GA Capsule for NICL AO Mains 2025

National Current Affairs 3
International Current Affairs 92
New Appointments: National & International 104
Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings 120
Banking Current Affairs 125
Economy/Business Current Affairs 151
Defense Current Affairs 168
Awards & Recognition 179
Summits |Events |Festivals (National/International) 186
List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) 193
Books & Authors 204
Sports Current Affairs 207
Science & Technology 220
Schemes/ Apps / Portal 230
Important Days 239
Obituaries (National/International) 259
Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners 266
Static Takeaways Current Affairs 268

National Current Affairs of August 2025

RBI Monetary Policy Statement 2025-26: Full Analysis

The **56th meeting** of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) took place from **August 4–6, 2025**, chaired by **Shri Sanjay Malhotra**, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The other members present included **Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Shri Saugata Bhattacharya, Prof. Ram Singh, Dr. Poonam Gupta, and Dr. Rajiv Ranjan**.

The MPC's core decision: **keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.50%**.

- **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF):** 5.25%
- **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) & Bank Rate:** 5.75%

The decision aligns with the RBI's goal of **maintaining CPI inflation at 4% within a ±2% range** while supporting economic growth.

Growth Outlook

Global Scenario: Global growth remains muted despite an upward revision by the IMF. Disinflation has slowed, and some advanced economies are witnessing an uptick in inflation. Trade negotiations and tariff changes remain a concern.

Domestic Economy: Economic growth is **resilient**, driven by **private consumption** (especially rural demand) and **fixed investment** (supported by strong government capital expenditure).

1. **Agriculture:** Supported by a steady southwest monsoon and strong kharif sowing.
2. **Services Sector:** Continues to perform well, led by construction and trade.
3. **Industrial Sector:** Growth uneven; electricity and mining are lagging.

GDP Growth Projection 2025-26: 6.5%

1. Q1: 6.5%
2. Q2: 6.7%
3. Q3: 6.6%
4. Q4: 6.3%
5. Q1 2026-27: 6.6%

Inflation Outlook

Current Situation (June 2025):

1. CPI inflation at **2.1%** (77-month low) – eighth consecutive month of decline.
2. **Food inflation** in **negative territory (-0.2%)** for the first time since February 2019 due to good agricultural output and supply-side measures.
3. **Core inflation** rose slightly to **4.4%** in June, partly due to rising gold prices.

Projection for 2025-26: 3.1%

1. Q2: 2.1%
2. Q3: 3.1%
3. Q4: 4.4%
4. Q1 2026-27: 4.9%

Key Risks:

1. Weather-related shocks affecting crops.
2. Global uncertainties and trade disputes.
3. Demand pressures from policy measures in later quarters.

Rationale for Keeping Repo Rate Unchanged

1. **Inflation Control:** Inflation is currently below target but expected to rise above 4% in late FY2025-26 due to seasonal and demand-side factors.
2. **Economic Growth Stability:** Growth remains in line with projections at 6.5% for 2025-26.
3. **Impact of Previous Rate Cuts:** RBI has already reduced rates by **100 basis points** since February 2025. The full benefits of these cuts are still filtering through the economy.
4. **Uncertain Global Conditions:** Tariff and trade tensions could affect exports and global capital flows.
5. **Neutral Monetary Policy Stance:** MPC will monitor data closely before making future changes.

Key Takeaways for Exam Preparation

- **Repo Rate:** 5.50% (unchanged)
- **GDP Growth 2025-26:** 6.5%
- **Inflation 2025-26:** 3.1% (expected to rise above 4% in Q4)
- **Reason for no rate change:** Waiting for earlier cuts to take full effect; inflation likely to rise later.
- **Major Risks:** Weather shocks, trade tensions, global inflation trends.
- **Next MPC Meeting:** September 29 – October 1, 2025.

India's Top 10 Safest Cities 2025: Check If Your City Made the List

Safety is one of the most crucial factors in determining a city's livability, and in 2025, India's urban safety map has shown some interesting patterns. According to the mid-2025 Numbeo Safety Index, India ranked 67th globally with a safety score of 55.8. While the overall national ranking leaves room for improvement, some cities have emerged as beacons of safety, offering their residents a secure and peaceful environment.

The latest report places Mangalore at the top of the list as India's safest city, followed closely by Vadodara, Ahmedabad, and Surat—showcasing Gujarat's strong presence in safety rankings. On the flip side, cities in the National Capital Region (NCR) like Delhi, Noida, and Ghaziabad continue to face major safety challenges.

Top 10 Safest Cities in India 2025

The Numbeo Safety Index evaluates cities based on factors such as crime rates, law enforcement efficiency, and public perceptions of safety. A higher Safety Index indicates lower crime and better public security.

India Rank	City, State	Safety Index	Crime Index	Global Rank
1	Mangalore, Karnataka	74.2	25.8	49
2	Vadodara, Gujarat	69.2	30.8	85
3	Ahmedabad, Gujarat	68.2	31.8	93
4	Surat, Gujarat	66.6	33.4	106
5	Jaipur, Rajasthan	65.2	34.8	118
6	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	63.5	36.8	126
7	Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	61.1	38.9	149
8	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	60.3	37.9	158
9	Pune, Maharashtra	58.7	41.3	167
10	Chandigarh	57.4	42.6	175

Highlights

- Mangalore not only tops in India but ranks 49th globally for safety.
- Gujarat dominates the list with three entries—Vadodara, Ahmedabad, and Surat.
- Southern cities like Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai, and Mangalore perform well, reflecting better urban governance and community discipline.

The Other Side of the Coin – Least Safe Cities

While the top cities shine in terms of safety, the National Capital Region continues to lag. Delhi, Noida, and Ghaziabad remain among India's least safe cities, with high crime rates and safety concerns impacting residents' quality of life.

How India Compares Globally

Globally, Abu Dhabi continues to hold the crown as the world's safest city for the ninth consecutive year, with a stellar safety index of 88.8. The list of the world's safest cities is dominated by the Middle East, with Doha, Dubai, and Sharjah also in the top five.

Top 5 Safest Cities in the World (2025)

1. Abu Dhabi, UAE – 88.8
2. Doha, Qatar – 84.3
3. Dubai, UAE – 83.9
4. Sharjah, UAE – 83.7
5. Taipei, Taiwan – 83.6

How the Safety Rankings Were Calculated

The Numbeo Safety Index is based on public perceptions of safety in daily life, both during the daytime and at night. Respondents rate their cities based on experiences and concerns related to,

- **Personal safety:** Risk of mugging, robbery, car theft, physical attacks by strangers, and harassment in public places.
- **Discrimination:** Based on factors like skin colour, ethnicity, gender, or religion.
- **Property crimes:** Including vandalism, burglary, and theft.
- **Violent crimes:** Such as assault and homicide.

These inputs are then converted into a Safety Index (higher scores mean safer cities) and a Crime Index (higher scores mean less safe).

Revised Income Tax Bill, 2025: What Taxpayers and Investors Need to Know

Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has formally withdrawn the old draft of the Income Tax Bill, 2025, from the Lok Sabha and introduced a revised version in Parliament. This new draft is the result of extensive feedback and scrutiny, including around **285 recommendations** from a Select Committee, aiming to modernize and simplify India's direct tax framework, replacing the existing Income Tax Act, 1961.

Why Was the Earlier Bill Withdrawn?

The original bill, introduced during the Parliament's Budget session in February 2025, was immediately referred to a Select Committee for thorough review. Major reasons for withdrawal:

- **Drafting inconsistencies** and technical errors needed correction.
- **Terminology clarifications** and improved legal language were necessary to convey the correct legislative intent.
- **Stakeholder and committee feedback** was extensive, demanding a consolidated, clearer bill that avoids confusion between multiple versions.

Structure and Key Features of the New Bill

- **Simplified Language:** The bill's legal terminology has been rewritten for clarity. Provisions that were ambiguous or contradictory have been removed to reduce disputes—a common issue under the old law.
- **Organized Provisions:** There are now **536 sections and 16 schedules** organized for easy navigation, compared to the older act's 298 sections.
- **Introduction of "Tax Year":** The new bill attempts to **eliminate the dual system** of "Previous Year" and "Assessment Year," introducing the concept of a single "Tax Year" for better clarity and administration.
- **Digital-first Approach:** The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) gets enhanced powers to make rules promoting digital administration and automation, including faceless processes to reduce the scope for corruption and unnecessary litigation.
- **No Immediate Tax Slab Changes:** The revised bill **does not change tax rates** or income categories at this stage but focuses on simplifying processes and paperwork.

Major Select Committee Recommendations

The Select Committee's detailed 4,500-page report suggested significant reforms. Key recommendations now likely included in the revised bill:

Taxpayer Benefits & Relief

- **Refunds on Late Returns:** Taxpayers can now claim refunds even if their returns are filed after the deadline, helping individuals who miss filing due to genuine reasons.
- **Dividend Deduction (Section 80M):** Reintroduction of inter-corporate dividend deductions, easing tax burden on companies receiving dividends from other domestic companies.
- **NIL-TDS Facility:** Taxpayers with no tax liability can obtain advance NIL-TDS (tax deducted at source) certificates, reducing compliance hassle.
- **Tax Relief for Vacant Property:** Additional tax burden based on deemed rent for vacant house properties is removed.
- **Clear 30% Deduction for House Property:** The deduction is now applicable only after subtracting municipal taxes; also, home-loan interest deduction is available for let-out (rented) properties.

Compliance & Procedural Changes

- **Simplified Advance Ruling Fees:** Making advance tax rulings more accessible by altering the fee structure.
- **Clarifications on Penal Powers and TDS:** Clear rules about when penalties apply, especially for provident fund withdrawal and other procedural aspects.
- **Definition Alignment:** MSME (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) definition is now linked directly to the MSME Act, reducing confusion.
- **Legal Drafting Improvements:** Numerous linguistic and technical errors have been corrected, including clause numbering and property terminology.
- **Expanded Pension Deduction:** Commuted pension deduction (previously only for employees) is now extended to non-employee individuals.

Top 10 Changes at a Glance

1. Refund claim possible even for late returns.
2. Reintroduction of Section 80M deduction for inter-corporate dividends.
3. Facility for NIL-TDS certificates to those with no liability.
4. Removal of 'deemed rent' tax for vacant properties.
5. Clear calculation of 30% deduction after municipal taxes for house property.
6. Extension of home-loan interest deduction to let-out properties.
7. Improved transparency and clarity in procedural rules.
8. Alignment of MSME definition with the MSME Act.
9. Correction of legal language and clause references.
10. Wider scope for commuted pension deduction to non-employee individuals.

What Does It Mean for Taxpayers and Investors?

- **Simplification and Transparency:** The bill aims to make tax compliance easier, with fewer technical hurdles and clearer rules. This helps taxpayers plan their finances with more certainty and reduces disputes with tax authorities.
- **Reduced Litigation:** Many ambiguous provisions that often led to legal battles have been removed, and the law is now organized to reduce opportunities for misinterpretation.
- **Support for Digital India:** The emphasis on digital processes and automation will make tax filing and refunds quicker, improve convenience, and support a faceless, corruption-free environment.
- **Investor Confidence:** By clearly aligning definitions (such as MSMEs and house property), the bill promotes investment by reducing uncertainties in tax rules affecting businesses and individuals.

Operation Sindoor: Gallantry Awards Announced for Armed Forces Heroes

On the eve of Independence Day 2025, the Government of India announced gallantry awards for officers of the Indian Armed Forces who played pivotal roles in Operation Sindoor—a tri-services mission targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The awards recognise exceptional bravery, operational excellence, and distinguished service during one of India's most decisive counter-terrorism missions.

Background: Operation Sindoor

Operation Sindoor was launched in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack, which killed 26 civilians. The attack was claimed by The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy for Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

The operation involved coordinated Army, Navy, and Air Force action,

- The Indian Army destroyed nine terrorist bases linked to Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Taiba, and Hizbul Mujahideen in Pakistan and PoK.
- The Indian Air Force executed precision strikes on four targets inside Pakistan and five in PoK.
- The Indian Navy provided operational support from Indian soil.

Major Awards Announced

1. Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal (SYSM) – Highest wartime distinguished service award

Awarded to four officers, including senior IAF leadership,

1. Air Marshal Narnadeshwar Tiwari – Air Staff
2. Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra – Western Air Commander
3. Air Marshal Awadhesh Bharti – DG Air Operations
4. Vice Admiral SJ Singh – Former Western Naval Commander

Additionally, two senior Indian Army officers were selected for SYSM.

2. Uttam Yudh Seva Medal (UYSM)

Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti – Deputy Chief of Naval Staff

3. Yudh Seva Medal (YSM) – For distinguished service during war

Thirteen IAF officers, including,

1. Air Vice Marshal Joseph Suares
2. Air Vice Marshal Prajual Singh
3. Air Commodore Ashok Raj Thakur

4. Vayu Sena Medal (VM) – For exceptional courage in air operations

Awarded to 26 officers, such as,

1. Group Captain Ankur Hakim
2. Group Captain Varun Bhoj (Flying)
3. Wing Commander Mayank Paliwal (Flying)
4. Squadron Leader Kaustubh Nalawade (Flying)
5. Flight Lieutenant A. Naveen Chandar (Administration/Fighter Controller)

5. Veer Chakra – Gallantry award for acts of exceptional bravery

Awarded to officers including,

1. Group Captain Ranjeet Singh Sidhu
2. Group Captain Manish Arora
3. Squadron Leader Sarthak Kumar
4. Flight Lieutenant Arshweer Singh Thakur

Significance

These honours not only commend individual bravery and skill but also mark Operation Sindoor as a milestone in India's counter-terrorism operations. The mission showcased,

- Tri-services coordination
- Indigenous operational capability under Atmanirbhar Bharat
- Strategic precision strikes without crossing international borders

PM Modi's 79th Independence Day Whole Speech Key Points: Roadmap to a Viksit Bharat 2047

On August 15, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the longest Independence Day address in India's history—a 103-minute speech from the Red Fort—presenting a comprehensive vision for Viksit Bharat 2047. With a strong emphasis on self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat), technological innovation, and citizen empowerment, PM Modi detailed strategic reforms and flagship initiatives across defence, economy, agriculture, energy, and space, positioning India as a confident global leader.

Key Announcements & Policy Highlights

1. Strategic Autonomy and Security

- Operation Sindoor: Conducted after the Pahalgam attack using entirely Made-in-India weapons to dismantle Pakistan-based terror networks, sending a message that India will not accept nuclear blackmail.
- Indus Waters Treaty Stand: "Blood and water will not flow together" – signalling India's intent to safeguard its water resources for domestic use.
- Mission Sudarshan Chakra: Development of an advanced weapon system to ensure rapid, precise defence responses; a nationwide security shield by 2035.

2. Atmanirbhar Bharat & Technological Self-Reliance

- Made-in-India Semiconductor: First domestic chip to be rolled out in 2025.
- Opening Nuclear Sector to Private Players to boost innovation and energy generation.
- Call to Innovate: Youth urged to design indigenous jet engines, social media platforms, fertilisers, and other critical technologies.

3. Energy & Resource Independence

- **National Critical Minerals Mission:** Exploration of 1,200 sites for key industrial and defence minerals.
- **National Deepwater Exploration Mission**: Harnessing offshore energy to cut foreign fuel dependence.
- **Clean Energy Milestone:** India reached 50% clean energy target in 2025, five years ahead of schedule.
- **Nuclear Expansion:** Plan to increase nuclear capacity 10-fold by 2047 with 10 reactors under construction.

4. Economic & Governance Reforms

- **Next-Generation Economic Reforms Task Force:** Overhaul of laws and regulations.
- Removal of 40,000+ compliances and 1,500 outdated laws.
- **GST Reform by Diwali 2025: Lower taxes on essentials to benefit MSMEs and local vendors.**

5. Employment & Demographic Dividend

- **PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana**: ₹1 lakh crore scheme, ₹15,000 to newly employed youth, targeting 3 crore beneficiaries.
- Focus on converting India's demographic potential into economic strength.

6. Healthcare & Pharma Leadership

- Push for medicine self-reliance; India to develop its own vaccines and life-saving drugs.
- Encouragement for researchers to secure patents for pharmaceuticals and medical devices.

7. Agriculture & Rural Prosperity

- Recognition of farmers as "backbone of India's prosperity".
- PM Dhanya Dhanya Krishi Yojana for 100 backward farming districts.
- India ranks #1 in milk, pulses, jute; #2 in rice, wheat, cotton, fruits, vegetables.
- Agricultural exports have crossed ₹4 lakh crore.

8. Space & Innovation Leadership

- Indian Space Station preparations underway.
- Over 300 space startups innovating in satellite technology and deep space missions.

9. National Integrity & Border Security

- High-Powered Demography Mission to address illegal infiltration and protect border livelihoods.

Vision for Viksit Bharat 2047

PM Modi's roadmap envisions,

- Technological dominance in critical sectors
- Complete energy self-reliance
- Globally competitive agriculture
- Citizen-led innovation
- Secure borders and internal stability

Cabinet Approvals

- The **Union Cabinet** approved **four new components** under the **Central Sector Scheme of Special Development Packages (SDPs)** for **Assam and Tripura** with an outlay of **₹4,250 crore**, focusing on **Adivasi villages (₹500 crore)**, **Dimasa areas (₹500 crore)**, **ULFA groups (₹3,000 crore)** in Assam, and **tribal development in Tripura (₹250 crore)**, aimed at peace, infrastructure, employment, and socio-economic upliftment.
- The Cabinet approved the **MERITE Scheme (Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education)** with an outlay of **₹4,200 crore (2025-30)**, supported by a **₹2,100 crore World Bank loan**, to improve **technical education quality, equity, and governance** across **275 institutions**, benefitting **7.5 lakh students** and strengthening **research, innovation, and employability**.
- The Cabinet sanctioned **₹30,000 crore compensation** to **Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (IOCL, BPCL, HPCL)** for **domestic LPG under-recoveries**, incurred due to **high global LPG prices (2024-25)**, ensuring **affordable LPG supply**, financial stability of OMCs, and continued support for schemes like **PM Ujjwala Yojana**.
- The Cabinet approved **targeted subsidy** of **₹300 per 14.2 kg LPG cylinder** (up to **9 refills per year**) for **PM Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)** consumers in FY **2025-26** with an outlay of **₹12,000 crore**, benefiting **10.33 crore households**, and improving **LPG usage** among poor households.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** approved the construction of the **4-lane Marakkanam–Puducherry (NH-332A)** stretch (46 km) on **Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM)** with a cost of **₹2,157 crore**, enhancing **connectivity** between Chennai, Puducherry, and Nagapattinam, boosting **tourism, trade, and employment (18 lakh man-days)**.
- The Cabinet approved **Lucknow Metro Rail Project Phase-1B** (11.165 km, **12 stations**) with an outlay of **₹5,801 crore**, improving **connectivity in Old Lucknow**, linking **commercial hubs, King George's Medical University, and heritage sites**, reducing **traffic congestion**, cutting **carbon emissions**, and boosting **economic growth and tourism**.
- The Cabinet approved **semiconductor manufacturing projects** in **Odisha, Punjab, and Andhra Pradesh** worth **₹4,600 crore**, including **India's first commercial compound fab (SiCSem, Odisha)**, **3D advanced packaging unit (Odisha)**, **ASIP facility (Andhra Pradesh)**, and **CDIL expansion (Punjab)**, expected to generate **2,034 direct jobs** and strengthen **Atmanirbhar Bharat in electronics**.
- The CCEA approved the **700 MW Tato-II Hydro Electric Project** in **Shi Yomi, Arunachal Pradesh** with an outlay of **₹8,146.21 crore** and **72 months completion time**, producing **2,738 MU power annually**, with benefits including **12% free power for the state**, **local area development fund**, infrastructure upgrades, and **employment generation**.
- The CCEA sanctioned construction of a **6-lane Capital Region Ring Road (Bhubaneswar Bypass, 110.875 km, Odisha)** under **HAM mode** at **₹8,307.74 crore**, connecting **Khordha, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack**, integrating with **NH-55, NH-57, NH-655**, and generating over **1.67 crore man-days employment**, boosting **freight efficiency and regional growth**.

- The Cabinet approved development of a **Greenfield Airport at Kota-Bundi (Rajasthan)** at **₹1,507 crore**, with facilities including a **20,000 sqm terminal (2 MPPA capacity)**, **3,200m runway**, and **7 aircraft bays**, addressing **traffic growth** in **Kota – the coaching hub and industrial capital of Rajasthan**, as the existing airport is inadequate.
- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** also announced that the **Kota-Bundi Greenfield Airport** will support **A-321 aircraft operations**, ensuring better **air connectivity** for the **education and industrial hub**, with Rajasthan providing **440.06 hectares of land**, making it a **critical infrastructure project** for the region.
- The **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways** reaffirmed the approval of the **6-lane Bhubaneswar Bypass (110.875 km, Odisha)** at **₹8,307.74 crore**, highlighting its role in **decongesting Khordha, Bhubaneswar, and Cuttack**, reducing **logistics costs**, linking to **economic and social nodes**, and creating large-scale **employment opportunities**.

Parliament News

State-wise October Month Important Events

Chhattisgarh

- In a landmark discovery, **Deccan Gold Mining Limited** found a significant **Nickel–Copper–Platinum Group Elements (Ni–Cu–PGE) sulphide deposit** in the **Bhalukona–Jamnidih block, Chhattisgarh**, marking a major step toward securing **strategic minerals** vital for India's **clean energy** and **industrial future**. This discovery, part of a growing **critical mineral hub** alongside the adjacent Vedanta block, supports the government's push for **sustainable exploration** and aims to boost India's position in the **global strategic mineral supply chain**.

Maharashtra

- Mumbai is hosting the **largest-ever 18th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics**, with around **300 students** from **64 countries**—including **12 first-time participants**—competing in a **10-day event** organized by the **Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education**. The Olympiad promotes **global friendship** and **learning in astronomy**, featuring **exams**, **team challenges**, and **sky observations**, while welcoming **war-affected nations** and achieving a **record number of women participants**.
- Maharashtra has taken a significant step towards **inclusive education** by successfully implementing **'Disha Abhiyan'**, an initiative aimed at providing **uniform and quality education** for students with **intellectual disabilities**. Developed by the **Jai Vakil Foundation** and approved by the **National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID)**, this innovative curriculum is currently being implemented in **453 special schools** across the state. Chief Minister **Devendra Fadnavis** emphasized that Maharashtra is the **first state in India** to prioritize the needs of persons with disabilities through education.

Punjab

- Punjab is set to become the **first state in India** to formally empanel **sign language interpreters, translators, and special educators** under the **Juvenile Justice Act, 2015** and the **POCSO Act, 2012**. This initiative will **bridge communication gaps** and **strengthen access to justice and rights for children** by supporting court proceedings with trained professionals. These experts will be deployed district-wise and compensated as per legal provisions, ensuring **impartial and transparent outcomes**. The state has already pioneered broadcasting Punjab Vidhan Sabha proceedings in sign language.

Sikkim

- Sikkim has made history as the **first state in India** to implement a **Sabbatical Leave Scheme for government employees**, offering **365 to 1,080 days of leave** with **50% basic pay**, while ensuring **seniority and service continuity.** The scheme covers **both regular and temporary employees** and now includes a **decentralized approval system** to speed up decisions, reflecting the state's commitment to **progressive governance and employee empowerment.**
- Sikkim Chief Minister **Prem Singh Tamang** launched the **'Nari Adalat'** on the occasion of the first **Amma Samman Diwas** at Rongpo. This **community-based forum** is run by women to provide **accessible, informal justice** for minor disputes like **family disagreements, domestic violence, and marital issues**, especially in **rural and semi-urban areas**. The initiative aims to **empower women** by offering a **supportive, non-intimidating environment** that resolves conflicts locally without the need for formal court procedures.

Tamil Nadu

- **Tamil Nadu** has unveiled its **State Education Policy (SEP)** as a direct counter to the Centre's **National Education Policy (NEP)**, retaining the **two-language system**, rejecting **public exams in Classes 3, 5, and 8**, and opposing **common entrance tests** for UG admissions. Released by **CM MK Stalin**, the SEP promotes **science, AI, and English**, urges education to be moved back to the **state list**, and emphasizes **investment in public institutions**.

Jammu and Kashmir

- The **Sawalkote Hydropower Project**, a **2,185 MW run-of-the-river plant** on the **Chenab River**, is being revived by **NHPC** and **JKSPDC** at a cost of **₹22,704 crore**. As **J&K's largest hydroelectric project**, it aims to generate **7,000 million units annually**, making the region **power-surplus** while also contributing to **flood control**. Its revival follows India's decision to pause the **Indus Waters Treaty**, marking a significant shift in regional water and energy policy.

Delhi

- The **Delhi Legislative Assembly** has become the **first in India** to run entirely on **solar power** after commissioning a **500-kilowatt rooftop solar plant**, cutting electricity costs by about **Rs 1.75 crore annually**. Alongside this, it launched the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)** under the Centre's **"One Nation, One Application"** initiative, marking a shift to **paperless, digital legislative functioning**. These steps reflect Delhi's move towards **sustainable governance** and **digital transformation**, with surplus power generation potential and advanced smart legislative tools set to be fully operational from the upcoming Monsoon Session.

August Month Launches & Inaugurations:

- **Deendayal Port Authority (DPA)** commissioned **India's first indigenous 1MW green hydrogen plant** at Kandla; plans to expand to 10MW.
- **Western Railway** restarted heritage train services on the **Patalpani–Kalakund line** in Madhya Pradesh.
- **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas** launched **'Apna Ghar' initiative** for truck drivers with hygienic resting spaces.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated **Kartavya Bhavan**, the first Common Central Secretariat (CCS) building under the Central Vista Project.
- **Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** launched the **eSAKSHI portal** for MPLAD Scheme digital integration.
- **Eight major cooperatives** launched **'Bharat' Taxi**, a cooperative-driven ride-hailing service.
- **Indian Railways** conducted a trial run of Asia's longest freight train **'Rudrastra'** (4.5 km).
- **Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy** launched the logo, brochure, and website of **'Bharat Steel'**, an international steel conference.
- **India achieved 100 GW solar PV module manufacturing capacity** under ALMM, boosted by PLI Scheme.
- **Kargil apricots** made their **international debut in Saudi Arabia** under ODOP initiative.
- **NHAI** launched the **FASTag Annual Pass** across 1,150 toll plazas nationwide.
- **India's longest-route Vande Bharat Express** launched on the **Nagpur–Pune corridor**.
- **India launched its first Drone-AI powered artificial rain experiment** at **Ramgarh Dam, Jaipur**.

Important Festival

Miscellaneous National News

- **India ranks 2nd globally in fish production**, announced by Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh.
- **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare** amended **Cosmetics Rules, 2020**, effective July 29, 2025.
- **Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC) 2025** set a Guinness World Record with **3.53 crore registrations**.
- **Ministry of Textiles** promoting **GI registration** of handloom and handicrafts.
- **SECI** conducted its **first auction for Green Ammonia procurement**, discovering record-low price of ₹55.75/kg.
- **US President Donald Trump** doubled tariffs on **Indian imports to 50%**, citing sanctions enforcement.
- **Parliament passed the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025**, replacing the 1925 Act.
- **Kabak Yano**, Arunachal mountaineer, scaled **Mount Kilimanjaro** as part of Seven Summits expedition.
- **Prime Minister Modi's 'Mann ki Baat'** generated **₹34.13 crore revenue** since 2014.
- Over **29,000 deaths on national highways in first half of 2025**; govt targets halving fatalities by 2030.
- **Indian Railways** introduced a **Round Trip Package** with 20% rebate on return tickets during festival rush.
- **Cabinet approved ₹8146.21 crore investment** for the **700 MW Tato-II Hydro Project in Arunachal Pradesh**.
- **Union Health Ministry launched SHRESTH Index** for benchmarking state drug regulatory systems.
- **UPSC** to celebrate **Centenary Year (1925–2026)** with reforms and events.
- **Lok Sabha passed Indian Ports Bill, 2025**, modernizing the 1908 Act.
- **Parliament passed National Sports Governance Bill & National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, 2025.**
- **India sent 5 tonnes of cowpea seeds to Fiji** as humanitarian aid under Act East Policy.
- **President Droupadi Murmu** delivered her **79th Independence Day address** highlighting India's growth journey.
- **India to establish global data standards**, MoSPI to launch Service Production Index.
- **PM Modi delivered 12th consecutive Independence Day speech**, breaking Indira Gandhi's record.
- **PM Modi delivered longest-ever Independence Day speech** (103 minutes).
- **Supreme Court paused Delhi-NCR old vehicle ban** pending review.

