swaminarayan Jayanti 2025 will be observed on April 6.
April 7	World Health Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Health Day 2025, observed on April 7, marks the anniversary of the World Health Organization (WHO)'s founding in 1948. The theme "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures" focuses on improving maternal and newborn health, launching a year-long global campaign to reduce preventable deaths and enhance health outcomes for women and infants. The campaign aims to intensify efforts against maternal and newborn deaths, promote quality healthcare for pregnant women and newborns, and prioritize the long-term well-being of mothers, particularly in developing regions.
April 7	World Health Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Health Day 2025, observed globally on April 7, commemorates the founding of the WHO in 1948 and focuses on the theme "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures." This year's theme highlights the urgent need to improve maternal and newborn health, launching a year-long WHO campaign aimed at reducing preventable deaths and enhancing health outcomes for women and infants, while raising awareness on global health issues and promoting international action and policy change.
April 6th	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP), celebrated annually on April 6th, highlights sport's potential in fostering social change, peace, and equality. The 2025 theme, "Leveling the Playing Field: Sport for Social Inclusion," focuses on using sport to address challenges like gender, racial equality, and marginalized groups. The UN will host a major event in New York, emphasizing gender equality, healthy aging, and racial equality in sport. The Olympism365 strategy by the IOC supports 550 social impact programmes worldwide, advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through sport.
April 7th	International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda is observed annually on April 7th, commemorating the systematic murder of over 1 million Tutsi, alongside moderate Hutu and others, by the extremist Hutu-led government. Established by the UN General Assembly in 2003, the day serves to honor the victims, reflect on the horrific events, and educate the world on the causes and impact of genocides. UNESCO plays a key role in promoting education to prevent such atrocities in the future and raise awareness about the consequences of hatred, discrimination, and violence.
April 10	Mahavir Jayanti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mahavir Jayanti, celebrated on April 10, 2025, marks the 2623rd birth anniversary of Lord Mahavir, the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism. The festival, observed with devotion, highlights key Jain principles such as Ahimsa (non-violence), Satya (truth), Asteya (non-stealing), Brahmacharya (celibacy), and Aparigraha (non-attachment). Lord Mahavir, born as Vardhamana in 599 BC in Kundalagrama (modern-day Vaishali), renounced his kingdom at 30 and attained Kevala Jnana (supreme knowledge) after 12 years of penance. He passed away in 527 BC, achieving Moksha.
April 10th	World Homeopathy Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Homeopathy Day is celebrated annually on April 10th to honor the birth of Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of homeopathy. This day promotes awareness of homeopathy's contributions to holistic healthcare, emphasizing its principle of "like cures like," where diluted substances from plants, minerals, and animals are used to treat illnesses.





Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
April 13	Siachen Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Siachen Day, observed annually on April 13, commemorates Operation Meghdoot (1984), when the Indian Army preemptively secured the Siachen Glacier—the world's highest battlefield—against Pakistan's intrusion. Marking its 41st anniversary in 2025, the day honors the unmatched bravery of Indian soldiers who endure extreme conditions to guard strategic passes like Sia La and Bilafond La at 20,000 feet in the Karakoram Range.
April 14	Ambedkar Jayanti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ambedkar Jayanti, observed on April 14, commemorates Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the chief architect of India's Constitution and a pioneering social reformer who championed equality, social justice, and human rights, especially for marginalized communities. First celebrated in 1928 in Pune by Janardan Sadashiv Ranapisay, it marked Dr. Ambedkar's growing influence even before independence. In 1990, he was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna, recognizing his transformative legacy in shaping a just and inclusive society.
April 14	World Chagas Disease Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Chagas Disease Day 2025 highlights the global impact of Chagas disease, a "silent and silenced" parasitic illness caused by Trypanosoma cruzi, and stresses the need for equitable healthcare and collective responsibility in its prevention, control, and care. Also known as American trypanosomiasis and discovered by Carlos Chagas in 1909, the disease primarily affects poor populations in Latin America.
April 15	Himachal Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Himachal Day, celebrated on April 15 each year, marks the creation of Himachal Pradesh as a province in 1948 and commemorates its 78th celebration in 2025. Known as the "Apple State of India", Himachal showcases rich cultural heritage, scenic Himalayan landscapes, and tourism. Formed by merging 30 princely states, it gained full statehood on January 25, 1971, becoming India's 18th state. CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu highlighted tribal development in regions like Pangi Valley.
April 15	World Art Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Art Day is observed annually on April 15 to celebrate the universal language of art and honor the birth anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci, symbolizing creativity, peace, and freedom of expression. Initiated by the International Association of Art (IAA) in 2012, in collaboration with UNESCO, the day promotes art education, cultural diversity, and emotional well-being. The 2025 theme, "Art for Unity and Healing," emphasizes art's role in fostering social harmony and mental health.
April 18	World Heritage Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Heritage Day, also known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites, is observed on April 18 annually to promote the preservation of cultural and natural heritage, organized by ICOMOS and recognized by UNESCO since 1983. The 2025 theme, "Heritage under Threat from Disasters and Conflicts," highlights the need for preparedness and resilience.
April 19	World Liver Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Liver Day, observed on April 19, raises awareness about liver health and disease prevention. The 2025 theme, "Food is Medicine," emphasizes the role of nutrition in preventing liver disorders. The liver performs critical functions like detoxification, metabolism, and immune regulation, making its care essential. Poor diet, alcohol abuse, and infections like hepatitis can lead to conditions such as fatty liver, cirrhosis, and liver cancer.
April 21	National Civil Service Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Civil Service Day 2025 will be observed on April 21, 2025, to honor the commitment and excellence of civil servants. The day traces its roots to April 21, 1947, when Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel referred to civil servants as the "steel frame of India" in his speech to the first batch of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers. The celebration aims to recognize exceptional performances, promote ethical governance, encourage best practices in public administration, and inspire youth to pursue civil services. The Father of the Indian Civil Service, Charles Cornwallis.





Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
April 21	World Creativity and Innovation Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID), observed annually on April 21st, was established by the United Nations to raise awareness about the critical role of creativity and innovation in human development. The day emphasizes that creativity extends beyond artistic expression to include problem-solving skills essential for transforming economic, social, and sustainable development structures.
April 22	Earth Day 2025,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earth Day 2025, observed on Tuesday, April 22, carries the theme "Our Power, Our Planet", highlighting the collective responsibility of individuals and nations to drive environmental change. The day promotes renewable energy, sustainable practices, and climate action policies, reinforcing the global commitment to protecting our planet and fostering environmental stewardship.
April 23	World Book and Copyright Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Book and Copyright Day 2025, observed on April 23, celebrates literature, authors, and the protection of intellectual property. Established by UNESCO in 1995, the day honors literary legends like Shakespeare and Cervantes, and promotes reading, literacy, and cultural diversity. The 2025 theme, <i>"The Role of Literature in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"</i>.
24 April	National Panchayati Raj Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 24 April 2025, National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated to honor grassroots democracy, marking the enforcement of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1993. Declared in 2010 by PM Manmohan Singh, the day emphasizes local self-governance and rural development. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Madhubani, Bihar, launching projects worth over ₹13,480 crore, including an LPG plant in Gopalganj, power infrastructure, and rail connectivity like the Amrit Bharat Express and Nammo Bharat Rapid Rail. Key schemes highlighted were PMAY-G, PMAY-U, and DAY-NRLM, alongside Panchayat awards and a push for digital governance through initiatives like e-Panchayat and SVAMITVA.
April 25	World Malaria Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Malaria Day, observed on April 25 every year, raises awareness about malaria, a deadly yet preventable disease. In 2023, there were 263 million cases and nearly 600,000 deaths globally, primarily in tropical and low-income regions. The theme for 2025, "Malaria Ends With Us: Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite," calls for renewed efforts in prevention, treatment, and innovation. Established by the WHO in 2007, the day honors those fighting malaria and encourages policy action and investment.
April 25	International Delegate's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Delegate's Day, observed annually on April 25, celebrates the pivotal role of delegates in fostering global cooperation, peace, and diplomacy. It commemorates the 1945 San Francisco conference, where 50 countries' delegates met to draft the UN Charter, marking the foundation of the United Nations. The day highlights the importance of multilateral diplomacy in addressing global challenges like climate change, poverty, and conflict.
(April 24–30)	World Immunization Week 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Immunization Week 2025 (April 24–30), led by WHO, promotes the theme "Immunization for All is Humanly Possible", stressing universal access to vaccines for all ages. Since 1974, immunization has saved 154 million lives, including 6 lives every minute, with the measles vaccine alone accounting for 60% of these. Despite progress, challenges remain—22 million children missed measles shots in 2023, and vaccine misinformation threatens global health gains.




Important Days of March 2025

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
March 3	World Wildlife Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Wildlife Day, observed annually on March 3, promotes wildlife conservation through education, advocacy, and action. In 2025, the day will focus on the theme "Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet" and marks the adoption of the CITES in 1973.
March 3rd	National Defence Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Defence Day is observed on March 3rd annually in India to honor the sacrifices and bravery of the armed forces. The 2025 observance marked its 87th anniversary, paying tribute to the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force for their role in safeguarding the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.
March 3	World Hearing Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Hearing Day is observed on March 3 to raise awareness about hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care. Organized by the WHO, the 2025 theme is "Changing mindsets: Empower yourself to make ear and hearing care a reality for all!," encouraging individuals to take charge of their hearing health.
March 5	International Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness Day is observed on March 5 every year to raise global awareness about disarmament issues, especially among the youth. The day highlights the threats posed by weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and underscores the importance of collective efforts for global peace and security.
March 6th	National Dentist's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Dentist's Day, observed annually on March 6th, highlights the importance of oral hygiene and recognizes the dedication of dentists in maintaining dental health. This day serves as a reminder to prioritize regular dental checkups, brushing, and flossing, which are essential for strong teeth and gums. It also aims to raise awareness about oral health issues and encourage better dental care habits while expressing gratitude to dental professionals.
March 7	Jan Aushadhi Diwas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jan Aushadhi Diwas is celebrated annually on March 7 to promote generic medicines under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP). A week-long awareness campaign from March 1 to March 7 highlights the benefits of affordable, high-quality medicines.
March 10	International Day of Women Judges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day of Women Judges, observed on March 10, celebrates the vital contributions of female judges in promoting fairness, representation, and equality in judicial systems. This day highlights their role in upholding justice, democracy, and human rights, while also inspiring future generations of women to pursue careers in law and the judiciary.
March 10	CISF Raising Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CISF Raising Day is observed annually on March 10 to honor the contributions of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in safeguarding critical infrastructure in India. In 2025, the country celebrates the 56th CISF Raising Day, with a grand event held in Thakkolam, Tamil Nadu. The event was attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Minister Dr. L. Murugan, and CISF Director General Shri Rajvinder Singh Bhatti.
March 4 to March 10, 2025	54th National Safety Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 54th National Safety Week is being observed across India from March 4 to March 10, 2025, to raise awareness about safety measures in industries and workplaces, promoting accident prevention and employee well-being.





Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized by the National Safety Council (NSC) of India, the event highlights the importance of safety in achieving a developed and progressive India. This year's theme, 'Safety & Well-being Crucial for Viksit Bharat', emphasizes safety's essential role in building a Viksit Bharat.
March 12, 2025	No Smoking Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Smoking Day, observed on the second Wednesday of March, aims to encourage smokers to quit and raise awareness about the health risks of tobacco use. This year, it falls on March 12, 2025. Smoking leads to severe complications such as premature aging, skin discoloration, dental issues, and respiratory problems, with the day promoting a smoke-free life.
March 14	The International Day of Action for Rivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day of Action for Rivers on March 14 raises awareness about the threats to rivers, including degradation, climate change, and human impacts like dam construction and pollution. With over 60% of rivers disrupted by barriers, this day emphasizes the urgent need for collective action to protect and restore these vital ecosystems.
March 14	Pi Day,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pi Day, celebrated on March 14 (3/14), honors the mathematical constant π (Pi), approximately 3.14159. This day is significant for mathematicians, scientists, and enthusiasts as Pi is essential in geometry, physics, and engineering, and holds a special place in both academia and popular culture.
March 15	World Consumer Rights Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Consumer Rights Day, observed on March 15, advocates for consumer rights, fair practices, and ethical business. The theme for 2025, 'A Just Transition to Sustainable Lifestyles', emphasizes the importance of making sustainable and healthy lifestyle choices accessible and affordable for all, promoting consumer protection and sustainable consumption globally.
March 16	National Vaccination Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Vaccination Day, observed on March 16 annually, celebrates India's commitment to immunisation and public health. It marks the historic moment in 1995 when the first dose of the oral polio vaccine was given under the Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme. The day highlights the progress in eliminating vaccine-preventable diseases and the importance of universal vaccination coverage.
March 18	Ordnance Factory Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ordnance Factory Day is celebrated on March 18 to mark the establishment of India's first Ordnance Factory in 1801 near Kolkata. The day emphasizes the research, development, and production capabilities of Indian Ordnance Factories, crucial to India's defence sector. The oldest factory in Cossipore, Kolkata, started operations on March 18, 1802. In 2021, the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) was restructured into seven Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) for greater efficiency and self-reliance in defence manufacturing.
March 20th	World Sparrow Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Sparrow Day, celebrated on March 20th, raises awareness about the declining population of house sparrows and promotes conservation efforts. Initiated in 2010 by the Nature Forever Society, the event has gained global recognition, with over 50 countries participating. The once-common sparrows, known for their cheerful chirps, have become rare due to significant population decline.
March 20	International Day of Happiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Happiness is celebrated on March 20 to promote happiness as a fundamental human goal. Recognized by the United Nations (UN), the day emphasizes well-being, sustainable development, and the need for inclusive, equitable economic growth. It encourages governments, organizations, and individuals to prioritize happiness in policies and daily life. The UN declared this day in 2012 to promote poverty eradication and overall well-being.





Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
March 20	French Language Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> French Language Day will be celebrated by the United Nations (UN) on March 20, 2025, highlighting multilingualism, cultural diversity, and education. The theme for 2025, chosen by the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF), is "I educate myself, therefore I act," focusing on education's role in sustainable development and global peace. The UN Language Days, introduced in 2010, aim to promote the six official languages of the UN: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.
March 20 or 21	Nowruz Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nowruz, the ancient Persian New Year festival, will be celebrated on March 20 or 21, coinciding with the vernal equinox. Recognized by UNESCO as part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, it celebrates renewal, unity, and the triumph of light over darkness, bringing together communities across Iran, Central Asia, the Caucasus, and the Balkans.
March 21	International Day of Forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Forests is celebrated on March 21, 2025, with the theme "Forests and Food". This day highlights forests' vital role in food security, nutrition, and livelihoods. Forests provide resources like fruits, seeds, roots, and wild meat for indigenous and rural communities, emphasizing their connection to global food supply and sustainability. The UN established this day to raise awareness about forest conservation.
March 21	World Day for Glaciers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Day for Glaciers is observed on March 21, as declared by the United Nations under resolution A/RES/77/158. This initiative, alongside the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation 2025, aims to raise awareness about the critical role of glaciers and the urgent need for their conservation amid climate change threats.
March 21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2025 marks the 60th anniversary of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1965. The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, observed on March 21 annually, celebrates progress in combating racial discrimination while recognizing ongoing challenges.
March 21	World Poetry Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Poetry Day 2025 is celebrated on March 21 to emphasize poetry's significance as a universal medium of expression. Established by UNESCO in 1999, the day promotes poetry reading, writing, publishing, and education, recognizing its role in cultural preservation and fostering peace.
March 22	World Water Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Water Day 2025, observed on March 22, focuses on "Glacier Preservation", highlighting glaciers' role in water security, climate regulation, and sustaining life. The United Nations urges global efforts to protect glaciers to combat climate change and water scarcity, emphasizing their critical importance for the planet's future.
March 23	World Meteorological Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Meteorological Day 2025, observed on March 23, marks the 75th anniversary of the WMO with the theme "Closing the Early Warning Gap Together." It highlights the importance of early warning systems in mitigating climate change impacts and extreme weather events, reinforcing global efforts for disaster preparedness and resilience. (




Important Days of February 2025

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
February 2	World Wetlands Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Wetlands Day on February 2 raises awareness about the critical role of wetlands in supporting biodiversity, human well-being, and cultural heritage. The 2025 theme, 'Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future', highlights their importance in preserving life, combating climate change, and promoting sustainable livelihoods. Protecting wetlands is crucial for the future of both nature and humanity.
February 4th	World Cancer Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Cancer Day, observed on February 4th, raises awareness and urges action against cancer, which caused nearly 10 million deaths globally in 2022, according to the WHO. The theme for World Cancer Day 2025, "United by Unique", launches a three-year campaign running until 2027, emphasizing the importance of global unity in addressing the cancer crisis and reducing its burden.
February 6	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) was observed on February 6, 2025. FGM, involving the partial or total removal of female genitalia for non-medical reasons, is recognized as a human rights violation with severe physical, psychological, and social consequences. While prevalent in 30 countries across Africa and the Middle East, FGM remains a global issue, affecting regions like Asia, Latin America, and immigrant communities in Western Europe, North America, Australia, and New Zealand.
February 10	World Pulses Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Pulses Day, celebrated on February 10, raises global awareness about the sustainability and nutritional value of pulses. Recognized by the United Nations (UN), the day emphasizes pulses' role in food security, improving human health, and enhancing soil fertility, contributing to a sustainable agricultural system.
February 10	International Day of the Arabian Leopard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The United Nations declared February 10 as the International Day of the Arabian Leopard in resolution 77/295, first celebrated in 2024 at the UN Headquarters. The Arabian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus nimr</i>), a critically endangered subspecies, faces threats pushing it to the brink of extinction. The day emphasizes the need for conservation and global awareness to protect this iconic species.
February 11	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Women and Girls in Science (IDWGS) 2025, celebrated on February 11, promotes gender equality and women's empowerment in STEM fields. The day recognizes the contributions of women and girls in science and advocates for their equal access to opportunities. The theme for 2025 is "Unpacking STEM Careers: Her Voice in Science", highlighting the dynamic and collaborative nature of science in addressing global challenges.
February 11	International Epilepsy Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The day focuses on combating the smuggling of drugs, arms, gold, fake currency, and other illicit goods, aiming to engage government agencies and the public in protecting India's security and economy.
February 12	National Productivity Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Productivity Day is observed annually on February 12 in India to raise awareness about productivity's role in economic growth, sustainability, and innovation. Organized by the National Productivity Council (NPC), it kicks off a week-long celebration from February 12 to 18, focusing on improving efficiency across industries, startups, and businesses.





Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
February 13	World Radio Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Radio Day is celebrated annually on February 13 to honor radio as a key medium for communication, information, and entertainment. Recognizing its role in fostering dialogue, promoting democratic values, and amplifying diverse voices, the day was established by UNESCO in 2011 and adopted by the United Nations in 2013.
February 12	Darwin Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darwin Day is celebrated on February 12 to honor Charles Darwin, the pioneer of the theory of evolution and natural selection. It commemorates his groundbreaking work in reshaping our understanding of biology and species evolution, promoting scientific thinking, curiosity, and rational thought, while encouraging advancements in science education and research.
February 13	National Women's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Women's Day is celebrated on February 13 in India to honor the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu, a freedom fighter, poet, and social reformer. Known as the Nightingale of India, Naidu was a key figure in the freedom struggle and a strong advocate for women's rights and gender equality. The day highlights her contributions and promotes women's empowerment, leadership, and equal opportunities.
February 15 (Third Saturday of February)	World Pangolin Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The day aims to raise awareness about pangolins, the world's most trafficked mammals, which face threats from illegal wildlife trade, habitat destruction, and high demand for their scales and meat. Conservationists and animal lovers unite to promote conservation efforts and advocate for stronger protection laws.
February 15	International Childhood Cancer Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Day raises awareness about childhood cancer and advocates for improved treatments and support for young patients and their families. Established in 2002 by Childhood Cancer International (CCI), ICCD emphasizes early detection, healthcare accessibility, and ongoing medical research, highlighting the challenges faced by children battling cancer and encouraging community participation.
February 17	Global Tourism Resilience Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Tourism Resilience Day, observed on February 17, celebrates the strength and adaptability of the tourism industry. It highlights the importance of a resilient sector capable of overcoming challenges like pandemics, economic crises, and environmental changes, ensuring continued economic growth, cross-cultural exchange, and sustainability.
February 20	World Day of Social Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Day of Social Justice, observed annually on February 20, promotes fairness, equality, and inclusivity worldwide. Established by the United Nations (UN), it addresses issues like poverty, social exclusion, gender inequality, unemployment, human rights violations, and inadequate social protection systems. The 2025 observance emphasizes aligning global efforts for a just and sustainable future amid challenges like climate change and economic transformation.
February 21st	International Mother Language Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Mother Language Day is observed on February 21st to promote linguistic and cultural diversity. The 2025 theme marks the "Silver Jubilee Celebration of International Mother Language Day", celebrating 25 years of efforts to preserve endangered languages, safeguard cultural heritage, and enhance education and peace through language preservation.
February 24	Central Excise Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Excise Day is observed on February 24 to commemorate the establishment of the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944. The day honors the contributions of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) in efficient tax administration, curbing corruption, and supporting India's economic growth.





Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The act consolidated 11 excise-related laws and laid the foundation for modern excise taxation in India, with excise duty being a key source of government revenue for public welfare programs like education and healthcare.
February 27	World Protein Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Protein Day, celebrated on February 27, raises awareness about the importance of protein in human nutrition. It highlights the health benefits of adequate protein intake and addresses the challenges of protein deficiency. The day underscores the role of protein-rich foods in improving global nutritional security and well-being. Initiated by the US Soybean Export Council (USSEC), it aims to educate people on the vital role of protein in health.
February 27	World NGO Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World NGO Day is observed annually on February 27 to honor the contributions of NGOs in addressing global issues like humanitarian aid, education, healthcare, human rights, and environmental conservation. The theme for 2025 is "Empowering Grassroots Movements for a Sustainable Future", highlighting the role of local organizations in sustainable development.

Important Days of January 2025

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
January 1	Global Family Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Family Day, observed on January 1, promotes peace, unity, and the importance of families in fostering joy and stability. The day emphasizes the link between world peace, communities, and strengthening families. It encourages a global effort to address conflicts and promote harmony.
January 4	World Braille Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Braille Day is observed on January 4 to honor the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, the inventor of the Braille system. Recognized by the UN General Assembly in 2018, the day highlights Braille's importance for literacy, independence, and inclusivity for the visually impaired. It aims to raise awareness about their rights and needs, emphasizing accessibility in creating an inclusive society.
January 5	National Bird Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Bird Day, celebrated annually on January 5, aims to raise awareness about bird conservation and their ecological importance.
January 6	World Day of War Orphans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Day of War Orphans (January 6) raises awareness about children who lose their parents due to war and violence. The 2025 observance focuses on the struggles of these children, highlighting issues like displacement, poverty, and climate change. It calls for global action to provide care, education, and protection for war orphans.
January 8	Earth's Rotation Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earth's Rotation Day on January 8 honors Léon Foucault's 1851 experiment proving Earth's rotation using a pendulum. This landmark discovery revolutionized scientific understanding. The day highlights scientific curiosity, especially among children.
January 10	World Hindi Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Hindi Day is celebrated on January 10 to promote Hindi as a widely spoken global language. Recognized for its rich history and cultural significance, Hindi has evolved over centuries, connecting millions of people worldwide. Embassies and cultural centers organize events like workshops and seminars to celebrate its role in linguistic and international exchanges. The 2025 theme is "A Global Voice of Unity and Cultural Pride," emphasizing Hindi's role in global unity and cultural exchange.





Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
January 12	National Youth Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Youth Day is celebrated on January 12 to honor the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, recognizing his contributions to spiritual growth, national integration, and youth empowerment. Declared in 1984 by the Government of India, the day encourages youth to follow his ideals for a progressive, united, and self-reliant India.
January 14	Armed Forces Veterans' Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Armed Forces Veterans' Day, observed annually on January 14, honors the sacrifices and service of India's armed forces veterans. It fosters solidarity with the families of the bravehearts who served the nation and highlights the connection between veterans and current personnel. The day also focuses on addressing the welfare and concerns of veterans.
January 15	Indian Army Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Army Day, celebrated on January 15 every year, honors the foundation of the Indian Army and the transfer of power to Indian leadership. It pays tribute to the valor and sacrifices of soldiers, promoting patriotism and unity.
January 23	Parakram Diwas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parakram Diwas, or the "Day of Valor," is celebrated every year on January 23 to honor the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, one of India's greatest freedom fighters. This day is a tribute to his courage, determination and significant contributions to India's independence struggle. Let's understand the history, significance and legacy of this important day.
January 24	National Girl Child Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Girl Child Day 2025 is observed annually in India on January 24 to highlight the issues faced by girls in our nation and to advocate for their rights and welfare.
January 24	International Day of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This year, the seventh International Day of Education is celebrated with the theme: 'AI and Education: Preserving Human Agency in a World of Automation.'
January 25	National Tourism Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The theme for this year's National Tourism Day is "Tourism for Inclusive Growth".
January 25	National Voters' Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This year's theme, "Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure," continues the emphasis on participatory democracy.
26 January	International Day of Clean Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day of Clean Energy on 26 January highlights the need for a just and inclusive transition to clean energy. It aims to raise awareness about socio-economic inequalities and the need to protect the planet through clean energy solutions, addressing the dual challenge of ensuring no one is left behind while mitigating climate change.
January 26	International Customs Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Customs Day on January 26 honors the vital role of customs officials in facilitating trade, ensuring security, and preventing illegal trade. Celebrated by the World Customs Organisation (WCO), the 2025 theme is "Customs Delivering on its Commitment to Efficiency, Security, and Prosperity." The day traces its origins to the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC), founded in 1952, to enhance global customs efficiency.
January 26	World Leprosy Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Leprosy Day 2025 will be observed on January 26, with the theme "Unite. Act. Eliminate." The day focuses on raising awareness about leprosy (Hansen's disease), reducing stigma, promoting early diagnosis and treatment, and encouraging compassion and inclusion. It calls for global collaboration to combat and aim for the eradication of leprosy.
27 January	International Day of Commemoration for Holocaust victims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/7 established 27 January as the International Day of Commemoration for Holocaust victims. In 2025, marking 80 years since the end of World War II and the Holocaust, the theme for the year is "Holocaust remembrance and education for dignity and human rights." This highlights the importance of remembering the Holocaust to promote dignity, human rights, and collective responsibility.





Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
January 27	National Geographic Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Geographic Day on January 27 honors the founding of the National Geographic Society, known for its contributions to science, exploration, and environmental conservation. The day celebrates the society's impact on understanding Earth, nature, and humanity, while inspiring global education, exploration, and environmental awareness.
January 29	Indian Newspaper Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Newspaper Day, observed on January 29, commemorates the introduction of the first newspaper in pre-Independence India. The day highlights the role of newspapers in shaping India's socio-political landscape and encourages the habit of daily reading to stay informed on current affairs.
January 30th	World Tropical Neglected Diseases (NTDs) Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) Day is observed annually on January 30th, marking milestones like the WHO NTDs roadmap and the 2012 London Declaration. The theme for this year, "Unite, Act, and Eliminate NTDs", calls for collective action and progress toward eliminating NTDs, with a focus on sustainable financing and global collaboration, inspired by President Embaló of Guinea-Bissau.

Environment

Environment of January 2025

Discovery	Details
Earth Breaches 1.5°C Limit for the First Time in 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a landmark event for climate change, 2024 became the first year in recorded history when the mean global temperature exceeded the critical 1.5°C threshold above pre-industrial levels, as reported by the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S). This breach marks a dangerous trajectory for global warming, bringing humanity closer to a point of no return. Climate experts warn that if this trend continues without drastic emission cuts, global temperatures could exceed the 2°C limit by 2050, with devastating consequences for ecosystems, economies, and human livelihoods.
Global Water Cycle Disruption in 2024 Caused Wayanad Landslides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2024 Global Water Monitor Report highlights significant disruptions in the global water cycle due to climate change, which led to devastating water-related disasters worldwide. These events caused over 8,700 deaths, displaced 40 million people, and resulted in economic losses exceeding \$550 billion. The report emphasizes how extreme weather events, such as landslides, floods, and droughts, are becoming more frequent and intense due to global warming, affecting ecosystems, livelihoods, and infrastructure. Among the major events highlighted, the Wayanad landslides in India stood out as a particularly destructive disaster.
2025 Southern California Winter Wildfires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In January 2025, Southern California experienced a severe wildfire outbreak that devastated large portions of Los Angeles, including celebrity homes and neighborhoods like Hollywood Hills. Wildfires such as the Palisades fire, Eaton fire, Sunset, Hurst, and Lidia fires led to significant destruction, killing 10 people, displacing 130,000 individuals, and delaying the Oscars nominations. Despite winter traditionally being an off-season for wildfires, these fires are particularly intense due to three main contributing factors: wet weather followed by dry conditions, Santa Ana winds, and climate change.
Banded Royal butterfly (Rachana jalindra indra)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Banded Royal butterfly (Rachana jalindra indra) was discovered in Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary, Tripura, on May 5, 2021, marking a key addition to the state's biodiversity. This rare species, now documented in the Munis Entomology & Zoology journal, is protected under the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, listed in Schedule II. The discovery highlights the importance of ecological research and wildlife protection in the region.





Obituaries (National/International)

Obituaries (National/International) of June 2025

NATIONAL

S.No	Person Name	Field	Born Place	Key Notes
1	Vikram Sugumaran	Tamil Filmmaker	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Died at age 47 due to cardiac arrest while traveling from Madurai to Chennai. Directed Madha Yaanai Koottam, contributed to Aadukalam, completed Raavana Kottam, and was working on Therum Porum. Known for realistic rural dramas; started career under Balu Mahendra. Widely mourned in Tamil film industry.
2	Daji Panshikar	Marathi Scholar & Literary Figure	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passed away at 92 in Thane. Expert on Mahabharata, Bhavarth Ramayan, and Eknaathi Bhagwat. Contributed to Maharashtra's theatre; praised by CM Devendra Fadnavis.
3	Vijay Rupani	Politician (Former Gujarat CM)	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Died in Air India 171 crash. Former CM of Gujarat (2016–2021), BJP vice-president. Known for humility, political resilience, and service during Emergency and beyond.
4	Ustad Ghulam Nabi Shah	Kashmiri Folk Musician	Dangiwatcha, Rafiabab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Known as Hamle Bulbul; passed away on June 11, 2025. Worked 30+ years in J&K Info Dept., mastered sarangi, Bacha Nagma, and glass dance. Recipient of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Abdullah Award.
5	Bill Atkinson	Software Pioneer	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Died on June 5, 2025, at 74. Created QuickDraw, key to Apple Lisa and Macintosh. Introduced GUI elements like pull-down menus. Revolutionized user-friendly computing.
6	Nellai Su. Muthu	Former ISRO Scientist & Tamil Author	Tirunelveli	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Died June 16, 2025, in Thiruvananthapuram at 74. Served at Satish Dhawan Space Centre; worked with Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. Authored 170+ books including Vinveli 2057.
7	Maruti Chitampalli	Environmentalism, Padma Shri Awardee	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Died in Solapur at age 93. Served 36 years in Forest Dept; authored Pakshikosha, Pashukosha, Matsyakosha. Called Aranya Rishi, fluent in 13 languages.
8	Dilip Doshi	Cricketer	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Died in London at age 77. Took 114 Test wickets; known for classical spin. Played with a broken toe in 1981 Melbourne Test. Wrote autobiography Spin Punch.
9	Shefali Jariwala	Actress, Dancer	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Died suddenly at age 42 in Mumbai. Famous for Kaanta Laga and Bigg Boss 13. Cause under investigation; postmortem at Cooper Hospital.





INTERNATIONAL

S.No	Person Name	Field	Born Place	Key Notes
1	Étienne-Émile Baulieu	French Biochemist	France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Died at age 98. Inventor of RU-486 (mifepristone), enabling safe medical abortion. Specialized in DHEA and progesterone studies. Advocated for reproductive rights and aging research. Considered a scientific visionary and humanitarian.

Obituaries (National/International) of May 2025

NATIONAL

S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	KEY NOTES
1.	K.V. Rabia	Literacy activist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> K.V. Rabia, a determined literacy activist and Padma Shri awardee, passed away at 59 in Kerala. Despite enduring polio, cancer, and spinal injuries, she played a vital role in the Kerala State Literacy Mission, helping many underprivileged individuals access education. Her life symbolizes resilience, social empowerment, and women's education advocacy, making her a notable figure in grassroots activism in India. (Click here to read article)
2.	Padma Shri scientist Subbanna Ayyappan	Scientist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Padma Shri scientist Dr. Subbanna Ayyappan, aged 70, was found dead under mysterious circumstances in the Cauvery river, three days after being reported missing from Mysuru. Widely hailed as the father of India's Blue Revolution, he had revolutionized aquaculture and rural livelihoods. Concerns surrounding his death have prompted calls for a court-monitored CBI investigation, with allegations of corruption and institutional vendetta within ICAR and ASRB. Tributes have poured in from across the scientific and agricultural communities, recognizing his pivotal contributions to fisheries science and food security in India.
3.	Dr. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar	Renowned astrophysicist and science communicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar, a renowned astrophysicist, science communicator, and Padma Vibhushan awardee, passed away at 87 in Pune. Known for his foundational role in Indian science, he was a Cambridge-educated scholar who expanded theoretical astrophysics at TIFR and founded the globally acclaimed IUCAA in Pune, fostering interdisciplinary research and academic collaboration across India and the world.
4.	Dr. M.R. Srinivasan	Former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and the Founder-Chairman of NPCIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. M.R. Srinivasan, a pioneer in India's atomic energy journey, passed away on May 20, 2025, at the age of 95. As a former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and the Founder-Chairman of NPCIL, he played a critical role in constructing India's first nuclear research reactor Apsara and developing 18 nuclear power units.
5.	Dr. Saroj Ghose	visionary pioneer of India's science museum movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Saroj Ghose, the visionary pioneer of India's science museum movement, passed away on May 17, 2025. As the founding Director General of NCSM, he was instrumental in creating a decentralised network of science centres to promote scientific temper and informal education across the country. His post-retirement work on landmark institutions like the Parliament Museum and the Rashtrapati Bhavan Museum solidified his legacy.





S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	KEY NOTES
6.	Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa	Senior Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader and former Member of Parliament (MP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader and former Member of Parliament (MP) from Sangrur, Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, passed away, bringing to a close a significant chapter in Punjab's political history. He died at the age of 89 at Fortis Hospital in Mohali after a prolonged illness.
7.	Rajesh	Veteran Tamil film actor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veteran Tamil film actor Rajesh passed away on Thursday, May 29, 2025, in Chennai, following a sudden heart attack. He was 75.

INTERNATIONAL

S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	KEY NOTES
1.	Luis Galván	Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luis Galván, Argentina's 1978 World Cup-winning defender, has died at 77. Revered for his solid defensive play and long-standing association with Club Atlético Talleres, Galván's passing marks the end of an era. His contributions in Argentina's controversial 1978 victory—held during a military dictatorship—remain a key part of football history. His death, coming soon after the loss of Hugo Gatti, has reignited reflection on the golden generation of Argentine football.
2.	Jose Mujica	former Uruguayan president	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jose Mujica, the former Uruguayan president known worldwide as the "poorest president," died in 2025 after battling cancer. His life story—from Tupamaros guerrilla fighter to a transformative political leader—epitomized humility and progressive values. Mujica's presidency brought landmark reforms like legalizing abortion, same-sex marriage, and recreational cannabis. He famously lived simply on his farm, donating most of his salary to charity, which earned him global admiration.

Obituaries (National/International) of April 2025

NATIONAL

S.No	PERSON NAME	KEY NOTES
1.	Manoj Kumar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manoj Kumar, the legendary Bollywood actor, passed away at the age of 87 due to heart-related complications and liver cirrhosis. Born as Harikrishan Giri Goswami in Pakistan, he moved to Delhi after the Partition of India. He rose to stardom in the late 1950s, with notable films like Hariyali Aur Raasta (1962), Woh Kaun Thi? (1964), and Patthar Ke Sanam (1967). Known for his iconic patriotic films, Manoj Kumar became a beloved figure in Indian cinema.
2.	Ravikumar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veteran actor Ravikumar, known for his romantic roles in Malayalam and Tamil films of the 1970s and 1980s, passed away on April 4, 2025, at age 71 in Chennai. Son of actor Bharathi and producer K.M.K. Menon, founder of Sreekrishna Studio, Ravikumar grew up in a film-centric environment. He rose to fame with Ullasa Yaathra (1975) and made his Tamil debut in Avargal (1977) directed by K. Balachander, leaving a lasting legacy in South Indian cinema.
3.	Padma Shri Ram Sahay Pandey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Padma Shri Ram Sahay Pandey, a legendary exponent of Rai folk dance, passed away at the age of 92 in Sagar, Madhya Pradesh. Despite facing poverty, orphanhood, and caste-based taboos, Pandey dedicated his life to revitalizing and promoting Rai dance, transforming it from a stigmatized art form into a celebrated cultural symbol.





S.No	PERSON NAME	KEY NOTES
4.	Dadi Ratan Mohini	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dadi Ratan Mohini, born Lakshmi on March 25, 1925 in Hyderabad, Sindh (now in Pakistan), passed away at age 100 on April 8, 2025 in Ahmedabad. As the Chief Administrator of the Brahma Kumaris since 2021, she succeeded Dadi Janki after her passing in 2020. A global spiritual leader, Dadi Ratan Mohini represented the Brahma Kumaris at the World Peace Conference in 1954 and traveled extensively to promote peace, values.
5.	Kumudini Lakhia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kumudini Lakhia (1930–2024), the trailblazing Kathak exponent, revolutionized the classical form by challenging its reliance on narrative (katha) and literary content (sahitya), introducing abstraction, ensemble choreography, and contemporary themes. Trained under legends like Pt Sundar Prasad, Pt Shambhu Maharaj, and Pt Birju Maharaj, she brought a global perspective after touring Europe with Ram Gopal at 18.
6.	Dr. K. Kasturirangan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. K. Kasturirangan, former ISRO Chairman, passed away at 84 on April 25, 2025, in Bengaluru. A visionary scientist, he led ISRO from 1994 to 2003, overseeing key achievements like the operationalisation of PSLV, development of GSLV, and launch of IRS-1A. He also directed India's first earth observation satellites, BHASKARA-I & II. His four-decade association with ISRO left a lasting impact on India's space and remote sensing programs.
7.	M G S Narayanan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M G S Narayanan, a towering figure in Indian historiography, passed away at the age of 92. Born on August 20, 1932, in Ponnani, Kerala, he made profound contributions to the study of Kerala's ancient and medieval history and broader South Indian history. Narayanan served as Member Secretary and later Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) and was closely associated with the University of Calicut, strengthening its research and academic excellence.

INTERNATIONAL

S.No	PERSON NAME	KEY NOTES
1.	Richard Chamberlain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richard Chamberlain, renowned as the "king of the miniseries", passed away at 90 on March 30, 2024, in Waimanalo, Hawaii, due to stroke complications. Born on March 31, 1934, in Beverly Hills, he initially pursued painting before shifting to acting post-Korean War service. He rose to fame as Dr. James Kildare in NBC's Dr. Kildare (1961-66), becoming a teen heartthrob and winning Most Popular Male Star (1963–65). His rendition of the show's theme song also became a Top 40 hit.
2.	Val Kilmer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renowned American actor Val Kilmer passed away at the age of 65 due to pneumonia, as confirmed by his daughter Mercedes Kilmer. Known for iconic roles in Top Gun, The Doors, Tombstone, and Batman Forever, Kilmer had battled throat cancer for years. Born on December 31, 1959, in Los Angeles, he was the youngest student admitted to Juilliard's Drama Division. His career began on stage before his Hollywood debut in Top Secret! (1984), which earned him a devoted fan base.
3.	Jean Marsh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jean Marsh, renowned British actress and co-creator of the iconic period drama Upstairs, Downstairs, passed away on April 13, 2025, at the age of 90 in London due to complications from dementia. Best known for her Emmy-winning role as Mrs. Rose Buck, a parlormaid, Marsh's performance left a lasting impact on British television. As both a talented actress and screenwriter, her legacy is marked by creativity, resilience, and a pivotal contribution to classic British drama.
4.	Pope Francis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pope Francis, born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Argentina, passed away at 88 after battling double pneumonia. Elected as the first Latin American, Jesuit, and non-European pope in 2013, he led the Catholic Church through significant reform and challenges, including Vatican dysfunction and child abuse scandals. Known for his progressive views on same-sex couples, climate action, and migrants, he promoted interfaith dialogue and social justice.





