

Weekly One Liners 14th to 20th July, 2025

Union Government Notifies Transfer & Repatriation of 18 High Court Judges

To maintain the balance, efficiency, and impartiality of the judiciary in India, the Union Government on July 14, 2025, issued official orders transferring and repatriating 18 High Court judges across various states. This development follows recommendations made by the Supreme Court Collegium on May 26, 2025. These strategic appointments aim to enhance judicial functioning, promote uniformity in case disposal, and address regional imbalances in judicial staffing.

Background

The transfer and repatriation of High Court judges in India are governed by Article 222 of the Constitution, which empowers the President to transfer a judge from one High Court to another after consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI). The Supreme Court Collegium, headed by the CJI, plays a crucial role in suggesting such movements. The current transfer notifications are part of this long-standing administrative mechanism and reflect an effort to uphold the independence and integrity of the judiciary by rotating judges across states.

Significance of the Transfers

These judicial reshuffles are not merely administrative—they serve multiple significant purposes,

- **Impartiality:** By relocating judges to states other than their parent High Courts, potential local pressures and regional biases are minimized.
- **Efficiency:** High Courts with a heavier caseload can benefit from additional or experienced judges from other jurisdictions.
- **Expertise Sharing:** Transferred judges bring their diverse legal experience and judicial perspectives to the host High Court, enriching its jurisprudence.
- **National Integration:** These transfers foster a pan-Indian judicial culture, ensuring that judges are familiar with diverse legal interpretations across the country.

List of Transfers

1. Justice Tadakamalla Vinod Kumar transferred from Telangana HC to Madras HC.
2. Justice Jayant Banerji moved from Allahabad HC to Karnataka HC.
3. Justice Arun Monga (Punjab & Haryana cadre) transferred from Rajasthan HC to Delhi HC.
4. Justice Anil Kshetarpal shifted from Punjab & Haryana HC to Delhi HC.
5. Justice Sudhir Singh (Patna cadre) transferred from Punjab & Haryana HC to Patna HC.
6. Justice Shree Chandrashekhar (Jharkhand cadre) moved from Rajasthan HC to Bombay HC.

7. Justice Om Prakash Shukla transferred from Allahabad HC to Delhi HC.
8. Justice Battu Devanand (Andhra Pradesh cadre) repatriated from Madras HC to Andhra Pradesh HC.
9. Justice Vivek Kumar Singh (Allahabad cadre) moved from Madras HC to Madhya Pradesh HC.
10. Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh (Allahabad cadre) transferred from Kerala HC to Karnataka HC.
11. Justice Vivek Chaudhary moved from Allahabad HC to Delhi HC.
12. Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma (Rajasthan cadre) returned from Punjab & Haryana HC to Rajasthan HC.
13. Justice Suman Shyam transferred from Gauhati HC to Bombay HC.
14. Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra moved from Allahabad HC to Punjab & Haryana HC.
15. Justice Nitin Wasudeo Sambre transferred from Bombay HC to Delhi HC.
16. Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak moved from Gauhati HC to Orissa HC.
17. Justice Lanusungkum Jamir transferred from Gauhati HC to Calcutta HC.
18. Justice V Kameswar Rao (Delhi cadre) transferred from Karnataka HC to Delhi HC.

Objectives of the Transfers

The core objectives behind these transfers include,

- Promoting national judicial coherence
- Decongesting overburdened courts
- Ensuring transparency and integrity through regular reshuffling
- Balancing judge strength across High Courts
- Facilitating fair trial environments free from local interference

These actions support the larger goal of judicial reform and strengthen public trust in the judiciary.

Ahmedabad Declared Cleanest City in Swachh Survekshan 2024–25:

The Swachh Survekshan 2024–25, India's largest cleanliness survey conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), has declared Ahmedabad as the cleanest city in the category of cities with a population of over 10 lakh. The annual ranking, which has evolved significantly since its launch in 2016, now includes special recognitions such as the Super Swachh League Cities, and it saw participation from 4,589 cities. This year's results showcase a renewed thrust on sustainable sanitation practices and citizen-centric cleanliness initiatives across urban India.

Background of Swachh Survekshan

- Launched in 2016 with 73 cities.
- Conducted by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM-U).
- Aims to foster competitive spirit among cities to improve urban sanitation.
- Annual survey with independent third-party assessment based on citizen feedback, waste processing, and service-level progress.

Highlights of Swachh Survekshan 2024–25

- Ahmedabad ranked 1st in the category of cities with population over 10 lakh.
- Indore, Surat, and Navi Mumbai inducted into Super Swachh League Cities, a new category for consistent top performers over the past 3 years.
- 4,589 cities covered in the survey (April 2024 – March 2025).
- Cities classified in 5 population-based categories for the first time.
- **Focused categories:** Ganga Towns, Cantonment Boards, Safai Mitra Suraksha, Mahakumbh, and state-level awards.

Significance of Super Swachh League

- Introduced in 2024–25 to recognize cities with sustained top-three performances in their categories over the past 3 years.
- A move to create a benchmark league of model cities.
- Promotes long-term commitment over one-time wins.

Objectives of the Survey

- Promote healthy competition among cities for urban cleanliness.
- Encourage citizen participation in sanitation efforts.
- Measure outcomes in terms of waste segregation, scientific waste processing, and behavioral change.
- Foster innovation through categories like Safai Mitra Suraksha.



Special Initiatives

- Launch of one-year campaign from August 15 to tackle legacy landfill remediation.
- Classification of cities into population-based categories for fairer assessments.
- Emphasis on sustainability and inclusion of Ganga towns and religious centers.

A. Super Swachh League Cities Winners

Sr. No	Population Category	State	City
1	>10 Lakh	Madhya Pradesh	Indore
2	>10 Lakh	Gujarat	Surat
3	>10 Lakh	Maharashtra	Navi Mumbai
4	>10 Lakh	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
5	3–10 Lakh	Uttar Pradesh	Noida
6	3–10 Lakh	Chandigarh	Chandigarh
7	3–10 Lakh	Karnataka	Mysuru
8	3–10 Lakh	Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain
9	3–10 Lakh	Gujarat	Gandhinagar
10	3–10 Lakh	Andhra Pradesh	Guntur
11	50,000–3 Lakh	Delhi NDMC	New Delhi
12	50,000–3 Lakh	Andhra Pradesh	Tirupati
13	50,000–3 Lakh	Chhattisgarh	Ambikapur
14	50,000–3 Lakh	Maharashtra	Lonavala
15	20,000–50,000	Maharashtra	Vita
16	20,000–50,000	Maharashtra	Saswad
17	20,000–50,000	Maharashtra	Deolali Pravara
18	20,000–50,000	Rajasthan	Dungarpur
19	<20,000	Maharashtra	Panchgani
20	<20,000	Chhattisgarh	Patan
21	<20,000	Maharashtra	Panhala
22	<20,000	Chhattisgarh	Bishrampur
23	<20,000	Madhya Pradesh	Budni

B. Presidential Awardees: Swachh Shehar by Population Category

Sr. No	Population Category	State	City
1	>10 Lakh	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
2	>10 Lakh	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
3	>10 Lakh	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
4	3–10 Lakh	Maharashtra	Mira-Bhayandar
5	3–10 Lakh	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur
6	3–10 Lakh	Jharkhand	Jamshedpur
7	50,000–3 Lakh	Madhya Pradesh	Dewas
8	50,000–3 Lakh	Maharashtra	Karhad
9	50,000–3 Lakh	Haryana	Karnal
10	20,000–50,000	Goa	Panaji
11	20,000–50,000	Odisha	Aska
12	20,000–50,000	Chhattisgarh	Kumhari
13	<20,000	Chhattisgarh	Bilha
14	<20,000	Odisha	Chikiti
15	<20,000	Madhya Pradesh	Shahganj