National Current Affairs of July 2025

Most Important Current Affairs Articles

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

Global Ranking: A Tale of Two Worlds

Top 10 Countries in SDG Index 2025

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

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

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

Bottom 10 Countries in SDG Index 2025

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

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

India's Historic Rise in SDG Ranking

India Breaks into Top 100

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

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

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

India in Regional Comparison

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

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

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

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

Why in News?

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

About the Honour

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

Key Agreements & Announcements

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

Education & Youth Development

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

Agriculture & Food Security

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

Healthcare

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

Digital & Financial Integration

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

Trade Relations

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

Significance of the Visit

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

PM Modi Receives Trinidad and Tobago's Highest Civilian Award

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

A Historic First Visit

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

Reason for the Honour

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

PM Modi's Response and Gifts

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

Visit to Ghana Beforehand

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

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

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

First Prime Ministerial Visit in Over 25 Years

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

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

Six Agreements Signed

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

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

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

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

Meetings with National Leaders

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

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

PM Modi Gets Namibia's Top Civilian Honour

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was given Namibia's highest civilian award during his one-day state visit to the African nation on Wednesday. The award, called 'The Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis', was presented by Namibia's President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah. This honour shows the strong and growing relationship between India and Namibia.

Modi Receives Top Honour in Namibia

During his visit to Namibia on Wednesday, PM Modi was honoured with the country's top civilian award – The Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis. The ceremony took place in the capital and was led by Namibia's President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah. The award is named after a rare desert plant found only in Namibia, which stands for strength, long life, and resilience.

Modi is the first Indian leader to receive this special award. In his acceptance speech, he said, "I accept this honour with deep gratitude and dedicate it to the 1.4 billion people of India and the strong friendship between India and Namibia."

Meaning and History of the Award

The Welwitschia Mirabilis Award was started in 1995. It is given to people who show great leadership and work to build strong ties between nations. The plant it is named after survives in the desert for many years, which is why it is used as a symbol of endurance and unity.

This is PM Modi's 27th international award and the fourth during his current five-nation trip. Interestingly, it is also his second award within 24 hours, showing the global appreciation he is receiving on this tour.

A New Chapter in India-Namibia Relations

This honour marks a new milestone in the bond between India and Namibia. India and Namibia have worked together in areas like education, healthcare, defence, and technology. The award is a symbol of Namibia's respect for India's support and its interest in building even stronger ties in the future.

With this honour, both countries are expected to deepen their cooperation further in the coming months, especially in trade, green energy, and digital innovation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Honoured with Brazil's Highest Civilian Award

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been honoured with **Brazil's highest civilian award**, the **Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross**. This recognition was presented by **Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva** as a mark of respect for the growing diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties between **India and Brazil**.

This honour represents not just an individual achievement for the Prime Minister, but also reflects the **international recognition of India's leadership** and its growing influence on the global stage.

About the Award: Brazil's Top Civilian Honour

The **Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross** is the most prestigious civilian honour in Brazil. It is awarded to heads of state and government leaders who have made **outstanding contributions to strengthening Brazil's relations with other countries**.

By conferring this honour upon Prime Minister Modi, Brazil has acknowledged his efforts in enhancing **India-Brazil strategic partnership**, as well as his role in advancing cooperation through **international platforms** like **BRICS**, **G20**, and the **United Nations**.

A Symbol of Strong India-Brazil Relations

This honour is a powerful reflection of the deepening ties between the two democracies. India and Brazil share common values, such as respect for sovereignty, sustainable development, and a multipolar world order. Over the years, the two countries have collaborated in areas such as:

- **Trade and investment**
- **Renewable energy**
- **Agricultural technology**
- **Space research**
- **Global governance**

Prime Minister Modi's leadership has helped in building stronger bridges between the two nations, especially through multilateral forums and regional dialogues.

Pride for India on the International Stage

This is the **26th international award or honour** given to **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** by a foreign nation since he assumed office in **May 2014**. These recognitions highlight India's **diplomatic strength**, **growing economic power**, and the **global trust** in its leadership.

By honouring Prime Minister Modi, Brazil has also shown respect for **India's growing role in shaping global policies**, especially in the Global South.

Widespread Appreciation from Indian Leaders

The announcement of this award has been widely celebrated in India. Leaders from across the country have expressed their appreciation for the honour, calling it a proud moment for all Indians. Many have acknowledged that this award is not only a recognition of Modi's diplomacy but also a sign of India's **growing stature in international affairs**.

India's Maratha Forts Added to UNESCO World Heritage List

Maratha Military Landscapes of India were added to the UNESCO World Heritage List during the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee in Paris. This important recognition covers 12 historic forts built by the Maratha rulers between the 17th and 19th centuries. The listing highlights their unique military design and the rich history of India's fort architecture.

What Is the Maratha Military Landscapes?

The Maratha Military Landscapes are a group of 12 forts that show the smart planning and strength of the Maratha Empire. These forts were built across different terrains — hills, coasts, and plains — to protect the kingdom and control trade routes. They include Salher Fort, Shivneri Fort, Lohgad, Khanderi Fort, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala Fort, Vijay Durg, Sindhudurg (all in Maharashtra) and Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu.

These forts were known for their clever use of nature, water storage systems, and strong walls. Built mostly between the 1600s and 1800s, they show how Marathas used military skills to build powerful defense structures.

UNESCO's Decision and the Committee Meeting

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee took this decision during its 47th session in Paris. On X (formerly Twitter), UNESCO posted:

"New inscription on the @UNESCO #WorldHeritage List: Maratha Military Landscapes of India, #India."

This nomination was part of the 2024–25 UNESCO World Heritage cycle, and Indian officials had worked hard to present the historical and cultural importance of these forts to the world. The recognition gives international importance to India's fort heritage and adds value to future conservation efforts.

India's Pride and Historical Significance

The Maratha forts were not just buildings — they were symbols of resistance, planning, and unity. Leaders like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj used them to build and protect the Maratha Empire. Some of these forts, like Raigad and Pratapgad, are especially famous in Indian history.

For example, Pratapgad Fort, located about 22 km from Mahabaleshwar, played a key role in many battles and still stands strong today.

Indian historians, heritage experts, and government officials have welcomed this decision, saying it will help promote tourism, boost local pride, and ensure better care of these monuments.

PM Modi Honored With 'Key to the City of Buenos Aires'

On July 6, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured with the 'Key to the City of Buenos Aires' during his official two-day visit to Argentina. This symbolic award was given in recognition of his efforts to strengthen the relationship between India and Argentina. The visit was historic, as it was the first by an Indian Prime Minister in 57 years.

Symbolic Honour for PM Modi

PM Modi was presented with the 'Key to the City' by Jorge Macri, the Chief of the City Government of Buenos Aires. This is a ceremonial gesture of trust and friendship. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the honour reflects PM Modi's role in building closer ties between India and Argentina. PM Modi expressed gratitude for the warm welcome and shared photos and messages on his official X (formerly Twitter) account.

Tributes to Icons and Cultural Connections

During his visit, PM Modi paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore by visiting their statues in Buenos Aires. He said Gandhi's message of peace and non-violence continues to inspire the world. Modi also honoured General Jose de San Martin, Argentina's national hero, at Plaza San Martin. He praised his leadership in the fight for freedom in South America. The visit focused on cultural respect and shared values.

Strengthening India-Argentina Ties

PM Modi met President Javier Milei and held high-level talks. Both leaders celebrated 75 years of diplomatic relations and agreed to expand ties in defence, energy, agriculture, mining, and trade. Argentina will supply lithium and shale gas to help India's energy needs. Modi also requested easier entry for Indian medicines into Argentina. They discussed collaboration in sports and education, and Modi invited President Milei to visit India.

Warm Welcome from Indian Diaspora

PM Modi received a grand welcome from the Indian community in Buenos Aires. People gathered outside his hotel, waving Indian flags, singing songs, and dancing. PM Modi interacted warmly with them and said that distance can never break cultural bonds. He appreciated their love and said their presence added special joy to the visit.

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
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

Historic Day! India-UK FTA Signed: ₹ Trillions to Be Gained – Here's What It Means

On July 24, 2025, India and the United Kingdom signed a landmark Free Trade Agreement (FTA) during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official visit to the UK. This deal marks the culmination of over three years of negotiations, and is expected to significantly boost trade, create jobs, and deepen strategic ties across multiple sectors. As India's most comprehensive FTA to date and the UK's most important since Brexit, it signals a new era in bilateral relations.

Background

Talks for the India-UK FTA began in January 2022, following the announcement of the UK-India Enhanced Trade Partnership. After 14 rounds of negotiations and a political change in the UK, the deal finally materialized under the leadership of PM Keir Starmer and PM Modi. It comes amid growing geopolitical shifts, post-pandemic recovery efforts, and both nations' search for robust global trade partners.

Significance

This agreement is strategically important for both countries,

- For India, it opens access to high-tech UK goods like medical devices and aerospace components at affordable prices.
- For the UK, it unlocks new markets in India's massive consumer base.
- It reflects a rules-based, democratic partnership that aims to set a model for future global cooperation.

Objectives

- Eliminate or reduce tariffs on a wide range of goods and services.
- Promote investment, innovation, and technology exchange.
- Strengthen cooperation on security, climate change, defence, and education.
- Push bilateral trade towards the $120 billion target by 2030.

Key Features

- India's average tariffs on UK goods will drop from 15% to 3%.
- Key beneficiary sectors in India: textiles, leather, footwear, marine products, engineering goods, gems and jewellery, auto parts, and organic chemicals.
- UK products like medical equipment and aerospace parts will become more affordable in India.

A new strategic partnership – India-UK Vision 2035 – has been unveiled to expand cooperation beyond trade, including,

- Defence Industrial Roadmap
- Technology Security Initiative
- Climate Change Action
- Educational Collaborations

Economic & Strategic Impact

- £25.5 billion boost to bilateral trade annually.
- Thousands of new jobs expected in both countries.
- British companies such as Airbus and Rolls-Royce will begin aircraft deliveries to Indian airlines.
- Enhanced intelligence sharing and cooperation on fraud, crime, and migration issues.
- Both nations condemned terrorism and extremism, affirming shared values of security and democracy.

UK-India FTA Signed: Who Wins, What's Cheaper, and How It Impacts You!

The recently signed India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on 24 July 2025 marks a transformative moment in bilateral economic ties. With this deal, tariffs on a wide range of products will be reduced or eliminated, making numerous imported goods cheaper for Indian consumers, while simultaneously boosting Indian exports. Key items such as Scotch whisky, British luxury cars, chocolates, and cosmetics will see significant price drops over time. The agreement is expected to benefit both nations' consumers, industries, and employment landscape.

Background

Negotiations for the FTA began in January 2022, and after over three years of talks and several rounds of diplomacy, it was officially signed during PM Narendra Modi's visit to the UK in July 2025. This FTA is being hailed as India's most comprehensive trade pact and the UK's most important bilateral trade deal post-Brexit.

Significance of the Agreement

- It eliminates duties on 99% of Indian exports to the UK.
- For Indians, high-end imports like whisky, cars, chocolates, and medical devices will become more accessible.
- The agreement is forecasted to boost UK's GDP by £4.8 billion ($6.5 billion) annually.
- Aims to double Indian exports to the UK by 2030.

Objectives

- Promote affordable and wider access to goods and services.
- Encourage investment and innovation.
- Support MSMEs and exporters in both nations.
- Facilitate temporary movement of skilled professionals.
- Reduce non-tariff barriers and improve market access.

What Will Become Cheaper for Indians?

1. **Scotch Whisky & Gin**
   - Tariffs on Scotch whisky and gin will be reduced from 150% to 75% initially, and to 40% over the next 10 years.
   - Major boost for premium liquor brands like Diageo.
2. **British Luxury Cars**
   - Import duties on UK-made cars, currently above 100%, will reduce to 10% under a quota-based system.
   - This benefits carmakers like Jaguar Land Rover and Aston Martin.
3. **Chocolates, Biscuits & Salmon**
   - Lower duties on British-made chocolates, biscuits, and salmon, bringing them to supermarket shelves at better prices.
4. **Cosmetics & Personal Care**
   - Reduced tariffs on cosmetics and skincare products, especially from leading British brands.
5. **Medical Devices**
   - Easier access to UK-manufactured medical devices and diagnostic equipment at reduced costs.

Who Benefits in India?

1. **Textile & Leather Exporters**
   - Removal of UK duties (up to 12%) on garments, home textiles, and leather goods will boost exports and create jobs.
2. **Gems & Jewellery Sector**
   - Zero tariffs on gold, diamonds, and jewellery will benefit Indian exporters and promote Indian craftsmanship.
3. **Agro, Pharma & Processed Foods**
   - Sectors like rice, spices, shrimp, tea, and processed food will see tariff reductions.
   - Indian pharma companies gain easier entry into the UK market.
4. **Electric & Hybrid Vehicles**
   - Preferential access for EV and hybrid vehicle makers under a quota system.
   - Companies like Tata Motors, Mahindra Electric, and Bharat Forge stand to gain.
5. **Professionals & Skilled Workers**
   - UK will streamline visa and work permits for Indian professionals including chefs, yoga instructors, musicians, and more.
   - Social security exemption for Indian workers in the UK for up to 3 years, saving approx. ₹4,000 crore annually.

Cabinet Approvals

- The Union Cabinet chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has approved the **National Sports Policy (NSP) 2025**, replacing the **2001 policy** to transform India into a **global sporting powerhouse** with a vision toward the **2036 Olympic Games**. The policy is based on **five pillars** – Excellence on the Global Stage, Sports for Economic Development, Sports for Social Development, Sports as a People's Movement, and Integration with Education (NEP 2020) – and focuses on **grassroots to elite training**, **sports science & technology**, **sports tourism**, **indigenous games**, **mass participation**, and **school-level sports integration**. A **strategic framework** with **KPIs**, **PPP models**, and a **national monitoring system** will guide implementation, serving as a **model for States and UTs**.
- The Cabinet has approved the **Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme** with a **₹1 lakh crore corpus** to promote **private sector investment** in **sunrise and strategic sectors**. Managed by the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)**, the scheme offers **long-term concessional loans**, **equity support**, and a **Deep-Tech Fund of Funds** to boost **R&D**, **technology acquisition**, and **commercialisation** of innovations. It aims to enhance **global competitiveness**, **self-reliance**, and **adoption of emerging technologies**, with governance oversight by the **Prime Minister-led ANRF Board** and implementation by the **Department of Science & Technology**.

- The Cabinet has cleared the **Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme** with an outlay of **₹99,446 crore** to create over **3.5 crore jobs** in **two years** (Aug 2025 – Jul 2027), focusing on the **manufacturing sector** and **first-time employees**. Under **Part A**, first-time employees will get **one month's wage up to ₹15,000** in two instalments, while under **Part B**, employers will receive **₹1,000–₹3,000 per month** for each **additional employee** maintained for at least six months (extended to four years for manufacturing). All payments will be via **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**, aiming to **formalise the workforce**, boost **job creation**, and strengthen **social security coverage**.
- The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **construction of a 4-lane Paramakudi–Ramanathapuram Section** of **NH-87** in **Tamil Nadu** at a cost of **₹1,853 crore** under the **Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM)**. Covering **46.7 km**, this project will decongest the existing **2-lane highway**, improve **traffic safety**, and connect major routes such as **NH-38, NH-85, NH-36, NH-536, NH-32** and **SH-47, SH-29, SH-34**. It will enhance **multi-modal connectivity** to **Madurai Airport**, **Rameshwaram & Pamban ports**, and key towns like **Paramakudi, Ramanathapuram, Rameshwaram**. The project is expected to boost **regional economic growth**, promote **tourism** to **Rameshwaram and Dhanushkodi**, and generate around **8.4 lakh person-days** of direct and **10.45 lakh person-days** of indirect employment.
- The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana** for **six years (2025–31)**, targeting **100 districts** to boost **agriculture and allied sectors**. The scheme, inspired by **NITI Aayog's Aspirational District Programme**, focuses on **crop diversification**, **sustainable farming**, better **irrigation**, enhanced **post-harvest storage**, and improved **credit access**. It will be implemented through the convergence of **36 schemes across 11 departments**, in partnership with **state governments** and the **private sector**. Districts will be selected based on **low productivity, low cropping intensity, and low credit disbursement**, with a minimum of **one district per state**. Monitoring will be done using **117 performance indicators** via a digital dashboard. The scheme aims to increase **agricultural productivity**, create **local livelihoods**, promote **organic and natural farming**, and contribute to **self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat)**.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** has granted **NLC India Limited (NLCIL)** a **special exemption** from investment limits applicable to **Navratna CPSEs**, allowing it to invest **₹7,000 crore** in its subsidiary **NLC India Renewables Limited (NIRL)** for **renewable energy projects** without prior approvals. This supports NLCIL's goal to develop **10.11 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030** and **32 GW by 2047**, aligning with India's **COP26 commitments** to achieve **Net Zero emissions by 2070**. The move will accelerate India's shift to **clean energy**, reduce **coal imports**, ensure **24x7 power supply**, and strengthen its position as a **green energy leader**. Currently, **NLCIL** operates **2 GW** of renewable capacity, which will be transferred to **NIRL**. This investment will also generate significant **direct and indirect employment**, supporting **sustainable economic growth** and **climate action goals**.
- **Cabinet Approves Enhanced Delegation of Power to NTPC for Renewable Energy Expansion** – The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has approved an **enhanced delegation of investment powers** to **NTPC Limited** from the earlier limit of **₹7,500 crore** to **₹20,000 crore** for its subsidiary **NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL)** to invest in **NTPC Renewable Energy Limited (NREL)** and other **joint ventures/subsidiaries**. This will accelerate **renewable energy (RE) capacity addition** towards NTPC's target of **60 GW RE capacity by 2032**, helping India move towards its **500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity goal by 2030** and **Net Zero by 2070**. The initiative will **strengthen power infrastructure**, ensure **24×7 reliable electricity access**, and create **employment opportunities** during both **construction** and **operation & maintenance stages**, benefiting **local suppliers, MSMEs, and entrepreneurs**. **NGEL** currently holds a portfolio of around **32 GW RE capacity** including **6 GW operational**, **17 GW contracted/awarded**, and **9 GW pipeline projects**.
- **Cabinet Approves 'Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana'** – The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana** aimed at improving **agricultural productivity** in **low-yield districts** by converging schemes from **11 central departments**, **state governments**, and **other partners**. Around **100 districts** will be identified, with at least **one district from each state**, focusing on those with **low productivity** or **limited use of Agri Credit Cards (ACC)**. Each district will have a **nodal officer**, and **NITI Aayog** will track **progress via a dashboard**. The campaign will launch in **Rabi season (October 2025)** and will involve **district-level committees** led by **Gram Panchayats/District Collectors**, with state- and central-level teams ensuring **effective scheme convergence**. The focus will be on **crops, fruit cultivation, fisheries, beekeeping, animal husbandry, and agroforestry** with the goal of raising productivity to **national or top-level benchmarks** while promoting **socio-economic development** in rural areas.

Parliament News

State-wise July Month Important Events

Andhra Pradesh

- **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.

- 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**.

Assam

- **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.

Bihar

- The **Bihar Cabinet**, chaired by **CM Nitish Kumar**, approved major schemes including the **Mukhya Mantri Pratigya Yojana** for internship support, offering up to **₹6,000/month**, and the **Kalakar Pension Yojana** granting **₹3,000/month** to senior artists. Additionally, **₹882.87 crore** was sanctioned for the **integrated development** of the **Punaura Dham** temple in Sitamarhi. The Cabinet also amended the **Bihar Factory Rules** to enable **women's participation** in hazardous industries. These moves aim to boost **employment**, support **cultural heritage**, and enhance **religious tourism** ahead of the **2025 Assembly elections**.
- On **July 8, 2025**, the **Nitish Kumar-led Bihar government** approved a significant **policy shift**, granting **35% reservation in government jobs exclusively for women domiciled in Bihar**. Earlier available to **all women**, the **new domicile-based policy**—proposed by the **General Administration Department (GAD)**—restricts this **horizontal reservation** to **native women only**, across **all state government cadres**. **Women from other states** will now be considered under the **general category**, aiming to **empower local women** and boost their **participation in governance and administration**.
- 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**.
- 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.

Gujarat

- Gujarat Chief Minister **Bhupendra Patel** launched the **Jan Suraksha Santrupti Abhiyan** to **expand the reach** of key **government welfare schemes** such as **PMJJBY**, **PMSBY**, **APY**, and **Jan Dhan Yojana**. Running from **July 1 to September 30, 2025**, the campaign targets **100% coverage** of eligible individuals, with added focus on **KYC updates**, **digital fraud awareness**, and **financial inclusion**. With **1.93 crore Jan Dhan accounts** and over **₹21,000 crore disbursed** in Gujarat alone, the campaign underscores a robust effort to ensure **equity in public service delivery**, making it a cornerstone in India's **social welfare architecture**.
- **Gujarat** has become the **third state** in India, after **Maharashtra** and **Uttar Pradesh**, to cross **one crore stock market investors**, as per **NSE** data. Together, these states account for **36% of India's investor base**, showing rising **financial participation**. As of **May 2025**, India has nearly **11.5 crore investors**, with **11 lakh** new additions in May alone, reflecting renewed growth after a **slowdown**. **North India** leads regionally with **4.2 crore investors**, followed by **West**, **South**, and **East India**.
- **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**.

Goa

- **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.

Himachal Pradesh

- **Himachal Pradesh** has launched **India's first Aadhaar-based Face Authentication (FaceAuth)** system for **ration distribution** under the **Public Distribution System (PDS)** in **July 2025**. The system uses a **smartphone camera** to verify a person's face instead of OTP or fingerprints. This new method, led by the **Department of Digital Technologies and Governance (DDTG)** and supported by **Gokul Butail**, aims to fix past issues and ensure smoother and faster service. **Himachal's initiative** marks a big move toward **digital and inclusive governance**.

- **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 **Kaarguzari** (online attendance).

Jharkhand

- **Jharkhand** will soon launch **India's first Mining Tourism Project**, with support from **Central Coalfields Limited (CCL)** and oversight by **Jharkhand Tourism Development Corporation (JTDC)**. The **pilot phase** includes tours to the **North Urimari (Birsa) coal mine** via two routes—**Rajrappa** and **Patratu**—covering **mines, temples, and valleys**. The initiative aims to promote **alternative tourism**, create **employment**, and preserve **industrial heritage**, with further plans for **Eco-Mining Circuits** and a **Religious Circuit**.

Karnataka

- The **Karnataka Cabinet** has decided to rename **Bengaluru City University** after **former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh**, acknowledging his significant role in the city's **infrastructure development**. From laying foundations for the **Bengaluru Metro** and **Elevated Highway** to inaugurating the **Kempegowda International Airport**, Singh's contributions to the city are deeply embedded in its progress.
- **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**.
- 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**.

Kerala

- Kerala's **first skin bank** is opening on **July 15, 2025**, at the **Thiruvananthapuram Government Medical College Hospital**. The facility, approved by **K-SOTTO** and costing **Rs 6.75 crore**, will collect **donated skin** to treat **burn victims**. **Health Minister Veena George** also announced future plans to open a similar bank in **Kottayam**. **Burn centres** and **plastic surgery units** have already been launched in **Alappuzha, Kollam, and Kannur**. This new step will improve **burn care services** and provide **relief to patients across Kerala**.
- **Arthunkal Police Station** in **Alappuzha, Kerala**, became the **first police station in India** to receive the **IS/ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System certification** from the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**. The award acknowledges the station's excellent service in **crime control**, **law and order**, **public response**, and **grievance redressal**. The certification is part of the **Modernised Cherthala Police Programme**, led by **ASP Harish Jain**, which aims to upgrade policing standards. Senior police officers, including **State Police Chief Ravada Azad Chandrashekhar**, attended the event, highlighting the importance of quality standards in public safety.
- The **ambrosia beetle (*Euplatypus parallelus*)**, first reported in **India in 2012**, is now threatening **Kerala's rubber plantations**. It carries **Fusarium fungi**, which degrade wood and reduce **latex yield**. Symptoms include **leaf fall, trunk drying**, and latex loss. Current **control methods**—like traps and antifungals—have **limited success**. The pest also endangers other **broadleaf crops** like **cashew, teak, and coconut**. Experts recommend **localized strategies**, use of **antagonistic fungi**, and **policy-level intervention** for sustainable management.

Maharashtra

- **Mumbai's Carnac Bridge**, originally built in **1868**, has been **rebuilt and renamed as Sindoor Bridge** to honour **Operation Sindoor**, a **military strike on terror camps** in **Pakistan**. The new name also reflects an effort to erase the **colonial legacy** of **Governor Carnac**, who was linked to **atrocities against Indians**. The **new 328-metre-long bridge**, inaugurated on **July 10, 2025**, by **Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis**, will improve traffic in **South Mumbai**.
- **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**.
- **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.
- The launch of the **Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT)** in **Mumbai** by **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** and **Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis** signals a transformative shift in India's **creative tech economy**. The institute will provide **industry-aligned education** in **VFX, XR, animation, and gaming**, in partnership with global leaders like **Google, Meta, Microsoft, and Apple**. Aimed at nurturing **skilled professionals**, IICT is expected to catalyze growth in the **AVGC-XR sector**, positioning India as a **global digital content hub**.

Madhya Pradesh

- The **Central Government** has announced that a new **Akashvani Kendra** will be set up in **Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh**, under the **BIND scheme**. The decision was made during a meeting on **July 8, 2025**, between **Union Minister L. Murugan** and **Chief Minister Mohan Yadav**. The goal is to improve **regional broadcasting**, reach more people with reliable information, and boost **media infrastructure** in the state. **Akashvani Ujjain** will help share **news, education, culture**, and **government messages** more effectively with the public.
- The **Madhya Pradesh government** has introduced a new **monthly stipend scheme** offering **₹6,000 to unemployed women** and **₹5,000 to men**, tied to **internships in registered industries**. It builds upon the **Ladli Behna Yojana**, aims to **enhance skill development**, and supports **local job creation** via **industrial expansion in areas like Acharpura**. Over **1,600 jobs** are expected initially. This initiative blends **social welfare** with **industrial growth**, with a focus on **gender inclusion**, **economic self-reliance**, and **youth empowerment**.

Odisha

- **Puri** will become the **sixth municipal corporation** in **Odisha**, as announced by **Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi** on **July 5, 2025**, ahead of the **Bahuda Yatra**. The decision is aimed at providing better services in the city, which welcomes **lakhs of visitors** every year. Areas around **Puri city** will be added to the corporation, and the **government** has also planned a **Jagannath Museum, Library, and Research Centre** to promote **Odia culture**. This move supports the state's **vision to make Puri a major tourist and spiritual centre by 2036**.