S.No	PERSON NAME	KEY NOTES
5.	Mario Vargas Llosa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mario Vargas Llosa, the celebrated Peruvian novelist, essayist, and journalist, passed away on April 14, 2025, at age 89. A Nobel Laureate (2010), he was known for his incisive works exploring power structures and the individual's struggle against them. Author of over 30 novels, including The Time of the Hero and The Green House, Vargas Llosa's influential literary style and political activism cemented his legacy as a towering figure in Spanish-language literature and global intellectual thought.

Obituaries (National/International) of March 2025

NATIONAL

S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	KEY NOTES
1.	Himmat Shah	sculptures and modern art	Himmat Shah, renowned Indian artist known for his sculptures and modern art, passed away at 92 on Sunday due to a heart attack at Jaipur's Shalby Hospital. Known for his belief that every material has life, he creatively transformed objects like old bottles, wires, and ropes into unique artworks.
2.	Padmakar Shivalkar	left-arm spinners	Padmakar Shivalkar, one of India's finest left-arm spinners, passed away at 84 in Mumbai. A legendary figure in Mumbai cricket, Shivalkar was never able to represent India internationally due to the presence of Bishan Singh Bedi. His death follows the recent passing of former Mumbai captain Milind Rege, leaving the cricket fraternity in mourning.
3.	Ananta Das	former Minister of Higher Education and Industries	Ananta Das, former Minister of Higher Education and Industries and senior Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader from Balasore district, passed away at the age of 85 in Bhubaneswar due to age-related ailments. Born on August 28, 1940, in Kuruthia village under Balim Panchayat, he had a strong academic background, completing his post-graduation in Arts and earning a law degree.
4.	Garimella Balakrishna Prasad	Renowned classical singer and former Asthana Vidwan (court musician)	Garimella Balakrishna Prasad, the renowned classical singer and former Asthana Vidwan (court musician) of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), passed away at the age of 76 due to a heart attack in Tirupati. His demise marks the end of an era in Indian classical and devotional music, particularly in the popularization of Annamacharya's compositions.
5.	Syed Abid Ali	former Indian all-rounder	The cricket world mourns the loss of Syed Abid Ali, a former Indian all-rounder, who passed away at 83 in the United States. Renowned for his agility and all-round performances, Abid Ali made significant contributions to Indian cricket and played a key role in shaping memorable moments in the sport's history.
6.	Arvind Singh Mewar	chairman of the HRH Group of Hotels	Arvind Singh Mewar, chairman of the HRH Group of Hotels and descendant of Maharana Pratap, passed away at 81 on March 16, 2025, in Udaipur after a prolonged illness. He was known for preserving Rajput heritage and promoting tourism in Udaipur. His family includes wife Vijayraj Kumari, son Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar, and daughters Bhargavi Kumari Mewar and Padmaja Kumari Parmar.
7.	Bindu Ghosh	Tamil film comedian	Bindu Ghosh, a beloved Tamil film comedian, passed away at 76 on March 16, 2025, in Chennai after a prolonged illness. Known for her exceptional comic timing and vibrant presence, her death has left a deep void in the hearts of fans and colleagues in the Tamil cinema industry.
8.	Ramakanta Rath	Renowned Odia poet and former IAS officer	Ramakanta Rath, renowned Odia poet and former IAS officer, passed away at 90. Born in Puri on December 30, 1934, Rath was known for works like Saptama Ritu, Sri Radha, and Sandigha Mrigaya, which redefined Odia poetry with deep philosophical reflections. He received prestigious awards, including Padma Bhushan, Saraswati Samman, and Atibadi Jagannath Das Award.





S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	KEY NOTES
9.	Dr. Debendra Pradhan	Veteran BJP leader and former Union Minister	Veteran BJP leader and former Union Minister Dr. Debendra Pradhan passed away at 84 in New Delhi after a brief illness. He is survived by his wife and two sons, with his last moments spent at the residence of his son, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.
10.	George Foreman	American boxing legend	American boxing legend George Foreman passed away on March 21, 2025, at age 76. A two-time heavyweight champion, Olympian, and successful businessman, Foreman was celebrated for his remarkable comeback in boxing. His family announced his demise, remembering him as a humanitarian and sporting icon.
11.	Dr. Senkalong (Senka) Yaden,	Naga scientist and academician	Dr. Senkalong (Senka) Yaden, a distinguished Naga scientist and academician, passed away at 89 in Tyler, Texas, on March 14, 2025. Known as the "Man of Science of the USA," he made significant contributions to science and education. Despite living abroad, he remained connected to his Naga roots. In honor of his achievements, Ao Senden declared March 17, 2025, a day of mourning.

INTERNATIONAL

S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	KEY NOTES
12.	Ron Draper	Test cricketer	Ron Draper, the oldest living Test cricketer, passed away at 98 years and 63 days in Gqeberha on February 25, 2025. A top-order batsman and occasional wicketkeeper, Draper played two Test matches for South Africa against Australia in 1950. His death was confirmed by his son-in-law, Neil Thomson, on February 28, 2025.
13.	Fred Stolle	Australian tennis player and commentator	Fred Stolle, the legendary Australian tennis player and commentator, has passed away at the age of 86. Tennis Australia confirmed the news, honoring his extraordinary skill and contributions to the sport. Stolle was a key figure in Australia's golden era of tennis in the 1960s, leaving a lasting legacy both on and off the court.

Obituaries (National/International) of February 2025

NATIONAL

S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	KEY NOTES
1	Navin Chawla	Former Chief Election Commissioner of India	Led the 2009 Lok Sabha elections, contributed to electoral reforms.
2.	Shyam Benegal	filmmaker	A visionary filmmaker and pioneer of Indian parallel cinema, passed away on December 23, 2024, at the age of 90. Known for redefining storytelling with realistic and socially relevant narratives, his death marks the end of an era, leaving behind an unmatched legacy in Indian cinema.
3.	Acharya Satyendra Das	chief priest	Acharya Satyendra Das , the chief priest of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya , passed away at 85 on February 7, 2024 . He had been serving as the head priest since the age of 20, dedicating over six decades to religious service , and his death has left the Hindu community and devotees of Lord Ram in deep mourning.
4.	Gyalo Thondup	14th Dalai Lama	Gyalo Thondup, the elder brother of the 14th Dalai Lama, passed away on February 8, 2025, at 97 in Kalimpong, West Bengal.
5.	Pandit Prabhakar Karekar	Hindustani classical vocalist	Renowned Hindustani classical vocalist Pandit Prabhakar Karekar passed away at 80 in Mumbai after a brief illness. Born in Goa, Karekar was known for his devotional renditions like Bolava Vithal Pahava Vithal and Vakratund Mahakay.
6.	Sukri Bommagowda	Renowned folk singer and Padma Shri awardee	She was a respected figure in the Halakki Vokkaliga community, celebrated for her role in preserving folk traditions through music.





S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	KEY NOTES
8.	Pratul Mukhopadhyay	Renowned Bengali vocalist, composer, and lyricist	Renowned Bengali vocalist, composer, and lyricist Pratul Mukhopadhyay passed away at the age of 83. Known for his soulful songs like Ami Banglar Gaan Gai and Dinga Bhasao Re, Mukhopadhyay played a pivotal role in shaping Bengali music.
9	C Krishnaveni	Veteran Telugu actor and producer	Veteran Telugu actor and producer C Krishnaveni passed away at 102 in Hyderabad due to age-related issues. Known for her significant contributions to the Telugu film industry, she introduced legendary figures like NT Rama Rao (NTR) and Ghantasala Venkateswara Rao. Krishnaveni's legacy includes her roles as an actor, singer, and producer.
10	Milind Rege	Former Mumbai cricket captain	Milind Rege, former Mumbai cricket captain and a key figure in Indian domestic cricket, passed away on February 19, 2025, at the age of 76 due to cardiac arrest.
11	Mayadhar Raut	Renowned Odissi maestro and "Father of Odissi dance,"	Mayadhar Raut, renowned Odissi maestro and "Father of Odissi dance," passed away on February 22, 2025, at the age of 92. A Padma Shri awardee, Raut played a key role in the revival and codification of Odissi dance in the 1950s. His contributions, including the introduction of Sanchari Bhava, Mudra Viniyoga, and Rasa Theory, were pivotal in shaping Odissi into a structured classical dance form.

INTERNATIONAL

S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	BORN PLACE	KEY NOTES
1	Horst Koehler	Former President of Germany (2004–2010)	German-occupied Poland	Former IMF Managing Director, focused on Africa, independent political stance.
2	The Aga Khan	Spiritual Leader, Philanthropist	Switzerland	Led the Ismaili Muslim community, founded AKDN for humanitarian work.
3	Brian Murphy	British Actor	United Kingdom	Best known for Man About the House, George and Mildred, influential in 70s sitcoms.
4	Sam Nujoma	Namibia's first president	Namibia	Known as the "Father of the Namibian Nation", Nujoma played a pivotal role in leading Namibia to freedom from apartheid South Africa in 1990.
5.	Gene Hackman	Oscar-winning actor	Russia	Russian chess grandmaster Boris Spassky, the 10th World Chess Champion, has passed away at the age of 88. The news was confirmed by International Chess Federation (FIDE) general director Emil Sutovsky, who informed Reuters about his demise.

Obituaries (National/International) of January 2025

NATIONAL

S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	KEY NOTES
1	Kattungal Subrahmanyam Manilal	Botany	Renowned botanist; Padma Shri awardee; translated Hortus Malabaricus; contributed significantly to India's botanical heritage; passed away on January 1, 2025.
2	Dr. Rajagopala Chidambaram	Key figure in India's nuclear program	He played a crucial role in India's nuclear journey, from the 1974 peaceful nuclear test to Operation Shakti in 1998, establishing India as a nuclear power. A leader in condensed matter physics, materials science, energy security, and advanced technologies like supercomputing and nanotechnology, he served as Principal Scientific Advisor from 2002 to 2018, shaping India's scientific development.





S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	KEY NOTES
3	Pritish Nandy	poet, journalist, filmmaker, and former Rajya Sabha member	Born in 1951 in Bhagalpur, Bihar, Nandy authored 40+ poetry books and translated works in multiple languages. His poem "Calcutta If You Must Exile Me" is a modern Indian literature classic. Nandy was also a prominent journalist, serving as Publishing Director of The Times of India and editor of The Illustrated Weekly, Filmfare, and The Independent.
4	H Lakshmanan	former Executive Director of Sundaram-Clayton	A key figure in the TVS Group for nearly seven decades, Lakshmanan started as a typist and rose to become a trusted confidant of the TVS family. He was known for his exceptional management skills, strategic vision, and dedication to the company's growth and success.
5	P. Jayachandran	legendary playback singer	P. Jayachandran, the legendary playback singer known as "Bhava Gayakan," passed away at 80 after a prolonged illness. With over 16,000 songs in Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Hindi, his soulful voice captured emotions like love, devotion, and longing.
6	Wing Commander (Retd) Dr. K. Ramchand	Aerospace engineer and former director of the Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS)	Wing Commander (Retd) Dr. K. Ramchand, a distinguished aerospace engineer and former director of the Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS) under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), passed away on January 17, 2025, at the age of 82. His pioneering contributions to India's aerospace sector have left an indelible mark.
7	Narendra Chapalgaonkar	Retired Bombay High Court judge	Known for his significant contributions to literature, law, and social thought, Chapalgaonkar leaves a lasting legacy in these fields.
8	Latika Katt	Indian sculptor	Latika Katt, a celebrated Indian sculptor, passed away at 76. Known for her larger-than-life sculptures and busts of public figures, she worked with mediums like terracotta, papier-mâché, stone, and bronze.
9	Greg Bell	Olympic gold medallist	Greg Bell, the oldest living Olympic gold medallist in athletics, passed away on January 25, 2025, at 94. Known for his long jump achievements, Bell also made significant contributions to dentistry. His legacy of resilience, athletic success, and professional accomplishments continues to inspire future generations.

INTERNATIONAL

S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	KEY NOTES
1	Jimmy Carter	Politics	39th President of the United States; known for humanitarian work, the Camp David Accords; won Nobel Peace Prize in 2002; passed away at 100.
2.	Costas Simitis	former Greece's Prime Minister	He played a key role in **Greece's integration into the eurozone in 2001. Leading PASOK from 1996, he secured electoral wins in 1996 and 2000, succeeding Andreas Papandreou.
3.	Shigemi Fukahori	Nagasaki atomic bombing survivor	At 14, he witnessed the bombing's devastation on August 9, 1945, which killed tens of thousands, including his family. Fukahori dedicated his life to advocating for peace and nuclear disarmament, sharing his experiences globally to prevent future nuclear tragedies.
4	Denis Law	legendary Scottish footballer	Known as "The King" and "The Lawman", Law made a lasting impact with his goal-scoring prowess and charismatic presence, notably with Manchester United and the Scotland national team. His illustrious career is remembered for its significant contributions to both clubs.
	David Lynch	Renowned Hollywood director and writer,	David Lynch, the renowned Hollywood director and writer, passed away at 78. A visionary of modern cinema, Lynch revolutionized film with his surreal style, exploring the darker aspects of human nature and the subconscious.





Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of June 2025

- **Elon Musk's X** has introduced **XChat**, a secure, cross-platform messaging app currently in beta for paid subscribers. Equipped with **Bitcoin-like encryption**, **disappearing messages**, and **audio/video calling**, the app represents Musk's push to rival platforms like WhatsApp, Telegram, and WeChat. It reflects his broader vision to turn X into a **super app** with integrated services, potentially including AI-powered tools like **Grok AI** in the future.
- Famed investor and billionaire philanthropist **Warren Buffett, Chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway**, has announced a massive **\$6 billion donation in company stock** to five charitable foundations. The latest act of generosity, revealed on June 27, 2025, brings his total donations since 2006 to approximately \$60 billion. The bulk of this donation will benefit the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Trust, along with foundations closely connected to Buffett's family.
- Chief Election Commissioner **Gyanesh Kumar** emphasized the transparency and rigor of India's electoral roll system while addressing the **Stockholm International Conference on Electoral Integrity** in Sweden. He highlighted how India, since 1960, has ensured that electoral rolls are shared annually with all recognised political parties, allowing for claims, objections, and appeals—a process that reinforces trust and integrity in the world's largest democracy.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of May 2025

- Bill Gates has committed to donating **99% of his fortune by 2045**, focusing on **health, poverty, and disease eradication**. This includes an additional **\$200 billion** over the next two decades, advancing efforts through the **Gates Foundation**. Inspired by Andrew Carnegie, Gates emphasizes the **urgency** of addressing global challenges before his death.
- A **Joint Indian Mountaineering Team** comprising elite instructors from **JIM&WS, NIM, and HMI** scaled **Mount Everest (8,848.86 m)** on **May 23, 2025**, under the leadership of **Col Anshuman Bhadauria** and **Col Hem Chandra Singh**. The expedition, flagged off by **Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth**, included a successful acclimatisation climb to **Mt. Lobuche** and marked a historic collaboration among India's premier institutes. The achievement underscores **India's prowess in high-altitude mountaineering** and promotes a national spirit of resilience, unity, and adventure.
- **Maharana Pratap Jayanti 2025** marks the **485th birth anniversary** of one of India's most iconic warrior kings — **Maharana Pratap Singh** of Mewar. Known for his **unyielding spirit**, fierce patriotism, and legendary resistance against

Mughal emperor Akbar, this day holds immense historical and cultural importance across **Rajasthan** and various parts of **India**.

- **Vishwanath Karthikey Padakanti, a 16-year-old boy from Hyderabad**, has made history. He is now the youngest India and the second youngest person in the world to finish the famous 7 Summits challenge. This means he climbed the highest mountain on each of the seven continents – a big dream for mountaineers around the world.
- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has raised a serious warning about climate change. According to a recent report, there is a 70% chance that global temperatures will cross the 1.5°C limit above pre-industrial levels between the years 2025 and 2029.
- Kashmir has taken a big step in fruit transport. For the first time, fresh cherries from the valley will be **sent by train from Katra (Jammu) to Mumbai**. This new service will help small farmers who could not afford to send their fruits by air earlier.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of April 2025

- **Sindbad submarine** sank off **Hurghada, Egypt's Red Sea**, killing **six Russian tourists** during a **routine excursion** with 45 tourists and five crew members. The vessel, designed for **underwater exploration**, likely **struck a coral reef**, causing **pressure loss and flooding**. This incident raises concerns for **Egypt's tourism industry**, a major revenue source generating **\$14.1 billion in 2024**, with key attractions like the **Pyramids of Giza, Luxor, Aswan, and Red Sea resorts**.
- The **Saudagari block print**, a traditional craft from **Jamalpur, Ahmedabad**, has received a **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag, recognizing it as an important part of **Gujarat's cultural heritage**. This **300-year-old** textile art involves hand-carving wooden blocks, dipping them in **natural dyes**, and creating intricate designs on fabric, traditionally used for items like **kurtis, chunris, shawls, and dhotis**. The **Chhipa community** has played a crucial role in preserving this art, which was once widespread but declined due to industrialization.
- The **Kumbakonam Betel Leaf** of **Thanjavur** and the **Thovalai Flower Garland** of **Kanyakumari** were granted **Geographical Indication (GI) Tags** by the **Government of India**, increasing Tamil Nadu's total GI products to 62. The GI Tag protects these products from **commercial misuse**, ensures **authenticity**, and enhances **market recognition**. The **Kumbakonam Betel Leaf**, grown in the fertile **Cauvery river basin**, is expected to boost exports, while the **Thovalai Flower Garland**, crafted with white, red, and green flowers, is renowned for its artistic floral arrangements in **southern Tamil Nadu and Kerala**.





- The **Chapata Chilli (Tomato Chilli)** from **Warangal, Telangana**, has received the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**, benefiting around **20,000 farmers** by boosting income and market demand. Known for its **bright red color and mild pungency**, it is widely used in **pickles and as a natural coloring agent**. Cultivated for **over 80 years** across **3,000 hectares** in **Warangal, Hanmakonda, Mulugu, and Bhupalpally**.
- West Bengal has achieved a milestone by securing **Geographical Indication (GI) tags** for **seven new products**, including the iconic **Nolen Gurer Sandesh** and **Baruipur guavas**. These GI tags will provide global recognition to traditional items, boosting the local economy and enhancing the state's cultural identity. The tagged products span food items like **Kamarpukur's White 'Bonde'**, **Murshidabad's 'Chhanabara'**, and **Bishnupur's 'Motichur Laddoo'**, as well as agricultural products like **Radhunipagal Rice** and **Malda's Nistari Silk Yarn**. This recognition safeguards traditional products and opens up new market opportunities, though challenges like the short shelf life of sweets remain. West Bengal now boasts 33 GI-tagged items.
- *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (DDLJ)*, the iconic 1995 romantic film, will be commemorated with a **bronze statue** of **Shah Rukh Khan** and **Kajol** at **Leicester Square, London**, in **Spring 2025**. The statue, inspired by a memorable scene from the film, will be placed outside the **Odeon Cinema**, a location featured in the movie.
- The **Banaras Shehnai** has been conferred with the prestigious **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** in **April 2025**, recognizing its cultural and spiritual significance. Originating from **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**, this traditional wind instrument is deeply tied to ceremonies and rituals. The recognition, awarded by **PM Modi**, highlights the **artisan craftsmanship** involved in creating shehnai using **Sheesham** and **Sagwan wood** and **reed from Dumraon**.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of March 2025

- The **Cheetah Reintroduction Project** in India is expanding beyond **Kuno National Park** to **Banni Grasslands** in Gujarat and **Gandhisagar Sanctuary** in Madhya Pradesh. Announced by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** at the **National Board of Wildlife (NBWL)** meeting, the expansion aims to restore the **cheetah population** and enhance **biodiversity conservation** in India.
- India has added **six new properties** to its **UNESCO Tentative List**, bringing the total to **62 sites**. These include **Kanger Valley National Park**, **Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs**, **Ashokan Edict Sites**, **Chausath Yogini Temples**, **Gupta**

Temples of North India, and Palace-Fortresses of the Bundelas. Being on the Tentative List is a crucial step towards **UNESCO World Heritage** status, showcasing India's commitment to preserving its **cultural and natural heritage**.

- The **'Watan Ko Jano'** programme, funded by the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, aims to promote **national integration** by exposing children under 18 from government-run homes to the **culture, history, and technological advancements** of other parts of India. The initiative has successfully fostered unity among **India's youth** and contributed to a more **inclusive and harmonious society**.
- **East Coast Railway (ECoR)** has become the **first railway zone** in India to achieve **250 million tons (MT) of originating freight** in **FY 2024-25**, reaching the milestone on **March 21, 2024, 11 days ahead of schedule**. This marks the **second consecutive year** of surpassing 250 MT, reinforcing ECoR's position as **India's highest freight-loading railway zone** and a key contributor to **logistics and economic growth**.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of February 2025

- The **'Culinary, Crafts & Clicks – Moods & Magic'** festival, organized by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** and **MyGov**, celebrates India's **cultural richness** through **food, traditional arts, and photography**. A major highlight is the **'Moods and Magic' photography contest**, inviting participants to capture the essence of India's **public spaces** through candid moments and artistic expressions, showcasing vibrant **cultural interactions**.
- In honor of **Mohammed Rafi's 100th birth anniversary**, the **Indian government** has announced the release of a **₹100 commemorative coin** celebrating his monumental contributions to **Indian music and culture**. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** praised Rafi as a "musical genius," emphasizing his **versatility** and lasting cultural impact across generations.
- **Purnima Devi Barman**, an Indian biologist and wildlife conservationist, has been named in **TIME Magazine's Women of the Year 2025** list. She is the only Indian woman honored, recognized for her efforts in **conserving the greater adjutant stork (Hargila)**. Barman's work has positively impacted both the **environment and society**, alongside global figures like **Nicole Kidman** and **Gisele Pelicot**.
- A **Lancet study** based on **GBD 2021** data reveals a **30% decline** in **India's suicide death rate** from 1990 to 2021, with a notable decrease among **females**. Globally, one person dies by **suicide every 43 seconds**. The decline in India is attributed to various **mental health initiatives** and **policy reforms**.





- Nearly **700,000 Olive Ridley turtles** laid eggs at the **Rushikulya rookery** in Odisha's **Ganjam district** during the **2025 arribada**, marking a record high. The mass nesting, which began on **February 16** and ended on **February 23**, surpassed the previous record of **637,000** turtles in 2023. Favorable **climatic conditions** and improved **beach maintenance** contributed to the surge in numbers. The highest recorded mass nesting in India occurred in **2001** at **Gahirmatha rookery** with about **741,000** turtles.
- Champakam Dorairajan**, a Brahmin woman from Madras, played a **pivotal role in shaping India's constitutional history** through her legal challenge to **caste-based reservations in educational institutions**. Her case, *State of Madras v. Champakam Dorairajan* (1951), led to the First Amendment of the Indian Constitution, which introduced Article 15(4) allowing affirmative action for socially and educationally backward classes. This case marked the first instance where the **Supreme Court struck down a law for violating fundamental rights, setting the stage for future debates on merit, equality, and reservations in India**.
- Gharials (*Gavialis gangeticus*)**, a unique species of long-snouted crocodilians, are **critically endangered** due to habitat destruction, pollution, and fishing practices. **Madhya Pradesh (MP) has emerged as a leader in their conservation**, hosting over 80% of India's gharials. Recently, CM Mohan Yadav released 10 gharials into the Chambal River, reinforcing MP's commitment to their protection.
- The recent sighting of **85 Cape Vultures** (*Gyps coprotheres*) in **South Africa's Eastern Cape** after three decades marks a **significant milestone for conservationists**. These vultures, exclusive to Southern Africa, play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance by preventing disease spread through carrion disposal. Conservation efforts have helped stabilize their population, but vultures globally continue to face threats. This resurgence highlights the importance of sustained conservation initiatives.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of January 2025

- The **2025 Tibet Earthquake**, measuring **7.1** on the Richter scale, struck the **Tibetan Plateau** on **January 5, 2025**, causing widespread destruction and displacing thousands. The event highlighted the **seismic vulnerability** of the region, a geologically active area, and drew **international concern**.
- The ongoing **Maha Kumbh Mela** has witnessed a remarkable collaboration between the **International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)** and the **Adani Group**, which has significantly enhanced the food distribution services at the event. This partnership ensures that nearly **one lakh people** are provided with nutritious meals daily during the 45-day spiritual gathering.
- Yala Glacier**, situated in **Nepal's Langtang National Park**, has been a focal point for glaciological studies due to its significant retreat over recent decades. Recent analyses






predict that this glacier may **vanish by the 2040s**, underscoring the profound impacts of **climate change on the Himalayan cryosphere**.

- A significant historical artifact, a **Umamaheshwara metal sculpture**, has been unearthed in **Taggunje, Ajri village, Kundapura taluk, Udupi district, Karnataka**. This intricate sculpture, believed to have been created in the **17th century** using a **12th-century style**, showcases a rare blend of **Shaiva-Shaktha and Naga cult traditions**, according to **T. Murugeshi**, a retired Associate Professor of Ancient History and Archaeology.
- In December 2024, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) resumed excavations at the historic **Buddhist complex in Ratnagiri, Odisha**, after a 60-year hiatus. Spearheaded by ASI's superintending archaeologist D B Garnayak, the project seeks to further uncover Ratnagiri's rich history and explore material evidence of Odisha's connection to Southeast Asia's cultural and maritime heritage.
- The national capital is set to host the much-awaited **New Delhi World Book Fair 2025**, a grand celebration for readers, authors, and publishers alike. This event, scheduled to run from **February 1 to February 9, 2025**, will take place at the **Bharat Mandapam in Pragati Maidan**. With over five decades of legacy, the book fair promises to be a vibrant confluence of literature, culture, and knowledge.
- A **tragic stampede** at the **Maha Kumbh** in **Prayagraj** on **January 29, 2025**, resulted in **30 deaths** and over **60 injuries**. The **Uttar Pradesh government** formed a **three-member judicial commission** to investigate the disaster, headed by **retired High Court judge Harsh Kumar**. The panel, which also includes **D.K. Singh** and **V.K. Gupta**, has a one-month deadline but aims for an expedited inquiry.
- A groundbreaking study, "**Antiquity of Iron: Recent Radiometric Dates from Tamil Nadu**" by **K. Rajan** and **R. Sivanantham**, challenges the timeline of the **Iron Age in India**, suggesting it began as early as **3345 BCE** in **Tamil Nadu**, much earlier than previously thought. The study used advanced techniques like **Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS)** and **Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL)**,

providing evidence that **iron technology** was in use in the region, making it the **oldest recorded** in the world.