C. Ministerial Awardees: Special Category

Sr. No	Special Initiative Recognized	State	City
1	Swachh Mahakumbh 2025 Recognition	—	—
2	Ganga Town	Andhra Pradesh	GVMC Visakhapatnam
3	Ganga Town	Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur
4	Ganga Town	Uttar Pradesh	Gorakhpur
5	Cantonment Board	Telangana	Secunderabad Cantt.
6	Ganga Town	Uttar Pradesh	Prayagraj

D. Promising Swachh Shehar of States/UTs

Sr. No.	State/UT	City
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Sri Vijaya Puram
2	Andhra Pradesh	Rajahmundry
3	Arunachal Pradesh	Jairampur
4	Assam	North Lakhimpur`
5	Assam	Guwahati

Sr. No.	State/UT	City
6	Bihar	Patna
7	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
8	Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman	Diu Daman
9	Goa	Sanquelim
10	Gujarat	Vadodara
11	Haryana	Sonipat
12	Himachal Pradesh	Theog
13	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu
14	Jharkhand	Bundu
15	Karnataka	Davanagere
16	Kerala	Mattannur
17	Ladakh	Kargil
18	Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior
19	Maharashtra	Pimpri Chinchwad
20	Manipur	Jiribam
21	Meghalaya	Shillong
22	Mizoram	Lunglei
23	Nagaland	Jalukie
24	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
25	Puducherry	Oulgaret–Ozhukarai
26	Punjab	Bathinda
27	Rajasthan	Jaipur Greater
28	Sikkim	Mangan
29	Tamil Nadu	Namakkal
30	Telangana	Greater Hyderabad
31	Tripura	Khowai
32	Uttar Pradesh	Agra
33	Uttarakhand	Lalkuan
34	West Bengal	Baidyabati

National Affairs

- President Droupadi Murmu has nominated four new members—Ujjwal Nikam, C. Sadanandan Master, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, and Dr. Meenakshi Jain—to the Rajya Sabha on July 12, 2025, based on the Council of Ministers' advice. The announcement was made under Article 80 of the Constitution. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated them and praised their contributions in fields such as law, education, foreign policy, and history. These nominations aim to ensure that the Rajya Sabha includes experts from diverse fields who can offer unique and informed viewpoints during discussions. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Yakten village** in **Sikkim** became **India's first digital nomad village** under the '**Nomad Sikkim**' project. With strong internet, power backup, and homestays run by locals, it gives remote workers a peaceful and connected place to live and work. This move supports **rural income**, promotes **sustainable tourism**, and shows how India's villages can grow with the **digital economy**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Gujarat** has emerged as the **top state in India for processed potato production**, with **Banaskantha** leading the way, followed by **Sabarkantha** and **Aravalli**. The state produced **48.59 lakh tonnes** of potatoes in **2024–25**, with more than **25%** used for processing. With strong government support, high-quality varieties, and cold storage systems, Gujarat is now meeting domestic needs and entering global markets. The success shows how modern farming and smart policies can help rural economies grow. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Health Ministry of India** started a new **Snack Nutrition Awareness Campaign** at **AIIMS Nagpur**. The campaign includes **posters beside food stalls** showing how much **sugar, fat, and trans fat** is in common snacks like **samosas and biscuits**. It warns about **health risks** and promotes **moderation**. The **Health Secretary** asked all **government offices** to join by sharing health messages and offering healthier food. A **The Lancet** study says **India may have 450 million obese people by 2050**. This campaign is part of a larger plan to fight **obesity and lifestyle diseases** by helping people make **informed food choices**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India is set to be the **first country outside Japan** to launch the latest **E10 Shinkansen** bullet trains, beginning with the **Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR)** in the **early 2030s**. Until then, two **E5 trains**, arriving in **2026**, will be used for **trial runs** and testing under **Indian conditions**. The **E10**, also called **Alfa-X**, is capable of **400 kmph** and offers **advanced safety and comfort**. The **₹1.1-lakh-crore** MAHSR project has made strong construction progress, with **310 km of viaducts, 15 bridges, and 5 stations** completed so far. This major step highlights **India-Japan collaboration** in building **world-class railway infrastructure**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Gujarat** launches **India's first Tribal Genome Sequencing Project**, sequencing **2,000 individuals** across **17 districts** to detect **genetic diseases** like **sickle cell anaemia**. Led by **GBRC**, the project creates a **reference genome database**, enabling **personalised healthcare**. Approved under the **2025–26 budget**, it bridges **science and tribal welfare**, setting a national example in **genomic medicine**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **NSCSTI 2.0**, launched on **July 18, 2025** by **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, is a revamped framework developed by the **Capacity Building Commission** under **Mission Karmayogi**. It simplifies **evaluation metrics**, incorporates **digital tools and AI**, and aligns with models like **KCM** and **AGK**. Adaptable across **all government levels**, the framework supports **outcome-based assessments, cross-learning, and institutional excellence**, positioning India as a **leader in civil services reform**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Mahila Aarogyam Kaksh**, inaugurated by **Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal** in **July 2025**, is a **women-exclusive wellness space** launched by the **Department of Legal Affairs**. Located at **Shastri Bhawan**, it includes a **gym and lactation room**, promoting **fitness, mental well-being, and inclusive workplace culture** under the **Fit India Movement** and **Viksit Bharat** vision. ([Click here to read article](#))