Tamil Nadu

- The **Union Cabinet's approval** of the **₹1,853 crore** project to upgrade the **Paramakudi–Ramanathapuram road** in **Tamil Nadu** marks a significant step toward **infrastructure modernization**. Developed under the **Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM)**, the project will convert **46.7 km of NH-87** into a **four-lane corridor**, improving connectivity between key towns and religious destinations like **Rameshwaram**. This initiative is expected to **decongest traffic**, **boost tourism**, **enhance road safety**, and generate over **18 lakh employment person-days**, making it a cornerstone for **regional development** and **economic integration** in the state.
- The **PM MITRA Textile Park** in **Virudhunagar**, Tamil Nadu, is a landmark initiative under India's textile growth strategy. With a **₹1,900 crore** investment from the **Central Government**, this **1,052-acre** facility will offer advanced infrastructure, including **ZLD effluent treatment**, **worker dormitories**, and **industrial workspaces**. Expected to attract **₹10,000 crore** in private investments and generate **over one lakh jobs by 2026**, the park will significantly enhance **export-oriented** and **sustainable textile manufacturing** in the region.
- **Gingee Fort**, located in **Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu**, was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** on **July 11, 2025**, as part of the **Maratha Military Landscapes**. The decision was made during the **47th session of the World Heritage Committee** in **Paris**. Known as the **"Troy of the East"**, the fort stands out for its unique architecture, strong military design, and deep historical roots. The recognition brings global attention, expected tourism boost, and preservation support to one of **India's iconic heritage sites**.
- The **Tamil Nadu government** has approved a **Centre of Excellence for Hornbill Conservation** at the **Anamalai Tiger Reserve** with **₹1 crore funding** from the **Endangered Species Conservation Corpus Fund**. The project targets four hornbill species and includes **population monitoring**, **habitat restoration**, **community-based nest adoption**, and **collaborative research**. It also introduces **citizen science tools** and **educational support** to promote conservation awareness. This initiative addresses key issues like **habitat loss**, **climate change**, and **biodiversity decline** in the **Western Ghats**.

Uttarakhand

- **Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami** announced the launch of **'Operation Kalanemi'**, a police campaign to catch **fake saints** and **religious impersonators** in the state. The operation is named after **Kalanemi**, a demon from **Hindu mythology** who disguised himself as a saint to mislead others. **Dhami said** these individuals cheat people, especially **women**, and harm the image of **Sanatana Dharma**.

Uttar Pradesh

- **President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu**, visited **Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh**, to **inaugurate and lay foundation stones** for several major projects at **Mahayogi Gorakhnath University**. She opened a new **Auditorium**, **Academic Block**, and **Panchkarma Kendra**, and laid the foundation stone for a **Girls' Hostel**, aimed at boosting **women's education**. Praising the University's efforts to integrate **modern Allopathy** and **traditional Ayurveda**, she highlighted its role in **holistic medical education**.
- 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**.

Union Territories

- The **Government of India** is poised to transform **Jammu and Kashmir's fisheries and livestock sectors** with a proposed **₹100-crore Integrated Aqua Park** under **PMMSY Phase-II**. Union Minister **Rajiv Ranjan Singh** also inaugurated a **50,000-litre UHT Milk Plant** in Jammu, underscoring the focus on **rural income generation**, **cold-water aquaculture**, and **dairy productivity**. The region has seen **800% growth in trout production** and substantial increases in **milk output**, aided by strategic investments and seed imports from **Denmark**.
- The **Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC)** will soon replace its **pink ticket system** with a new **'Saheli Smart Card'** for **free bus travel**. Only **women and transgender persons living in Delhi** will be able to get the card, using **Aadhaar and address proof**. The card aims to stop misuse, ensure the benefit goes to the right people, and support a **modern, cashless, and connected transport system**. The **Saheli Card**, along with **Zero KYC** and **Full KYC Cards**, is part of a **larger digital plan** that includes **QR-based tickets**, **NCMC integration**, and **mobile apps** for smoother travel across **Delhi's public transport network**.
- **NeVA Seva Centre** was inaugurated by **Speaker Vijender Gupta** at the **Delhi Legislative Assembly** to promote **paperless governance**. The first phase of the **NeVA project** was completed, offering **digital tools**, **training**, and **smartphones** to MLAs. The initiative supports **Digital India**, aims for **transparency**, and enhances **legislative efficiency** through **technology-driven solutions**.
- Puducherry's **One-Time Regularisation Scheme 2025** aims to **legalise unauthorised constructions** made between **May 1, 1987 – July 16, 2025**. Applications are accepted **online via OBPS**, with fixed **fees and scrutiny charges**. **Government buildings are exempt**, while aided schools receive **50% fee relief**. **Encroachments and plots without legal ownership are excluded**. This move will **improve urban planning compliance** and offer **legal protection** to existing property owners.
- The **Delhi Government** has hiked cash rewards for **Olympic and Paralympic medalists** under the **Mukhyamantri Khel Protsahan Yojana**, offering **₹7 crore for Gold**, **₹5 crore for Silver**, and **₹3 crore for Bronze**, along with **Grade A jobs** for top Olympic winners. The scheme also includes **₹3 crore for Asian Games Gold**, and introduces the **Mukhyamantri Digital Education Scheme** to provide **laptops to 1,200 meritorious students** and upgrade **computer labs** in government schools.

July Month Launches & Inaugurations:

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated the **National Turmeric Board Headquarters** in **Nizamabad**, Telangana, on June 30, 2025. This move fulfills a **long-pending demand** of turmeric farmers and aligns with the Centre's ambitious goal of reaching **$1 billion in turmeric exports by 2030**. The board will focus on **research**, **branding**, **marketing**, and ensuring **fair prices** for farmers. Backed by **₹200 crore in funding**, it holds significant value for **agriculture, exports, and rural livelihoods**.
- The **Government of India** has introduced **Model Rules for Felling of Trees in Agricultural Lands** to promote **agroforestry**, streamline **tree harvesting permissions**, and support **sustainable agricultural practices**. The upcoming **National Timber Management System (NTMS) Portal** will facilitate online registration of plantations using **geo-tagged data** and enable **ease of doing business** in rural areas. This initiative, guided by **State Level Committees** and monitored by **Divisional Forest Officers**, will enhance **timber production**, empower **farmers**, and support **climate resilience.**
- The **C-FLOOD Unified Inundation Forecasting System**, launched by **Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil**, is a **web-based platform** offering **advanced flood predictions** up to the **village level**. Developed jointly by **C-DAC**, **CWC**, and **NRSC**, the system integrates **hydrodynamic modelling**, **HPC simulations**, and **satellite data** under the **National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)**. It currently covers three major **river basins**—**Mahanadi**, **Godavari**, and **Tapi**—with plans for wider rollout. The initiative enhances **disaster management** capabilities, enabling **timely evacuations** and reducing risks from **flood disasters** through **scientific forecasting** and **inter-agency coordination**.
- The Ministry of Coal will launch the **RECLAIM Framework** to promote inclusive and sustainable mine closures in India. Designed with field-tested tools and methodologies, the framework emphasizes **community engagement**, **gender equity**, and **representation of vulnerable groups**. It aligns with **Panchayati Raj Institutions** to ensure **local relevance** and foster long-term **livelihood security** and **repurposing of mining lands**. With this, India takes a progressive step toward **just transitions** in the mining sector.
- **Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** and **Minister of State Jayant Chaudhary** inaugurated the **Uttar Pradesh Agritech Innovation Hub** and **Agritech Startup & Technology Showcase** at **SVPUAT, Meerut**, marking a major step in **digitally transforming agriculture**. The initiative connects **farmers, startups, technologists, and academia** to develop **sustainable, region-specific solutions**. Equipped with **IoT-enabled sensors**, **smart irrigation**, **automation tools**, and **real-time analytics**, the **Agritech Hub** promotes **precision farming** and **climate-resilient agriculture**.
- The **Indian Army** has launched **Operation SHIVA 2025** to ensure the **safe conduct of the Amarnath Yatra** in **Jammu and Kashmir**. The operation began on **July 12, 2025**, and includes the deployment of **8,500+ troops**, **anti-drone systems**, **medical facilities**, and **engineering support**. With coordination from **CAPFs** and **civil administration**, the operation addresses **security threats** from **Pakistan-backed groups**. The Army's efforts include **surveillance**, **disaster readiness**, and **emergency response**, reflecting its **dedication to the safety of pilgrims** during this sacred journey.
- 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.

Important Festival

- Ladakh recently concluded its **first Astro Tourism Festival**, held in **Leh** and organized by the **Tourism Department** in collaboration with the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics**. The two-day event featured **night sky observations**, **expert-led sessions**, and educational outreach programs, aiming to transform Ladakh into a hub for **astro tourism**. With ideal conditions like **clear skies**, **high altitude**, and **low light pollution**, this initiative not only promotes **scientific awareness** but also aligns with sustainable tourism development.
- The **Maharashtra government**, on **July 10, 2025**, declared **Sarvajanik Ganeshotsav** as a **state festival**, as announced by **Cultural Affairs Minister Ashish Shelar** in the **Legislative Assembly**. The festival, started by **Lokmanya Tilak in 1893**, is a symbol of **unity, culture, and pride** in **Maharashtra**. The government will now **fund and promote** the grand celebrations across the state. This step aims to support traditional **community spirit**, enhance **cultural heritage**, and involve more people in the joyful occasion.
- The **Behdeinkhlam Festival** was celebrated with energy and joy in **Jowai**, **Meghalaya**, in **July 2025**. The festival is important to the **Pnars**, 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.
- The **Saaral Vizha 2025**, held in **Courtallam**, Tamil Nadu, is a vibrant **monsoon festival** that celebrates **culture, tradition, and community welfare**. Inaugurated by **Revenue Minister K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran**, the event featured **cultural performances**, a **flower exhibition**, and **public competitions**, blending nature with heritage. With strong **government support**, participation from **local officials**, and engagement through **traditional arts** and youth events, the festival underscores Tamil Nadu's focus on **inclusive cultural development**.
- The **Aadi Thiruvathirai Festival (23–27 July 2025)** at **Gangaikonda Cholapuram** honors **Rajendra Chola I's birth anniversary**, marking **1,000 years** of his **maritime expedition** and **temple construction**. The event includes **Bharatanatyam**, **Devaram chanting**, **ASI exhibitions**, and a performance by **Ilaiyaraaja**, with **PM Modi** as Chief Guest. The festival promotes **Shaiva Siddhanta**, **Tamil Bhakti tradition**, and **Chola heritage**, highlighting the ruler's visionary **cultural and political impact**.
- **Uttarakhand** will celebrate the **Harela festival** on **July 16, 2025**, by planting **over 5 lakh saplings** across the **Garhwal** and **Kumaon regions**. The event, guided by **Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami**, will focus on the themes **"Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam"** and **"Harela Ka Tyohar Manao, Dharti Maa Ka Rin Chukao."** The plantation drive will involve **students, villagers, and government bodies**. This green initiative aims to **break the previous record** and highlight the state's commitment to **environmental protection** and **community participation**.

Miscellaneous National News

- In a significant step toward digital transformation in railway services, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the 'RailOne' mobile application on July 2, 2025. Developed as a comprehensive, one-stop platform, the app provides passengers with unified access to services such as ticket booking, PNR enquiry, journey planning, meal booking, and freight enquiries, enhancing the convenience and digital experience for millions of users.
- From **August 2025**, all **post offices in India** will begin accepting **digital payments** using **dynamic QR codes** linked to the **UPI system**, as part of the **Department of Posts' IT 2.0 upgrade**. The move follows a successful pilot in **Karnataka** and aims to promote **financial inclusion**, especially in **rural and semi-urban areas**. Replacing static QR codes, the new real-time dynamic system ensures **secure, seamless, and cashless transactions** at postal counters, aligning with the goals of **Digital India** and a **cashless economy**.
- On **Statistics Day 2025**, the **National Sample Survey Office (NSO)** under **MoSPI** launched the **GoIStats mobile app**, a digital tool offering **real-time, on-the-go access** to **official government statistics** like **GDP**, **inflation**, and **employment**. With features such as **interactive dashboards**, **infographics**, **CSV downloads**, and a **user-friendly design**, the app promotes **data transparency**, **citizen empowerment**, and supports **Digital India** and **Viksit Bharat** missions.
- In a sweeping reform move, the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** is de-listing **345 Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs)** that have not contested elections since 2019 and are untraceable. While registered under **Section 29A of the RP Act, 1951**, many RUPPs exploit benefits like **tax exemptions**, **common symbols**, and **star campaigners** despite being inactive. The ECI lacks explicit **de-registration powers**, but parties are being removed for **non-compliance** and **non-existence**. Legal and electoral reform bodies like the **Law Commission** and the **ECI's 2016 Memorandum** have recommended amending the RP Act to empower de-registration. This clean-up drive supports electoral transparency and curbs misuse of public provisions.
- India's **first wooden Gurdwara**, **Sri Nanak Niwas**, constructed in **Fazilka**, Punjab, is a remarkable fusion of **spirituality**, **architectural brilliance**, and **personal devotion**. Made from **Finnish Deodhar wood**, it was conceptualized and built by **SSP Bhupinder Singh Sidhu** in just **three months**, making it a **beacon of faith** and an example of **inclusive, sustainable religious architecture**. With its **daily rituals**, **global devotees**, and community role, the shrine stands as a **testament to seva, resilience, and unity**.

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has officially renamed **NIPCCD** as the *Savitribai Phule National Institute of Women and Child Development*, paying tribute to the legendary reformer. Along with this, a new **Regional Centre in Ranchi** will be launched on **July 4, 2025**, aimed at strengthening training and outreach for key schemes like **Mission Shakti**, **Mission Vatsalya**, and **Poshan 2.0** in **Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal**.
- The **Digital House Address Project** by the **Indore Municipal Corporation** marks a major step in India's **smart city evolution**. By using **QR codes** linked to **GPS** and integrating with the **Digipin system**, Indore has created a **modern, efficient, and scalable** address solution. This **digital transformation** ensures **real-time service access**, **enhances emergency responses**, and lays the groundwork for **data-driven urban planning**. With **low-cost digital plates** and **user-friendly systems**, this initiative holds the potential to be replicated across Indian cities, supporting the vision of **Digital India** and **urban inclusivity**.
- With rising **life expectancy** but increasing **age-related diseases** like **Parkinson's** and **dementia**, the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru** launched **BHARAT** in **2023** — a research project under the **Longevity India Program**. **BHARAT** (Biomarkers of Healthy Aging, Resilience, Adversity, and Transitions) aims to build a **scientific health baseline** specific to **Indians**, addressing the problem of **misdiagnosis** caused by using **Western biomarkers**. The project collects extensive data, including **genomic**, **proteomic**, **metabolic**, **environmental**, and **socio-economic** indicators, to understand **how Indians age** and why **some age healthier** than others. The ultimate goal is to establish the **Bharat Baseline**, enabling **personalized healthcare** and **early disease detection** tailored to India's diverse population.
- On **July 2, 2025**, the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** revised its toll rule to **cut charges by up to 50%** on **National Highway** sections with **tunnels, bridges, flyovers**, and **elevated roads**. The new formula bases toll on the **lesser of two values**, easing the cost for drivers. A **senior NHAI official** confirmed that this will help both the **public** and the **infrastructure system**. The change is set to **lower travel costs** and **promote the use of highways** with **big structures**.
- The **Haryana government** will build **Asia's largest jungle safari** in the **Aravalli Hills**, as announced on **July 6, 2025**. The safari will be spread over **10,000 acres** and will focus on **wildlife protection**, **green tourism**, and **job creation**. **Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini** and other top leaders are working hard to make this project a success. The plan will not only bring **tourists** but also help in **saving nature**. The safari is expected to be a **model of eco-friendly tourism and conservation** in **India**.
- On **July 8, 2025**, **NTPC Simhadri** celebrated its **28th Raising Day** at its **Parawada campus** in **Anakapalli district, Andhra Pradesh**, marking **nearly three decades** of service, innovation, and **community development**. **Executive Director Sameer Sharma** led the celebrations by hoisting the **NTPC flag** and highlighting Simhadri's journey since its **establishment in 1997** as **NTPC's first coastal-based power station**. Beyond power generation, the plant has achieved **100% ash utilization**, showcasing its commitment to **sustainability**, **environmental conservation**, and **social responsibility** through **green initiatives** and **community outreach programs**.
- **PM Narendra Modi**, during his **state visit to Brazil**, set a target to raise **India–Brazil trade** to **$20 billion by 2030**. He proposed expanding the **Mercosur trade agreement** and announced Brazil's adoption of **India's UPI digital payment system**. Modi received Brazil's **highest civilian honour**, the **Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross**. Key deals included cooperation in **biofuels**, **renewable energy**, **intelligence sharing**, **pharmaceuticals**, and **rare earth minerals**, marking a stronger **strategic partnership** between the two **Global South** nations.
- A **commemorative postage stamp** was released on **July 9, 2025**, by the **Department of Posts** to mark the **125th Birth Anniversary of Syama Prasad Mookerjee**. The event was held at **Siri Fort Auditorium, Delhi**, and featured **cultural performances**, **an exhibition**, and **a short documentary**. The stamp, **designed by Smt. Nenu Gupta**, reflects Mookerjee's work in **education**, **national unity**, and **constitutional development**. The launch was attended by **Union Ministers** and other top officials.
- Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** announced at **India Energy Storage Week (IESW)** in **New Delhi** that **India's solar capacity has grown by 4,000%**, with total **renewable energy capacity now at 227 GW**. He spoke about major schemes like **PM Surya Ghar Yojana** and **PM Kusum Yojana**, and introduced a **₹1 lakh crore Innovation Fund** to support **next-generation battery technologies**. The government also stressed the need for **strong supply chains** and **energy storage systems** to support India's clean energy goals
- **National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)** and **UNICEF India** launched **TALASH**, a digital program aimed at helping **tribal students** in **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs)** across **28 states and 8 union territories**. TALASH includes **aptitude tests**, **career counselling**, **life skills training**, and **support for teachers**. Over **1.38 lakh students** are expected to benefit. The program supports the goals of **NEP 2020** and will be fully rolled out by the **end of 2025**, making it a big step towards **inclusive and holistic education** for tribal youth.
- **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.

- **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**.
- **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.
- **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**.
- 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**.
- **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**.
- **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**.
- At the **International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) 2025**, India ranked **7th globally** out of **110 countries**, winning **three golds**, **two silvers**, and **one bronze**, while setting a **national score record of 193/252**. With strong support from **HBCSE**, and under the guidance of expert leaders like **Prof. Shanta Laishram**, India's performance highlights the **growing success** of its **Olympiad ecosystem**, and the country's **consistent rise** in **global mathematics competitions**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will undertake a **two-nation tour** to the **United Kingdom** and the **Maldives** from **July 23–26, 2025**, focusing on strengthening the **India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** and advancing the **India-Maldives Maritime Security Partnership**. In the UK, Modi will hold talks with **PM Keir Starmer** and meet **King Charles III**, covering areas such as **trade**, **technology**, **defence**, and **climate action**. In the Maldives, he will be the **Guest of Honour** at the **60th Independence Day celebrations** and review bilateral progress under **Vision MAHASAGAR**. The visit reflects India's emphasis on **Neighbourhood First**, **strategic engagement**, and **regional leadership**.
- Vice President **Jagdeep Dhankhar**'s resignation on **July 21, 2025**, has temporarily transferred the **Rajya Sabha chairmanship** to **Deputy Chairperson Harivansh** under **Article 91**. The **Vice Presidential election**, mandated under **Articles 63–71** and the **Vice-President (Election) Rules, 1974**, must occur within **60 days**, involving **788 MPs** as the electoral college. The next Vice President must be an **Indian citizen**, **35+ years old**, and **Rajya Sabha eligible**. Dhankhar's resignation not only initiates a crucial election but also reflects the evolving dynamics within the **executive-legislature framework**.
- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has asserted that **Aadhaar**, **voter ID**, and **ration cards** are *not valid standalone documents* for establishing **voter eligibility** during the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** in **Bihar**. Citing powers under **Article 324**, the ECI emphasized its authority to manage elections independently. The exercise aims to **purify electoral rolls**, and as of July 18, over **7.11 crore electors** had submitted forms. The Commission stated that **citizenship**, not mere possession of ID, is the key eligibility criterion, and **denial of registration** does not affect one's **citizenship status**.
- India's **IP filings rose by 44%**, led by major reforms in **patent laws**, **fee concessions** for **startups/MSMEs**, **digitized IP offices**, and awareness through **NIPAM**. The **380% growth in GI applications**, **AI tools**, **IP Dashboard**, and **SIPP scheme** reflect a modern and inclusive IP ecosystem aimed at encouraging **innovation**, **ease of filing**, and **economic value creation**.

- **Article 67(a)** of the Indian Constitution enables the **Vice President** to **resign** by writing to the **President**. Along with clauses (b) and (c), it ensures a **well-defined exit mechanism** for the office. If the Vice President resigns or is removed, **Article 68(2)** mandates an election within **60 days**. The Vice President is elected by an **electoral college** of both **Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha** members. The recent resignation of **Jagdeep Dhankhar** highlights the working of these provisions in practice.
- The **Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has warned **ICAR scientists and senior officials** over the **rampant sale of fake biostimulants** in India. These **unregulated products**, which claim to improve **plant productivity**, have come under scrutiny due to **numerous farmer complaints**. The minister called for **tougher regulations**, **scientific review**, and **accountability**, stating that **farmers must not be misled** by corporate interests. The issue gained prominence after his **Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan** tour, where he personally engaged with affected farmers.
- The **World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector** focuses on creating **agri-infrastructure at PACS level**, such as **godowns**, **processing units**, and **Fair Price Shops**, with support from **NABARD** and governments. Over **500 PACS** have been identified under this scheme, aiming for **universal coverage** across villages. With a financial outlay of **₹2,925 crore for computerization**, the plan enhances **grain storage, farmer empowerment**, and **supply chain resilience** in India.
- Under the **National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission**, **6 crore individuals** have been screened using **POCT kits**, with **2.15 lakh diagnosed**, and **2.6 crore health cards** distributed. The mission, launched in **July 2023**, aims to **eliminate sickle cell anemia by 2047** through **universal screening**, **awareness**, and **counselling**. States like **Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Odisha** are leading the initiative. A **digital portal** consolidates nationwide data and tracks mission progress.
- The **National Cooperation Policy – 2025** aims to **triple GDP contribution**, bring in **50 crore active members**, and promote **grassroots-led development** through at least **one cooperative per village** and **five model villages per tehsil**. It prioritizes **technology-enabled**, **transparent**, and **youth-driven cooperatives** in new sectors like **insurance, tourism, taxi services**, and **green energy**. With **White Revolution 2.0**, **Sahkar Taxi**, and a dedicated **cooperative university**, the policy seeks to build an **inclusive, self-reliant**, and **future-ready** cooperative ecosystem.
- The **India-UK Vision 2035** is a strategic blueprint to transform India-UK ties through enhanced cooperation in **trade (CETA, BIT)**, **defence (10-year roadmap, joint R&D)**, **technology (AI, biotech, semiconductors)**, **climate (green finance, clean energy, SMRs)**, and **education (transnational degrees, youth exchange)**. It supports **people-to-people links**, reinforces a **rules-based international order**, and promotes **multilateral reform**. The partnership is guided by annual reviews and high-level dialogues, ensuring dynamic, inclusive, and future-ready collaboration.
- India has **achieved 20% ethanol blending in petrol in 2025**, five years ahead of the **2030 target**, marking a major step in its **clean energy transition**. The blending level rose from **1.5% in 2014 to 20% in 2025**, saving **₹1.36 lakh crore in foreign exchange**, reducing **CO_2 emissions by 698 lakh tonnes**, and providing **₹1.18 lakh crore to farmers**. Derived mainly from **sugarcane**, ethanol production has boosted the **biofuel industry**, rural incomes, and supported India's **climate goals** and **energy security**.
- **Narendra Modi** has officially become **India's second-longest serving Prime Minister**, completing **4,078 consecutive days** in office on **July 25, 2025**, surpassing **Indira Gandhi's record**. He is the **first non-Congress PM** to serve **two full terms**, the **longest-serving leader from a non-Hindi-speaking state**, and the **first post-independence born PM** to achieve this feat, marking a **historic moment** in Indian political history.
- India has **successfully tested its first hydrogen-powered train coach** at **ICF Chennai**, marking its entry into the group of nations using **hydrogen rail technology**. Under the **Hydrogen for Heritage initiative**, Indian Railways plans to run **35 hydrogen trains**, each costing ₹80 crore, with ₹70 crore for supporting infrastructure. A **pilot project** on the **Jind–Sonipat section** is also underway. The **1,200 HP hydrogen train** in development reinforces India's vision of **net-zero emissions** and **green transport innovation**.
- The **60th anniversary of India-Maldives diplomatic ties** was marked by the **release of commemorative stamps** by **PM Modi and President Muizzu**. The stamps showcased the **Indian Uru boat** and **Maldivian Vadhu Dhoni**, representing the **shared maritime culture**, historical Indian Ocean trade, and the **deep bilateral relationship** established since **1965**. India was one of the first nations to recognize Maldives' independence. These stamps symbolize the **mutual heritage**, **regional cooperation**, and **strengthening of people-to-people ties**.
- **PM Modi** gifted a **Sonoma dove tree sapling** to **King Charles III** at **Sandringham Estate** under the initiative **'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'**, promoting **environmental awareness** and **India-UK green diplomacy**. The tree, known for its **early and beautiful flowering**, will be planted in **autumn**. This initiative aims to **encourage tree plantation**, **honour mothers**, and **strengthen bilateral ties** on shared **ecological values**. Other key topics discussed included **CETA**, **Yoga**, **Ayurveda**, and **people-to-people connections** through sports.

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** in Jammu & Kashmir — now the **world's highest railway arch bridge** at **359 metres**, taller than the Eiffel Tower. This marks the completion of the **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL)**, a **272-km fully electrified** project, launched over **42 years ago** to integrate Kashmir with the national railway network.

Why in News?

The bridge, part of the USBRL, enables **seamless, all-weather electrified connectivity** to the Kashmir Valley for the first time. It will boost **trade, tourism, employment**, and strengthen **national integration**.

Project Timeline

- **Qazigund–Baramulla (118 km):** Oct 2009
- **Qazigund–Banihal (18 km):** Jun 2013
- **Udhampur–Katra (25 km):** Jul 2014
- **Banihal–Sangaldan (48.1 km):** Feb 2024
- **Chenab Bridge inaugurated:** Jun 2025

Chenab Bridge Highlights

- **Height:** 359 m (world's highest railway arch)
- **Length:** 1,315 m
- **Arch Span:** 467 m
- **Design:** Steel-concrete arch; earthquake and high-wind resistant
- **Built in:** Challenging Himalayan terrain with **36 tunnels & 943 bridges**

Other Key Infrastructure

- **Anji Bridge:** India's first cable-stayed railway bridge, linking Katra to Kashmir Valley.
- **Vande Bharat Trains:** New Katra–Srinagar service; travel time cut to **~3 hours**.
- **Healthcare Boost:** ₹350 crore **Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence**, Katra — first medical college in the region.

Significance

The USBRL and Chenab Bridge will:

- Reduce travel time & improve freight movement
- Support **security logistics** and disaster management
- Promote **sustainable tourism** and **green transport**
- Serve as a **symbol of engineering excellence** and **national unity**

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 HRPs

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. Shivaling gappa 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	Angangganginage 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 Ugna (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 darshanhsaraviseshathe) (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 CO_2 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 CO_2 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 **Raghopur**—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 Terriorties:

- 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 CO_2 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 Dissanayake emphasized national unity and moral revival, while the Indian High Commission joined the occasion with an exhibition on Buddhist heritage. Free and special train services are also aiding pilgrim movement during the sacred week.
- **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 **Lakhpati 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 Nataks**.
- 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 **Holématthi 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.
- 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.

National Current Affairs of May 2025

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 Pahalgam** 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 IM

- **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 Bhumija 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 Deshnoke 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 Deka	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

Cabinet Approvals

- 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 CO_2 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 **Kopparthy (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**.