Test Prime

ALL EXAMS,
ONE SUBSCRIPTION.





Static Takeaways Current Affairs

Static Takeaways Current Affairs of June 2025

Organizations

Static Name	Static Details
SBI	MD - Challa Sreenivasalu Setty
RBI	Governor - Sanjay Malhotra
Deutsche Bank India	MD - Sandhya Vasudevan; HQ - Mumbai
Canara Bank	MD - K. Satyanarayana Raju
Federal Bank	MD - KVS Manian
Muthoot Group	MD - George Alexander Muthoot
PNB	MD - Ashok Chandra
Asian Development Bank	HQ - Manila, Philippines
AIIB	President - Zou Jiayi
Sun Pharma	MD - Kirti Ganorkar
Thomas Cook India Limited	MD - Mahesh Iyer
NASA	Head - Janet Petro
ISRO	Chairman - V. Narayanan
Bharati Space	CEO - Sumil Mittal
SpaceX	CEO - Elon Musk
Starlink	CEO - Elon Musk (<i>Corrected from Murtadha Adenji</i>)
Honda Space	CEO - Toshiriro Mibe
Reliance Group	Chairman - Mukesh Ambani
Adani Group	Chairman - Gautam Adani
TATA Group	Chairman - Chandrasekhar
Jio Financial Service	CEO - Hitesh Sethiai
Meta India	CEO - Sandhya Devanathan
Google	CEO - Sundar Pichai
Telegram	CEO - Pavel Durov
IndiGo Airlines	CEO - Pieter Elbers
Air India	CEO - Campbell Wilson
Nippon Koei India	CEO - Sampath Kumar
ICC (International Cricket Council)	Chairman - Jay Shah
FIFA	President - Gianni Infantino (<i>Corrected</i>)
SIDBI	Chairman - Manoj Mittal

Countries

Country	Leadership & Capital
Germany	Chancellor - Friedrich Merz; Capital - Munich
Portugal	PM - Luis Montenegro; Capital - Lisbon
South Korea	President - Lee Jae Myung; Capital - Seoul
Poland	President - Andrez Duda; Capital - Warsaw





Country	Leadership & Capital
Nicaragua	President - Jose Daniel Ortega; Capital - Managua
Bangladesh	Capital - Dhaka
Canada	Capital - Ottawa (<i>Incorrect: No President role; PM – Mark Carney</i>)
Israel	PM - Benjamin Netanyahu; Capital - Jerusalem
Sri Lanka	President - Anura Kumara Disanayake; Capital - Colombo
USA	President - Donald Trump; Capital - Washington D.C. (<i>May be outdated</i>)
Iran	Head - Ali Hosseini Khamenei; Capital - Tehran
Italy	PM - Georgia Meloni; Capital - Rome
Cyprus	President - Nikos Christodoulides; Capital - Nicosia
UK	PM - Keir Starmer; Capital - London
Russia	President - Vladimir Putin; Capital - Moscow
Croatia	PM - Andrej Plenkovic; Capital - Zagreb
Romania	President - Ilie Bolojan; Capital - Bucharest
Ukraine	President - Volodymyr Zelenskyy; Capital - Kyiv

Indian States & Union Territories

State/UT	CM / Governor / Capital
Karnataka	CM - Siddharamaiah; Governor - Thawar Chand Gehlot; Capital - Bengaluru
Kerala	CM - Pinarayi Vijayan; Governor - R. Arlekar; Capital - Thiruvananthapuram
Uttar Pradesh	CM - Yogi Adityanath; Governor - Anandiben Patel; Capital - Lucknow
Jammu and Kashmir	CM - Omar Abdullah (<i>Tentative</i>); L. Governor - Manoj Sinha
Punjab	CM - Bhagwant Mann; Governor - Gulab Chand Kataria; Capital - Chandigarh
Gujarat	CM - Bhupendra Patel; Governor - Acharya Devvrat; Capital - Gandhinagar
Maharashtra	CM - Devendra Fadnis; Governor - Radhakrishnan (<i>Likely incorrect</i>); Capital - Mumbai
Bihar	CM - Nitish Kumar; Governor - Arif Khan (<i>Likely incorrect; should be Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar</i>); Capital - Patna
Tamil Nadu	CM - M.K. Stalin; Governor - R. N. Ravi; Capital - Chennai
Andhra Pradesh	CM - Chandrababu Naidu; Governor - Abdul Nazeer; Capital - Amaravati (<i>admin</i>)
West Bengal	CM - Mamata Banerjee; Governor - C. V. Ananda Bose; Capital - Kolkata
Delhi (NCT)	CM - Rekha Gupta (<i>Incorrect; Arvind Kejriwal was current CM as of early 2024</i>); L. Governor - V. K. Saxena
Tripura	CM - Manik Saha; Governor - N. Indrasena Reddy; Capital - Agartala
Odisha	CM - Mohan Majhi; Governor - Hari Babu Kambhupati; Capital - Bhubaneswar
Madhya Pradesh	CM - Mohan Yadav; Governor - Mangubhai Patel; Capital - Bhopal
Assam	CM - Himanta Biswa Sarma; Governor - Lakshman Prasad Acharya; Capital - Dispur

Static Takeaways Current Affairs of May 2025

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
1	SBI	Chairman - Challa Sreenivasalu Setty
2	RBI	Governor - Sanjay Malhotra
3	SEBI	Chairman - Tuhin Kanta Pandey
4	BOB	MD - Debadatta Chand





Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
5	PNB	MD - Ashok Chandra HQ - New Delhi
6	Yes Bank	MD - Prashant Kumar HQ - Mumbai
7	Starlink	CEO - Cyril Anand
8	Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation India	CEO - Shantanu Mitra
9	Union Bank	MD - Manimekhalai HQ - Mumbai
10	Canara Bank	MD - Satyanarayan Raju HQ - Bengaluru
11	UPSC	Chairman - Ajay Kumar
12	Supreme Court	CJI - Justice Gavai
13	ISRO	Chairman - V Narayanan
14	WHO	HQ - Geneva
15	USA	President - Donald Trump Capital - Washington D.C. Currency - USD
16	Angola	President - Joao Lourenco Capital - Luanda Currency - Kwanza
17	Russia	President - Vladimir Putin Capital - Moscow Currency - Ruble
18	Vietnam	President - Luong Cuong Capital - Hanoi Currency - Dong
19	France	President - Emmanuel Macron Capital - Paris Currency - Euro
20	China	President - Xi Jinping Capital - Beijing Currency - Yuan
21	Bhutan	PM - Tshering Tobgay Capital - Thimpu Currency - Ngultrum
22	Japan	President - Shiegru Ishiba Capital - Tokyo Currency - Yen
23	Canada	President - Mark Carney Capital - Ottawa Currency - Canadian Dollar
24	Saudi Arabia	President - Mohammed Bin Salman Capital - Jeddah Currency - Saudi Riyal
25	Honduras	President - Xiomara Castro Capital - Tegucigalpa Currency - Lempira
26	Indonesia	President - Prabowo Subianto Capital - Jakarta Currency - Rupiah
27	Cambodia	President - Heng Samrin Capital - Phnom Penh Currency - Riel
28	Karnataka	Governor - Thawar Chand Gehlot CM - Sidharamaiah Capital - Bengaluru
29	Maharashtra	Governor - C. P. Radhakrishnan CM - Devendra Fadnavis Capital - Mumbai
30	Uttar Pradesh	Governor - Anandiben Patel CM - Yogi Adityanath Capital - Lucknow
31	Madhya Pradesh	Governor - Mangubhai Patel CM - Mohan Yadav Capital - Bhopal
32	Gujarat	Governor - Acharya Devvrat CM - Bhupendra Patel Capital - Gandhinagar
33	Punjab	Governor - Gulab Chand Kataria CM - Bhagwat Mann Capital - Chandigarh
34	Jammu and Kashmir	L. Governor - Manoj Sinha CM - Omar Abdullah Capital - Srinagar
35	Delhi	L. Governor - Vinai Saxena CM - Rekha Gupta
36	Andhra Pradesh	Governor - Abdul Nazeer CM - Chandrababu Naidu
37	Uttarakhand	Governor - Gurmit Singh CM - Pushkar Dhama
38	Tripura	Governor - N. Reddy CM - Manik Saha Capital - Agartala
39	Mizoram	Governor - V. K. Singh CM - Lalduhoma Capital - Aizawl
40	Tamil Nadu	Governor - R. N. Ravi CM - M. K. Stalin Capital - Chennai
41	Rajasthan	Governor - Haribhau Bagade CM - Bhajan Lal Capital - Jaipur
42	Assam	Governor - Lakshman Acharya CM - Hemanta Biswa Sarma Capital - Dispur




Static Takeaways Current Affairs of April 2025

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
Organization		
1	Asian Development Bank	President - Masato Kanda HQ - Mandaluyong, Manila, Philippines
2	RBI	Governor - Sanjay Malhotra HQ - Mumbai
3	SBI	Chairman - Challa Sreenivaalu Setty HQ - Mumbai
4	SBI card & Payment Services	MD & CEO - Salila Pande
5	DBS Bank India	MD & CEO - Rajat Verma
6	TATA Sons	Chairman - Natarajan Chandrasekaran
7	Axis Bank	MD & CEO - Amitabh Chaudhary
8	FICCI	Chairman - Harsha Vardhan Agarwal
9	Aditya Birla Capital Limited	CEO - Vishakha Mulye
10	Renault Group	CEO - Venkatram Mamillapalle
11	Nissan India	CEO - Saurabh Vatsa
12	Space X	CEO - Elon Musk
13	Microsoft	CEO - Satya Nadella
14	Asian Cricket Council	President - Mohsin Naqvi HQ - Dubai
Countries		
15	USA	President - Donald Trump Currency - US Dollar Capital - Washington D.C.
16	Brazil	President - Lula Da Silva Currency - Brazilian Real Capital - Brasilia
17	Myanmar	President - Min Aung Hlaing (Acting) Currency - Kyat Capital - Naypyidaw
18	Singapore	PM - Lawrence Wong Currency - Singapore Dollar Capital - Singapore
19	Thailand	President - Paetongtarn Shinawatra Currency - Thai Baht Capital - Bangkok
20	Japan	PM - Ishiba Shigeru Currency - Yen Capital - Tokyo
21	Russia	President - Vladimir Putin Currency - Russian Ruble Capital - Moscow
Indian States		
22	Assam	Governor - Lakshman Prasad Acharya CM - Hemanta Biswa Sarma Capital - Dispur
23	Punjab	Governor - Gulab Chand CM - Bhagwat Man Capital - Chandigarh





Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
24	Chattisgarh	Governor - Ramen Deka CM - Vishnu Deo Sai Capital - Raipur
25	West Bengal	Governor - C. V. Ananda Bose CM - Mamta Banerjee Capital - Kolkata
26	Maharashtra	Governor - C. P. Radhkrishnan CM - Devendra Fadnavis Capital - Mumbai
27	Telangana	Governor - Jishnu Dev Varma CM - Revanth Reddy Capital - Hyderabad
28	Andhra Pradesh	Governor - S. Abdul Nazeer CM - Chandrababu Naidu Capital - Amrawati
29	Odisha	Governor - Hari Babu Kambhupati CM - Mohan Charan Majhi Capital - Bhubneshwar

Sr. No	Static Name	Details
Organizations		
1	UNESCO	HQ - Paris, France
2	SEBI	Chairman - Tuhin Kanta Pandey Head Office - Mumbai
3	Swiggy	Founder - Sriharsha Majesty, Nandan Reddy, Rahul Jaimini
4	Blue Origin	CEO - Dave Limp
5	Adani Ltd.	Chairman - Gautam Adani
6	WHO	DG - Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
7	Principal Scientific Advisor of India	Ajay Kumar Sood
8	IndusInd Bank	MD - Sumant Kathpalia Head office - Mumbai
Countries		
9	United States of America	President - Donald Trump Capital - Washington D.C. Currency - USD
10	China	President - Xi Jinping Capital - Beijing Currency - Yuab
11	Gabon	President - Brice Oligui Ngoma Capital - Libreville Currency - CFA Franc
12	Ecuador	President - Daniel Noboa Capital - Quito Currency - USD
13	Tanzania	President - Samia Suluhu Capital - Dodoma Currency - Tanzanian Shilling Equals