States in the News

- **Gujarat** has become the **first state** in India to officially align with the **Cruise Bharat Mission**, launched on **September 30, 2024**, by **Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal**. The mission aims to boost **cruise tourism tenfold by 2029**. Gujarat plans to create multiple **coastal cruise circuits**, linking destinations like **Diu, Porbandar, Dwarka, and Padala Island**. This move not only supports India's tourism goals but also helps **develop Gujarat's maritime economy**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **75th Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendra (PMDK)** will be inaugurated on **July 15, 2025**, at **Badaun, Uttar Pradesh**, by **Union Minister Shri B.L. Verma**. This centre will help **persons with disabilities and senior citizens** by giving them **free aids like wheelchairs, tricycles, and hearing aids** under the **ADIP Scheme** and **Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)**. With this new centre, **75 PMDKs are now working across India**, having already supported **over 1.40 lakh people**. This move shows the government's strong focus on **inclusive growth and last-mile service delivery**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **BITS Pilani** will set up **India's first 'AI Plus Campus'** in **Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh**, announced on **July 14, 2025**. The project will cost **Rs 1,000 crore**, and **admissions will begin in 2027**. The new campus will teach **AI, Data Science, Robotics, and more**, with a focus on **green energy and global exposure**. **CM Chandrababu Naidu** and **BITS Chancellor Kumar Mangalam Birla** praised the project, calling it a key step in advanced education. The **campus design will blend heritage and modern features**, while **Project Vistar** will further expand BITS' existing campuses. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Machilipatnam Greenfield Port** in **Andhra Pradesh** is under fast construction, with **48% work completed** and plans to start operations by the **end of 2026**. Built by **MEIL**, the port will boost exports and jobs in the region. The **₹5,155 crore** project has faced delays since **2007** but is now back on track under the **Machilipatnam Port Development Corporation Ltd.** Both **Andhra Pradesh** and **Telangana** are investing in related infrastructure, like dry ports and freight corridors. Locals are hopeful about better **land prices** and **employment**. The port is expected to handle **36 million tonnes** of cargo every year and support **large ships**, becoming a key trade hub on the **east coast**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Behdeinkhlam Festival** was celebrated with energy and joy in **Jowai, Meghalaya**, in **July 2025**. The festival is important to the **Phars**, a sub-tribe of the **Jaintia** community, and is a prayer for **health** and a **good harvest**. Rituals include carrying the **Symbud Khnong**, dancing, food offerings by women, and playing the unique game **Dad-lawakor**. It also spreads messages on **drug-free living**, **climate awareness**, and **tradition preservation**. The festival plays a big role in keeping the **Niamtre faith** alive and in uniting the community. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Goa** launched **India's first RoRo ferry service** on the **Mandovi River**, with two high-tech ferries, **Gangotri** and **Dwarka**. These vessels, built by **Vijai Marine Shipyards**, cut travel time between **Chorao** and **Ribandar** to just **12–13 minutes** and can carry **passengers and vehicles**. Launched by **CM Pramod Sawant**, the project comes at **no cost to the government** and promises to improve water transport and support **tourism and local travel**. The ferries have **modern features** like **AC cabins**, **vehicle lanes**, and **emergency kits**, offering a **safe and fast journey** for all. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated the **2.44 km long Sigandur bridge** in **Shivamogga, Karnataka**, built over the **Sharavathi backwaters** at a cost of over **₹470 crore**. Named after **Goddess Chowdeshwari Devi**, the bridge connects **Sagara** and **Marakutika**, restoring links lost due to the **Linganamakki dam**. Gadkari also highlighted that **National Highway length in Karnataka** has increased significantly, with major upcoming road projects worth **₹5 lakh crore**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **CM Himanta Biswa Sarma** inaugurated **India's first Aqua Tech Park** in **Sonapur, near Guwahati, Assam**. Developed by **Kolong Kopili NGO** with support from **NABARD, ICAR-CIFA**, and others, the park features new technologies like **biofloc**, **aquaponics**, and **ornamental fish breeding**. The park aims to **empower fish farmers**, **boost production**, and **create jobs**. Assam has already **doubled its fish output** between 2019 and 2024 and is now the **fourth-largest fish producer** in India. The government has also launched **10 fishery clusters** worth **₹8 crore** to support this growth. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Himachal Pradesh government**, led by **CM Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu**, launched the **'My Deed' NGDRS (National Generic Document Registration System)** pilot project to **digitize land registration** and promote **paperless, presence-less, and cashless governance**. The system allows citizens to apply for land registration **online**, requiring only a **single visit** to the tehsil office. Initially rolled out in **10 tehsils across 10 districts**, the project is supported by complementary **digital revenue reforms**, including a **new Jamabandi format** in Hindi, **e-Roznamcha Vakyati** (digital diary), and **Karguzari** (online attendance). ([Click here to read article](#))
- Bihar **CM Nitish Kumar** has announced **free electricity** for domestic users up to **125 units/month**, effective **August 1, 2025**, benefiting **16.7 million families**. Under the **Kutir Jyoti scheme**, the **state will install solar panels** for poor households, aiming for **10,000 MW solar capacity** in 3 years. The move offers **economic relief**, **boosts clean energy**, and aligns with **inclusive governance** and **poll strategy**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Maharashtra** has become the **first Indian state** to grant **agricultural status** to **livestock and poultry farming**, allowing over **37 million farmers** to access **subsidised electricity, agricultural credit, tax relief, and solar equipment subsidies**. This decision will benefit the **poultry, dairy, fisheries, and small ruminant sectors**, potentially adding over **₹7,000 crore annually** to the rural economy, while aligning with national goals for **scientific livestock development**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In **Swachh Survekshan 2024–25**, **Bengaluru** rose to **36th among Million-Plus Cities**, improving from last year's **125th**, but lagged in **toilet cleanliness** and **landfill remediation**. **Mysuru**, meanwhile, made headlines by joining the **Super Swachh League**, highlighting its **long-term cleanliness, community participation, and sanitation excellence**. These outcomes reflect **Karnataka's progress and gaps** in implementing effective **urban waste management, public hygiene**, and the overarching goals of **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Maharashtra** has unveiled **Vidarbha's first integrated steel plant** by **LMEL in Gadchiroli**, featuring a **4.5 MnTPA steel facility**, a **5 MnTPA iron ore grinding plant**, and the **state's inaugural 10 MnTPA slurry pipeline**. This initiative promises major advancements in **industrial growth, green logistics, job generation**, and puts **Vidarbha** on the map as a rising **manufacturing and infrastructure hub** in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **PM Modi** inaugurated **₹7,200 crore** worth of **infrastructure projects** in **Motihari, Bihar**, under the **Viksit Bharat Mission**. These developments aim to make **Bihar a growth hub**, ensure **urban parity**, and provide **housing and infrastructure support**. The move highlights **increased central funding, NDA-led development focus**, and **Bihar's inclusion** in India's long-term growth vision. ([Click here to read article](#))

International Affairs

- **India** became the **first country** to launch the **Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)**, earning praise from the **World Health Organization (WHO)**. The platform uses **AI** to protect and expand India's **traditional medicine** systems like **Ayurveda** and **Unani**. The WHO's report highlighted India's success in merging **ancient knowledge** with **modern technology**, mentioning innovations like **Ayurgenomics**, **AI diagnostics**, and **digital health platforms**. These efforts support **PM Modi's vision of AI for all** and make India a leader in **digital health and traditional medicine integration**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **France** announced a new agreement with **New Caledonia** that would make the territory a **state within the French Republic**, giving it more freedom while staying under French control. The plan must be approved by both the **French Parliament** and **New Caledonian voters**. The move comes after **2024 protests** over voting rights and aims to ease tensions between **Indigenous Kanak people** and French authorities. The agreement introduces **New Caledonian nationality**, **dual citizenship**, and plans for a new **referendum**. It highlights **President Emmanuel Macron's** effort to balance unity and respect for local identity. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **US Department of Defense (DoD)** gave **\$200 million contracts** to **OpenAI**, **Google**, **Anthropic**, and **xAI** to boost **national security with advanced AI systems**. These companies will develop **autonomous software tools** for military use, guided by the **Pentagon's Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office (CDAO)**. The goal is to stay ahead in global defence by using **safe, smart, and mission-ready AI**. This move also follows recent **White House guidance** to build a strong and innovative **AI ecosystem** in the United States. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In **2024**, **South Asia** reached a **record high in childhood immunisation**, as reported by **UNICEF** and **WHO**. The region saw **92% DTP3 vaccine coverage**, a **27% drop in zero-dose children**, and a **39% decline in measles cases**. **India** and **Nepal** showed significant progress, while **Bangladesh** and **Sri Lanka** expanded **HPV vaccinations**. This success is driven by **government leadership**, **community health workers**, and **global partnerships**. However, with over **2.9 million children** still un- or under-vaccinated, continued efforts are needed to ensure **universal vaccine access** across South Asia. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Yuliia Svyrydenko**, a seasoned **economist** and **diplomatic negotiator**, has been appointed the **Prime Minister of**