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 **Writeshop** 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 (SPAI)**, 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.
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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

1. **Aurangzebpur → Shivaji Nagar**
2. **Gajiwali → Arya Nagar**
3. **Chandpur → Jyotiba Phule Nagar**
4. **Mohammadpur Jat → Mohanpur Jat**
5. **Khanpur Kursli → Ambedkar Nagar**
6. **Indrishpur → Nandpur**
7. **Khanpur → Shri Krishna Pur**
8. **Akbarpur Fazalpur → Vijayanagar**

Renamed Places in Dehradun District

9. **Miyanwala → Ramji Wala**
10. **Pirwala → Kesari Nagar**
11. **Chandpur Khurd → Prithviraj Nagar**
12. **Abdullah Nagar → Daksh Nagar**

Renamed Places in Nainital District

13. **Nawabi Road → Atal Marg**
14. **Panchakki to ITI Road → Guru Golwalkar Marg**

Renamed Place in Udham Singh Nagar District

15. **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,

1. Waqf (Amendment) Bill
2. 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 Dissanayake 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)

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:

i. Sambalpur – Jarapda 3rd and 4th Line
ii. Jharsuguda – Sason 3rd and 4th Line
iii. Kharsia – Naya Raipur – Parmalkasa 5th and 6th Line
iv. 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 Modiji'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 CO_2 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 Samriddhi 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 init iative 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 **24×7 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**, re placing 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.

International Current Affairs of August 2025

- The **Krasheninnikov Volcano** in Russia's **Kamchatka Peninsula** erupted today for the first time in **600 years**, sending an **ash plume 4 km high**. Authorities issued an **orange aviation warning**, citing risks to aircraft. The eruption is believed to be linked to a recent **8.7 magnitude earthquake** and subsequent aftershocks in the region. Though **no populated areas are at risk**, officials have urged **residents and tourists** to avoid traveling near active volcanoes. The eruption, last seen around **1463**, is being closely monitored as a **historic geological event**.
- **Hong Kong** has launched a **stablecoin regulatory framework** requiring **full reserves and selective licensing**, reinforcing its ambition to become a **leader in digital finance**. The move ensures **stability, transparency, and innovation**, while aligning with global standards like the **U.S. GENIUS Act** and **EU's MiCA**, marking a new era for **programmable finance and asset tokenization**.
- A **high-level delegation from the Philippines**, led by **Secretary of Agriculture Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr.**, met with **Indian trade bodies** including **APEDA** and the **Indian Rice Exporters Federation (IREF)** to boost **food imports from India**. The Philippines agreed to import more **rice**, **buffalo meat**, **vegetables**, **fruits**, and **peanuts**, while also committing to **remove restrictions on Basmati rice imports**. This move aims to **reduce reliance on Chinese products**, **diversify supply chains**, and **strengthen Indo-Philippine relations**, promoting **food security** and **economic growth.**
- Moldova has become the **107th member** of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, a global initiative launched by India and France in 2015 at COP21. The ISA aims to **boost solar energy investments by 2030** and reduce technology and financing costs. It promotes solar use across sectors like agriculture, health, transport, and power generation. Moldova's ratification was formalized in a meeting between its ambassador to India and ISA officials, highlighting ongoing global cooperation to advance renewable energy.
- **India and Russia** signed a key **protocol to boost industrial cooperation** during the **11th Working Group session** held at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi. Co-chaired by DPIIT Secretary **Amardeep Singh Bhatia** and Russian Deputy Minister **Alexey Gruzdev**, the meeting focused on collaboration in **aluminium, fertilizers, railways, mining**, and emerging areas like **aerospace, carbon fibre, 3D printing**, and **critical minerals**. Discussions included **joint development of small aircraft engines**, a **wind tunnel facility**, and **underground coal gasification**, reaffirming both countries' commitment to **strategic industrial ties and technology transfer**.
- In a **landmark move**, **Illinois** has become the first U.S. state to **ban AI platforms** like ChatGPT from providing **therapy services without human oversight**, under the **Wellness and Oversight for Psychological Resources Act**. Signed by **Governor JB Pritzker**, the law prohibits AI from performing core **therapeutic functions** like diagnosis, treatment planning, or emotional assessments unless supervised by a **licensed professional**. This comes amid rising concerns over AI's misuse in **mental health**, echoing warnings from the **American Psychological Association**.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has officially classified **Hepatitis D (HDV)** as a **cancer-causing virus**, citing its strong link to **liver cancer** when co-infected with **Hepatitis B (HBV)**. Since HDV requires HBV to replicate, the **Hepatitis B vaccine** becomes the most effective shield against this dangerous coinfection. HDV significantly accelerates **liver cirrhosis**, increases cancer risk by up to six times, and is spreading through **blood, sexual contact, and childbirth**. With **vaccine coverage in India** still around 50%, experts urge stronger **prevention**, **screening**, and **public awareness** to curb HDV transmission and protect vulnerable populations.
- In a **historic peace deal** brokered at the **White House**, **Azerbaijan** and **Armenia** officially agreed to end decades of **conflict** over **Nagorno-Karabakh**, with **President Donald Trump** hosting the summit. The agreement includes reopening **transport routes**, establishing **diplomatic and business ties**, and constructing a new **Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity** linking **Azerbaijan** to its **Nakhchivan exclave**.
- **Aadhaar face authentication** recorded a historic **19.36 crore transactions** in **July 2025**, up from **5.77 crore** in July 2024, showing rapid adoption across **banking**, **telecom**, **oil**, and **government services**. The month saw a **22% increase** over June and a **record 1.22 crore** transactions on **1 July** alone. Over **150 entities** now use the **AI-driven** technology for secure, **contactless verification**, including integration with **NSAP**, **NMC medical colleges**, and recruitment bodies like **SSC** and **RRB**.
- The **Government e Marketplace (GeM)** celebrated its **9th anniversary** in 2025, achieving a remarkable **Rs 5.4 trillion Gross Merchandise Value (GMV)** in FY 2024–25. Since its launch in 2016, GeM has onboarded **1.5 lakh women-led enterprises**, **startups**, **self-help groups (SHGs)**, **artisans**, and **micro and small enterprises (MSEs)**, promoting **transparent**, **inclusive**, and **efficient public procurement**. Recent reforms include the removal of **caution money**, **rationalization of vendor fees**, and **transaction charge reductions**, benefiting **97% of orders**.
- Cambodia and Thailand have reached a **consensus on ceasefire details** and signed an agreement during the General Border Committee meeting in Kuala Lumpur, with **third-party observers from the US, China, and Malaysia**. Both countries pledged to cease all types of firing, maintain current troop levels without reinforcements along the border, and ensure humane treatment of captured soldiers as per **international humanitarian law**.

- **Australia** will formally **recognise the State of Palestine** at the **UN General Assembly in September**, Prime Minister **Anthony Albanese** announced, aiming to support a **two-state solution**, promote a **ceasefire in Gaza**, and isolate **Hamas**. The decision follows similar moves by **France**, **Britain**, and **Canada**, and responds to Israel's actions in Gaza and expansion of **illegal settlements**. Albanese emphasized that recognition depends on **Palestinian Authority reforms** and Hamas's exclusion from future governance, signaling growing **international pressure** on Israel for a **political resolution**.
- Nepal is offering climbers the chance to scale **97 Himalayan peaks free of charge** for the next two years to boost tourism in its **lesser-known and underdeveloped regions** of **Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces**. These peaks, ranging from **5,970 to 7,132 meters**, aim to attract visitors and promote the country's **unexplored mountain destinations**, supporting local economies through mountaineering tourism.
- India and Singapore held the **3rd India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR)** in **New Delhi**, led by senior ministers including **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** and **Singapore's Deputy PM Gan Kim Yong**, to deepen their **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**. The discussions focused on six key pillars: **Digitalization**, **Skill Development**, **Sustainability**, **Healthcare**, **Advanced Manufacturing**, and **Connectivity**. Emphasizing synergy between **government and industry**, the Roundtable also engaged with the **India-Singapore Business Roundtable (ISBR)** to explore next-phase opportunities in trade, investment, and regional cooperation in line with India's **Act East** and **Indo-Pacific Vision**.
- The U.S. national debt has surged past a historic **$37 trillion**, reaching this milestone years earlier than expected, driven by pandemic-related borrowing and recent government spending. The **Treasury Department**'s latest report highlights the growing fiscal burden on taxpayers. Earlier this year, former President **Donald Trump** signed a Republican tax cut and spending bill projected to add **$4.1 trillion** to the debt over the next decade, according to the **Congressional Budget Office**.
- The **Putin-Trump summit in Alaska** ended without a deal on the **Ukraine conflict** after nearly three hours of talks at the Elmendorf-Richardson military base. While both leaders called the meeting **productive** and expressed hope for future progress, no agreement was reached. **Putin** emphasized ending the conflict by addressing its root causes and warned against sabotage, while **Trump** highlighted the potential for dialogue and said final agreements depend on Ukraine and NATO. The brief joint press conference signaled cautious optimism but no immediate resolution.
- The **WHO has declared Kenya free of sleeping sickness** (human African trypanosomiasis), making it the **10th country** to eliminate this neglected tropical disease. This achievement follows Kenya's earlier success in eradicating Guinea worm disease in 2018, marking significant progress toward a **Africa free of neglected tropical diseases**. Sleeping sickness, caused by parasites transmitted by tsetse flies, affects neurological health in advanced stages.
- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has issued a warning that **extreme heat is impacting millions globally**, stressing the urgent need for early warning systems and heat-health action plans. Key points include Frequent heatwaves and record-high temperatures are being recorded worldwide. July saw prolonged heatwave conditions in Europe, notably Sweden and Finland with temperatures above 30°C. Maximum temperatures exceeded 42°C in regions like West Asia, southern Central Asia, North Africa, southern Pakistan, and southwestern USA. Extreme heat has contributed to devastating wildfires, causing casualties and deteriorating air quality.
- In August, India's **Russian oil imports surged to 2 million barrels per day (bpd)**, making up **38% of its total crude oil imports** of 5.2 million bpd. This marks an increase from 1.6 million bpd in July, as Indian refiners prioritized **economic factors** in sourcing. Meanwhile, imports from **Iraq and Saudi Arabia declined**, with Iraq falling to 730,000 bpd from 907,000 bpd and Saudi Arabia dropping to 526,000 bpd from 700,000 bpd in July.

International Current Affairs of July 2025

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

- India and the **UAE have initiated strategic cooperation** in the production of **green steel** and **high-grade aluminium** under the **India-UAE CEPA** framework. The meeting between **Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy** and **UAE Economy Minister Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri** highlighted joint goals in **sustainable manufacturing**, **resource security**, and expanding trade in **automotive and strategic sectors**. Key Indian **CPSEs like SAIL, NMDC, and MECON** are set to anchor this partnership, with plans for a **joint working group** to streamline collaboration and contribute to India's **$5 trillion economic vision**.
- **Pakistan** has assumed the **Presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** for **July 2025** as part of its **non-permanent membership**. Ambassador **Asim Iftikhar Ahmad** and Foreign Minister **Ishaq Dar** will lead key **debates** focused on **multilateralism**, **peaceful dispute resolution**, and **OIC cooperation**. The presidency aligns with Pakistan's additional leadership of the **Taliban Sanctions Committee** and comes at a crucial time of **global instability**, positioning Pakistan to play a central role in fostering **peace**, **dialogue**, and **inclusive diplomacy**.
- **Zohran Mamdani's** victory in the **NYC Democratic Mayoral Primary** marks a **major political upset**, defeating former **Governor Andrew Cuomo** by a **12-point margin** after a **ranked choice vote**. His **progressive platform**, including **free public services**, **rent freeze**, and **higher taxation on the wealthy**, resonated with working-class voters.
- On **Tuesday, July 1, 2025**, **Pakistan** assumed the role of **President of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** for the month of **July**. This rotating presidency is a key responsibility, as the **UNSC** is the **primary body** for maintaining **global peace and security**. Pakistan stated it will lead with **"purpose, humility, and conviction"**, focusing on fairness and cooperation. As a **non-permanent member** of the Council since **January 2025**, Pakistan was elected with strong support—**182 out of 193 votes**.
- In a **major diplomatic shift**, **Russia** has become the **first country** to officially **recognise the Taliban government** in **Afghanistan** since it took power in **August 2021**. On **July 3, 2025**, Russia removed the **Taliban** from its **list of banned organisations** and accepted the credentials of **Afghan Ambassador Gul Hassan Hassan**. The move aims to boost **bilateral cooperation**. The **Taliban** hailed the recognition as a **historic step** and urged **other nations** to follow Russia's example.
- The **European Union (EU)** on **July 2, 2025**, shared its **2040 climate goal** to cut **greenhouse gas emissions by 90%**, aiming for **carbon neutrality by 2050**. To gain wider support, the plan allows using **international carbon credits** from **2036**, up to **3%**. This has raised concerns among **climate groups** about weakening the effort. Key EU leaders like **Wopke Hoekstra** and **Ursula von der Leyen** defended the plan as **ambitious yet flexible**. The final decision will come after **discussions in July** and a **vote in September**, with hopes of passing it before **COP30 in Brazil**.
- On **July 6, 2025**, **Jennifer Geerlings-Simons** was elected as **Suriname's first female President**. She will take office on **July 16** and faces the **huge task** of fixing the country's **troubled economy**. The previous government had taken help from the **IMF** and reduced subsidies, which caused **protests**. Simons plans to improve **tax collection** and manage the country's **debt**. Suriname is also waiting for its **offshore oil** production to begin in **2028**, which could bring **economic relief**. The country hopes her leadership will bring **stability and progress**.
- The **Mauna Loa Observatory** in Hawaii, which has been **measuring atmospheric CO_2** for over **65 years**, may soon shut down due to a **lack of U.S. government funding**. Known for producing the iconic **Keeling Curve**, this observatory has provided crucial evidence of **human-caused climate change** by showing a steady rise in **carbon dioxide** levels—mainly from **burning fossil fuels**. Its long-term data is vital for **tracking global warming** and guiding climate action worldwide.
- **Elon Musk** has announced the formation of a new US political group called the **America Party**, aiming to change the country's traditional **two-party system**. This move comes after a major public argument with **former President Donald Trump**, where Musk criticized Trump's financial plans and left his role in the government. Musk wants the **America Party** to fight waste and give people more power. So far, the party has not been officially registered, and it's not clear who will lead it.
- **United Nations General Assembly** passed a **resolution** with **116 votes** urging **Afghanistan's Taliban rulers** to stop their **oppression of women and girls** and to remove **terrorist groups** from the country. While **Germany** led the effort, the **United States** and **Israel** voted against it, and **12 countries** including **India, China, and Iran** abstained. The resolution also asked for more **economic support** for Afghanistan and suggested that **UN Secretary-General António Guterres** appoint a **coordinator** to lead global actions. The resolution is **not legally binding**, but it shows strong **world opinion** and concern about **human rights and terrorism** in **Afghanistan**.
- **Colombia** and **Uzbekistan** have joined the **New Development Bank (NDB)**, taking the total number of members to **11**. This announcement comes ahead of the **17th BRICS Summit**. The **NDB**, led by **Dilma Rousseff** and based in **Shanghai**, funds projects in **infrastructure**, **clean energy**, and **digital development**. The bank aims to support the **Global South** and help countries keep pace with modern technology.
- On **July 7, 2025**, **Trinidad and Tobago** became the **eighth country** and the **first in the Caribbean** to adopt **UPI (Unified Payments Interface)** for Indian travelers. The move was announced during **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit**, and it allows Indian visitors to **pay in rupees** by **scanning QR codes** at partner stores using UPI-enabled apps. Other countries with **UPI access** include **UAE, Singapore, France, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka**, and **Mauritius**. To use UPI abroad, travelers need a **linked UPI app**, **international roaming**, and **UPI Global** access. The **conversion fees are minimal**, making UPI a **low-cost and simple way** to pay while traveling.

- **EU finance ministers** approved **Bulgaria's adoption of the euro**, making it the **21st member of the eurozone** starting **January 1, 2026**. Bulgaria will shift from the **lev to the euro** at a **fixed rate of 1.95583 lev per euro**. Prime Minister **Rossen Jeliazkov** called it a **"landmark moment"**, while top EU leaders like **Ursula von der Leyen**, **Christine Lagarde**, and **Valdis Dombrovskis** praised the move. Though **economic criteria** have been met, the transition faces **domestic opposition**, with **protests in Sofia** over **inflation** and **loss of purchasing power**.
- The United States has imposed sanctions on **Francesca Albanese**, the **UN Special Rapporteur** on human rights in the **occupied Palestinian territories**, accusing her of **anti-Israel bias** and links to **extremism**, which she denies. The move, announced amid the **Gaza conflict**, has drawn condemnation from the **UN**, **NGOs**, and legal experts for threatening the **independence of UN investigators**. Albanese, a seasoned **international human rights lawyer**, has accused Israel of **genocide** and **apartheid** and supported **ICC arrest warrants** against Israeli leaders.
- On **July 9, 2025**, during the **47th session** in **Paris**, **UNESCO** removed three African sites—the **Rainforests of Atsinanana** in **Madagascar**, **Abu Mena** in **Egypt**, and the **Old Town of Ghadames** in **Libya**—from the **World Heritage in Danger List**. These sites had faced **serious threats** such as illegal logging, rising water levels, and war damage. UNESCO's **Director-General Audrey Azoulay** praised the countries for restoring their sites and noted that Africa is receiving special support. This success shows the positive results of ongoing global efforts to protect **cultural and natural heritage**.
- **UNESCO** added **three sites in Cambodia—Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum**, **M-13 prison**, and **Choeung Ek Killing Fields**—to its **World Heritage List** on **July 11, 2025** during its **47th committee session in Paris**. These places were once used by the **Khmer Rouge regime (1975–1979)** for torture and executions. The move comes on the **50th anniversary** of the regime's rise to power. **Prime Minister Hun Manet** and several leaders welcomed the recognition. This marks **Cambodia's first modern historical nomination** and aims to **educate youth, honor victims, and promote peace**.
- **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**.
- **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.
- **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.
- 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.
- **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.
- India's **UN Voting Pattern** has experienced a significant transformation, with **abstentions** hitting a record **44% in 2025**, reflecting a shift towards **strategic autonomy** amid a **polarised global order**. This change underscores India's role as a **middle power**, opting for **nuanced diplomacy** over alignment. By abstaining on contentious resolutions involving issues like **Russia-Ukraine**, **Myanmar**, and **Israel-Palestine**, India maintains **bilateral relations** and avoids global power blocs, thereby strengthening its **non-aligned yet assertive foreign policy**.
- **Gita Gopinath**, the **First Deputy Managing Director of the IMF**, will step down in **August 2025** to return to **Harvard University** as an economics professor. Known for her role during the **pandemic** and global economic disruptions, she advanced the IMF's work in **fiscal policy**, **international trade**, and **debt analysis**. Her resignation offers the **U.S. Treasury** a chance to name a successor amid changing **global economic dynamics**. Gopinath leaves a lasting legacy of **intellectual leadership**, with her next chapter focused on research and training future **economists**.

- A **replica of the Ashoka Pillar** was unveiled at **Waskaduwa Sri Subhuthi Viharaya**, Sri Lanka. Sponsored by **Kyabje Ling Rinpoche** and supported by the **Government of India**, the project honors **Emperor Ashoka's role** in spreading **Buddhism** to Sri Lanka. This act reinforces **India-Sri Lanka Buddhist ties**, complementing India's other initiatives such as **Pali language promotion**, **solar support for temples**, and **preservation of Buddha relics**. The temple's housing of **Kapilavastu relics** further enhances its spiritual value, making it a symbol of **bilateral cultural unity**.
- The **India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) 2025**, formally called **CETA**, aims to **boost trade to USD 120 billion by 2030** by **removing tariffs** on key exports like **textiles, leather**, and **reducing import duties** on UK goods. It includes provisions on **services, innovation, social security**, and **IPR**, with ratification pending from the **UK Parliament**. The **Double Contribution Convention Agreement** further supports **Indian professionals abroad**. This deal reinforces India's global economic engagement and sets the stage for future FTAs with major economies.
- The **United States**, under **President Donald Trump**, has withdrawn from **UNESCO** for the second time, citing **"woke" and anti-Israel biases**. This aligns with the **America First** policy and mirrors the 2017 decision, later reversed by **Joe Biden**. UNESCO's recognition of **Palestine**, alleged **politicization**, and **ideological conflicts** were key reasons. The move has been welcomed by **Israel**, criticized by **UNESCO officials**, and may **reduce US influence** in global education and heritage policy while enhancing **China's role** within the agency.
- A series of **earthquakes** hit Russia's **Kamchatka Peninsula**, the strongest at **7.4 magnitude**, highlighting the region's location along the **Pacific Ring of Fire**. The peninsula is a **tectonic meeting point** between the **Pacific** and **North American plates**, prone to frequent **seismic activity**. Despite an initial **tsunami alert**, no major wave threat emerged. Kamchatka's unique geography, with its **UNESCO-listed volcanoes** and **mountain ranges**, makes it both scientifically significant and disaster-prone.
- China has started building the **Motuo Hydropower Station** on the **Yarlung Tsangpo River**, aiming to create the **world's largest dam**, triggering **geopolitical and environmental concerns** in **India** and **Bangladesh**. The project, costing **$167 billion**, involves diverting river flow through tunnels to power **five cascading stations**. While it aligns with China's **energy strategy**, it raises fears over **river control**, **livelihood impacts**, **biodiversity loss**, and **seismic vulnerability**, making it a key **geo-environmental issue** in the region.
- India has **resumed tourist visas for Chinese citizens** after a **five-year suspension** caused by COVID-19 and diplomatic tensions. Chinese nationals can apply online and visit Indian consulates in **Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou** for processing. The move comes soon after the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra** resumed, reflecting efforts to boost **people-to-people ties**, improve **bilateral relations**, and revitalize **India's tourism sector**.
- **France** will formally recognise the **State of Palestine** in **September 2025**, becoming the **first G7 nation** to do so. This move aims to push for a **ceasefire**, **rebuild Gaza**, and promote a **two-state solution**. It has been **welcomed by Palestine**, condemned by **Israel**, and **rejected by the US**. The recognition carries **symbolic and diplomatic weight** but faces several **geopolitical challenges**.
- India extended a **₹4,850 crore Line of Credit** to the **Maldives** during **PM Modi's state visit** in July 2025, reinforcing the **Neighbourhood First** and **MAHASAGAR vision**. Talks for a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** and **Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT)** were launched. A key development was the restructuring of earlier credit terms, reducing the Maldives' **debt repayment burden by 40%**. This outreach reflects India's role as a **development partner**, aiding **infrastructure** and **regional security** in the face of geopolitical competition with **China**.

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 **MDB 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 **summited 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.

New Appointments: National & International

New Appointments: National & International of August 2025

Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Place	Key Notes
PB Balaji	CEO (effective 17 November 2025)	Jaguar Land Rover (JLR)	Succeeds Adrian Mardell; currently Group CFO of Tata Motors; will lead Reimagine strategy for luxury and sustainability
Rajiv Anand	MD & CEO (Aug 25, 2025 – Aug 24, 2028, pending approval)	IndusInd Bank	Former Deputy MD at Axis Bank; extensive leadership in retail and wholesale banking
S. Radha Chauhan	Chairperson	Capacity Building Commission, New Delhi	Retired IAS officer; former Secretary, DoPT; will advance Mission Karmayogi implementation
Jürgen Westermeier	President & MD for India and South Asia (from Sep 1, 2025)	Airbus	Will lead sales and operations; oversee Airbus-Tata ventures and strengthen Make in India collaborations
Rajiv Pratap Rudy	General Secretary (Administration)	Constitution Club of India	Retained post for 25 years, defeated Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, received cross-party support
Ravi Narayanan	CEO	SMFG India Credit	First leadership change post-SMFG acquisition, signals new strategic direction for the NBFC
Shah Rukh Khan	Brand Ambassador	Zomato	Leads "Fuel Your Hustle" campaign, highlights hustle culture, appears across media platforms

New Appointments: National & International of July 2025

APPOINTMENTS NATIONAL

Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Place	Key Notes
Ravi Agrawal	Chairman	Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)	Reappointed till June 2026; 1988-batch IRS officer; took over in June 2024 after Nitin Gupta's retirement; key in tax policy, administration, and Finance Ministry.
Parag Jain	Chief	Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)	Appointed after Ravi Sinha's retirement on June 30, 2025; played crucial role in Operation Sindoor following April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack.
Kesavan Ramachandran	Executive Director (ED)	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Assumed role on July 1, 2025; over 30 years of experience; oversees Prudential Regulation Division under the Department of Regulation.
Air Marshal S. Sivakumar	Air Officer-in-Charge Administration (AOA)	Indian Air Force Headquarters, New Delhi	Joined IAF in June 1990; 35+ years of service; expert in air traffic control and base operations; served on UN missions in Congo.
Sunil Kadam	Executive Director (ED)	Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)	Nearly 30 years at SEBI; strengthens efforts in market integrity and investor protection.
Amitabh Kant	Non-Executive Director	IndiGo Airlines	Former NITI Aayog CEO, G20 Sherpa; known for Make in India, Startup India; aims to support IndiGo's global growth and innovation.
Sahil Kini	CEO	Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), Bengaluru	IIT Madras alumnus, co-founder of Setu; brings experience with IndiaStack, Aadhaar, and UPI to enhance fintech innovation.
Sukanya Sonowal	Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassador (2025–2027)	Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network	IIT Guwahati student; Lead - Communications & PR at CYPAN; co-founder of STEMvibe; known for youth leadership and peacebuilding.
Sanjog Gupta	CEO	International Cricket Council (ICC)	Former head at Star India and JioStar; selected from 2,500+ applicants; focus on Olympics 2028, women's cricket, and tech innovation.
Aditya Mangla	CEO - Food Ordering & Delivery Division	Eternal (Zomato)	Internal leader since 2021; replaces Rakesh Ranjan; will lead amid antitrust case; praised for customer and partner-focused leadership.
Hardeep Singh Brar	President and CEO	BMW Group India	30+ years in auto industry; succeeds Vikram Pawah; reflects BMW's focus on Indian market growth.
Sabih Khan	Chief Operating Officer (COO)	Apple Inc.	Apple veteran since 1995; expertise in supply chain and operations; succeeds Jeff Williams.
Priya Nair	CEO and Managing Director	Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)	Current President of Beauty & Wellbeing at Unilever; succeeds Rohit Jawa; with the company since 1995.
Kumar Mangalam Birla	Member, Executive Committee	US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)	Chairman of Aditya Birla Group; honored with 2025 Global Leadership Award; $15B investment in the US.
Abhijit Kishore	Chairperson (Reappointed)	COAI (Vodafone Idea)	Will guide 5G and telecom growth; deep regulatory and operational experience.
Rahul Vatts	Vice Chairperson (Reappointed)	COAI (Bharti Airtel)	Will support telecom expansion; noted for leadership in digital and regulatory affairs.
Babitha B P	Deputy Chief Information Security Officer (GM - Security)	State Bank of India (SBI)	Leads cybersecurity and digital safety; represents growing role of women leaders in tech and finance.
Dr Abhijat Sheth	Chairperson	National Medical Commission (NMC)	Succeeds Dr B N Gangadhar; appointed July 13, 2025; takes over amid CBI probe into bribery in medical college inspections

Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Place	Key Notes
Sonali Mishra	Director General	Railway Protection Force (RPF)	First woman DG; replaces Manoj Yadava; term till Oct 31, 2026; 1993 batch IPS; extensive BSF & MP Police experience
Prof. Ashim Kumar Ghosh	Governor	Haryana	Appointed July 14, 2025; brings administrative & political experience
Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju	Governor	Goa	Appointed July 14, 2025; part of key reshuffle to boost governance
Kavinder Gupta	Lieutenant Governor	Ladakh	Appointed July 14, 2025; succeeds Brig. (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd)
R Doraiswamy	MD & CEO	Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)	Term till Aug 28, 2028; replaces interim CEO Sat Pal Bhanoo; over 38 years in LIC
Raghavendra S Bhat	Interim MD & CEO	Karnataka Bank	Appointed July 16, 2025; senior executive since 1981; replaces Srikrishnan Hari Hara Sarma; interim for 3 months
Hemant Rupani	CEO	Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt Ltd (HCCB)	Joins Sept 8, 2025; from Mondelez International; replaces Juan Pablo Rodriguez; wide FMCG experience
Sanjay Kaul	MD & CEO	GIFT City, Gandhinagar	Appointed July 15, 2025; 2001 batch IAS (Kerala cadre); replaces Tapan Ray; 3-year deputation
Manish Chopra	CEO	Sabyasachi Couture	Former Shein India & Meta exec; strategic move for luxury brand's global expansion; majority-owned by ABFRL
Ajay Kumar Shrivastava	Director (Engineering & R&D)	Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)	37 years in aircraft design; led major upgrades & certifications; aligns with Aatmanirbhar Bharat goals
Nitu Chandra	SVEEP Icon	Bihar (Election Commission of India)	Promotes voter awareness for upcoming Assembly elections
Kranti Prakash Jha	SVEEP Icon	Bihar (Election Commission of India)	Promotes voter awareness under ECI's SVEEP programme
Dr J Ravishankar	Managing Director	Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL)	2001 batch IAS; replaces Maheshwar Rao; aims for timely execution & better connectivity
Sanjay Kaul	MD & Group CEO	GIFT City (India's first smart city & IFSC)	Seasoned IAS officer with expertise in public policy, infrastructure, and technology; expected to boost GIFT City's transformation into a global financial hub, strengthen international collaborations, and enhance India's footprint in the financial services sector.
Deepak Bagla	Mission Director	Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog	Former CEO of Invest India; represented India in global forums like WAIPA; will drive outcome-oriented innovation initiatives aligned with India's development priorities.
Ajay Seth	Chairman	Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)	1987-batch IAS officer, former Finance Secretary; experienced in economic affairs, fiscal policy, and infrastructure; aims to enhance insurance penetration, strengthen regulatory oversight, and support policy innovation.
Prof Uma Kanjilal	Vice-Chancellor	Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)	First woman VC of IGNOU since 1985; over 36 years in Open and Distance Learning; led digital education initiatives as National Coordinator of SWAYAM and SWAYAM PRABHA; global experience through Fulbright Fellowship and work with UNRWA.