Sr. No	Static Name	Details
14	UAE	President - Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Capital - Abu Dhabi Currency - UAE Dirhum
Indian States		
15	Kerala	Governor - Arlekar CM - Pinarayi Vijayan Capital - Thiruvananthapuram
16	Tamil Nadu	Governor - R. N. Ravi CM - M. K. Stalin Capital - Chennai
17	Meghalaya	Governor - C. Vijayshankar CM - Conrad Sngma Capital - Shillong
18	Arunachal Pradesh	Governor - Kaiwalya Parnaik CM - Pema khandu Capital - Itanagar
19	Telanagana	Governor - Jishnu Dev Verma CM - Revanth Reddy Capital - Hyderabad
20	Gujarat	Governor - Acharya Devvrat CM - Bhupendra Patel Capital - Gandhinagar
21	Madhya Pradesh	Governor - Mangubhai Patel CM - Mohan Yadav Capital - Bhopal
22	West Bengal	Governor - C. V. Ananda Bose CM - Mamta Banerjee Capital - Kolkata

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
Organizations		
1	ISRO	Chairman - V Narayanan
2	RBI	Governor - Sanjay Malhotra
3	SEBI	Chairman - Tuhin Kanta Pandey
4	SBI	Chairman - Challa Sreenivasalu Setty
5	PNB (Punjab National Bank)	MD/CEO - Ashok Chandra
6	UNESCO	HQ - Paris
7	IMF	President - Kristalina Georgieva
8	World Bank	President - Ajay Banga
9	Boeing	CEO - Kelly Ortberg
10	Air India	CEO - Campbell Wilson
11	Reliance Industries	Chairman - Mukesh Ambani
Countries		
12	USA	President - Donald Trump Capital - Washington D.C. Currency - USD
13	China	President - Xi Jinping Capital - Beijing Currency - Yuan





Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
14	Kazakhstan	President - Kassam Tokayev Capital - Tenge Currency - Astana
15	Saudi Arabia	President - Mohammed Bin Salman Capital - Riyadh Currency - Saudi Riyal
16	South Africa	President - Cyril Ramaphosa
17	Kenya	President - William ruto Capital - Nairobi Currency - Shilling
18	Russia	President - Vladimir Putin Capital - Moscow Currency - Ruble
19	France	President - Emmanuel Macron Capital - Paris Currency - Euro
Indian States		
20	Andhra Pradesh	Governor - S. Abdul Nazeer CM - Chandrababu Naidu Capital - Amravati
21	Telangana	Governor - Jishnu Dev Verma CM - Revanth Reddy Capital - Hyderabad
22	Bihar	Governor - Arif Khan CM - Nitish Kumar Capital - Patna
23	Maharashtra	Governor - C. P. Radhakrishnan CM - Devendra Fadnavis Capital - Mumbai
24	Odisha	Governor - Hari Babu Kambhupati CM - Mohan Charan Majhi Capital - Bhubneswar
25	Karnataka	Governor - Thawar Chand Gehlot CM - Siddharamaiya Capital - Bengaluru

Static Takeaways Current Affairs of March 2025

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
Banking Organizations		
1	HDFC Bank	Chairman - Atanu Chakraborty Head office - Mumbai
2	Federal Bank	Chairman - Abhaya Prasad Hota Head office - Aluva, Kerala
3	Yes Bank	Chairman - R. Gandhi Head office - Mumbai
4	Bank of India	Chairman - M.R. Kumar Head office - Mumbai
5	City Union Bank	Chairman - M. Narayanan Head office - Mumbai
6	SEBI	Chief - Tuhin Kanta Pandey Head office - Mumbai





Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
7	RBI	Governor - Sanjay Malhotra Head office - Mumbai
Space Organizations		
8	NASA	Acting Administrator - Janet Petro HQ - Washington D.C.
9	ISRO	Chairman - V. Narayanan HQ - Bengaluru, India
Countries of World		
10	USA	President - Donald Trump Capital - Washington D.C. Currency - American Dollar Facts - USA and Canada share the world's largest border with each other.
11	China	President - Xi Jinping Capital - Beijing Currency - Chinese Yuan Neighbouring Countries - India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, North Korea, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan
12	Mexico	President - Claudia Sheinbaum Capital - Mexico City Currency - Mexican Peso Neighbouring Countries - USA, Guatemala, Belize
13	Uruguay	President - Yamandu Orsi Capital - Montevideo Currency - Peso Uruguayo Neighbouring Countries - Argentina, Brazil, Atlantic ocean to South
14	Israel	PM - Benjamin Netanyahu Capital - Jerusalem Currency - Israeli New Shekel Neighbouring Countries - Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon
Indian States		
15	Madhya Pradesh	Governor - Mangubhai Patel CM - Mohan Yadav Capital - Bhopal State Bird - Paradise Flycatcher State Animal - Swamp Deer (Barasingha) State Tree - Banyan Tree State Flower - Madonna Lilly State Fish - Mahasheer
16	Punjab	Governor - Gulab Chand Kataria CM - Bhagwat Man Capital - Chandigarh State Bird - Northern Goshawk State Animal - The Blackbuck State Tree - Shisham Tree
17	Haryana	Governor - Bandaru Dattatreya CM - Nayab Singh Saini Capital - Chandigarh State boundary - Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan State Animal - Black Buck State Bird - Black Francolin





Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
18	Gujarat	Governor - Acharya Devvrat CM - Bhupendra Patel Capital - Gandhinagar Largest city - Ahmedabad State Boundaries - Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, UT of Daman & Diu, Dadar & Nagar Haveli International boundary - Pakistan Sea borders Arabian Sea State Animal - Asiatic Lion State Bird - Greater Flamingo State Tree - Mango State Flower - Golgotha
19	Kerala	Governor - V. Arlekar CM - Pinarayi Vijayan Capital - Thiruvananthapuram State Boundaries - Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Puducherry (Mahe) Number of Districts - 14 State Animal - Elephant State Bird - Great Indian Hornbill State Flower - Kanikonna or Indian laburnum or amaltus
20	Karnataka	Governor - Thawar Chand Gehlot CM - Siddharamaiah Capital - Bengaluru State Boundaries - Maharashtra, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Goa, Tamil Nadu Principal Language - Kannada Other Language - Tulu, Hindi, Bengali, Mahi State Animal - Asian Elephant State Bird - Indian Roller
21	Assam	Governor - Lakshman Prasad Acharya CM - Hemanta Biswa Sarma Capital - Dispur Silk - Muga, Eri, Pat silk Oil Industry - Digboi Refinery – birth place of the Oil Industry in India.
22	Uttarakhand	Governor - Gurmit Singh CM - Pushkar Singh Dhami Capital - Dehradun State Borders - Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh Char-Dhams - Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, Yamunotri State Animal - Himalayan Musk deer State Flower - Brahm Kamal State Tree - Burans

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
Space and Business Org.		
1	NASA	Acting Administrator - Janet Petro HQ - Washington D.C.
2	SPACE X	CEO - Elon Musk HQ - California
3	Google	CEO - Sundar Pichai HQ - California
4	Bharti Airtel	CEO - Shashwat Sharma
5	Jio	CEO - Akash Ambani





Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
6	Tata Motors	CEO - Marc Lilstosella Head office - Mumbai
7	Tata Power	CEO - Praveer Sinha Head office - Mumbai
Banking Org.		
8	RBI	Governor - Sanjay Malhotra Head office - Mumbai
9	ICICI Bank	MD - Sandeep Bakhshi Head Office - Mumbai
10	BOB Bank	MD - Debadatta Chand Head Office - Vadodara
11	HDFC Bank	Chairman - Atanu Chakraborty Head office - Mumbai
12	Star Health Insurance	MD - Anand Roy
13	IIFL Finance	MD - Nirmal Jain
14	SBI Life Insurance	MD - Amit Jhingran
Countries		
15	Canada	President - Mark Carney Capital - Ottawa Currency - Canadian Dollar Neighbouring Countries - US, Green Land
16	China	President - Xi Jinping Capital - Beijing Currency - Chinese Yuan Neighbouring Countries - India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, North Korea, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan
Indian State		
17	Assam	Governor - Lakshaman Prasad Acharya CM - Hemanta Biswa Sarma Capital - Dispur Silk - Muga, Eri, Pat silk Oil Industry - Digboi Refinery – birth place of the Oil Industry in India.
18	Tamil Nadu	Governor - R. N. Ravi CM - M. K. Stalin Capital - Chennai State Bird - Emerald Dove State Animal - Nilgiri Tahr State Tree - Palmyra Palm
19	Madhya Pradesh	Governor - Mangubhai Patel CM - Mohan Yadav Capital - Bhopal State Bird - Paradise Flycatcher State Animal - Swamp Deer (Barasingha) State Tree - Banyan Tree State Flower - Madonna Lilly State Fish - Mahasheer




Static Takeaways Current Affairs of February 2025

Sr. No	Name	Static Details
1	RBI	Governor - Sanjay Malhotra Head Office - Mumbai
2	SEBI	Chairman - Madhavi Buch Head Office - Mumbai
3	SBI	CMD - Challa Sreenivasalu Head Office - Mumbai
4	ISRO	Chairman - Narayanan Head Office - Bengaluru
5	JAXA (The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency)	President - Hiroshi Yamakawa
6	DRDO	HQ - Delhi
7	Zepto	CEO - Aadit Palicha
8	Kotak Mutual Fund	CEO - Nilesh Shah Head Office - Mumbai
9	Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	CEO - Sanjeev Nautiyal Head Office - Bengaluru
10	BIMSTEC	HQ - Dhaka, Bangladesh
11	ODISHA	Governor- Hari Babu Kambhupati CM- Moham Majhi Capital- Bhubneshwar
12	Gujarat	Governor- Acharya Devvrat CM- Bhupendra Patel Capital- Gandhinagar
13	Andhra Pradesh	Governor- S. Abdul Nazeer CM- Chandrababu Naidu Capital- Amravati
14	Kerala	Governor- Rajendra Arlekar CM- Pinarayi Vijayan Capital- Thiruvananthapuram
15	Rajasthan	Governor- Haribhau Bagade CM- Bhajan Lal Sharma Capital- Jaipur
16	Himachal Pradesh	Governor- Shiv Pratap Shukla CM- Sukhvinder Sukhu Capital- Shimla
17	USA	President - Donald Trump Capital - Washington D.C.
18	Panama	Head - Jose Raul Mulino Capital - Panama City
19	Uganda	President - Yoweri Museveni Capital - Kampala
20	New Zealand	PM - Maori Capital - Wellington
21	Pakistan	PM - Shehbaz Sharif Capital - Islamabad
22	Belgium	PM - Bart De Wever Capital - Brussels
23	Russia	President - Vladimir Putin Capital - Moscow





Sr. No	Name	Static Details
24	South Africa	President - Cyril Ramaphosa Administrative Capital - Pretoria
25	Democratic Republic of Congo	President - Felix Tshisekedi Capital - Kinshasa

Sr. No	Name	Static Details
Ministers in Govt. of India		
1	Union Minister of Agriculture	Shivraj Singh Chouhan
2	Union Minister of Finance	Nirmala Sitharaman
3	Union Minister of Forest, Environment and Climate Change	Bhupendra Yadav
States of India		
4	West Bengal	Governor - C.V. Ananda Bose CM - Mamta Banerjee Capital - Kolkata State Animal - Fishing Cat State Bird - White-throated Kingfisher State Flower - Night-flowering Jasmine
5	Assam	Governor - Lakshaman Prasad Acharya CM - Hemanta Biswa Sarma Capital - Dispur Silk - Muga, Eri, Pat silk Oil Industry - Digboi Refinery – birth place of the Oil Industry in India.
6	Uttarakhand	Governor - Gurmit Singh CM - Pushkar Singh Dhami Capital - Dehradun State Borders - Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh Char-Dhams - Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, Yamunotri State Animal - Himalayan Musk deer State Flower - Brahm Kamal State Tree - Burans
7	Gujarat	Governor - Acharya Devvrat CM - Bhupendra Patel Capital - Gandhinagar Largest city - Ahmedabad State Boundaries - Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, UT of Daman & Diu, Dadar & Nagar Haveli International boundary - Pakistan Sea borders Arabian Sea State Animal - Asiatic Lion State Bird - Greater Flamingo State Tree - Mango State Flower - Golgotha
8	Delhi	L. Governor - Vinai Kumar Saxena CM - Rekha Gupta Capital - New Delhi





Sr. No	Name	Static Details
9	Madhya Pradesh	Governor - Mangubhai Patel CM - Mohan Yadav Capital - Bhopal State Bird - Paradise Flycatcher State Animal - Swamp Deer (Barasingha) State Tree - Banyan Tree State Flower - Madonna Lilly State Fish - Mahasheer
10	Karnataka	Governor - Thawar Chand Gehlot CM - Siddharamaia Capital - Bengaluru State Boundaries - Maharashtra, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Goa, Tamil Nadu Principal Language - Kannada Other Language - Tulu, Hindi, Bengali, Mahi State Animal - Asian Elephant State Bird - Indian Roller
11	Kerala	Governor - V. Arlekar CM - Pinarayi Vijayan Capital - Thiruvananthapuram State Boundaries - Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Puducherry (Mahe) Number of Districts - 14 State Animal - Elephant State Bird - Great Indian Hornbill State Flower - Kanikonna or Indian laburnum or amaltus
12	Jharkhand	Governor - Santosh Gangwar CM - Hemant Soren Capital - Ranchi State Boundaries - Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal State Animal - Elephant State Bird - Koel State Tree - Sal
13	Odisha	Governor - Hari Babu Kambhupati CM - Moham Majhi Capital - Bhubneshwar State Border - Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bay of Bengal State Animal - Sambhar State Bird - Blue Jay / Indian Roller
14	Rajasthan	Governor - Haribhau Bagde CM - Bhajanlal Sharma Capital - Jaipur State Border - Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat International Border - Pakistan State Flower - Rohida (Tecomella undulate) State Bird - Godawan or Great Indian Bustard State Animal - Camel, Chinkara
Countries of World		
15	Qatar	Head of State - Sheikh Tamim Bin AL Thani Capital - Doha Currency - Qatari Riyal Neighbouring Countries - Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, UAE