Ukraine, replacing **Denys Shmyhal**, who now serves as **Defence Minister**. Her appointment amid the ongoing **Russia-Ukraine war** marks a critical moment in Ukraine's political landscape, reflecting President **Volodymyr Zelenskyy's** strategy to reinforce **trusted leadership**, **economic recovery**, and **international partnerships**. Known for her role in securing a **mineral deal with the US**, Svyrydenko brings both competence and loyalty to one of Ukraine's most challenging leadership roles during wartime. ([Click here to read article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **India** and **Saudi Arabia** signed **long-term fertilizer agreements** during **JP Nadda's visit to Dammam and Riyadh from July 11–13, 2025**. The agreement with **Saudi company Maaden** will supply **3.1 million metric tons** of **DAP fertilizer** each year for five years starting **2025–26**, with the option to extend. The visit also strengthened ties in the **health and pharmaceutical sectors**, and both countries agreed to increase investments and explore research collaboration. These efforts will improve **India's fertilizer security** and **expand strategic cooperation** in key sectors. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **NCDEX** and **IMD** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to launch **India's first weather derivatives**. These **rainfall-based futures contracts** will help protect **farmers and climate-sensitive sectors** from losses caused by **unpredictable weather**. The partnership will use **IMD's accurate weather data**, and also offer **training, research, and market support**. **NCDEX CEO Arun Raste** and **IMD chief Dr. M. Mohapatra** praised the move as a key step towards building a **climate-resilient economy** and giving **farmers better financial tools** to face future challenges. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The partnership between **Vimananu Ltd** and **CYGR** brings advanced **drone manufacturing to Navi Mumbai**, targeting domestic defence needs and international exports. It will produce various UAV types like **ISR, nano, and fixed-wing drones**, reinforce **technology transfer**, support **self-reliance in defence**, and align with the government's **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** vision by enhancing India's role in the **global UAV ecosystem**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **MoU between NIEPID and Jai Vakeel Foundation (July 2025)** aims to provide a **structured, scalable curriculum** for **Children with Intellectual Disabilities (CwID)** across India through the **DISHA Abhiyan**. The plan includes **IEPs**, a **multisensory curriculum**, a **digital portal**, and **training modules**. It aligns with **SDG 4, SDG 10**, and the **Viksit Bharat** vision. Materials will be printed under the **DALM Scheme**, promoting **accessible, quality education** for all. ([Click here to read article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- India's **retail inflation** fell to **2.1% in June 2025**, the **lowest in 77 months**, thanks to cheaper **vegetables and pulses**. **Wholesale inflation** also turned slightly negative. While food prices dropped, costs in **healthcare, transport, and gold** stayed high. The **RBI** has already cut rates this year and may wait before making more changes. Economists expect inflation to remain low, but global trends and local price changes will decide what happens next. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Over the past **11 years**, **India's income tax refunds** have grown by **474%**, touching **₹4.77 lakh crore in 2024–25**. This is mainly due to **digital improvements** that cut refund time from **93 to 17 days**. **More people are filing returns**, and the share of refunds in tax collections has also increased. The government's **online systems and reforms** have helped build a faster, more **transparent tax system**, making life easier for taxpayers. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Taiwan's largest private bank, CTBC Bank**, has applied to set up an **IFSC Banking Unit (IBU)** in **GIFT City, Gujarat**. The application was filed with the **IFSCA** and proposes using **3,100 sq ft** of office space in **Brigade Towers**. The bank already operates in **New Delhi** and now plans to expand its services through GIFT City. Other banks from **Taiwan, UAE, and France** have also made similar moves. As of **March 2025**, **31 IBUs** have been set up in GIFT City, showing strong international interest. ([Click here to read article](#))
- PhonePe** led the **UPI market in June 2025**, handling over **8.54 billion transactions** and securing **46.46% of the market**, as per data from the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**. It was followed by **Google Pay** (35.56%) and **Paytm** (6.90%). While total UPI transactions slightly fell to **18.39 billion**, new apps like **Navi** and **Super.money** showed steady growth. State-wise, **Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh** contributed the most to UPI volume. ([Click here to read article](#))
- ACKO** has been chosen as the **official insurance partner for Tesla in India**, ahead of the electric car giant's market launch. The partnership will offer **digital insurance services** that are smooth, quick, and made especially for **Tesla owners**. This deal reflects both companies' shared goal of using **technology to simplify vehicle ownership**, promote **clean mobility**, and help grow the **electric vehicle market** in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **UPI-PayNow linkage**, expanded by **NPCI International** on **July 17, 2025**, now includes **19 Indian banks**, aiming to boost **real-time cross-border remittances** between **India and Singapore**. Supported by the **RBI** and **Monetary Authority of Singapore**, this initiative enhances **financial inclusion**, especially for **migrant workers and students**, and showcases India's progress in **global digital payment innovation**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- EximPe**, a leading fintech startup, has secured **RBI's in-principle PA-CB licence**, enabling it to facilitate **cross-border payments** for **e-commerce, digital services, and B2B trade**. The firm plans to **expand 10X by FY26**, with over **\$450 million** in processed transactions and support from **\$3.5 million in equity funding**. This milestone enhances India's presence in the **Asian cross-border payment corridor**, and strengthens the role of regulated **fintech solutions for SMEs**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- HSBC's withdrawal from the NZBA** makes it the first UK bank to quit the coalition, following a trend set by major US and Canadian lenders. The exit has sparked widespread criticism from **climate campaigners and investors**, raising doubts about **HSBC's climate priorities** and signalling potential risks for **global climate coordination** within the banking sector. While **HSBC reaffirms its net zero 2050 target**, the move has exposed deepening divides in how banks handle **climate risks, disclosures, and sector-wide accountability**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Tesla** has inaugurated its **first India showroom** at Mumbai's **BKC**, debuting the **Model Y** at a starting price of **₹59.89 lakh**. With imported variants, rapid charging solutions, and robust safety features, Tesla aims to catalyze India's **electric vehicle ecosystem** despite high import tariffs and regulatory challenges. The move reinforces Mumbai's position as an automotive innovation hub and signals broader opportunities for **clean mobility** in India's future. ([Click here to read article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- Dr Abhijat Sheth** has been appointed as the **new Chairperson of the National Medical Commission (NMC)** by the **Central Government** on **July 13, 2025**. He takes over from **Dr B N Gangadhar**, who had earlier resigned but stayed on in the role due to a shortage of qualified candidates. The change in leadership comes during a **CBI investigation** into **bribery and corruption** linked to medical college inspections. ([Click here to read article](#))