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**	• **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	• 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.
S. Padmanabhan	**Chairman of Tata Chemicals**	• **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)**	• **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)**,	• 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**	• **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**.

Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
T Rabi Sankar	**16th Finance Commission** as a **part-time member**	• **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)**	• **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**.
Sat Pal Bhanoo	**Interim CEO and MD** of **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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.

Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
Amitabh Kant	**G20 Sherpa**	• **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**	• **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.
Lieutenant Commander Yashasvi Solankee	**First woman ADC (Aide-de-Camp) to the President of India**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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)	• 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.

Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
Sivasubramanian **Ramann**	**Chairperson of PFRDA**	• 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)**	• 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	• 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.
Amitabh Kant	**Senior Adviser** to **Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**	• 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**.

Person Name	Brand / Campaign	Key Notes
Katrina Kaif	**Global Tourism Ambassador** for the **Maldives**	• **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**	• 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**	• 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)**	• 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**	• 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**	• **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**	• 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**.	• **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.

Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
Harvansh Chawla	**Chairman** of the **BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry**	• 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**	• **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**	• 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	• 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.
Ram Mohan M K	**Director of MPEDA**	• **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**	• 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	• 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)	• **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**	• **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**.

Person Name	Brand / Campaign	Key Notes
Shraddha Kapoor	Eureka Forbes Ltd	• 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	• 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	• 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**	• 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**	• **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**	• **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)**	• **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**.

Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
N Chandrasekaran	Chairman of **Tata Sons**	• **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**	• 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**.
Poonam Gupta	**Deputy Governor of RBI**	• 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**	• **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)**	• 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**	• **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)**	• **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.

Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
Mohsin Naqvi	**President of the Asian Cricket Council**	• **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**	• **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.
Balaji Nuthalapadi	**Equitas Small Finance Bank**	• **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**	• 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)**	• **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)**	• 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**	• **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**	• **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**.

Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
Santosh Kumar	**Deputy CFO of IndusInd Bank**	• **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)**	• 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.
Judge Kaveri Baweja	**Registrar (Vigilance)**,	• 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)**.	• 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)	• **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**	• **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**	• **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)**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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 Affairs Secretary**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**	• 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.

Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
Justice Joymalya Bagchi	**Calcutta High Court**, as a **Judge of the Supreme Court of India**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**.
Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman	**CEO** of the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)**,	• **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**	• **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**	• **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)**	• **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**	• **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)**,	• **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**.

Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
Anuj Kumar Singh	**Joint Secretary (Director level) in UPSC, Delhi**	• **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**.
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.
Jasprit Bumrah	**Skechers**	**Jasprit 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 Srikkanth	**Goodwill Ambassador of VISION 2020 India**	Former Indian cricket captain **Krishnamachari Srikkanth** 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**.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of August 2025

Partnership/Initiative	Key Focus Areas	Impact/Outcome
BSNL & NRL	Deployment of India's first 5G CNPN in the refinery sector; integration of Industry 4.0 technologies	Enhanced operational efficiency, strengthened cybersecurity, new job and innovation opportunities
Ministry of Ayush & IshVed-Bioplants / AIIA-AIIMS	Conservation of rare medicinal plants through tissue culture; setting up National Medicinal Plants Garden	Biodiversity preservation, public education, and advancement in traditional medicine and healthcare
SAP & Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)	Digital skilling in logistics and transport; curriculum development; fostering research and job creation	Employment enablement, industry-academic collaboration, and enhanced logistics capacity
India & Philippines	MoUs in Defence, Digital Technology, Space, Maritime Cooperation, Tourism, and Cultural Exchange	Strengthened bilateral ties, enhanced cooperation across strategic and cultural sectors
Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) & Bhashini	Language inclusivity in innovation; integration of multilingual tools in programs and support for startups	Empowerment of grassroots innovators, inclusive digital ecosystem, vernacular innovation promotion
UIDAI - ISI	Biometric security, fraud & anomaly detection, algorithm improvement	Improved Aadhaar security and reliability
GIFT City - GTU	IFSC education, fintech research, centre of excellence	Skilled workforce and stronger global financial position for Gujarat
BSNL - Global Tech Giants (Ericsson, etc.)	5G, AI training, telecom R&D, digital skills development	Future-ready workforce and support for Atmanirbhar Bharat
NFR - IIT Guwahati	Eco-friendly packaging, biodegradable plastics, sustainability	Reduced plastic waste and greener railway operations
India - Zambia Trade Agreement	Cooperative trade cooperation, export promotion through Indian missions	Strengthened cooperative trade ties with Zambia and boosted export potential
NCEL - Senegal & Indonesia MoUs	Expanding cooperative trade, building global trade alliances	Broadened global reach for Indian cooperatives and enhanced international footprint

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of July 2025

S. No.	Level	MoU Parties	Field / Purpose
1	Country	**India – Sri Lanka**	Launch of Hindi Language Learning Programme at General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) in partnership with Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC); promotes cultural & educational ties.
2	Country	**India – Saudi Arabia**	Long-term fertilizer supply agreements with Maaden for 3.1M MT DAP annually (5 years); strengthens fertilizer security; boosts cooperation in health, pharmaceuticals, research, and investments.
3	Organisation	**DEPwD – Sri Aurobindo Society (SAS)**	Launch of Project Inclusion under Rupantar Programme; online teacher training for inclusive education for children with disabilities; reaches remote areas; aligned with RPwD Act 2016.
4	Organisation	**NESTS – UNICEF India, Tata Motors, Ex-Navodayan Foundation**	Initiatives for 1.3 lakh tribal students: TALASH career guidance, Kaushalya skill program, IIT-JEE/NEET coaching; aims to improve education & job readiness.
5	Organisation	**Prasar Bharati – Handball Association of India (HAI)**	Three-year deal to produce & broadcast national/international handball events; promotes the sport via DD Sports, Waves OTT, etc.
6	Organisation	**NCDEX – IMD**	Launch of India's first weather derivatives (rainfall-based futures contracts); helps farmers & climate-sensitive sectors hedge against weather risk; includes training & research.

S. No.	Level	MoU Parties	Field / Purpose
7	Organisation	**Vimananu Ltd – CYGR**	Advanced drone manufacturing partnership; produces ISR, nano & fixed-wing UAVs; supports defence self-reliance & Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision.
8	Organisation	**NIEPID – Jai Vakeel Foundation**	DISHA Abhiyan curriculum for Children with Intellectual Disabilities; includes IEPs, multisensory tools, digital portal & teacher training; aligned with SDGs & inclusive education.
9	Organisation	**Ministry of Rural Development – LIC**	Bima Sakhi Yojana; stipend-based LIC agency for rural women under DAY-NRLM; promotes women-led financial inclusion & rural income generation.
10	Organisation / State	**Centre of Excellence on PESA – Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, IGNTU**	Strengthens grassroots governance in tribal areas; capacity building, research, participatory planning, preservation of tribal heritage; aligned with PESA Act & LSDGs.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of June 2025

Category	Entity	MoU With	Field / Purpose
MoUs with Country	India	Cyprus	• 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	• 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)	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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**	• 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)**,	• 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**	• 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)	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• **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**	• 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**	• **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**	• **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**	• 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**.

Banking Current Affairs

Banking Current Affairs of August 2025

S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	AU Small Finance Bank	• AU Small Finance Bank (AU) has made history by becoming the **first Small Finance Bank in India** to receive **in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to transition into a **Universal Bank**. • This landmark achievement highlights AU's strong business model, sound governance, and unwavering commitment to **financial inclusion**. • The approval validates AU's growth into a full-service bank offering a wide range of **retail, business, and digital banking solutions**.
2.	**Bank of Baroda**	• **Bank of Baroda** has launched **global UPI features** on its **bob ₹ Pay app**, enabling **cross-border payments** for **Indian and NRI customers**. • Key features include **UPI Global Acceptance** in **eight countries** (Mauritius, Singapore, UAE, USA, France, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan), **real-time inward remittances** from Singapore, and UPI access for NRIs with **NRE/NRO accounts**. • The app supports seamless **international digital transactions** with a limit of **₹1,00,000 per transaction**, enhancing convenience and flexibility for users worldwide.
3.	ICICI Bank	• ICICI Bank has reduced its **minimum average balance (MAB)** requirement for new savings accounts in urban areas from **Rs 50,000 to Rs 15,000** following strong customer backlash. • In semi-urban areas, the MAB was cut from **Rs 25,000 to Rs 7,500**, while for existing customers in rural and semi-urban regions, it remains **Rs 5,000**. This revision comes shortly after ICICI initially raised the MAB sharply, contrasting with other banks like **SBI**, which scrapped minimum balance rules, and many others maintaining lower thresholds between Rs 2,000 and Rs 10,000.
4.	ICICI Bank	• ICICI Bank has reported the **lowest employee attrition rate** among major private sector banks for the past three fiscal years, dropping to **18% in FY25** from 24.5% in FY24 and 30.9% in FY23. This strong **employee retention** is credited to **competitive remuneration** and a better **working environment**. • Other private peers like **HDFC Bank (22.6%)**, **Axis Bank (25.5%)**, and **Kotak Mahindra Bank (33.3%)** also showed declining attrition rates, reflecting a broader industry trend due to a **stabilized job market** and reduced recruitment post-pandemic.
5.	**IDFC FIRST Bank**	• **IDFC FIRST Bank** has launched **RemitFIRST2India**, a **zero-fee digital remittance platform** designed for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to send money to India swiftly and securely. • In partnership with **SingX**, the platform supports transfers from **Singapore and Hong Kong** with plans for expansion, offering **live transaction tracking**, **competitive forex rates**, and a **seamless, paperless experience**. New users also receive extra forex margin benefits on their first three transfers.
6.	Axis Bank	• Axis Bank has launched the **'Lock FD'** feature to protect customers from **digital banking fraud** by preventing premature closure of fixed deposits via online channels. • Once activated, customers can only close their fixed deposits by **visiting a branch in person** with **ID verification**, blocking any digital closure attempts. • This new security measure adds a crucial layer of protection against phishing, malware, and hacking risks, ensuring safer management of term deposits.

RBI News

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities		
S.No.	**Name**	**Purpose**
1.	**Reserve Bank of India**	• The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the **merger of New India Co-operative Bank with Saraswat Bank**, effective **August 4, 2025**. Saraswat Bank will assume **all assets and liabilities** of New India Co-operative Bank, and its customers will enjoy **full protection of their interests**. • The move, endorsed by the shareholders of both banks, strengthens the cooperative banking framework and expands the service reach for customers.
2.	**Reserve Bank of India**	• The **RBI's decision to settle a $5 billion dollar-rupee swap without a rollover** highlights the central bank's confidence in India's **strong rupee liquidity position**, which currently stands at over **₹3.60 lakh crore**. • By selling dollars and absorbing rupees, the RBI is ensuring liquidity remains stable without disturbing the money markets. Experts believe this is a sound move since the **banking system has adequate cash flow**, minimizing the risk of market disruptions.
3.	**Reserve Bank of India**	• The recent **RBI Survey of Professional Forecasters** projects that India's **merchandise imports** will grow by **2.5%** in **2025-26**, more than twice the **1.2% growth** expected in **exports**, leading to a widening **trade imbalance** and a **current account deficit** of **0.8% of GDP**, rising slightly to **0.9%** in **2026-27**. • Despite this, India's **economy** is forecast to grow steadily, with **GDP expanding by 6.4%** in **2025-26** and **6.7%** the following year. • **Private consumption** and **investments** are also expected to grow moderately, while **inflation** is projected to remain manageable, with **headline CPI** rising from **3.1%** to **4.4%** over the same period.
4.	**Reserve Bank of India**	• The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has allowed **foreign entities** holding **Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs)** to invest their **surplus rupee balances** in **central government securities**, including **treasury bills**. • This move, part of the updated **Master Direction on Non-resident Investment in Debt Instruments**, enables unused rupee funds from **international trade settlements** to be directed into **secure Indian debt instruments**, enhancing investment flexibility for non-residents.
5.	**Reserve Bank of India**	• The **RBI** has introduced **three key initiatives** to enhance **banking convenience and financial inclusion**: (1) **doorstep re-KYC camps** at the panchayat level from July to September to help update customer details and provide financial services like micro-insurance and pension schemes; (2) a **simplified claims process for deceased customers**, easing fund access for legal heirs and nominees; and (3) **upgraded features on the Retail Direct platform** to improve user experience.

Banking Current Affairs of July 2025

Bank Name	Purpose
Karnataka Bank	• Karnataka Bank witnessed a **leadership transition** as both its **Managing Director & CEO** and **Executive Director** resigned citing **personal reasons** and **relocation issues**. • The bank quickly formed a **search committee** and appointed a **Chief Operating Officer (COO)** to maintain **operational stability**. It addressed investor concerns over financial audits and reassured that it remains **well-capitalized** and committed to its **transformation journey**. • This change highlights the importance of **succession planning**, **regulatory compliance**, and **strategic governance** in the Indian banking sector.
State Bank of India	• The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has taken a major step towards supporting **India's clean energy transition** by launching a **Solar Rooftop Programme** that will **solarize 4 million homes by FY27**. • This aligns with India's **Net Zero 2070** targets and showcases SBI's expanded role beyond banking — from **agricultural support** and **CSR outreach** to **sustainable infrastructure development**. • With over ₹610 crore in **social investments**, a vision for **green technology finance**, and a deep commitment to **environmental sustainability.**
State Bank of India (SBI),	• The **State Bank of India (SBI)**, India's **largest bank**, has launched two **Global Trade Finance Centres**—one in **Kolkata** and the other in **Hyderabad**—to boost **import and export services**. • These centres aim to support **businesses** by making **inland and cross-border trade** faster and more efficient. • With over **800 trained staff**, the centres will use **digital tools** like **AI**, **ML**, **blockchain**, and **document digitization** to replace traditional **paper-based processes**. This shift will offer **quicker**, **safer**, and **more reliable services**, giving **customers a better experience** with reduced delays and improved accuracy.

Bank Name	Purpose
Indian Bank and **Punjab National Bank (PNB)**	• **Indian Bank** and **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** have waived **minimum balance penalties** for **savings account holders** starting from **July 7** and **July 1**, 2025, respectively. • **Indian Bank** also reduced its **one-year lending rate** to **9%**, offering relief to loan borrowers. • These steps are aimed at boosting **financial inclusion** and making banking **easier, cheaper, and more accessible** for all—especially **students**, **senior citizens**, **farmers**, and **low-income families**.
NSDL Payments Bank Limited	• **NSDL Payments Bank Limited** was added to the **Second Schedule** of the **RBI Act, 1934**, making it a **scheduled bank**. This status enables the bank to **access RBI facilities**, gain **clearinghouse membership**, and enhances its **regulatory credibility**. • Specializing in **digital savings** and **remittance services** for **underserved populations**, NSDL Payments Bank's inclusion reflects its **financial health**, **regulatory compliance**, and alignment with **RBI's public interest criteria**.
State Bank of India (SBI)	• India's largest lender, the **State Bank of India (SBI)**, executed a **₹25,000 crore QIP**, which was **oversubscribed 4.5 times**, with **LIC and other domestic investors** receiving two-thirds of the allotment, and **foreign investors accounting for 64.3% of demand**. • The capital raised will boost SBI's **CET-1 ratio** to **11.50%**, enabling **credit growth** in **retail**, **MSME**, and **corporate sectors**. The QIP underscores **strong investor confidence**, the robustness of India's **banking sector**, and the country's **economic resilience**.
Fino Payments Bank	• Fino Payments Bank has launched **GATI**, a **zero-balance digital savings account**, aimed at **boosting UPI transactions** in **West Bengal**. Customers can open accounts instantly at any of **40301 merchant points**, with an affordable fee structure and **eKYC-based onboarding**. • The initiative promotes **financial inclusion**, targets **rural and semi-urban populations**, and supports features like **auto UPI ID**, **FinoPay app**, and access to **insurance, digital gold**, and **loans**. GATI caters to the **digitally curious segment**, especially the **youth, women**, and **senior citizens**.
State Bank of India (SBI)	• **State Bank of India (SBI)** has been awarded the title of **World's Best Consumer Bank for 2025** by **Global Finance magazine**, based on global expert analysis. • The award acknowledges SBI's **digital innovation, vernacular voice banking, omni-channel engagement**, and **AI-based personalization**, particularly benefiting **rural and semi-urban customers**. • This achievement showcases SBI's role in **shaping the future of consumer banking** and enhancing India's financial reputation globally.

RBI News

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities		
S.No.	**Name**	**Purpose**
1.	**Reserve Bank of India**	• The **Reserve Bank of India** has rolled out new security measures for the **Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS)** to curb increasing cases of fraud, especially in rural areas. • Effective from **January 1, 2026**, the revised framework mandates strict **KYC at onboarding**, **reactivation checks**, a **one-operator-one-bank policy**, and **continuous monitoring** of transaction patterns by acquiring banks. • These steps aim to enhance the security, traceability, and accountability of AePS operators and are legally backed by the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.
2.	**Reserve Bank of India**	• The **RBI's sectoral credit report** for May 30, 2025, shows a **slowdown in bank credit growth** across key segments. **Industrial credit** rose by only **4.9%**, while **personal loans**, **services sector lending**, and **NBFC loans** also experienced declines. • However, **medium enterprises** and **renewable energy** sectors showed strong growth. This trend underscores **cautious lending practices**, **reduced investment appetite**, and changing **sectoral dynamics** in the Indian economy.
3.	**Reserve Bank of India**	• The **Reserve Bank of India** has announced that, effective **January 1, 2026**, **prepayment penalties will no longer be applicable on floating rate loans** availed by **micro and small enterprises (MSEs)**. • This move aims to support **financial inclusion**, **credit affordability**, and **lender accountability** by eliminating unjust clauses and promoting borrower freedom. • It builds on RBI's continuing efforts to streamline loan frameworks and promote healthy competition in India's credit landscape.

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities		
S.No.	**Name**	**Purpose**
4.	**Reserve Bank of India**	• The **Reserve Bank of India** has announced that, effective **January 1, 2026**, **prepayment penalties will no longer be applicable on floating rate loans** availed by **micro and small enterprises (MSEs)**. • This move aims to support **financial inclusion**, **credit affordability**, and **lender accountability** by eliminating unjust clauses and promoting borrower freedom. • It builds on RBI's continuing efforts to streamline loan frameworks and promote healthy competition in India's credit landscape.
5.	**Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**	• The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has taken a critical step in advancing **digital security** by mandating all financial institutions to adopt the **Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)** developed by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**. • This **AI-supported system** allows **real-time detection** of high-risk mobile numbers linked to **cybercrime and financial fraud**, drawing data from platforms like the **NCRP** and **Chakshu**. With major institutions like **PhonePe**, **HDFC Bank**, and **Paytm** already on board.
6.	**Reserve Bank of India**	• On **June 30, 2025**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** directed all banks—including **NBFCs** and **UPI platforms**—to start using the **Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)**, made by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**. • The **FRI** detects **fraud-prone mobile numbers** using data from platforms like **NCRP**, **Chakshu**, and **bank reports**. Banks like **HDFC**, **ICICI**, and apps like **PhonePe** and **Paytm** are already using it. • This step will **strengthen India's digital banking safety**, offer **real-time protection**, and help **stop cyber-enabled financial frauds**.
7.	**Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**	• The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** said on **July 1, 2025**, that **₹2000 notes worth ₹6,099 crore** are still in circulation, even though it announced their withdrawal on **May 19, 2023**. • Out of the original **₹3.56 lakh crore**, **98.29% has been returned**. People can still **deposit or send** these notes through **RBI offices or post offices**. The ₹2000 note is still **legal** but is being **gradually removed** from use.
8.	**RBI's e-Kuber system**	• From **July 16, 2025**, all **government payments above ₹75 crore** must be made through the **RBI's e-Kuber system** to improve **transparency**, **speed**, and **real-time tracking**. • The earlier limit of **₹500 crore** has now been lowered, with some transactions needing e-Kuber from **₹100 crore** onward. The move will shorten the time for **account reconciliation to just 24 hours** and could further reduce the payment limit to **₹50 crore** next year, making public finance systems more **efficient and accountable**.
9.	**Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**	• The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** will hold an **auction on July 11, 2025**, to sell **two government bonds** worth **₹25,000 crore** through its **e-Kuber platform** in **Mumbai**. • One bond is **new**, and the other is a **re-issue** of an older one. These **dated securities** will pay interest every **six months** and are used to help the government raise money. • The auction will follow a **multiple-price method**, and both **big and small investors** can take part. The **settlement** will be done on **July 14, 2025**.
10.	**Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**	• **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed monetary penalties on **HDFC Bank** and **Shriram Finance** for **violating regulatory norms**. **HDFC Bank** was fined **₹4.88 lakh** for issues involving **foreign investment** in term loans, while **Shriram Finance** was penalised **₹2.70 lakh** for **digital lending rule violations** discovered during a routine inspection. • The action highlights RBI's commitment to ensuring that all financial entities follow proper rules and maintain transparency in their operations.
11.	**Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**	• The **RBI Financial Inclusion Index (FY25)** improved to **67.0 from 64.2** in the previous year. This **growth across Access, Usage, and Quality sub-indices** reflects the success of **government schemes**, **digital financial platforms**, and **financial literacy programs**. • It is a **comprehensive tool** that measures inclusion in **banking, pensions, insurance, postal services**, and more, helping shape India's **inclusive financial ecosystem**.
12.	**Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**	• The **RBI** held a **surprise ₹50,000 crore VRR auction** on **July 23, 2025**, accepting bids worth ₹50,001 crore at a **5.58% average rate**, addressing **tight liquidity** caused by **GST outflows** and **VRRR locks**. • This reflects **RBI's proactive liquidity management** and signals **policy consistency**.

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities		
S.No.	**Name**	**Purpose**
13.	**Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**	• The **RBI** has approved **Warburg Pincus** to invest **₹4,876 crore** in **IDFC First Bank** via its affiliate **Currant Sea Investments B.V.**, acquiring up to **9.99% stake** through **Compulsorily Convertible Preference Shares (CCPS)**. • The move, already cleared by the **CCI**, will **boost the bank's capital base**, **expand its lending ability**, and **accelerate its growth trajectory**, marking a major **foreign investment milestone** in India's banking sector.

Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs

- **Indian public sector banks** will raise around **₹45,000 crore** in **FY26** through **Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP)** of shares, starting with **SBI**. The government also plans to **complete its stake sale in IDBI Bank by October 2025** and sell shares in several other PSU banks. These moves are part of the government's **₹47,000 crore disinvestment plan** announced in the **Union Budget 2025–26**, aimed at strengthening banks and encouraging private investment.
- **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.
- 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**.
- **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**.
- **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.
- **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** have identified **1,629 wilful defaulters** with outstanding dues of **₹1.62 trillion** as of **March 31, 2025**, as per the **Union Finance Ministry**. The government has implemented several legal and administrative measures to **recover NPAs**, including action through **SARFAESI**, **IBC**, and public disclosure via **credit bureaus** like **CIBIL** and **Experian**. This issue remains a **major concern** for the **health of the banking sector**, especially given the **slowing deposit growth** and rising **credit risk**.

Banking Current Affairs of June 2025

S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	**Canara Bank**	• **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	• 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**.

S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
3.	Asian Development Bank	• 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)	• **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	• **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**.
6.	Asian Development Bank (ADB)	• 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	• **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	• **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	• **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**	• 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	• 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**	• **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**.
4.	**Reserve Bank of India**	• 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)**	• 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)**	• 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)**	• 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**.

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities		
S.No.	**Name**	**Purpose**
8.	**Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**.
11.	**Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**	• 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)**	• 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)**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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. **Key Highlights :** • Presently, **only two accreditation agencies** operate in the market: 1. **CDSL Ventures Ltd** (subsidiary of **CDSL**) 2. **NSDL Data Management Ltd** (subsidiary of **NSDL**) • **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**	• 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.

S.No	Announcement	Key Details
		• 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**	• 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**. **Key Highlights :** • **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**	• **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 :** • **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: • **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**.

S.No	Announcement	Key Details
		• 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**	• 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: • **Scanning a QR code**, or • **Entering the UPI ID manually** • For bank account verification, investors can check: • **Bank account number** • **Indian Financial System Code (IFSC)** of the **SEBI-registered intermediary** • The **username** will include: • 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: • 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**	• **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**	• 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.
2.	**State Bank of India**	• 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	• 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**	• **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**	• 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	• 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**	• 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.

S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
8.	State Bank of India	• 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	• 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	• 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.
11.	Qatar National Bank	• **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	• **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	• **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	• **SBM Bank India** and **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company** have entered into a **bancassurance partnership**.
15.	Axis Bank	• 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	• 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	• 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.

S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
18.	India Post Payments Bank	• **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**
2. 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**	• 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	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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	• 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 R**BI 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**	• 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**	• **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**	• 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: • **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: • **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**	• **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
		• **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)**	• 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**	• 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**	• **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)**	• **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, 20225), 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	• **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	• 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	• **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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• **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)**	• **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**	• 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**	• 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)**	• 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**	• 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**	• **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	• 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**	• **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**	• **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**	• 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**	• **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	• 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**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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 ≥ 9%, NNPA ≤ 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, AIFIs, 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**	• 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 Reserve Bank of India**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• **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	• 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)	• 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**.