Sr. No	Name	Static Details
16	Brazil	President - Lula Da Silva Capital - Brasilia Currency - Brazilian Riyal Neighbouring Countries - Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, Colombia, Suriname, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru
17	Mauritius	PM - Navin Ramgoolam Capital - Port Louis Currency - Mauritian Rupee
18	Indonesia	President - Prabowo Subianto Capital - Jakarta Currency - Indonesian Rupiah Neighbouring Countries - Malaysia, PNG, Timor-leste, Singapore, Philippines
19	USA	President - Donald Trump Capital - Washington D.C. Currency - American Dollar Neighbouring Countries - Canada, Mexico, Cuba, Bahamas
20	China	President - Xi Jinping Capital - Beijing Currency - Chinese Yuan Neighbouring Countries - India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, North Korea, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan
21	Argentina	President - Javier Milei Capital - Buenos Aires Currency - Argentina Peso Neighbouring Countries - Chile, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay
22	Saudi Arabia	President - Mohammed Bin Salman Capital - Rlyadh Currency - Saudi Riyal Neighbouring Countries - Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, UAE, Oman, Yemen
Banking Corporations/Companies/Big Platforms		
23	Axis Bank	MD - Amitabh Chaudhary Head office - Mumbai
24	SEBI	Chairman - Madhabi Buch Head office - Mumbai
25	RBI	Governor - Sanjay Malhotra Head office - Mumbai
26	Meta	CEO - Mark Zuckerberg Head office - California
27	South Indian Bank	MD - P R Seshadri Head office - Thirissur, Kerala
28	Standard Chartered Bank	MD - Pankaj Walia Head office - Mumbai
29	Karnataka Bank	MD - Srikrishana Hari Head office - Mangaluru
30	Tata Motors	CEO - Marc Lilstosella Head office - Mumbai
31	Tata Power	CEO - Praveer Sinha Head office - Mumbai
32	Zomato	CEO - Deepinder Goyal Head office - Gurugram, Haryana
33	Reliance Industries Limited	Chairman - Mukesh D Ambani Head office - Mumbai





Sr. No	Name	Static Details
34	Google	CEO - Sundar Pichai Head office - California
35	ISRO	Chairman - V Narayanan Head Office - Bengaluru

Static Takeaways Current Affairs of January 2025

Organizations, Banks, States, and Countries - Static Details

Sr. No	Orgn./Bank/State/Country	Key Person	Designation	Headquarters/Capital
1	RBI	Sanjay Malhotra	Governor	Mumbai
2	SBI	Challa Sreenivasulu Setty	MD	Mumbai
3	EPFO	Ramesh Krishnamurthi	Central PF Commissioner	New Delhi
4	National Cooperative Bank	K. B. Upreti	MD	Mumbai
5	Cosmos Cooperative Bank	Mrs. Apekshita Thipsay	MD	Pune
6	CRPF	Anish Dayal Singh	DG	N/A
7	Brazil	Lula Da Silva	President	Brasília
8	Vietnam	Luong Cuong	President	Hanoi
9	Nepal	KP Sharma Oli	PM	Kathmandu
10	China	Xi Jinping	President	Beijing
11	Switzerland	Viola Amherd	President	Bern
12	Kerala	R. Arlekar / Pinarayi Vijayan	Governor / CM	Thiruvananthapuram
13	Tamil Nadu	RN Ravi / M. K. Stalin	Governor / CM	Chennai
14	Haryana	Bandaru Dattatreya / Nayab Singh Saini	Governor / CM	Chandigarh
15	Chhattisgarh	Ramen Deka / Vishnu Deo Sai	Governor / CM	Raipur
16	Jammu & Kashmir	Manoj Sinha / Omar Abdullah	L. Governor / CM	Jammu
17	Telangana	Jishnu Dev Varma / Revanth Reddy	Governor / CM	Hyderabad
18	Home Minister	Amit Shah	Minister	N/A
19	Defense Minister	Rajnath Singh	Minister	N/A
20	NITI Aayog	PM Narendra Modi	Chairperson	N/A
21	ISRO	V. Narayanan	Chairman	Bengaluru
22	HDFC Bank	Sashidhar Jagdishan	MD	Mumbai
23	Suzuki India	R. C. Bhargava	Chairman	New Delhi
24	ICMR	Dr. Rajiv Bahl	DG	N/A
25	WHO	Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus	DG	Geneva
26	Canada	- (Justin Trudeau resigned)	President	Ottawa
27	Ukraine	Volodymyr Zelenskyy	President	Kiev
28	France	Emmanuel Macron	President	Paris
29	Japan	Shigeru Ishiba	PM	Tokyo
30	Indonesia	Prabowo Subianto	President	Jakarta





Sr. No	Orgn./Bank/State/Country	Key Person	Designation	Headquarters/Capital
31	Vietnam	General Luong Cuong	President	Hanoi
32	Uttar Pradesh	Anandiben Patel / Yogi Adityanath	Governor / CM	Lucknow
33	Madhya Pradesh	Mangubhai Patel / Mohan Yadav	Governor / CM	Bhopal
34	Goa	P. S. Sreedharan Pillai / Pramod Sawant	Governor / CM	Panaji
35	Assam	Lakshman Acharya / Hemanta Biswa Sarma	Governor / CM	Dispur
36	Jharkhand	Santosh Gangwar / Hemant Soren	Governor / CM	Ranchi
37	Delhi	Vinai Saxena / Atishi (Caretaker-as New CM not announced after elections)	L. Governor / CM	New Delhi
38	West Bengal	C. V. Ananda Bose / Mamta Banerjee	Governor / CM	Kolkata
39	BCCI	Devjit Saikia	Secretary	N/A
40	Bank of Baroda	Debadatta Chand	MD	Vadodara, Gujarat
41	IMF	Kristalina Georgieva	President	Washington D.C.
42	FICCI	Harshavardhan Agarwal	Chairman	N/A
43	DRDO	Samir Kamat	Secretary	N/A
44	Blue Origin	Dave Limp	CEO	N/A
45	NPCI	Ajay Kumar Chaudhary	Non-Executive Chairman	N/A
46	Venezuela	Nicolas Maduro	President	Caracas
47	Spain	Pedro Sanchez	President	Madrid
48	Gujarat	Acharya Devvrat / Bhupendra Patel	Governor / CM	Gandhinagar
49	Dhanlaxmi Bank	K. N. Madhusoodanan	Chairman	Kerala
50	Bank of India	M. R. Kumar	Chairman	Mumbai
51	IDBI Bank	Rakesh Sharma	MD & CEO	Mumbai
52	Jio	Akash Ambani	Chairman	Mumbai
53	Tata Steel	Natarajan Chandrasekaran	Chairman	Mumbai
54	Sony India	Sunil Nayyar	Chairman	New Delhi
55	ZOHO	Sridhar Vembu	Chairman	Chennai
56	CRED	Kunal Shah	Chairman	Bengaluru
57	Niger	Abdourahamane Tchiani	President	Niamey
58	Finance Minister	Nirmala Sitharaman	Minister	N/A
59	Commerce & Industry Minister	Piyush Goyal	Minister	N/A
60	Civil Aviation Minister	Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu	Minister	N/A
61	Chief Economic Advisor	V. Anantha Nageswaran	Advisor	N/A
62	MSME Minister	Giriraj Singh	Minister (Independent Charge)	N/A
63	UAE	Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan	President	Abu Dhabi




Key Entities - Static Details

Entity	President/Chairman	Headquarters	Established Year	CM/Governor
Election Commission of India	Gyanesh Kumar (Newly Elected) Rajiv Kumar Retired Now (CEC)	New Delhi	1950	N/A
ISRO	Dr. V. Narayanan (Chairman)	Bengaluru	1969	N/A
BCCI	Roger Binny (President)	Mumbai	1928	N/A
BSF	Daljit Singh Chaudhary (DG)	New Delhi	1965	N/A
Indian Army	General Manoj Pande (COAS)	New Delhi	1895	N/A
Bharti AXA Life Insurance	Parag Raja (MD & CEO)	Gurgaon	2006	N/A
Reliance Power Limited	Neeraj Parakh (CEO)	Mumbai	2007	N/A
Zurich Kotak General Insurance	Srinivas Injeti (Chairman)	Mumbai	2008	N/A
IORA	Chairmanship Rotates	Mauritius	1997	N/A
CRPF	Vitul Kumar (DG)	New Delhi	1939	N/A
IDFC FIRST Bank	V. Vaidyanathan (MD & CEO)	Mumbai	2015	N/A
Tata AIA Life Insurance	Saurabh Agrawal (Chairman)	Mumbai	2001	N/A
Bharti Airtel	Sunil Bharti Mittal (Chairman)	New Delhi	1995	N/A
Bajaj Finance	Sanjiv Bajaj (MD & CEO)	Pune	1987	N/A
RBI	Sanjay Malhotra (Governor)	Mumbai	1935	N/A
CII	Sanjiv Puri (President)	New Delhi	1895	N/A
HSBC India	Hitendra Dave (Country Head)	Mumbai	1853	N/A
UNESCO	Audrey Azoulay (DG)	Paris, France	1945	N/A
World Bank	Ajay Banga (President)	Washington D.C.	1944	N/A

Sr. No	Bank/Orgn./Country/States	Static Details
1	ISRO	Chairman - S Somnath Head Office - Bengaluru
2	ESA (European Space Agency)	Director General - Josef Aschbacher Head Office - Paris, France
3	RBI	Governor – Sanjay Malhotra (New) Head Office - Mumbai
4	SEBI	Chairperson - Madhabi Buch Head Office - Mumbai
5	Navi Finserv.	MD & CEO - Sachin Bansal Head Office - Bengaluru
6	TATA Motors	CEO & MD - Marc Llistosella Head Office - Worli, Mumbai
7	World Bank	President - Ajay Banga Head Office - Washington D.C.
8	National Small Industries Corporation Limited	MD - Dr. Subhansu Sekhar Acharya Head Office - Bengaluru
9	Kuwait	Emir - Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Capital - Kuwait City
10	Sri Lanka	President - Anura Kumara Disanayake Capital - Colombo





Sr. No	Bank/Orgn./Country/States	Static Details
11	Bhutan	PM - Tshering Tobgay Capital - Thimphu
12	Singapore	PM _ Mr. Lawrence Wong Capital - Singapore City
13	Namibia	President - Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah Capital - Windhoek
14	Maharashtra	Governor - C.P. Radhakrishnan CM - Devendra Fadnavis Capital - Mumbai
15	Jharkhand	Governor - Santosh Gangwar CM - Hemant Soren Capital - Ranchi
16	Assam	Governor - Lakshman Prasad Acharya CM - Himanta Sarma Capital - Dispur
17	Arunachal Pradesh	Governor - Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik CM - Pema Khandu Capital - Itanagar
18	West Bengal	Governor - C.V. Ananda Bose CM - Mamta Banerjee Capital - Kolkata
19	Telangana	Governor - Jishnu Dev Varma CM - Revanth Reddy Capital - Hyderabad
20	Uttar Pradesh	Governor - Anandiben Patel CM - Yogi Adityanath Capital - Lucknow

Sr. No	Bank Name/Orgn./Country/States	Static Details
1	RBI	Governor - Sanjay Malhotra Head Office - Mumbai
2	SBI	MD - Challa Sreenivasulu Shetty Head Office - Mumbai
3	Yes Bank	MD - Prashant Kumar Head Office - Mumbai
4	Max Life Insurance	MD - Mr. Prashant Tripathy Head Office - New Delhi
5	AMUL	MD - Jayen Mehta Head Office - Anand, Gujarat
6	ADB (Asian Development Bank)	President - Masatsugu Asakawa Head Office - Manila, Philippines
7	USA	President - Joe Biden (Donald Trump will take office from January 20) Capital - Washington D.C.
8	Switzerland	President – Karin Keeler-Sutter Capital - Bern
9	Ghana	President - Mr. John Mahama Capital - Accra





Sr. No	Bank Name/Orgn./Country/States	Static Details
10	Italy	PM - Giorgia Meloni Capital - Rome
11	Nepal	President - KP Sharma Oli Capital - Kathmandu
12	Syria	President - Mr. Bashir Capital - Damascus
13	UAE	President - Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Capital - Abu Dhabi
14	Rajasthan	Governor - Haribhau Bagade CM - Bhajanlal Sharma Capital - Jaipur
15	Uttarakhand	Governor - Gurmit Singh CM - Pushkar Dhami Capital - Dehradun
16	Delhi	L.Governor - Vinai Kumar Saxena CM – Atishi (Cræetaker New CM not announced) Capital - New Delhi
17	Haryana	Governor - Bandaru Dattatreya CM - Nayab Singh Saini Capital - Chandigarh
18	Arunachal Pradesh	Governor - Kaiwalya Parnaik CM - Pema Khandu Capital - Itanagar
19	Andhra Pradesh	Governor - S. Abdul Nazeer CM - Chandrababu Naidu Capital - Amaravati
20	Minister of Railway	Shri. Ashwini Vaishnaw
21	Minister of Law and Justice	Shri. Arjun Ram Meghwal
22	UNESCO	HQ - Paris, France
23	UNICEF	HQ - New York, USA