- **Sonali Mishra**, a **1993 batch IPS officer**, has been appointed as the **first woman Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF)**. Her appointment was approved by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** on **July 13, 2025**. She will replace **Manoj Yadava** and serve until **October 31, 2026**. With a distinguished record in the **BSF** and **Madhya Pradesh Police**, Mishra brings rich experience to the role. The **RPF**, created in **1957**, plays a key role in protecting **railway passengers and property**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **President Droupadi Murmu** on **July 14, 2025**, appointed **Prof. Ashim Kumar Ghosh** as **Governor of Haryana**, **Pusapati Ashok Gajapati Raju** as **Governor of Goa**, and **Kavinder Gupta** as the **new Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh**. The President also accepted the resignation of **Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd)** from the **Ladakh** post. The appointments are part of a key reshuffle in **two Indian states** and **one Union Territory**, aimed at boosting governance and leadership in these regions. **All three appointees** bring significant administrative and political experience to their new roles. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **R Doraiswamy** has been appointed as the new **MD and CEO of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** for a term that ends on **August 28, 2028**. He was selected by the **FSIB** and approved by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet**. Doraiswamy brings over **38 years of experience** in **LIC** and replaces **Sat Pal Bhanoo**, who was serving as interim CEO. His leadership is expected to strengthen **LIC's** role in India's financial sector. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Karnataka Bank** has appointed **Raghavendra S Bhat** as its interim **MD and CEO**, starting **16 July 2025**, after former CEO **Srikrishnan Hari Hara Sarma** resigned on **29 June**. **Bhat**, a senior executive who joined the bank in **1981**, will serve for **three months** or until a permanent replacement is found. **Executive Director Sekhar Rao** also resigned, effective **31 July**. A **search panel** has been formed to select new leaders and ensure smooth functioning of the bank. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Hemant Rupani** will become the **new CEO of Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt Ltd (HCCB)** starting **September 8, 2025**, replacing **Juan Pablo Rodriguez**. He joins from **Mondelez International**, where he led business operations across **Southeast Asia**. Rupani's wide experience in **sales and leadership roles** in companies like **PepsiCo, Vodafone, Infosys, and Britannia** is expected to help **HCCB** grow further. His appointment follows **Coca-Cola's December 2024 deal with Jubilant Bhartia Group** to strengthen local ownership in its India operations. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Sanjay Kaul**, a **2001-batch IAS officer** of the **Kerala cadre**, has been named the new **MD and CEO of GIFT City, Gandhinagar**, on **July 15, 2025**. He is currently serving in the **Union Ministry of Culture** and has previous work experience in **Gujarat**. Appointed on **deputation for three years**, he will take over from **Tapan Ray**, who currently holds the post. The appointment was confirmed by a notification from the **Gujarat General Administration Department**. **GIFT City** is a key financial and smart city project, and **Kaul's** leadership is expected to boost its growth. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Sabyasachi Couture**, the iconic **Indian luxury fashion house**, has appointed **Manish Chopra**—former **Shein India** and **Meta** executive—as its new **CEO**, marking a strategic move amid a **revival in India's luxury market**. The brand, **majority-owned (51%) by Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd. (ABFRL)** since its **₹398 crore** acquisition in **2021**, is focusing on **global expansion** and **executive leadership strengthening**. **Chopra's** experience in **fashion retail scaling** supports **Sabyasachi's** international ambitions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Ajay Kumar Shrivastava** has been appointed **Director (Engineering and R&D)** at **HAL** with **37 years of experience** in aircraft design. He contributed to the **Do-228, Sea King, IL-78, and HS-748 upgrades**, led **DGCA** certifications, and received the **FASIA** award. His leadership aligns with **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and **HAL's** goals for **indigenous innovation** and aerospace advancement. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has appointed actors **Nitu Chandra** and **Kranti Prakash Jha** as **SVEEP icons for Bihar** to boost **voter awareness**, especially ahead of the Assembly elections. This move under the **Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP)** programme utilizes their **mass appeal** to engage voters through **various media platforms**, aiming to promote **informed participation**, increase **voter turnout**, and strengthen **electoral democracy** in the state. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **BMRL** appointed **Dr J Ravishankar**, a **2001-batch IAS officer**, as the new **Managing Director**, replacing **Maheshwar Rao**. The leadership change follows **public backlash over metro fare hikes** and precedes the delayed **Yellow Line launch**. **Bengaluru's Namma Metro** currently operates **77 km** and is expanding under **Phase 2 and 3**, aiming to reach **220.2 km by 2029**. The new MD's priorities include **timely execution, transparency, and improved connectivity**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Defence News

- **India** has taken part for the first time in **Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025**, held in **Australia** from **July 13**. This major military exercise includes over **35,000 troops** from **19 nations**, such as the **US, UK, Japan, and France**. Activities include **live firing, amphibious landings, and air combat drills** across various Australian regions and in **Papua New Guinea**. India's involvement is a key step in strengthening **defence ties with Australia** and boosting cooperation in the **Indo-Pacific**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Indian Army's Ram Division** held a high-impact tech demo called '**Prachand Shakti**' at the **Kharga Corps Field Training Area** in **Meerut, Uttar Pradesh**. The event highlighted the use of **AI-enabled systems, UAVs, autonomous platforms, and loitering munitions in Strike Corps operations**. This is part of the Army's '**Year of Tech Absorption**' initiative, aiming to **use more Indian-made technology** in defence. The demonstration showed how these tools can improve the **speed, power, and safety** of soldiers in complex missions, supporting the Army's goal of becoming more **future-ready and self-reliant**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Indian Navy and the Greek Navy** held a **PASSEX (Passing Exercise)** near **Mumbai** in the **Arabian Sea**, led by **INS Tarkash** and **HS Psara**. The drill included tactical operations, firing practice, and helicopter landings. This exercise is part of growing **India-Greece defence ties**, especially after both countries became **strategic partners in 2023**. **INS Tarkash**, inducted in **2012**, is a **Talwar-class stealth warship** equipped with **BrahMos missiles** and is built to handle a wide range of missions. The **PASSEX** boosted **teamwork and understanding** between the two navies and marks a step forward in **maritime cooperation**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **LCA Tejas Mk 1A**, powered by **GE F404 engines**, is vital for **IAF's modernisation**, with **12 jets to be delivered by end-2025**. HAL plans **16 aircraft per year**, pending **timely engine delivery**. Features include **AESA radar, EW suite, and BVR missiles like ASTRA**. The **₹5,375 crore** engine deal and upcoming **₹67,000 crore** order highlight the **strategic importance** of this indigenous programme. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Indian Army's successful trial of Akash Prime** at **15,000 feet in Ladakh** showcases a major step in enhancing **India's indigenous air defence capabilities**. With its **improved seeker, high-altitude operability**, and proven combat role in **Operation Sindoor**, Akash Prime strengthens India's **self-reliance and border defence readiness**. The system is poised for future induction and will play a key role in securing India's skies against modern aerial threats. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **India's test-firing of the nuclear-capable Prithvi-II and Agni-I missiles** at the Chandipur range validated key **operational parameters** and boosted its **deterrence capability**. Developed by the **DRDO**, both missiles enhance India's **nuclear arsenal** with their reliable, indigenous design and proven effectiveness, maintaining high standards of **military preparedness** and strategic security. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India's participation in SIMBEX 2025** marks a significant step in advancing **India-Singapore naval cooperation**. It reflects India's strategic maritime goals under **Act East** and **SAGAR**, involving **frontline naval platforms** like **INS Delhi** and **Satpura**. **SIMBEX** boosts **bilateral interoperability**, ensures preparedness for **maritime challenges**, and paves the way for India's leadership in future events like **MILAN** and the **International Fleet Review**, reinforcing a **rules-based maritime order** and regional stability. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **INS Nistar**, commissioned on **July 18, 2025**, is India's **first indigenous Diving Support Vessel**, designed and built by **Hindustan Shipyard Limited**. It supports **deep-sea diving, submarine rescue up to 300m**, and acts as a **mother ship for DSRVs**. With **80% indigenous content**, over **120 MSMEs** involved, and advanced technologies, it strengthens India's **underwater maritime capabilities** and aligns with the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** mission. ([Click here to read article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- **Former Chief Justice Kalyan Shrestha** received the '**Hem Bahadur Malla Award 2080**' in Kathmandu. The award was presented by **Chief Justice Prakashman Singh Raut** and recognises Shrestha's work in **judicial leadership, inclusive democracy, and transitional justice**. The honour was jointly given by the **Nepal Public Administration Association** and the **Salt Trading Corporation**. The award includes **Rs 200,000** and a **certificate of honour**. Justice Shrestha was selected by a committee led by **Umesh Mainali**. At the event, he spoke about the challenges of ensuring **good governance** in Nepal. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Leila Aboulela**, a **Sudanese-Scottish writer**, has won the **2025 PEN Pinter Prize** for her strong and thoughtful writing on **faith, migration, and the experiences of Muslim women**. The award was announced by **English PEN** in **London** and will be officially presented on **October 10, 2025**, at the **British Library**. Her books like *The Translator*, *Minaret*, and *River Spirit* are loved worldwide. She will also name a **Writer of Courage**, sharing the honour with someone who has defended **free speech**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- At a ceremony held on **July 16, 2025**, President Droupadi Murmu awarded **Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** with the prestigious **Kalinga Ratna Award-2024** in **Cuttack, Odisha**. The event marked the **600th birth anniversary of Adikabi Sarala Das**, organized by **Sarala Sahitya Sansad**, and celebrated the legacy of Odia literature and the importance of linguistic unity in India's cultural identity. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Vijayawada's** rise among India's **cleanest cities** is due to its meticulous involvement in the **Swachh Bharat Mission**, advanced waste management systems, and rapid post-flood recovery. Its achievements, including a **seven-star garbage free rating** and a top-four national ranking, reflect the city's strong **disaster resilience**, **public participation**, and **sustainable urban planning**. As a model for **inclusive and green urban development**, Vijayawada sets a benchmark for cities aiming to enhance **livability**, reduce **carbon footprints**, and achieve **zero waste ecosystems**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's strong result at the **57th International Chemistry Olympiad (ICHO) 2025**, with **two gold and two silver medals**, highlights its growing excellence in **science education and Olympiad performance**. Organized by **HBCSE-TIFR** and supported by national agencies like **DAE, DST, and MoE**, the Indian team trained rigorously before excelling in Dubai. India's consistent achievements reflect a robust **talent-nurturing ecosystem** and enhance its global reputation in **STEM education**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- INCOIS** received the **National Geospatial Practitioner Award 2025** at **IIT Bombay** for its innovative use of **open-source spatial technology** in ocean information systems. From **marine forecasts** to **disaster alerts**, INCOIS has enhanced ocean governance with **cost-effective GIS tools**, enabling better **public service**, **disaster management**, and **sustainable marine resource use**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Kerala has presented the **State Kathakali Awards, Pallavur Appu Marar Vadya Puraskaram**, and the **Keraleeya Nritta-Natya Puraskaram** for **2023**. Noted artists like **Kuroor Vasudevan Namboothiri, Sankara Warriar, Mattannur Sankarankutty Marar**, and **Girijadevi** were honoured for their contributions to **Kathakali, Chenda, Maddalam**, and **Koodiyattam**. These awards spotlight **Kerala's cultural heritage**, promote **artistic excellence**, and sustain the legacy of **classical performing arts** in India. ([Click here to read article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- A **Forbes** report released on **July 13, 2025**, listed **eight African-born billionaires** among **America's 125 richest immigrants**. These billionaires come from **six African countries**, with **South Africa** leading through names like **Elon**