Economy/Business Current Affairs

Economy/Business Current Affairs of August 2025

GDP & GROWTH RATE as per August 2025

- **Fitch Ratings** has revised India's **FY26 GDP growth forecast** to **6.3%**, citing steady demand from **infrastructure spending** but cautioning against risks from **US tariffs** and redirected global supply. While **cement, power, construction, and petroleum** are set to benefit, **export-driven sectors like IT, auto components, and pharma** may face headwinds due to tariff uncertainty. **Telecom, oil & gas, utilities, and construction** remain relatively insulated. Fitch also noted India's strong stance in **trade negotiations** with the US over **agriculture and dairy concessions**.
- The **Income Tax Department** has awarded the **₹811.5 crore PAN 2.0 project** to **LTIMindtree Ltd**, aiming to **digitally transform PAN and TAN management**. Cleared in **November 2024** and scheduled to go live in **18 months**, the project will enhance **security, efficiency, and taxpayer convenience**, handling services like **Aadhaar-PAN linking, allotment, reissuance, and validation** on a unified digital platform.
- India has uncovered **₹7 trillion in GST evasion** across **91,000 cases** between **April 2020 and March 2025**, according to **Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary**. Of this, only **₹1.29 trillion** has been **voluntarily paid back** by taxpayers. Notably, **₹1.78 trillion** is linked to **fake input tax credit (ITC)**, with just **7% recovery**. The rise in evasion coincides with the government's deployment of **advanced tech tools**—including **e-invoicing**, **risk-based audits**, **facial recognition**, and **E-way bill tracking**—which have significantly strengthened **GST compliance and fraud detection**.
- India's **services sector** surged to an **11-month high** in **July 2025**, with the **HSBC India Services PMI** rising to **60.5**, up from 60.4 in June, according to **S&P Global**. This marks the **48th straight month of growth**, driven by **robust international demand** and **steady domestic sales**. The **finance and insurance sectors** led the growth, while **real estate and business services** lagged due to cautious spending.
- **Deloitte India** has forecasted India's economic growth to range between **6.4% and 6.7%** for the fiscal year 2025-26, building on a solid growth rate of 6.5% in 2024-25. This optimistic outlook is anchored by resilient domestic demand, easing inflation, and strategic global trade initiatives. A dynamic consumer base, resilient capital markets, and a globally competitive workforce. Ongoing and upcoming trade talks with the **UK, US, and European Union are expected to enhance market access, income, and employment opportunities.**
- The **RBI** has kept the **repo rate unchanged at 5.5%** during the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** meeting held on **August 4–6, 2025**, maintaining a **neutral stance**. The **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)** stands at **5.25%**, and both the **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)** rate and the **Bank Rate** remain at **5.75%**. This decision follows a **100 bps rate cut** since February and comes ahead of the **festive season**. The **FY26 GDP growth forecast** is retained at **6.5%**, while **inflation** is projected at **3.1%**, down from **June's 3.7%**, though **CPI** may rise to **4.9% in FY27**.
- **Goldman Sachs** has **trimmed India's GDP growth forecast** to **6.5% for 2025** and **6.4% for 2026**, citing concerns over **US-India trade tensions** after **President Trump's 25% tariffs** on Indian goods. While the investment bank expects some **tariffs may be negotiated**, it warns that the main risk lies in **policy uncertainty**, which could hurt **investor confidence**. On inflation, **forecasts have been lowered to 3.0%**, driven by easing **vegetable prices**, though Goldman cautions that such **low inflation is rare** in India and remains **vulnerable to shocks**.

ECONOMY NEWS

- Karnataka's **GST evasion** surged to **₹39,577 crore** in FY25, over **five times** higher than the previous year, with **1,254 cases** and **9 arrests**. Voluntary tax payments totaled **₹1,623 crore**. Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** clarified that **CGST authorities did not issue notices based solely on UPI transactions**, which were sent by state GST offices affecting mainly small traders. This marks a sharp rise in **tax evasion detection** compared to ₹7,202 crore in FY24 and ₹25,839 crore in FY23, highlighting increased efforts to curb evasion while addressing traders' concerns.
- **India** is poised to become the **world's most sought-after consumer market**, according to **Morgan Stanley**, driven by a **major energy transition**, rising **credit-to-GDP ratio**, and increased **manufacturing share in GDP**. Key factors include **lower oil intensity**, **growing exports (especially services)**, **fiscal consolidation**, and **declining inflation volatility**, all contributing to **macro stability**, **lower real interest rates**, and a **shift in household investments toward equities**. Catalysts for further growth include a potential **US trade deal**, **capex boosts**, **loan acceleration**, and **improving trade with China**.
- The **Centre has proposed a two-slab GST overhaul** with **5% and 18% rates**, alongside a **40% tax on sin goods** like **tobacco and pan masala**, aiming to **simplify the tax structure**, **boost consumption**, and **ease compliance**. Key changes include shifting most **common-use goods** from 12% to 5%, and **aspirational items** like TVs from 28% to 18%. The reform also includes **structural fixes** like correcting **inverted duty structures**, **streamlining classifications**, **faster registrations**, and **automated refunds**, with implementation likely by **Q3 FY 2025-26**.
- India's **merchandise exports rose 7.3% to $37.24 billion in July 2025**, driven by growth in **engineering goods, gems and jewellery, electronics, pharmaceuticals, and chemicals**. Notably, **electronics exports surged 34%** to $3.77 billion. However, imports increased by **8.6% to $64.59 billion**, pushing the **trade deficit to an eight-month high of $27.35 billion**. From April to July, exports grew to $149.20 billion, imports to $244.01 billion, and total goods and services exports reached $277.63 billion, up 5.23% year-on-year.
- **Bank credit growth** has **slowed to 1.4% in FY26**, down from 2.3% last year, while **deposit growth remains steady at 3.4%**. According to RBI data, year-on-year, deposits rose **10.2%** and advances **10%** by July 25. The slowdown in credit is mainly due to **weaker corporate demand**, as companies shift toward **market instruments like bonds**. Despite **rate cuts**, **housing loan demand** hasn't picked up significantly, though overall **financial flows to the commercial sector have increased**.
- India's **foreign exchange reserves rose by $4.74 billion** to reach **$693.62 billion** as of August 8, 2025, driven by increases in **foreign currency assets ($2.37 billion)**, **gold reserves ($2.16 billion)**, **special drawing rights ($169 million)**, and the country's **IMF reserve position ($45 million)**. Despite a recent dip from a record high of $704.885 billion in September 2024, the Reserve Bank of India continues to monitor and manage the forex market to maintain **exchange rate stability** and prevent sharp rupee depreciation.
- India's **net direct tax collection** for FY26 fell **3.95% to ₹6.64 lakh crore**, mainly due to a **10% rise in refunds** totaling ₹1.35 lakh crore, despite a smaller **1.87% dip in gross collections**. Key components include **corporate tax (₹2.29 lakh crore)**, **non-corporate tax (₹4.12 lakh crore)**, and **Securities Transaction Tax (₹22,362 crore)**, with the government targeting a **12.7% increase** in total direct tax collections to ₹25.20 lakh crore.
- India's **retail inflation** dropped to an **8-year low of 1.55% in July 2025**, mainly due to a sharp fall in **food prices** (food inflation at -1.76%). This is the first time inflation fell below the RBI's target band in over six years. Despite a recent rise in **fuel prices** (2.67%), the RBI kept the **repo rate steady at 5.50%**, maintaining a **neutral stance** with an FY26 inflation projection of **3.1%**. The decline offers the RBI flexibility to support growth amid global trade tensions and economic challenges.

BUSINESS NEWS

- India's **UPI platform** reached an **all-time high in July 2025** with **1,947 crore transactions worth ₹25.1 lakh crore**, showing a **35% rise in volume** and a **22% growth in value** year-on-year. With **62.8 crore daily transactions** and deeper reach into **Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities**, UPI continues to dominate India's **cashless economy**, driven by **innovations like credit on UPI, recurring payments, and strong government support**.
- The **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** has rolled out **Aadhaar-based face authentication nationwide**, allowing customers to conduct **banking transactions using facial recognition** without fingerprints or OTPs. Developed under **UIDAI**, the feature enhances **financial inclusion and digital security**, especially benefiting the **elderly, differently-abled, and those with worn fingerprints**, while ensuring safe banking during **health emergencies**.
- Following the resignation of **MD & CEO Girsh Kousgi**, **PNB Housing Finance** has appointed **Jatul Anand** as **Executive Director** and **Valli Sekar** as **Chief Business Officer — Affordable Business**. While Kousgi will step down officially on **October 28, 2025**, he will assist with the transition. Despite an **18% fall in share price**, the company reaffirmed its focus on **growth, asset quality, and margins**, even as it faces the challenge of multiple senior-level exits.

- The **US decision to impose a 25% tariff** on Indian goods is projected by **SBI Research** to reduce **India's FY26 GDP growth by 25–30 bps**. The tariff will mainly affect **electronics, gems and jewelry, pharmaceuticals, and machinery**, which together make up nearly **half of India's exports to the US**. While this creates **deflationary pressures**, India's **diversified export base** and support from **PLI schemes and GST reforms** may cushion the impact. Experts believe that the **US economy faces higher risks** than India due to this move.
- India's **palm oil imports fell 10% in July 2025**, totaling **858,000 tons**, due to **contract cancellations**, while **soyoil imports surged 38%** to **495,000 tons**, the highest in three years, aided by **delayed shipments** and **competitive prices**. With **sunflower oil imports down 7%**, India's **total edible oil imports still rose 1.5%** to **1.53 million tons**, the highest since November.
- India's **tea production dropped 9% in June 2025** to **133.5 million kg**, compared to **146.72 million kg** in June 2024, due to **adverse weather** and **pest infestations**. Output from both **North and South India** fell, impacting **big planters and small growers alike**. The fall was evident across all major tea types, including **CTC, orthodox, and green tea**, raising concerns for the industry.
- In a strategic move to boost its **value-added product portfolio**, **JSW Steel Limited** has committed **₹5,845 crore** to expand **Cold Rolled Grain-Oriented (CRGO)** steel manufacturing in collaboration with **JFE Steel Corporation** of Japan. This expansion includes increasing the **Nashik facility's capacity** from **50,000 TPA to 250,000 TPA** at a cost of **₹4,300 crore**, and upgrading the **Vijayanagar unit** in Karnataka from **62,000 TPA to 100,000 TPA** with **₹1,545 crore** investment.
- The Business Confidence Index (BCI) surged to **149.4** in the first quarter of fiscal year 2025-26 (April-June), up from **139.3** in the previous quarter, according to the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). This jump reflects strong optimism among Indian businesses about the near-term economic outlook. **Positive expectations across key indicators,** 78.7% of firms expect production to increase. 79.1% anticipate higher domestic sales. 66.5% foresee growth in exports of final products. 54.3% expect increased imports of raw materials, signaling growth in domestic production. Nearly 61% expect pre-tax profits to rise.
- In a major international expansion move, **Tata Motors** has announced its **largest acquisition since Jaguar Land Rover (2008)** by agreeing to acquire **Italian commercial vehicle manufacturer Iveco** for **€3.8 billion** (excluding its defence business). This also marks the **Tata Group's biggest deal since acquiring Corus** in 2007. The acquisition aims to merge the **complementary capabilities** of both companies, with minimal **overlap in geographies or industrial assets**, resulting in a **diversified commercial vehicle giant** with **combined sales of over 540,000 units annually** and revenues of **€22 billion**. The deal gives Tata Motors a stronghold across **Europe (50%)**, **India (35%)**, and **the Americas (15%)**, and strengthens its position in **emerging markets in Asia and Africa**.
- India's **electronics exports** soared over **47% year-on-year** to **$12.4 billion** in **Q1 FY26**, driven largely by a **55% surge in mobile phone exports**, according to the **India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA)**. **Non-mobile electronics**, including **solar modules**, **networking equipment**, and **chargers**, also grew by **37%**. With momentum building, ICEA projects **FY26 exports** to hit **$46–50 billion**, up from **$38.6 billion** in FY25. Chairman **Pankaj Mohindroo** emphasized the need for a **domestic supply chain** and **globally competitive Indian brands** to ensure long-term **electronic sector sovereignty** and **value addition**.
- **Tata AutoComp Systems** has signed an agreement to fully acquire the Slovakia-based **IAC Group** through its British subsidiary, **Artifex Interior Systems Limited**. While the company has not revealed the financial details, the acquisition involves a conditional agreement to purchase 100% of IAC Group's share capital, expanding Tata AutoComp's global footprint in the auto components sector.
- India's **soyoil imports** are set to rise by **60%** in 2024/25 to a record **5.5 million tons**, driven by **cheaper prices** compared to palm oil. Meanwhile, **palm oil imports** are expected to drop **13.5%** to a five-year low of **7.8 million tons**, and **sunflower oil imports** may fall **20%** to **2.8 million tons**. This shift will increase India's total **edible oil imports** by about **1%** to **16.1 million tons**, impacting **global vegetable oil markets** by boosting soyoil prices while pressuring palm oil futures.
- The **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** has appointed **merchant bankers and legal advisers** for three years to manage **minority stake sales** in **LIC**, **public sector banks (PSBs)**, and **insurance firms** at suitable times. This move supports the government's aim to meet **SEBI's minimum public shareholding (MPS)** norm of **10%**, especially for LIC, which currently has only **3.5% public float**. The Centre may sell small stakes in LIC and up to five PSBs, and plans to make LIC eligible for **benchmark indices** by increasing its public float, boosting long-term investment potential.

- **Jio Financial Services (JFSL)** has launched a **paid tax planning and filing feature** on its **JioFinance app**, developed in partnership with **TaxBuddy**. The module offers both **self-service (starting at ₹24)** and **expert-assisted (from ₹999)** tax filing options, aiming to simplify **ITR filing** and improve **deduction accuracy**. Key tools include a **tax planner** for projecting and reducing future liabilities, **regime comparisons**, and guidance on **deductions under sections like 80C and 80D**, helping users save money and avoid dependence on costly intermediaries.
- **India** is poised to become the **world's most sought-after consumer market**, according to **Morgan Stanley**, driven by a **major energy transition**, rising **credit-to-GDP ratio**, and increased **manufacturing share in GDP**. Key factors include **lower oil intensity**, **growing exports (especially services)**, **fiscal consolidation**, and **declining inflation volatility**, all contributing to **macro stability**, **lower real interest rates**, and a **shift in household investments toward equities**. Catalysts for further growth include a potential **US trade deal**, **capex boosts**, **loan acceleration**, and **improving trade with China**.
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- BEML Limited, a state-owned Indian company, has secured its **first overseas rail-metro contract** from **Malaysia**, valued at **USD 1 million**, for the **retrofit and reconditioning** of their **Mass Rapid Transport System**. This milestone coincides with BEML's expansion, including a new **warehousing facility in Bengaluru** supporting aerospace growth. BEML, under the Ministry of Defence, operates across **defence, rail and metro, mining, and construction** sectors, with advanced manufacturing and R&D facilities across India.
- India's **exports to the US rose 19.94% to $8.01 billion in July 2025**, while **imports increased 13.78% to $4.55 billion**, making the **US India's top trading partner** during **April–July FY26**, with **exports reaching $33.53 billion** (↑21.64%) and **imports $17.41 billion** (↑12.33%). India also recorded **strong export growth to China** (↑27.39% in July), while trade declined with countries like the **Netherlands, Singapore**, and **Australia**. A **bilateral trade agreement** with the US is under negotiation, with the **6th round of talks scheduled for August 25**.
- The **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** has committed **$150 million** to the **H-DREAM Fund** managed by **HDFC Capital Advisors** to develop **25,000 green-certified affordable and mid-income homes** in India. This investment aims to mobilize up to **$850 million** from institutional investors, supporting sustainable housing projects certified under **EDGE** standards. The fund targets India's significant affordable housing gap, estimated at **18 million units** in Tier-I and Tier-II cities, promoting energy efficiency and bridging the real estate shortfall.
- At the **19th China Brand Festival** held in **Shenzhen**, the **TopBrand 2025 "Top 500 Global Brands" list** was unveiled. **Microsoft** claimed the top spot with a brand value of **$1,062.5 billion**, followed closely by **NVIDIA ($1,046.8B)** and **Apple ($997.7B)**. The rest of the **top 10** includes **Amazon**, **Alphabet (Google)**, **Saudi Aramco**, **Walmart**, **Meta (Facebook)**, **Berkshire Hathaway**, and **Broadcom**. **PetroChina** emerged as the **highest-ranked Chinese brand**, placing **14th**.

Economy/Business Current Affairs of July 2025

GDP & GROWTH RATE as per October 2024

- India's **external debt rose to $736.3 billion** in FY25, registering a **10% growth** over the previous year, with the **external debt-to-GDP ratio climbing to 19.1%**. Major contributors include **non-financial corporations and government borrowings**, while **US dollar-denominated loans** dominate the composition. Despite a decline in the short-term debt share, its **ratio to forex reserves increased**, raising questions about vulnerability to external shocks. The RBI also noted a **valuation effect** of $5.3 billion due to currency movements.
- In **FY25**, **India** added **$297 billion** to the global economy, making up **6.7%** of global **GDP growth**, according to **SBI Research**. Out of this, the **State Bank of India (SBI)** contributed **$44 billion**, which is **1.1%** of global growth and **16%** of India's total. SBI also added **₹1.38 lakh crore** in value to India's **financial services**. This highlights the **growing importance of India** and its key institutions in the **world economy**.
- 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.

- India aims to raise the **tourism sector's contribution to GDP to 10% by 2047**, from the current **5–6%**, aligning with its vision of a **$32 trillion economy**. Key types include **spiritual**, **adventure**, **medical**, and **cultural tourism**. Challenges such as **infrastructure gaps**, **environmental concerns**, and **lack of standardization** are being addressed through initiatives like **Swadesh Darshan**, **PRASHAD**, and **medical tourism promotion**. The government also focuses on **employment generation**, **e-visa facilitation**, and **sustainable practices** to ensure inclusive and resilient tourism growth.
- India's **core sector** grew **1.7%** in **June 2025**, marking a **three-month high**. Positive growth was seen in **steel (9.3%)**, **cement (9.2%)**, and **refinery products (3.4%)**, while **coal (-6.8%)**, **electricity (-2.8%)**, and **natural gas (-2.8%)** saw declines. The **April–June growth** stood at **1.3%**, reflecting an overall **sluggish industrial trend**. The **Index of Core Industries**, which represents **40.27%** of the IIP, remains a key indicator for economic planning and assessment.
- Between **March 2021 and March 2025**, **Gross NPAs dropped from 9.11% to 2.58%**, thanks to **IBC reforms**, **amendments to SARFAESI & DRT Acts**, RBI's **prudential framework**, and **specialized bank mechanisms**. Use of **e-auctions**, **valuation norms**, and penalties for misvaluation have increased **transparency** and **efficiency** in NPA recovery.
- **India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra)** has cut **India's FY26 GDP growth forecast** to **6.3%**, citing **global headwinds** like **US tariff hikes** and **weak investment climate**. Despite **monetary easing**, **low CPI inflation** (expected at **3%**), and **above-normal rainfall** projections, sectors like **telecom** and **manufacturing** may see a capex slowdown. However, **power**, **logistics**, and **retail real estate** are likely to retain growth. The **RBI's target inflation** of 4% has been consistently undercut, boosting **rural demand** and easing **loan burdens**.
- India's **net FDI inflows** dropped by **98% YoY** to **$35 million in May 2025**, due to **24% rise in repatriation** and **11% fall in gross inflows**, as per the **RBI Bulletin**. **Singapore**, **Mauritius**, **UAE**, and **USA** were major sources, with inflows into **manufacturing**, **financial**, and **IT services**. **Outward FDI** rose to **$2.1 billion**, mainly into **transport and business services**. Despite this dip, **India's FX reserves stood at $696.7 billion**, covering **11 months of imports** and **95% of external debt**.

ECONOMY NEWS

- India's **gross GST collections** surged to a **record ₹22.08 lakh crore in FY25**, marking a **9.4% growth** from the previous year and **doubling** the revenue seen in FY21. With **average monthly collections** rising and the **taxpayer base expanding** to over **1.51 crore**, the GST system has significantly contributed to **fiscal consolidation** and **tax transparency**. Celebrating **eight years of GST**, this achievement showcases India's success in building an **efficient, unified tax framework** that supports its economic ambitions.
- India's **state-wise GST collection** for **June 2025** saw **Maharashtra** leading with ₹30,553 crore, followed by **Karnataka** (₹13,409 crore) and **Gujarat** (₹11,404 crore), reflecting strong **industrial**, **commercial**, and **service sector** activities. Southern states like **Tamil Nadu**, **Telangana**, and **Andhra Pradesh** showed robust contributions, while **Delhi**, **West Bengal**, and **Odisha** drove revenues in the east and north. Smaller and northeastern states had modest collections, underlining their **developing economic bases** but highlighting strategic potential in **logistics**, **tourism**, and **regional consumption**.
- 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.
- Between **FY16 and FY25**, **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** wrote off **₹12.08 lakh crore** in **non-performing assets (NPAs)**, following **RBI guidelines**, yet continued **loan recovery** efforts via **DRT**, **SARFAESI**, and **IBC** routes. While **10 PSBs** reduced write-offs, **SBI** and **Canara Bank** saw an increase. As of March 2025, **1,629 wilful defaulters** owed over **₹1.62 lakh crore**, with assets worth **₹25,000+ crore** recovered under **PMLA** and **FEOA**. Moreover, **48,570 employees** are being recruited, as **PSBs maintain 96% staff coverage**, reflecting focused efforts in both asset recovery and human resource management.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** forecasts **India's GDP** to grow at **6.5% in 2025** and **6.7% in 2026**, driven by **strong domestic demand**, a **normal monsoon**, and **monetary easing**. **Inflation** is projected to stay within **RBI's target range**, with **CPI at a six-year low** in June. While the broader **Asia-Pacific outlook** has weakened due to **trade tensions** and **geopolitical risks**, **India remains the world's fastest-growing major economy**, according to the **Asian Development Outlook 2025**.

BUSINESS NEWS

- **Adani Green Energy Ltd** has made history by becoming the first Indian company to cross **15 GW of installed renewable energy capacity**, marking a key achievement in India's clean energy journey. With flagship projects like **Khavda**, the world's largest renewable plant under development, and plans to touch **50 GW by 2030**, AGEL is setting the pace for a sustainable energy transition. In FY25 alone, it added **3,309 MW**, a national record. The company's progress reflects India's broader ambition to be a global green energy leader.

- India's **farm sector** has demonstrated **strong economic growth**, with its **Gross Value of Output (GVO)** rising to **₹29.49 lakh crore in FY24**, a **54.6% increase** since FY12, as per the **NSO report** released on **June 27, 2025**. This reflects the **resilience of Indian agriculture**, supported by various **government schemes** and a **diversified rural economy**. The data offers critical insight for **policymakers, economists, and agricultural planners**, reinforcing the importance of sustained **agri-investment** and **reform-oriented planning**.
- Reliance Defence and **Coastal Mechanics Inc.** have announced a strategic joint venture to set up a **defence MRO facility in Nagpur**, targeting India's **₹20,000 crore upgrade market**. The venture aims to modernize critical air and land platforms like **Jaguar**, **MiG-29**, **Apache helicopters**, and **L-70 guns**, enhancing asset longevity. With India's **defence production hitting ₹1.46 trillion** in FY25 and **exports touching ₹24,000 crore**, this initiative supports the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** vision and may offer **future US defence contract access** through the FMS route.
- The Indian **commercial vehicle industry** is expected to register **3–5% growth in FY26**, as per **ICRA**, driven by a revival in **construction**, **infrastructure**, and **mining activity**. While **M&HCV** and **LCV truck** sales may see moderate improvement, the **bus segment** is forecasted to post the strongest gains at **8–10%**. However, **high inventory levels**, **geopolitical issues**, and a shift toward **pre-owned vehicles** are restraining factors. The outlook suggests **gradual recovery** but with **sector-specific risks**.
- India's **UPI ecosystem** recorded **18.40 billion transactions** worth **₹24.04 lakh crore** in **June 2025**, reflecting a **minor monthly dip** but **strong yearly growth**. Experts attribute this moderation to **seasonal effects** and believe UPI is now reaching a **mature scale**, preparing for its next expansion through **innovative use cases** like **IoT-based payments**, **embedded credit**, and **B2B transactions**. With an average of **613 million daily transactions**, UPI remains a **cornerstone of India's digital economy**.
- The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has increased the **Cost Inflation Index (CII)** to **376** for **FY2025–26**, allowing for higher **tax relief** on **long-term capital gains (LTCG)**. While the **Finance Act 2024** reduced the availability of **indexation benefits**, a **grandfathering clause** allows continued relief for taxpayers selling assets bought before **July 23, 2024**. Eligible individuals and **Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs)** can choose between a **20% indexed tax** or a **12.5% flat tax**.
- **Reliance Jio** has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the **world's largest Fixed Wireless Access (FWA)** provider, surpassing **T-Mobile**. Through its **affordable Jio AirFiber broadband**, launched in **September 2023**, and rapid **5G expansion**, Jio now serves **over 20 million users**. This has revolutionized **internet accessibility** across India, especially in **rural and underserved regions**, promoting **digital inclusion**, and laying a **blueprint for global telecoms** seeking to expand in developing markets.
- **SAIL** has inaugurated its **first international Representative Office** in **Dubai, UAE**, marking a key step in its **global expansion**. The move aims to strengthen **India's steel exports** and enhance trade ties with the **Middle East and North Africa (MENA)** region. **Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy** and top officials attended the event. **Dubai** was chosen for its **strategic location**, strong infrastructure, and access to **emerging steel markets**, supporting SAIL's goal to become a **globally competitive steelmaker**.
- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** recorded **229.33 crore Aadhaar authentication transactions** in **June 2025**, a **7.8% increase** from last year, signaling Aadhaar's growing role in **digital identity verification**. Cumulatively, Aadhaar has now enabled over **15,452 crore transactions** since launch. A notable highlight is the rise in **AI-powered Face Authentication**, which hit **15.87 crore transactions** in June 2025, up from **4.61 crore** in June 2024. This **secure, real-time** modality, developed by UIDAI, has now crossed **175 crore face authentications**, driving **digital inclusion** and **ease of access** to public services.
- **Microsoft** has closed its **Pakistan office** after **25 years** as part of its **global restructuring plan**. The decision was made on **July 4, 2025**, and came along with **9,100 job cuts** worldwide. The company is moving to a **cloud-based model** and depending more on **local partners**. Experts like **Jawwad Rehman** and leaders like **Arif Alvi** called the move a **troubling sign** for **Pakistan's economy** and blamed **instability** for losing business opportunities to countries like **Vietnam**.
- **Mashreq**, a top **UAE bank**, has received **IFSCA's in-principle approval** to open an **International Banking Unit (IBU)** in **GIFT City, Gujarat**, becoming the **first UAE-based bank** to do so. The branch, expected to start by **Q4 of 2025**, will offer **foreign currency loans**, **trade finance**, and **risk management** services. With support from the **UAE Central Bank** and **Indian SEZ bodies**, this step will **boost UAE–India financial relations**, improve **international banking services**, and show **confidence in India's financial hub**.
- On **July 4, 2025**, the **liquidity surplus** in India's banking system rose to **₹4.04 trillion**, its highest since **May 2022**, thanks to increased **government spending** and a **₹2.69 trillion surplus transfer** by the **RBI**. A **7-day VRRR auction** saw bids of **₹1.7 trillion**, with **₹1 trillion** accepted at **5.47%**. The **RBI's 0.50% CRR cut** earlier had also added **₹1.16 trillion** to the system. These developments show strong **bank liquidity**, likely leading to **cheaper loans** and more **credit flow** in the economy.
- **Adani Power Ltd** has **acquired the 600 MW Vidarbha Industries Power Ltd** in **Butibori, Nagpur** for **₹4,000 crore**, increasing its total capacity to **18,150 MW**. The deal was approved by the **NCLT** and completed on **July 7, 2025**. The company is building several new **brownfield and greenfield power plants** and aims to reach **30,670 MW by 2029-30**. **CEO SB Khyalia** said the company remains focused on providing **reliable, affordable electricity** to support **India's development goals**.