Musk, Patrick Soon-Shiong, and Rodney Sacks. **Nigeria, Egypt, Morocco, and Kenya** also have representatives. Immigrant billionaires now form **14%** of U.S.-based billionaires and control **18%** of their total wealth. **Elon Musk**, originally from **South Africa**, is the **world's richest person** with a net worth of **\$393.1 billion**. Most of these billionaires are **self-made**, showing the impact of the **immigrant mindset**—a mix of hard work, new ideas, and drive for success. ([Click here to read article](#))

- A new report by the **Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA)** has named **Byrnihat** and **Delhi** as the **two most polluted cities in India** from **January to June 2025**, with **PM 2.5** levels far above the national limit of **40 ug/m3**. The report analysed data from **293 cities** using **CAAQMS**, finding that **259 cities** had already crossed their annual safe air quality limit. In contrast, **Aizawl** in **Mizoram** was ranked the **cleanest city**. These findings highlight the urgent need for stronger pollution control and public health measures in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In the **QS Best Student Cities Rankings 2026**, **Delhi** was named the **world's most affordable student city**, while **Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai** also improved their ranks. The rankings, released by **QS Quacquarelli Symonds**, reflect India's progress in **affordability, employability, and academic quality**. These gains align with the goals of the **National Education Policy 2020**, showing India's growing position in the global education landscape. **Mumbai** ranked **98th**, **Delhi 104th**, **Bengaluru 108th**, and **Chennai 128th** in the 2026 rankings. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Hurun India U30 List 2025** honors **79 under-30 entrepreneurs** shaping India's future through **bold innovation, job creation, and high-impact ventures**. Dominated by **first-generation founders** like **Zepto's Aadit Palicha** and **Kaivalya Vohra**, the list showcases startups from **software, consumer goods, and financial services** sectors. With over **\$5.2 billion** raised and **64,000+ jobs generated**, these founders reflect **India's youthful entrepreneurial spirit**, signaling a powerful shift in the global business narrative. ([Click here to read article](#))