- **Nvidia** became the **first publicly traded company** to reach a **$4 trillion market value**, thanks to a **1,350% rise in its stock** since **October 2022**. The company now has the **largest share** in the **S&P 500**, showing its growing power in the stock market. Other tech giants like **Microsoft**, **Apple**, and **Amazon** are also close behind, with the **technology sector** now making up **one-third** of the S&P 500. This event proves how important **Nvidia** and other tech companies have become to the global economy.
- **Indian government** extended the **tax exemption for Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs)** and **Pension Funds** on their investments in India until **March 31, 2030**. This policy covers **dividends, interest, and long-term capital gains** and aims to **attract long-term foreign investment** in sectors like **telecom, logistics, and energy**. The rule was first introduced in **2020** under **Section 10(23FE)** of the **Income Tax Act**, and the latest extension was officially notified by the **Department of Revenue**. According to **NSDL**, assets held by SWFs in Indian companies have grown by **60% year-on-year**, reaching **₹4.7 lakh crore** by **April 2024**, showing strong investor confidence.
- **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.
- **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.
- 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.
- In **July 2025**, **HSBC** exited the **Net-Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA)**, sparking backlash from **green clients** like **Ecotricity**, who questioned the bank's **climate credibility**. The move, prompted by internal concerns over bias against carbon sectors, contrasts sharply with growing global expectations for **sustainable finance**. This development puts HSBC at the center of a critical debate on the future of **net-zero banking**, **ethical investing**, and the **financial sector's role in climate action**.
- India's **tea exports** rose by **2.85%** in FY 2024–25 to **257.88 million kg**, led by **North India**'s **8.15%** growth. **South India** saw a **4.92%** decline. The **average export price** increased by **12.65%** to **Rs 290.97 per kg**, boosting value realization. In **calendar year 2024**, total exports stood at **256.17 million kg**, a **10.57%** rise
- India's **net FDI inflows** dropped by **98% YoY** to **$35 million in May 2025**, due to **24% rise in repatriation** and **11% fall in gross inflows**, as per the **RBI Bulletin**. **Singapore**, **Mauritius**, **UAE**, and **USA** were major sources, with inflows into **manufacturing**, **financial**, and **IT services**. **Outward FDI** rose to **$2.1 billion**, mainly into **transport and business services**. Despite this dip, **India's FX reserves stood at $696.7 billion**, covering **11 months of imports** and **95% of external debt**.

Economy/Business Current Affairs of June 2025

ECONOMY NEWS

- 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.
- 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**, **NICL**, **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

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**.
- **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 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.

Economy/Business Current Affairs of April 2025

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

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.

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**.
- 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**.
- 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 **Valueattics 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 Muraleedharan** 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.

Defense Current Affairs

Defense Current Affairs of August 2025

EXERCISE

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
SIMBEX 2025	**India-Singapore**	The **Indian Navy** and the **Republic of Singapore Navy** concluded **SIMBEX 2025**, held from **July 28 to August 1**, with joint exercises in the **South China Sea**. Featuring ships, aircraft, and professional exchanges, this **32nd edition** strengthened **maritime security cooperation** as both nations marked **60 years of diplomatic relations**.
SLINEX-25	**India and Sri Lanka**	Indian Naval Ships **INS Rana** and **INS Jyoti** arrived in **Colombo** for the **12th edition of SLINEX-25**, a **bilateral naval exercise** between **India and Sri Lanka**, aimed at boosting **interoperability**, **maritime cooperation**, and **exchange of best practices**.
Operation Alert		The Border Security Force (BSF) has launched **Operation Alert**, a high-intensity security drive along the **Rajasthan border** from **August 11 to 17, 2025**, ahead of **Independence Day**. The operation focuses on **strengthening border security**, rehearsing **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**, and countering potential threats through **intensified patrols**, **technology-driven surveillance**, and **full force deployment** on August 15.

DEAL & MoU's

- India received the **final Airbus C-295MW transport aircraft** from **Spain**, completing the delivery of the first 16 planes under the **2021 contract**. The aircraft, capable of carrying **5–10 tonnes** with **11-hour endurance**, will replace the **ageing Avro fleet** of the IAF. The remaining **40 aircraft** will be **manufactured in India** at the **TATA Aircraft Complex, Vadodara**, India's **first private Final Assembly Line for military aircraft**. This programme strengthens India's defence self-reliance under the **Make in India initiative** and marks a **historic milestone in aviation manufacturing**.
- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, chaired by **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh**, has approved proposals worth **₹67,000 crore** to bolster India's military capabilities. For the **Indian Army**, **Thermal Imager-based Driver Night Sights** for **BMPs** were cleared to enhance night mobility. The **Indian Navy** will procure **Compact Autonomous Surface Craft**, **BrahMos Fire Control Systems**, and upgrade the **BARAK-1 Missile System**. The **Indian Air Force** will get **Mountain Radars** and upgrades to **SAKSHAM** and **SPYDER Weapon Systems**.
- The Border Security Force (BSF) has launched **Operation Alert**, a high-intensity security drive along the **Rajasthan border** from **August 11 to 17, 2025**, ahead of **Independence Day**. The operation focuses on **strengthening border security**, rehearsing **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**, and countering potential threats through **intensified patrols**, **technology-driven surveillance**, and **full force deployment** on August 15.

Defense Current Affairs of July 2025

EXERCISE

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
Jaa Mata'	**Chennai Port**	The **Japanese Coast Guard Ship JCGS Itsukushima** reached **Chennai Port** on **July 7, 2025**, as part of the **Global Ocean Voyage Training**. The six-day visit includes **joint training**, **official meetings**, and a **sea exercise** named **'Jaa Mata'**. Senior officials like **Captain Naoki Mizoguchi**, **Vice Admiral Hiroaki Kaosue**, and **Director General Paramesh Sivamani** are part of the engagement. This visit strengthens the **India-Japan maritime partnership** and supports regional goals like **SAGAR** and the **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative**.

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025	**Australia**	**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**.
Prachand Shakti	**Meerut, Uttar Pradesh**	**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**.
PASSEX (Passing Exercise)	**Mumbai**	**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**.
SIMBEX 2025	**India-Singapore**	**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.
'Bold Kurukshetra 2025'	India and Singapore	India and Singapore launched the joint military exercise 'Bold Kurukshetra 2025' in Jodhpur, focusing on urban warfare, counter-terrorism, and interoperability. The drill uses modern weaponry, real-time simulations, and advanced communication systems, reinforcing defence cooperation under India's Act East Policy. This exercise showcases growing regional strategic synergy and highlights the importance of coordinated action in complex battlefield scenarios.

TESTING

- India has **successfully completed user trials** of the **Extended Range Anti-Submarine Rocket (ERASR)**, a **fully indigenous** naval weapon designed to **detect and destroy enemy submarines**, boosting India's **maritime defence** and **self-reliance in defence technology**. Conducted from **INS Kavaratti** between **June 23 and July 7, 2025**, the trials involved **17 rocket launches** across multiple ranges. Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** hailed the **DRDO**, **Indian Navy**, and **domestic defence industry** for the achievement, stating it will **enhance the Navy's striking power**.
- **DRDO** and **Indian Air Force** successfully conducted flight tests of the **Astra Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM)** from a **Su-30 MKI fighter jet** off the **Odisha coast**. The missile, equipped with an **indigenous Radio Frequency (RF) Seeker**, **accurately hit high-speed aerial targets** in both tests. This success boosts **India's defense strength**, supports the **'Make in India'** initiative, and reduces **reliance on foreign technology**.
- 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.

- **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.
- India's **DRDO** has successfully test-fired the **UAV-Launched Precision Guided Missile (ULPGM)-V3** at **Kurnool**, marking a major boost in **drone-launched precision strike capabilities**. The **12.5 kg missile**, powered by a **dual-thrust solid motor**, uses **infrared imaging** for **day-night targeting**, supports **two-way datalink**, and offers **multiple warhead options**. Developed with support from **MSMEs**, **startups**, and major firms like **Adani** and **BDL**, the ULPGM programme has three variants, with **V3 (ULM-ER)** being the most advanced. This achievement enhances India's defence preparedness and aligns with **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** goals.

DEAL & MoU's

- **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.

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

- Rear Admiral **V Ganapathy** has taken over as the new **Commandant** of the **Military Institute of Technology (MILIT), Pune**, India's top **tri-services training institute**. His appointment is significant in light of the **armed forces' modernization**, the push for **jointness**, and the growing need for **cutting-edge defence technology** education.
- **INS Udaygiri**, India's latest **stealth frigate**, was inducted into the **Indian Navy** on **July 1, 2025**. Built in a record **37 months** under **Project 17A**, the warship showcases **advanced stealth design**, **indigenous weapon systems**, and **multi-mission capabilities** suited for **blue-water operations**. With contributions from over **200 MSMEs**, this induction highlights India's push for **defence indigenisation** and the growing strength of its **naval shipbuilding ecosystem**.
- India has **commissioned INS Tamal**, a state-of-the-art **stealth guided missile frigate**, in **Russia**, representing the **last foreign-built major warship** for the Indian Navy. Built under **Project 1135.6**, Tamal underscores the shift toward **defence indigenisation**, integrating systems like **BrahMos missiles** and **HUMSA-NG sonar**. The vessel enhances India's **blue-water capabilities** and reinforces the **Indo-Russian defence partnership**, having become the **51st ship** built under the collaboration. The **Western Fleet** now gains a powerful asset, while future warships will be **constructed domestically**, propelling India closer to its **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** vision.
- **Sub Lieutenant Aastha Poonia**, from **Meerut**, has become the **first woman** to be trained as a **fighter pilot** in the **Indian Navy**. She received the **"Wings of Gold"** at a ceremony on **July 3, 2025**, in **Visakhapatnam**. She will now train to fly fighter jets like the **MiG-29K** and **Rafale M** from aircraft carriers like **INS Vikramaditya** and **INS Vikrant**. This achievement reflects the **Indian Navy's push for gender equality**, and its aim to **promote women's roles in defense and combat aviation**.
- On **July 9, 2025**, the **Indian Navy** received **INS Nistar**, its first **indigenously designed and built Diving Support Vessel (DSV)**, from **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)** in **Visakhapatnam**. With **75% indigenous content**, **INS Nistar** can perform **deep sea diving up to 300 metres**, rescue trapped submariners using **DSRV**, and carry **ROVs** for operations up to **1000 metres**. This modern ship supports the Navy's underwater missions and reflects the goals of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and **Make in India**.
- **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.
- India is enhancing **military surveillance** by sourcing **high-resolution satellite imagery** from **global players** like **Maxar**, following **China's support to Pakistan** during **Operation Sindoor**. The **SBS-III programme** aims to launch **52 satellites** by **2029**, operated by the **Defence Space Agency**, with a **$3.2 billion budget**. This move ensures **real-time monitoring**, **improved border surveillance**, and **strategic preparedness**, while challenges like **data security** and **external dependency** remain.
- The **Indian Air Force** will **retire MiG-21 fighter jets by September 2025**, ending **60 years** of service. These **Soviet-origin supersonic aircraft**, inducted in **1963**, played major roles in wars including **1971 and Kargil**. Their replacement with the **indigenous LCA Tejas Mark 1A** signifies a move towards **modernization**, despite **challenges like delays** in jet engine supply. The shift supports the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiative and strengthens **IAF's air defense capability**.
- The **Indian Army** has received its **first Apache AH-64E helicopters** from the **United States**, aimed at **boosting firepower** in **challenging terrains**. These **state-of-the-art attack helicopters** feature **advanced targeting systems**, **precision strike capabilities**, and **night operation functionality**. The move enhances **Army Aviation Corps' autonomy**, supports **defense modernization**, and fortifies India's **tactical strength along borders**.

- The Indian Coast Guard's new vessel **'Samudra Prachet'**, launched on **July 23, 2025**, is the final **Pollution Control Vessel (PCV)** constructed by **Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL)** to enhance India's **oil spill response** and **maritime pollution control** capabilities within its **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**. With a **displacement of 4,170 tonnes** and **cutting-edge response equipment**, it supports **Atmanirbhar Bharat**, aligns with **MARPOL obligations**, and represents a milestone in **indigenous shipbuilding** and **coastal environmental protection**.

Defense Current Affairs of June 2025

EXERCISE

Exercise Name	Venue / Participating Countries	Key Notes
Exercise Tiger Claw 2025	India – Garud Regimental Training Centre, Uttar PradeshParticipants: India (IAF Garud Commandos), USA (USAF Special Forces)	• 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	MongoliaParticipants: Multinational (including India)	• 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	IndiaOrganizer: Defence Cyber Agency (Integrated Defence Staff)	• 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 LarzacParticipants: India, France	• 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 **summited Mount Everest** on **May 18, 2025**, marking NCC's **third successful expedition** to the world's highest peak. The team was **felicitated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** on **June 12, 2025**, and awarded a **₹10 lakh reward**. The expedition showcased **courage, discipline**, and **patriotism**, reinforcing the **NCC's role** in developing **resilient, confident youth**.
- 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-Maldive	• 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**	• 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	• 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	• 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**	• **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**	• 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**	• 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		• **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		• 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)		• 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'		• 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**	• **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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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.

Awards & Recognition

Awards & Recognition of August 2025

Award Name	Award Winner	Field	Key Notes
M.S. Swaminathan Global Award for Food and Peace	**Dr. Arenare**	**Food Security and Peace**	Launched by PM Modi to honour scientists from developing countries; Dr. Arenare recognized for fighting hunger in Nigeria
Equator Initiative Award 2025	Bibi Fatima Women's SHG, Dharwad	Biodiversity Conservation	Only Indian group among 10 global winners from 103 countries
Gallantry and Service Medals 2025	1,090 Police, Fire, Civil Defence & Correctional personnel	Public Safety and National Security	Includes 233 Gallantry Medals, 99 President's Medals, 758 Meritorious Medals, mostly to J&K and LWE areas
National Anubhav Awards 2025	15 retired government employees	Public Administration Storytelling	8th edition, marks 10 years of Anubhav Portal, notable one-third women representation
Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2025	Neeraj Ghaywan (Best Film & Director for *Homebound*)	Cinema and Film Direction	Film explores displacement and emotional return; stars Janhvi Kapoor and others

Awards & Recognition of July 2025

Award Name	Winner	Field	Key Notes
Honouring Ceremony at *Foundation of Future*	Radhanath Swami	Spiritual Leadership	Honoured by New York City for contributions to spiritual leadership, community service & interfaith harmony; American-born ISKCON leader.
NASA–NSS Space Settlement Design Contest 2025	S.R.N. Mehta CBSE School, Kalaburagi	Space Science / Education	1st prize for project "IRA" by 11 students; presented at ISDC-2025, Orlando; visited NASA Kennedy Space Center.
Hollywood Walk of Fame (Class of 2026)	Deepika Padukone	Cinema / Global Recognition	First Indian actress to receive a star; celebrated for global success; boosts Indian cinema's global profile.
Tamil Wikki Suran Award	V. Vedachalam	Archaeology / Tamil Epigraphy	51 years in archaeology; supported Keeladi excavations; authored 25 books; public history outreach.
Fisheries Department Excellence Award 2025	Kasaragod District	Fisheries / Aquaculture	Best district in Kerala for sustainable aquaculture; strong inland fish production.
Chintha Raveendran Award 2025	Sarankumar Limbale	Literature / Dalit Writing	Recognised for Dalit literature and social thought; awarded in Kozhikode.
IESA Industry Excellence Award 2025	Telangana (State)	Battery Manufacturing / Green Energy	For leadership in EV policy & energy storage; awarded during India Energy Storage Week.
United Nations Population Award 2025	Varsha Deshpande	Gender Equality / Social Justice	For work on saving girl children, legal reform & Dalit women empowerment; honoured by UNFPA in New York.
Hem Bahadur Malla Award 2080	Kalyan Shrestha	Judicial Leadership	Awarded in Kathmandu for judicial leadership & democracy promotion; includes Rs 2 lakh & certificate.
PEN Pinter Prize 2025	Leila Aboulela	Literature	Sudanese-Scottish author recognised for works on faith, migration & Muslim women's lives.
Kalinga Ratna Award 2024	Dharmendra Pradhan	Public Service / Education	Conferred by President Murmu in Odisha; celebrates contributions to education & cultural unity.
National Geospatial Practitioner Award 2025	INCOIS	Geospatial Technology	For innovative marine GIS use in forecasting, disaster alerts & sustainable resources.
State Kathakali Award 2023	Kuroor Vasudevan Namboothiri	Performing Arts (Kathakali)	Recognised by Kerala for Kathakali excellence.

Award Name	Winner	Field	Key Notes
Pallavur Appu Marar Vadya Puraskaram 2023	Sankara Warrier	Performing Arts (Chenda)	Honoured for mastery in Chenda percussion.
Pallavur Appu Marar Vadya Puraskaram 2023	Mattannur Sankarankutty Marar	Performing Arts (Maddalam)	Honoured for mastery in Maddalam percussion.
Keraleeya Nritta-Natya Puraskaram 2023	Girijadevi	Performing Arts (Koodiyattam)	For contributions to Koodiyattam theatre.
WSIS Prizes 2025 Champion Award	*Meri Panchayat App* (MoPR & NIC)	E-Governance / Technology	Recognised for multilingual rural governance app used in 2.65 lakh Gram Panchayats.
Best Magic Creator 2025 (FISM)	Suhani Shah	Magic / Performing Arts	First Indian to win at FISM; blends magic with psychology & storytelling.
GP Birla Memorial Award 2025	Dr. V. Narayanan (ISRO)	Space Science	Honoured for cryogenic propulsion advances & strategic missions.
PEN Translates Award 2025	Geetanjali Shree (tr. Daisy Rockwell)	Literature / Translation	For *Once Elephants Lived Here*; promotes Hindi literature & global cultural exchange.

Awards & Recognition of June 2025

Important Awards

Award Name	Award Winner	Key Notes
Global Leadership Award	**Kumar Mangalam Birla**	• **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**	• **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**	• 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**	• The **78th Locarno Film Festival**, scheduled from **August 6–16, 2025**, will bestow its highest honour, the **Pardo d'Onore (Honorary Leopard award)**, upon renowned **American filmmaker Alexander Payne**. • Payne, celebrated for his emotionally grounded storytelling in films such as *Sideways*, *Nebraska*, and *The Holdovers*, will also interact with festival audiences through retrospectives and discussions. • This tribute places him among a **prestigious list of global cinema icons**, reaffirming his role as a **master of modern humanist cinema**.

Award Name	Award Winner	Key Notes
Food Planet Prize 2025	**NitroCapt**	• 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 **CO_2 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**	• 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 **Scoot**, 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.
Padma Bhushan	**Shri Ram Bahadur Rai**	• 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**	• **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**, *The Hindu* 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	***Desi Oon***	• Indian animation film ***Desi Oon***, 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**)	• 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		• 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
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**	• 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**	• **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**	• **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**.

Award Name	Award Winner	Key Notes
National Youth Award	**Akarsh Shroff**	• **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.
Fred Darrington Award for Excellence in Art and Culture	**Sudarsan Pattnaik**	• **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**	• 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**	• 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**	• **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**	• **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.

Award Name	Award Winner	Key Notes
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.	• 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.
Gurudev Kalicharan Brahma Award 2025	**Achyuta Samanta**	• **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**	• 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**	• 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**	• **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**	• **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**.

Award Name	Award Winner	Key Notes
National Maritime Varuna Award	**Rajesh Unni**	• **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.
'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, *Harmonizing Human Touch and AI in Tourism & Hospitality*, 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.

Award Name	Award Winner	Key Notes
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**.
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, *"Reinforcement Learning: An Introduction" (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**.

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International)

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of August 2025

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Summit	**BIMSTEC Summit 2025**	Thailand	PM Modi announced the cultural initiative 'SaptaSur'; promotes regional unity through arts and culture among BIMSTEC nations.
Event	**BIMSTEC Traditional Music Festival – 'SaptaSur'**	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi	Organized by ICCR; inaugurated by EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar; features performers from 7 BIMSTEC nations; enhances regional cultural diplomacy.
Conference	**M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference**	New Delhi	Inaugurated by PM Modi; themed **"Evergreen Revolution – The Path to Bio-Happiness"**; honors Dr. Swaminathan's contributions to agriculture and food security.
Workshop	**WHO–IRCH Workshop on Herbal Medicine Safety & Regulations**	Hotel Fortune, Ghaziabad	Held from **Aug 6–8, 2025**; organized by Ministry of Ayush and WHO; attended by 15+ countries including USA, Japan, Brazil; focuses on global herbal medicine safety.
Initiative	**Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI) Strategic Plan**	Ramsar COP15 (Global Platform)	Developed by Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam with IUCN; aims to protect wetlands, build resilience, and conserve biodiversity across borders till 2030.

Summits |Events |Festivals (National/International) of July 2025

Here's your table simplified with **only key bullet points** and without unnecessary repetition:

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Summits	**ASEAN–India Cruise Dialogue**	Chennai	• First ASEAN–India Cruise Dialogue hosted by India. • 30+ delegates from ASEAN & Timor Leste. • Promote maritime cooperation & sustainable cruise tourism. • Linked to Sagarmala, Act East Policy & Viksit Bharat 2047. • Aim: Make India a regional cruise hub.
Summits	**17th BRICS Summit**	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	• PM Modi called for reforms in UN, IMF, World Bank, WTO. • Condemned terrorism; referred to April 2025 Pahalgam attack. • Supported peace via dialogue in West Asia & Europe conflicts. • Proposed: BRICS Science Repository, mineral supply chain security, responsible AI. • 'Rio Declaration' adopted on global reforms & technology.
Summits	**11th India Maize Summit**	New Delhi	• Launched plan for Maize Revolution. • Promote research, technology, and field programs. • UP's success under Accelerated Maize Development Program. • Maize key for ethanol, livestock feed, climate-smart farming. • Goal: Make India a global maize leader.
Conference	**National Conference of Urban Local Bodies**	Manesar, Gurugram	• First ULB Chairpersons' conference. • Focus: democratic governance, inclusive growth, women empowerment. • Strengthening grassroots institutions & participatory democracy.
Conference	**Global Conference on Manuscript Heritage**	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi	• First global meet on manuscript heritage (Sept 11–13, 2025). • Theme: "Reclaiming India's Knowledge Legacy." • 500+ delegates, rare exhibitions, digitisation & AI archiving sessions. • Linked to Swami Vivekananda's 1893 speech anniversary.
Conference	**Trade Facilitation Conference 2025**	New Delhi	• Theme: "Scientific Excellence for Seamless Trade." • Focus on improving testing infrastructure. • 400+ participants from trade & industry. • Aim: Boost trade efficiency, compliance & economic growth.

Summits |Events |Festivals (National/International) of June 2025

Category	Event	Key Points
Events	**first Assembly of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• **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**	• 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 Sarvasammati**. • This event also marked the inclusion of six new BRICS members, expanding cooperation across the **Global South**.
Summits	**World Air Transport Summit (WATS)**	• 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**	• **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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• **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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• **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**	• 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)**	• 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**	• **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**	• 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'**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• **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**	• 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	• **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**		• 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**	• **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.
Events	**GRIDCON 2025**	**New Delhi**.	• **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**.

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
			• 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**	• 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**	• 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**		• 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**		• 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.

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports)

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on August 2025

RANKING

- **NITI Aayog** has launched the report "Unlocking a $200 Billion Opportunity: Electric Vehicles in India" on **4th August 2025**, providing a blueprint to fast-track India's **Electric Vehicle transition**. Released by **Shri Rajiv Gauba**, the report highlights India's progress in EV sales—from **50,000 in 2016** to **2.08 million in 2024**—and outlines actionable steps to achieve **30% EV penetration by 2030**. It stresses the need for stronger measures, **cross-sector collaboration**, and **data-driven decisions** to overcome challenges and unlock India's $200 billion EV opportunity.
- India has become the **world's 5th largest aviation market** in 2024, carrying **241 million passengers**, a growth of **11.1% over 2023**. The **Mumbai-Delhi route ranked 7th among the busiest global air corridors**, while **premium class travel surged 11.8%**. Aircraft like the **Boeing B737 and Airbus A320** dominated global skies. The achievement highlights India's expanding role in global aviation, with strong growth prospects in both domestic and international travel.

- The **Housing Price Index (HPI)** for **13 major Indian cities** rose by **8 points year-on-year** to **132 in March 2025**, according to a **Housing.com–ISB report**. Despite remaining **stagnant since February**, the market reflects a **healthy consolidation phase**, following previous surges. This **price stabilisation**—driven by **cautious buyer sentiment**, **supply-side adjustments**, and **global headwinds**—is viewed as a foundation for **sustainable growth**. Cities tracked include **Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, Gurugram**, and others. Experts predict continued **market maturity**, supported by **rate cuts**, **income growth**, and **rising affordability**.
- A study by **IIT Bombay** reveals that between 2015 and 2019, India lost **18 sq km of forest for every 1 sq km gained**, with all states experiencing a **net forest cover loss**. Although some gains occurred in states like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, over half the new forest areas were **fragmented islets** lacking **structural connectivity**, reducing their ecological value. The study highlights the need to prioritize **continuous, connected forests** for biodiversity and resilience, contrasting with the Forest Survey of India's broader metrics that don't account for fragmentation, urging improved **forest connectivity assessments** for better conservation planning.

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on July 2025

Topic / Report	Key Data & Achievements
Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2025: Top 10 Countries	**Top countries by unicorn count:** 1. United States – 758 (San Francisco, New York, Boston, Austin) 2. China – 343 (Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Guangzhou) 3. India – 64 (Bengaluru, Mumbai, Gurugram) 4. UK – 61 (London) 5. Germany – 36 (Berlin) 6. France – 30 (Paris) 7. Canada – 28 (Toronto) 8. Israel – 20 (Tel Aviv) 9. South Korea – 18 (Seoul) & Singapore – 18 (Singapore). **Notes:** USA & China host 72% of global unicorns; San Francisco is the "Unicorn Capital." India ranks 3rd with startups like Zerodha, Dream11, Razorpay.
India's Under-Five Mortality & Immunization Progress	**UN IGME 2024:** India achieved a **78% reduction** in under-five mortality (global avg: 61%). Neonatal mortality down 70%. Key drivers: Universal Immunization Programme (UIP), outreach to underserved areas. Significant drop in zero-dose children. Supports progress toward SDGs.
Prajakta Koli in TIME100 Creators 2025	Prajakta Koli (*MostlySane*) – only Indian on 2025 TIME100 Creators List. 7M+ YouTube subscribers, Netflix & Bollywood roles, debut novel, collaborations with UN & WEF. She thanked her fans and her younger self.
Forbes: African-Born US Billionaires 2025	**Forbes (Jul 13, 2025):** 8 African-born billionaires among America's 125 richest immigrants. Countries: South Africa (Elon Musk, Patrick Soon-Shiong, Rodney Sacks), Nigeria, Egypt, Morocco, Kenya. Immigrant billionaires = 14% of US-based billionaires, controlling 18% of total wealth. Elon Musk is world's richest at $393.1B. Most are self-made.
India's Most Polluted & Cleanest Cities 2025	**CREA report (Jan–Jun 2025):** Most polluted: Byrnihat & Delhi (PM2.5 > 40 µg/m³). 259 of 293 cities already exceed safe annual limit. Cleanest city: Aizawl, Mizoram. Highlights urgent pollution control need.
QS Best Student Cities 2026	Delhi – world's most affordable student city. Mumbai (98th), Delhi (104th), Bengaluru (108th), Chennai (128th) improved ranks. Reflects India's strength in affordability, employability, and academic quality per NEP 2020.
Hurun India U30 List 2025	79 under-30 entrepreneurs recognized (e.g., Zepto founders). Raised $5.2B+, created 64,000+ jobs. Mostly first-generation founders across software, FMCG, fintech. Highlights India's rising young entrepreneurial spirit.
World Bank: Indian Urbanization Risks 2025	Cities to generate 70% of new jobs by 2030, but climate risks (heat, floods) may cause $5B annual loss by 2030. $2.4T needed for resilient infrastructure by 2050. High-risk cities: Delhi, Chennai, Surat, Lucknow. Success stories: Ahmedabad, Indore, Kolkata.
CSMIA Among Top 10 Airports 2025	**Travel + Leisure 2025:** Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport ranked in world's top 10. Reader score: 84.23. Handles 55M+ passengers/year, 121 destinations. Best single-runway airport. Repeated winner for 3 years; recent digital upgrades.
Henley Passport Index India Ranking 2025	India rose from 85th to 77th globally – biggest rise. Visa-free/VOA access to 59 countries (Malaysia, Thailand, Maldives, Sri Lanka, etc.). Reflects stronger diplomacy. Still behind leaders like Singapore (193 destinations).
World Bank: India Gini Index & Poverty Progress	**Gini Index 2025:** India is **4th most equal** globally (score: 25.5) ahead of China (35.7) & US (41.8). Extreme poverty down to 2.3% (from 16.2% in 2011–12); $3/day poverty at 5.3%. **171M lifted out of poverty** in 12 years. Key schemes: Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, DBT, Ayushman Bharat, Stand-Up India, PMGKAY.
NITI Aayog SDG Index NE Districts 2023–24	**2nd edition (Jul 7, 2025):** 121 districts assessed; 85% improved SDG score. Best: Hnahthial (Mizoram) – 81.43. Lowest: Longding (Arunachal) – 58.71. All Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura districts = "Front Runners." Sikkim had most consistent scores.