Sports News

- Chelsea FC** won the **FIFA Club World Cup 2025** by beating **PSG 3-0** on **July 13, 2025**, at **MetLife Stadium** in **New Jersey**. **Cole Palmer** was the standout player, scoring **two goals** and assisting **Joao Pedro** for the third. **Chelsea's tactical game plan**, led by manager **Enzo Maresca**, completely outplayed the **Champions League winners PSG**. The match also saw **Joao Neves** get sent off for **PSG**, adding to their poor night. With this win, Chelsea took home the **champion's prize of \$40 million**, and Palmer received the **Golden Ball** as the best player of the tournament. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Jannik Sinner** won his **first Wimbledon title** on **July 13, 2025**, by defeating **two-time defending champion Carlos Alcaraz** in the final. The match ended with a score of **4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4**. This win gave **Sinner his fourth Grand Slam title** and stopped **Alcaraz's 24-match winning streak**. The two players, now the top stars in men's tennis, have shared the last **seven major titles**, showing a growing rivalry. **Sinner's victory** also came after losing to **Alcaraz at the French Open**, making this a sweet comeback. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Iga Swiatek** won her **first Wimbledon title** on **July 12, 2025**, defeating **Amanda Anisimova** with a rare **6-0, 6-0** scoreline in just **57 minutes**. The victory was Swiatek's **sixth Grand Slam title** and made her the **only active women's player** to win on **all three surfaces**. **Anisimova**, playing her **first major final**, couldn't match Swiatek's level. Despite recent struggles and a brief doping ban, Swiatek proved her strength and determination. **Kate, the Princess of Wales**, attended the final, making the event even more special. **This win marks a major comeback and historic moment in women's tennis**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **MI New York** defeated **Washington Freedom** by **5 runs** to win the **2025 Major League Cricket (MLC) title** at the **Grand Prairie Stadium in Dallas** on **July 14**. After a poor start to the season, MI New York made a strong comeback with help from players like **Quinton de Kock, Nicholas Pooran, Trent Boult, and Rushil Ugarkar**. **De Kock scored 77 runs**, while **Ugarkar** bowled a brilliant last over to stop Freedom from reaching the target of **181**. This is MI New York's **second MLC title**, making their journey from bottom of the table to champions truly inspirational. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** awarded the **June 2025 Player of the Month** titles to **South Africa's Aiden Markram** and **West Indies captain Hayley Matthews**. Markram scored a match-winning **136 runs** in the **WTC Final** against **Australia**, helping South Africa win their **first ICC title since 1998**. Matthews impressed with **104 runs and 4 wickets in ODIs**, followed by **147 runs and 2 wickets in the T20I series** against South Africa. This is **Matthews' fourth ICC award**, making her the **second-most awarded female cricketer** in the monthly rankings. Both players expressed pride in their performances and focus on future goals. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Andre Russell** retires from **international cricket**, ending a 15-year career marked by **two T20 World Cups**, **84 T20Is** (1,078 runs & 61 wickets), and a strong global franchise record. His **farewell matches** are on **July 20 & 22, 2025**, against **Australia** in **Jamaica**. He follows **Nicholas Pooran** into retirement ahead of the **2026 ICC T20 World Cup**, leaving behind a legacy of **power, performance, and pride**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Deepika Sehrawat**, 21, became the **first Indian** to win the **Poligras Magic Skill Award** for her **solo field goal** against the **Netherlands** in the **2024–25 FIH Hockey Pro League**. Her **rise began in Hisar** with national-level success and culminated in global recognition. The **goal was a turning point**, leading India to a draw and shootout win. Her win is a **milestone for Indian hockey**, reflecting growing global respect for the sport in India. **Key terms: Deepika Sehrawat, Poligras Magic Skill Award, FIH Hockey Pro League, Netherlands match, Hisar, Women's Hockey India**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Bihar** won the **U18 Boys' title** at the **10th Junior National Rugby 7s Championship 2025**, defeating **Odisha 17–15** and completing a **historic double victory** after claiming the U18 Girls' title earlier. With standout performances from players like **Goldan Kumar** and **Sunny Kumar**, Bihar remained **undefeated** and displayed national dominance alongside top teams like **Maharashtra** and **Delhi**. The competition serves as a **key talent pipeline** for India's future in **senior rugby**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- At the **World University Games 2025** in **Germany**, **Srihari Nataraj** set a new **Best Indian Performance** in **200m freestyle** with **1:48.22**, while **B. Benediction Rohit** became the **first Indian man** to swim the **50m butterfly** in **under 24 seconds** (23.96s), breaking a **7-year-old national mark**. These achievements mark a turning point in **Indian swimming history**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- **Assam Cabinet** approved several **welfare schemes** to boost rural pay, support traditional workers, and improve education. The **monthly pay for Gaon Pradhans** was increased from ₹9,000 to **₹14,000**, and **Anganwadi workers and helpers** will now get **₹8,000 and ₹4,000** respectively. The new **Gaja Mitra Scheme** will tackle **human-elephant conflict** in **eight districts**. **Class X students** will get **₹300 per month** under the **Prerona Aasoni Scheme**, while **monks in Satras** will receive a **₹1,500 monthly stipend**. The state also launched a **GST refund scheme** for **bell metal artisans** and renamed **Rabindranath Tagore University** to **Rabindranath Thakur Vishwavidyalaya**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana**, approved on **July 16, 2025**, is a six-year plan with a yearly budget of **₹24,000 crore** aimed at enhancing agriculture in **100 low-performing districts**. It promotes **crop diversification, irrigation, credit access, and storage improvement**. The scheme converges **36 schemes from 11 ministries**, with guidance from **NITI Aayog**, and is expected to benefit **1.7 crore farmers** nationwide. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **ADEETIE** scheme, launched by **Manohar Lal Khattar** under the **Ministry of Power** and implemented by **BEE**, aims to improve **industrial energy efficiency** with a ₹1,000 crore budget. Key features include **interest subvention**, **technical audits**, and support across **60 clusters** and **14 sectors**, targeting **30–50% energy savings** in **MSMEs**, thus supporting India's **low-carbon** growth strategy. ([Click here to read article](#))
- SEBI has launched the **VCF Settlement Scheme 2025**, active from **July 21, 2025**, to address violations related to the **winding-up provisions** of Venture Capital Funds (VCFs) that have migrated to the **AIF regime**. This one-time scheme allows such VCFs to settle regulatory actions for **unliquidated investments**, provided they migrate by **July 19, 2025**. The scheme ends on **January 19, 2026**, after which **SEBI may initiate action** against non-compliant funds. The scheme promotes **voluntary compliance**, ensures **investor protection**, and strengthens **regulatory transition mechanisms** in the alternative investment space. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **PMDDKY**, approved in **July 2025**, merges **36 schemes** across **11 ministries** with an annual outlay of **₹24,000 crore** over six years. It targets **100 low-performing districts**, focusing on **irrigation**, **post-harvest infrastructure**, **credit access**, and **organic farming**. The scheme promotes **public-private partnerships**, **district-level planning**, and **climate-smart agriculture**, aligning with **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and **farmer income doubling** goals. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Chinese scientists** at the **Beijing Institute of Technology** announced the creation of the **world's lightest mind-controller**, weighing **just 74 milligrams**. This device is used to **control bees**, turning them into **cyborgs** that can follow commands during **military missions**, **urban combat**, **drug searches**, and **disaster rescue**. The controller sends signals through **three tiny needles** inserted into the bee's brain, successfully guiding their flight paths. **Professor Zhao Jieliang**, who led the team, said insect cyborgs offer **better movement**, **stealth**, and **endurance** than machines. While battery life remains a problem, the team plans to make future upgrades. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Israel** successfully launched its **Dror-1 communications satellite** on **July 13, 2025**, using a **SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket** from **Cape Canaveral**. Built by **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)**, **Dror-1** weighs **4.5 tons** and is equipped with large antennas and solar panels. It will serve **Israel's communication needs for 15 years**. The launch highlights Israel's efforts to strengthen its **space program**, ensure **technological self-reliance**, and expand **secure communication networks** using **advanced satellite systems**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Google** is offering **free Gemini AI Pro** access to eligible Indian students until **September 15, 2025**. It includes tools like **Gemini 2.5 Pro**, **Deep Research**, **Gemini for Workspace**, and **2TB cloud storage**. The offer supports **exam prep**, **creativity**, and **digital empowerment**. Visit gemini.google/students to apply with student ID and get one year free. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **IIM Kozhikode** has launched **Gyanodaya**, a **Centre for Pedagogical Innovation and Publishing**, to transform management education through **peer-reviewed content**, **indigenous knowledge**, and **collaborative pedagogy**. It uses **Pandulipi**, an in-house platform, and is aligned with **Vision 2047** and **NEP** goals, aiming to build a **global knowledge commons**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Science and Technology News

- A **new butterfly species**, *Zographetus mathewi*, has been discovered in the **Western Ghats** of **Kerala**, adding to the region's already rich biodiversity. The species was confirmed after careful study by researchers from the **Travancore Nature History Society**, **Zoological Survey of India**, and others. It is named after **George Mathew**, a well-known Indian entomologist. This butterfly, also called the **Sahyadri Spotted Flitter**, is found in forests below 600 metres, and its larvae feed on the vine *Aganope thyrsoflora*. The discovery, published in **Entomon**, highlights the importance of **conservation** and continued **field research** in biodiversity hotspots like the Western Ghats. ([Click here to read article](#))
- A **new study** led by scientists, including **Edward Doddridge** from the **University of Tasmania**, has found that **Antarctica's summer sea ice** is at **record low levels**. The research team used **satellite data**, **robotic ocean sensors**, and **computer models** to study the effects. Their findings show rising **ocean temperatures**, damage to **marine ecosystems**, and growing global risks. This worrying trend began in **2016** and is continuing. The scientists call for **faster climate action** to protect the planet from long-term harm. ([Click here to read article](#))



- A new lichen species, **Allographa effusosoredica**, was discovered in the **Western Ghats** by scientists at **MACS-Agharkar Institute**, marking the **first Indian Allographa** supported by **DNA sequencing**. It features **rare chemical traits**, a **Trentepohlia algal partner**, and mimics other Graphidaceae species morphologically. Backed by the **ANRF**, this research emphasizes the role of **integrative taxonomy**, **symbiotic diversity**, and the need for **molecular studies** in documenting India's rich **lichen biodiversity**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Important Days News

- **World Youth Skills Day 2025**, observed on **July 15**, highlights the urgent need to equip **youth** with **AI and digital skills** for a better future. Celebrating its **10th anniversary**, this year's theme—"Youth Empowerment Through Artificial Intelligence and Digital Skills"—underlines the role of **TVET** in helping youth find jobs, grow careers, and prepare for a tech-driven world. It also raises concern about the millions of **NEET youth**, especially **young women in low-income regions**. By promoting awareness and hosting global events, the day encourages collective action for **education**, **employment**, and **empowerment**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India celebrates **AI Appreciation Day on July 16** to showcase progress in **AI-driven transformation** across sectors like **healthcare**, **education**, **agriculture**, and **governance**. Initiatives like **Digital India**, **AI for All**, and **Skill India AI Portal** have strengthened India's **AI ecosystem**. The focus remains on **inclusive development**, **innovation**, and **ethical AI**. India's vast talent and diverse challenges make it a **global hub for AI solutions**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Snake Day 2025** was observed on **July 15** at **Bannerghatta Biological Park**, Bengaluru, with **India Post**, **WRRC**, and **NGOs** conducting sessions on **snake conservation**. Over **500 students** participated. **Snake-themed postcards** were released, promoting **awareness through philately**. The focus was on reducing **fear and misinformation**, especially in **urban areas**, and empowering youth to become **ecological stewards**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Day for International Justice 2025**, observed on **17 July**, commemorates the adoption of the **Rome Statute** and the founding of the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**. It promotes **justice**, **human rights**, **accountability**, and **rule of law** through global observances, especially in times of ongoing conflicts and human rights violations. Institutions and civil society together foster awareness, solidarity, and global **commitment to ending impunity**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Nelson Mandela International Day** (observed on **July 18**) honors the **legacy of Nelson Mandela**, who spent **67 years in public service**. The **UN-recognized day** encourages people

to perform **67 minutes of community service**, reflecting Mandela's lifelong commitment to **justice, equality, and dignity**. The **2025 theme**, "*It's still in our hands to combat poverty and inequity*," emphasizes **global responsibility** in addressing systemic challenges. Through **volunteering**, **awareness campaigns**, and **social action**, individuals worldwide are urged to build a more **inclusive and compassionate society**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **World Chess Day 2025**, observed on **July 20**, marks the founding of the **International Chess Federation (FIDE)** in **1924** and celebrates **chess** as a symbol of **intellectual growth**, **strategic thinking**, and **global unity**. With roots in **ancient India**, the day promotes **inclusiveness**, **cultural exchange**, and the **mental benefits** of the game. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **International Moon Day 2025**, celebrated on **July 20**, marks the anniversary of the **Apollo 11 Moon landing** and promotes **international cooperation**, **peaceful space exploration**, and **sustainable lunar utilization**. Initiated by the **United Nations** through **Resolution 76/76**, the day aims to raise **public awareness**, honor past achievements, and guide future efforts in using the **Moon's resources** responsibly for the benefit of **all humankind**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Obituaries News

- **Kota Srinivasa Rao**, a legendary **Telugu film actor** and former **Andhra MLA**, died in **Hyderabad** at the age of **83**. With a career spanning four decades, he was known for playing a wide range of roles in films and was honoured with many awards. His passing is being remembered as a huge loss to the world of cinema and politics. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **B. Saroja Devi**, one of the most respected and celebrated actresses in **Indian cinema**, died at the age of **87** on **July 14, 2025**, in **Bengaluru** due to **age-related health complications**. She had starred in over **190 films** across **Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Hindi** languages and was honoured with the **Padma Bhushan**. Her passing brought sorrow to fans and celebrities alike, who remembered her as a symbol of beauty, talent, and grace. Her **legacy will live on** through her timeless performances. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Former Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari** died on **July 13, 2025**, in **London** at the age of **82**. A former **military ruler**, he became an elected president in **2015** and served until **2023**. Though he promised to improve security and fight corruption, his rule faced many **challenges**. His death has brought **mourning and tributes** from around the world. **President Bola Tinubu** confirmed the news and has arranged for Buhari's body to be returned to **Nigeria**. Buhari will be remembered as a **strong-willed leader** who left a lasting mark on the country's political history. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Fauja Singh**, the **114-year-old marathon legend**, died in a **road accident** on **July 14, 2025**, while walking on the **Jalandhar-Pathankot highway** in **Punjab**. Known as the **world's oldest marathon runner**, Singh began running at 89 and completed many international marathons. His death was confirmed by **Khushwant Singh** and mourned by leaders like **PM Modi**, **Gulab Chand Kataria**, and **Captain Amarinder Singh**. Fauja Singh inspired millions with his **discipline, resilience, and positive spirit**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **July 14, 2025**, celebrated queer poet **Andrea Gibson**, known for their work on **gender identity, love, and cancer survival**, passed away at **49**. They served as **Poet Laureate of Colorado** and were the subject of the **Sundance 2025** award-winning documentary *Come See Me in the Good Light*. Diagnosed with **ovarian cancer** in **2021**, Gibson continued to inspire with poetry and activism, leaving behind a legacy of honesty, strength, and beauty. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Felix Baumgartner** famed for his **record-breaking 2012 supersonic jump** from the edge of space, **died in a paragliding crash** in Italy at 56. He was the first to **break the sound barrier in free fall**, set multiple global records, and inspired advancements in **extreme flight and aerospace science**. Globally mourned, he remains a symbol of **courage and boundary-pushing adventure**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Static Takeaways

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
1	PhonePe	CEO - Sameer Nigam
2	ACKO	CEO - Varun Dua
3	Exim Pay	CEO - Arjun Zazaria
4	Tesla	CEO - Elon Musk
5	HSBC India Bank	CEO - Hitendra Dave
6	Sikkim	CM - Prem Singh Tamang Governor - Om Prakash Mathur
7	UP	CM - Yogi Adityanath Governor - Anandiben Patel
8	MP	CM - Mohan Yadav Governor - Mangubhai Patel
9	Goa	CM - Pramod Sawant Governor - Pusapati Ashok Raju
10	Bihar	CM - Nitish Kumar Governor - Arif Khan
11	Himachal Pradesh	CM - Sukhvinder Sukkhu Governor - Pratap Shukla
12	Gujarat	CM - Bhupendra Patel Governor - Acharya Devvrat
13	Maharashtra	CM - Dvendra Fadnavis Governor - Radhakrishnan
14	Andhra Pradesh	CM - Chandrababu Naidu Governor - Abdul Nazir
15	USA	President - Donald Trump Capital - Washington D.C.
16	France	President - Emmanuel Macron Capital - Paris
17	Ukraine`	President - Zelenskyy Capital - Kyiv
18	Saudi Arabia	President/Head - Mohammed Bin Salman Capital - Jeddah
19	Russia	President - Vladimir Putin Capital - Moscow