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

HDI Rank (2023)	Country	HDI Value (2023)
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**	• 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 HNWIs in 2024

Rank	Country	Number of HNWIs	Percentage of Global HNWIs
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)
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**.

Books & Authors

Books & Authors of July 2025

Book Name	Author	Key Notes
Confessions of a Shakespeare Addict	Retired IPS officer V.S. Ravi	• Retired IPS officer V.S. Ravi launched his book "Confessions of a Shakespeare Addict" on July 7, 2025, in Hyderabad. • The book is a tribute to William Shakespeare, showcasing Ravi's long journey with the Bard's works. Guests like P.S. Ramamohan Rao, S. Chakravarthy, and A.K. Khan praised Ravi's deep understanding of Shakespeare's timeless writings. • The Hindu Chairperson Nirmala Lakshman also appreciated Ravi's literary contributions. The book captures Ravi's love for Shakespeare and is aimed at making his work accessible to modern readers.
Das Paise ka Postcard	S.N. Ahmed	• A new book titled "Das Paise ka Postcard" by S.N. Ahmed, a retired Indian Army officer, was released on July 10, 2025, in Hyderabad. • The book, which highlights the emotional value of postcards from the past, was launched by actor and director Vinay Varma. • It will soon be adapted into a stage play, aiming to revive the memories of handwritten letters and their role in human connection. The book is a heartfelt tribute to the postcard era, reminding us of the beauty of simple, personal messages.
"Sustainable Wellness of Students: A Collective Responsibility in Higher Education"		• In a significant step towards promoting student welfare and mental health, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on July 26, 2025, released a book titled "Sustainable Wellness of Students: A Collective Responsibility in Higher Education" at a special program held at the Chief Minister's residence auditorium in Dehradun. • The initiative highlights the growing need to address the psychological and social challenges faced by students in higher education institutions.

Books & Authors of June 2025

Book Name	Author	Key Notes
Indira Gandhi and the Years that Transformed India	TCA Srinivasa Raghavan	• 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	• 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	• Debut novel following Shazma's spiritual and political journey • Explores ancestral wisdom, identity, and personal transformation • A meditation on faith, courage, and belonging
India's Finance Ministers III: Different Strokes (1998–2014)	A.K. Bhattacharya	• 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	• 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)	• 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	• 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	• 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	• Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar released 'Janta Ki Kahani – Meri Aatamkatha', the autobiography of Bandaru Dattatraya, Governor of Haryana.
Transforming Lives		• 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.

Book Name	Author	Key Notes
Original Sin	Jake Tapper and Alex Thompson	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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'		• 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'		• 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,	• 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	• 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.

Sports Current Affairs

Sports Current Affairs of August 2025

Cricket

- In the **World Championship of Legends (WCL) 2025 Final**, held at **Edgbaston**, **AB de Villiers** delivered a breathtaking century off just 58 balls to lead **South Africa Champions** to a dominant **9-wicket victory** over **Pakistan Champions**. Pakistan, guided by **Sharjeel Khan's 76**, had posted a competitive 195/5. However, de Villiers' masterclass, supported by **JP Duminy**, ensured a smooth chase. Despite battling injury, de Villiers overshadowed Pakistan's spirited performance, sealing South Africa's title in the second edition of the WCL.
- **Australian cricketer David Warner** has overtaken **Virat Kohli** to become the **fifth-highest run-scorer in T20 cricket** with **13,545 runs**, achieving the milestone during **The Hundred 2025** while playing for **London Spirit**. Warner scored a brilliant **71 off 51 balls** against Manchester Originals, taking his T20 stats to **419 matches**, **36.80 average**, **140+ strike rate**, **8 centuries**, and **113 fifties**. Despite his performance, his team fell short of a 164-run chase. This is Warner's **debut season in The Hundred**, where he has already scored **150 runs in 3 matches** at an average of **75.00**.
- Shubman Gill and Sophia Dunkley were named ICC Players of the Month for July 2025. Gill, in his debut series as India's Test captain, smashed **567 runs in 3 Tests** against England, including a **record-breaking double century (269)**—the highest Test score by an Indian in England—leading India to a **2-2 series draw** and earning Player of the Series. Sophia Dunkley excelled for England in the T20I and ODI series vs India, scoring **144 runs in T20Is** and **126 runs in ODIs**, showcasing consistent, match-winning batting performances that earned her the Women's Player of the Month award.

Archery & Shooting

- India has launched its **first-ever Archery League**, set to take place in **October 2025** at the **Yamuna Sports Complex in Delhi**. Organized by the **Archery Association of India**, the league will feature **six franchise teams**, including top Indian and international archers. It has the backing of **World Archery**, **World Archery Asia**, and the **Sports Ministry**. This professional league is expected to revolutionize the sport in India, boosting competitiveness and global attention.

Athletics & Football

- India's star javelin thrower **Annu Rani** clinched the **gold medal** at the **International Wiesław Maniak Memorial** in Poland with a **season-best throw of 62.59 meters**. The 32-year-old Asian Games gold medallist dominated the event with an early lead and now ranks among the **top 15 javelin throwers globally** this season. She is aiming to cross the **64m qualification mark** for the **2025 World Athletics Championships** in Tokyo.

- In a significant milestone for women's football, **India's first FIFA Talent Academy for girls** was inaugurated in **Hyderabad** at the **Gachibowli Stadium Complex**. The initiative, a collaboration between **AIFF, FIFA**, and the **Telangana Government**, will support **30 girls and 30 boys** with residential training, education, health care, and wellness programs. The academy is a crucial step under FIFA's **Talent Development Scheme** to prepare India's youth for global competitions like the **U-17 FIFA World Cups**.
- Real Madrid has been named the **world's most valuable football club in 2025** by the **Brand Finance Football 50** report, boasting a **brand value of €1.921 billion** and a near-perfect **brand strength score of 94.9**. Leading the ranking for the **fourth consecutive year**, Real Madrid's success stems from its **global fanbase**, **record revenues**, and **strategic sponsorships**, highlighted by their **15th UEFA Champions League title**. Other top clubs include **FC Barcelona (€1.7bn)**, **Manchester City (€1.4bn)**, **Liverpool (€1.4bn)**, and **PSG (€1.4bn)**, reflecting the commercial power of Europe's elite football teams.
- India's **Minerva Academy FC** has scripted history by winning the **U-14 Norway Cup 2025**, defeating Norwegian side **SIF** with a dominant **14-1 victory** in the final. The Chandigarh-based academy not only lifted the trophy but also set an **all-time tournament scoring record**, netting **130 goals in eight matches**—an astonishing average of **16.57 goals per game**.

Other Sports News

- At the **Hungarian Grand Prix 2025**, **Lando Norris** secured a thrilling victory after a fierce battle with teammate **Oscar Piastri**, finishing just **0.698 seconds** ahead. This marked Norris's **fifth win of the season**, reducing Piastri's championship lead to just nine points. **George Russell** completed the podium, while early leader **Charles Leclerc** dropped to fourth due to a penalty. The race featured strategic surprises and tight duels, making it one of the season's highlights.
- In chess, **Magnus Carlsen** dominated the **Chess Esports World Cup 2025** held in **Riyadh**, defeating **Alireza Firouzja** with a scoreline of **4–2–1**. Representing **Team Liquid**, Carlsen claimed the inaugural title and a **prize of $250,000**, while Firouzja, playing for **Team Falcons**, earned **$190,000**. The event signifies a historic step as chess embraces the **esports era**, blending traditional mastery with digital engagement.
- The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** has officially approved **India's bid to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games** during its **Special General Meeting in Delhi**. India will submit its final proposal before the **August 31 deadline**. If successful, this will mark **20 years since India last hosted** the Games in **New Delhi in 2010**, the country's **first and only** time hosting the prestigious event.
- India's Namrata Batra has made history by reaching the **women's 52 kg Wushu final** at the 2025 World Games in Chengdu, China. By defeating Philippines' Krizan Faith Collado 2-0, she secured **India's first-ever World Games medal in Wushu**, guaranteeing at least a silver medal. Namrata will now face Mengyue Chen of China in the final on Tuesday, battling for gold. Additionally, Rishabh Yadav earned India's first individual medal at the Games with a **bronze in men's compound archery**.
- The **Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF)** mascot and logo were unveiled in **Srinagar**, ahead of the **first-ever water games** under the **Khelo India** initiative, set to be held at **Dal Lake** from **August 21–23, 2025**. The colourful **Himalayan Kingfisher**, symbolizing **adventure**, **eco-sports**, and **Kashmir's natural beauty**, was introduced as the official mascot. Hosted by the **J&K Sports Council** with support from the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** and **SAI**, the event will feature medal events like **rowing**, **canoeing**, and **kayaking**, along with demo events such as **shikara race** and **dragon boat race**. Over **400 athletes** from **36 states and UTs** are expected to participate, making **Dal Lake** a new **hub for water sports** in India.
- **India secured a total of 27 medals** at the **Asian U19 & U22 Boxing Championships 2025** in **Bangkok**, marking a strong finish with **Ritika winning gold** in the **women's 80+ kg category**. The **U19 team** claimed **14 medals** (3 gold, 7 silver, 4 bronze), finishing **second overall**, while the **U22 team** earned **13 medals** (1 gold, 4 silver, 8 bronze). Standout performances included **Yatri Patel**, **Priya**, **Neeraj**, and **Ishan Kataria**, all winning silver. The results affirm **India's growing strength in amateur boxing** and its **robust youth talent pipeline**.

Sports Current Affairs of July 2025

CRICKET

- India achieved a **historic Test victory** at **Edgbaston** on **July 6, 2025**, beating **England** by a **record 336-run margin**, the **biggest overseas win** for India in terms of runs. **Akash Deep** stood out with **10 wickets**, the **best Test figures by an Indian in England**. This was also **India's first Test win at Edgbaston** after **seven losses**. The match saw several records broken, including the **highest total runs** in a Test between the two nations. **India has now leveled the series** 1-1, marking a proud moment in Indian cricket history.
- The **IPL's total value** rose to **$18.5 billion** in **2025**, showing its growing status as a top sports league. **RCB** became the **most valued franchise** at **$269 million** after winning the **2025 title**. **Mumbai Indians** and **CSK** followed behind. **Sponsorships** and **viewership** also broke records—**JioHotstar** and **Star Sports** saw historic numbers. **Tata Group** extended its sponsorship deal, and **PBKS** showed the highest growth in brand value. The league's success shows that the **IPL** is now a **global sports business**, combining cricket, entertainment, and media in a way few other events do.

- **On July 10, 2025**, **Sachin Tendulkar's portrait** was officially unveiled at the **MCC Museum at Lord's Cricket Ground** in **London**, a place known as the **Home of Cricket**. The painting was created by **Stuart Pearson Wright**, and Tendulkar also **rang the bell** to begin the day's **India vs. England Test match**. He shared memories of his early days in **England** and said the portrait was a special moment in his journey. He also praised **Shubman Gill**, India's new captain, for his calm leadership and good form.
- On **July 11, 2025**, both **Italy** and the **Netherlands** confirmed their spots in the **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026** after the final matches of the **Europe Qualifiers**. This will be **Italy's first appearance** at the global event. Despite losing to the Netherlands, Italy ensured qualification by holding their opponents till the **17th over**, maintaining a better **net run rate**. The Netherlands chased down **134/7** with strong performances from **Roelof van der Merwe** and **Michael Levitt**. A total of **15 teams** have qualified so far, with more to be confirmed through upcoming qualifiers. The World Cup will take place in **India and Sri Lanka** in 2026.
- **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.
- 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.
- **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**.
- The **England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB)** has been awarded hosting rights for the **2027, 2029, and 2031 ICC World Test Championship Finals**, following its successful execution of the **2021, 2023, and 2025 finals**. The announcement came during the **ICC Annual Conference 2025** in **Singapore**. This decision, underpinned by England's rich cricketing legacy and strong infrastructure, is set to reinforce the global standing of **Test cricket**, enhance **fan engagement**, and ensure continuity in staging this prestigious event.
- **Joe Root** has become the **second-highest run-getter in Test cricket**, surpassing **Dravid**, **Kallis**, and **Ponting** in a single innings at **Old Trafford**. With **38 centuries** (equal to **Sangakkara**) and **104 fifties**, he is second only to **Tendulkar** in both major milestones. Root also became the **first batter to score 1,000+ Test runs at Old Trafford**, solidifying his status as a **modern legend** of the game. His form has been particularly dominant in the last five years, marked by consistency and big hundreds.

BADMINTON & TENNIS

- **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.
- **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.**
- The **Japan Open Badminton 2025**, a key **BWF World Tour** event, saw **Shi Yuqi** of **China** win the **men's singles title**, while **South Korea's An Se-young** claimed her **sixth championship** of the year in the **women's singles**. China emerged as the **top-performing nation**, winning **three gold medals** in total, while **South Korea** and **Malaysia** also registered strong finishes. The tournament reinforced the **dominance of Asian countries in global badminton**, showcasing world-class talent and resilience across all events.
- India made **history at the Badminton Asia Junior Championships 2025** as **Tanvi Sharma** and **Vennala Kalagotla** became the **first Indian women's singles duo** to win medals at the same edition. **Tanvi**, the **junior World No. 1**, showcased dominance with straight-game victories, while **Vennala**, ranked **World No. 103**, showed resilience in tight matches. This **unprecedented feat** highlights India's rising stature in **junior women's badminton** and marks a **significant milestone** in the nation's sporting achievements.

Chess

- **Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh** won the **rapid title** at the **SuperUnited Rapid & Blitz 2025** in **Zagreb, Croatia**, on **July 4**, scoring **14 points**. He now leads the **Grand Chess Tour** ahead of **Jan-Krzysztof Duda (11 points)** and **Magnus Carlsen (10 points)**. The **blitz section begins on July 5**, and the **overall winner** will be decided by the combined scores of both formats.
- **Magnus Carlsen** won the **SuperUnited Rapid and Blitz 2025** chess tournament in **Zagreb, Croatia** on **July 7**, finishing with **22.5/36**. He secured the title one round early. **Wesley So** of the **USA** came second with **20/36**, and **India's D Gukesh** took third with **19.5/36**. This Grand Chess Tour event tested players in **Rapid and Blitz formats**. Gukesh, despite challenges in Blitz, showed strong progress. The **next event** will be held in **Saint Louis, Missouri** in **August 2025**.
- **Harikrishnan A. Ra.**, a **23-year-old** from **Chennai**, became **India's 87th Grandmaster** after earning his **third GM norm** at the **La Plagne International Chess Festival** in **France** on **July 11, 2025**. Coached by **Shyam Sundar**, Harikrishnan had previously earned GM norms in **Switzerland** (2023) and **Spain** (June 2025). His final performance, including a draw with **P. Iniyan** and a win over **Jules Moussard**, secured the title. Harikrishnan, who recently finished his **M.Com from SRM**, plans to compete in **Spain and Portugal** before pursuing an **MBA in the USA**. His next goal is to reach an **Elo rating of 2600**.
- The **FIDE World Cup 2025** will be held in **India from October 30–November 27** with **206 players** in a **knockout format**. The event offers **3 qualification spots** for the **2026 Candidates Tournament**. India's strong performance in recent international events and its chess culture make it an ideal host. **Qualification routes** include champions, ratings, continental events, and nominations. With stars like **Gukesh**, **Praggnanandhaa**, and **Erigaisi**, India is cementing its role as a **chess powerhouse**.

Grand Prix

- **Lando Norris** won the **British Grand Prix** at **Silverstone** on **July 6, 2025**, in a wet and exciting race. He took the lead after **Oscar Piastri** received a **10-second penalty**, which helped Norris reduce the points gap in the **Formula 1 championship**. It was **McLaren's first win** at Silverstone since **2008**. **Nico Hülkenberg** finished third, and **Max Verstappen** came fifth after a spin. Many **rookie drivers** crashed out due to the rain. Norris called the win a dream come true in front of his home fans.

ATHLETIC & FOOTBALL

- **India** will place a **strategic bid** to host the **2029 or 2031 World Athletics Championships**, according to **AFI official Adille Sumariwalla** on **July 6, 2025** in **Bengaluru**. The bidding process starts this year, and final decisions will be made in **September 2026**. Since **Tokyo (2025)** and **Beijing (2027)** are already hosting, **India** may have a better chance at **2031**. India has also shown interest in hosting the **2028 Junior World Championships** and future **Athletics Relay events**. These efforts are part of India's goal to bring the **Olympics to the country in 2036**.
- **Mexico** defeated the **United States 2-1** in the **CONCACAF Gold Cup 2025 final** held at **NRG Stadium, Houston**. **Chris Richards** scored early for the **US**, but **Raul Jimenez** and **Edson Alvarez** scored for **Mexico** to seal the win. This victory gives **Mexico** a **record 10th Gold Cup title**. The match saw dramatic moments, strong performances, and emotional tributes, making it a memorable final for football fans across the region.
- **Neeraj Chopra** won the **inaugural Neeraj Chopra Classic 2025** in **Bengaluru** with a best **javelin throw of 86.18 metres**. The event was held at the **Sree Kanteerava Stadium** as part of the **World Athletics Gold-level** series. **Kenya's Julius Yego** finished second with **84.51 metres**, while **Sri Lanka's Rumesh Pathirage** came third with **84.34 metres**. Neeraj impressed the crowd with a strong third throw, keeping his top form ahead of upcoming global competitions. **This new event also marks India's growing presence in international athletics**.
- The **Indian men's football team** has dropped **six places** to **133rd** in the **FIFA rankings**, marking its **worst ranking since December 2016**. The decline follows recent defeats to **Thailand** and **Hong Kong** in **June 2025**, which also led to **coach Manolo Marquez's exit**. India's performance under him saw just **one win in eight matches**. With the team struggling and **qualification for the 2027 Asian Cup** at risk, **India's next chance** to bounce back will come in **October against Singapore**.
- **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.

OTHER SPORTS NEWS

- On **July 1, 2025**, the **Union Cabinet approved the National Sports Policy** to transform India into a **global sports powerhouse**. The policy emphasizes **athlete-centric development**, **mass fitness participation**, **sports tourism**, and **transparent governance**. It envisions a robust ecosystem driven by **education integration**, **corporate involvement**, and the **manufacture of sports goods**, aligning sports with **economic growth** and **social well-being**.

- India made history at the **World Boxing Cup 2025** in **Astana** by winning **11 medals**, including **3 gold**, **5 silver**, and **3 bronze**. **Sakshi**, **Jaismine**, and **Nupur** were the gold medal winners who led the team to success. Their wins against strong opponents from the **USA**, **Brazil**, and **Kazakhstan** brought pride to the country. This was India's **best medal haul ever** at this event and shows the **growing power of Indian women boxers** on the global stage.
- **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**.
- **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**.
- 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**.
- The **Fit India Sundays on Cycle** program, under the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**, is a national-level campaign promoting **fitness**, **youth empowerment**, and a **drug-free lifestyle**. With large-scale participation, including events like the one held at **BHU Varanasi**, the initiative integrates **cycling, yoga, games**, and **public awareness** to support the vision of **Viksit Bharat**. It fosters **healthy habits**, encourages **community involvement**, and delivers a **strong social message**, making it a cornerstone of India's public health and youth development strategy.
- The **MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship 2025** began at **Kari Motor Speedway**, featuring top performances by **teen drivers** like **Ishaan Madesh**, **Arjun Chheda**, **Bhuvan Bonu**, and others across **F2000**, **F1600**, and **Touring Cars**. Key names included **Biren Pithawalla**, **Arjun Balu**, and **Rithwik Thomas**. The event marked the **rising dominance of youth** in Indian motorsport and highlighted India's growing presence in **competitive racing circuits**.
- **Riley Powell**, a **16-year-old Welsh cueist**, defeated **Pankaj Advani** in the final of the **IBSF World 6-Red Snooker Championship 2025** held in **Manama, Bahrain**, with a **5-4 victory**. Advani, on his 40th birthday, was denied his **29th world title**. The win is a **major milestone** for Powell and reflects the **rise of young global talent** in snooker.
- India won its **first gold medal** at the **FISU World University Games 2025** as **Parneet Kaur and Kushal Dalal** triumphed in the **compound mixed team archery** event. India also secured a **silver** in **compound men's team** and a **bronze** in **compound women's team**. This performance boosts India's prospects ahead of the **LA 2028 Olympics**, where **compound archery** will debut. The event underscores the **rising standards in university-level sports**, especially for **women athletes** and **non-mainstream sports**.

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 'Viraaj' 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

- T**he 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 *CSI2-1-* 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**, **Rudrankksh 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.
- **Mushfiqur 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.

Science & Technology

Science & Technology of August 2025

SATELLITE LAUNCHES

- **ISRO** is preparing to launch the **6,500 kg BlueBird communications satellite**, developed by **AST SpaceMobile (USA)**, aboard the **LVM3** from **Sriharikota** in **late 2025**. This mission follows the successful **NISAR** launch and reflects the strengthening **Indo-U.S. space collaboration**. It also aligns with India's broader space goals, including the **Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme** and the target to establish the **Bharatiya Antariksh Station by 2035**.

NATIONAL

- **ISRO** conducted a **10-day high-altitude space simulation** at **14,000 feet in Ladakh** under its **Gaganyaan programme**. Held at the newly inaugurated **HOPE (Himalayan Outpost for Planetary Exploration)** facility by **Protoplanet**, the study focused on **isolation, cold stress**, and **mental health** impacts. Two participants, **Rahul Mogalapalli** and **Yaman Akot**, were selected from **135 applicants**, mimicking **astronaut routines**.
- To improve agricultural resilience, **ICRISAT**, in collaboration with **ICAR** and under the **Monsoon Mission III**, launched an **AI-powered climate advisory** in **Maharashtra**. Using an **AI-enabled WhatsApp bot**, the service provides **hyper-local weather insights** to **smallholder farmers**, with plans for a **national and international rollout**.
- The **IndiaAI** and **National Cancer Grid (NCG)** launched the **CATCH Grant Program**, offering **pilot grants up to ₹50 lakh** and **scale-up funding up to ₹1 crore**. The program, open until **September 2, 2025**, supports **AI-driven solutions** in **cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment**, encouraging **responsible AI development** and **clinical validation**.
- **BharatGen AI**, under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, will support **all 22 languages** of the **Eighth Schedule** by **June 2026**. This initiative, part of the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems**, aims to ensure **digital inclusivity** and promote **multilingual AI ecosystems** across India.
- **Dr. Jitendra Singh** inaugurated **India's first Animal Stem Cell Biobank and Laboratory** at **NIAB, Hyderabad**, marking a major leap in **veterinary biotechnology**. He also laid the foundation for new infrastructure worth **₹19.98 crore** to support research. The lab, built at **₹1.85 crore**, will focus on **regenerative medicine** and **cellular therapies** for livestock. He also launched **five innovative veterinary diagnostic tools** to combat **antimicrobial resistance** and support the **'One Health'** approach. Praising **PM Modi's BioE3 policy**, the minister emphasized India's leadership in **biotech-driven growth**, aiming for an **Evergreen Revolution** in **animal husbandry** and agriculture.
- **Rare Blue Pinkgill mushroom, native to New Zealand, discovered in Telangana's Kagaznagar forest**, showcasing its **striking sky-blue colour** due to rare **azulene pigments**. Additionally, the **shuttlecock mushroom spotted for the first time in Eastern Ghats** (Kawal Tiger Reserve), highlighting the region's **rich fungal diversity** and unique ecological conditions.
- **ISRO has inaugurated a cutting-edge space laboratory** at Mechuka Government Higher Secondary School in **Shi-Yomi district**, Arunachal Pradesh. Opened by **Education Minister Pasang Dorjee Sona**, the lab—established in collaboration with **ISRO and Muskaan Foundation**—aims to **spark interest in space science** among students through hands-on learning. Named **Pasang Wangchuk Sona ISRO Space Laboratory** after the minister's father, the initiative honors his belief in the power of education to transform lives.

INTERNATIONAL

- India, in collaboration with **UK scientists**, has identified the **world's rarest blood group — CRIB**, in a **38-year-old woman from Bengaluru**. Part of the **Cromer blood group system**, the blood lacks a common antigen, making **transfusions extremely difficult**. The discovery may revolutionize **critical care**, **prenatal diagnostics**, and **rare blood donation systems** globally.
- To combat **hidden hunger**, India is introducing **iron-enriched bio-fortified potatoes** with support from the **International Potato Center (CIP)**. The initiative complements efforts for **Vitamin A-rich sweet potatoes**, all part of **ICAR's biofortification programme** covering **61 crops**. It strengthens **nutrition security** and showcases India's leadership in **climate-smart agriculture**.

Science & Technology of July 2025

SATELLITES LAUNCHES

- **Hyderabad-based Ananth Technologies** will launch **India's first private satellite broadband service** by **2028**. It has received approval from **IN-SPACe**, India's space regulator. The company will send a satellite to **geostationary orbit** over **35,000 km above Earth** to provide **broadband internet** directly from space. This **₹3,000-crore project** aims to improve internet access, especially in **remote areas**, and will compete with international players like **Starlink**, **OneWeb**, and **Amazon Kuiper**. This marks a **big change** in India's space and telecom sectors, allowing **private companies** to grow and serve more people.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully conducted **two hot tests** of the **Gaganyaan Service Module Propulsion System (SMPS)** on **July 3, 2025**, at its **Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu**, marking a crucial step for India's **first crewed space mission** under the **Gaganyaan Programme**. The **SMPS**, featuring **5 Liquid Apogee Motors (LAMs)** and **16 Reaction Control System (RCS) thrusters**, is key for **orbital maneuvers**, **trajectory corrections**, and **crew safety**.

- **NISAR**, to be launched on **July 30, 2025** by **ISRO's GSLV-F16**, is the **first joint satellite** between **ISRO and NASA**, featuring **dual-frequency SAR (L-band & S-band)**. Weighing **2392 kg**, it will operate from a **Sun-synchronous orbit (743 km)** and use **SweepSAR technology** for **12-day global coverage**. Key applications include **disaster management**, **climate monitoring**, **soil moisture tracking**, and **ice sheet movement**, reinforcing its **global scientific importance**.
- **NASA** has launched the **TRACERS Mission** with **two satellites** to study **magnetic reconnection** in Earth's **polar cusp**, protecting the planet from **solar storms**. The satellites will provide **real-time data** on how space weather affects **satellites, communication systems**, and **power grids**. It launched alongside **Athena EPIC, PExT, and REAL** satellites on a **SpaceX Falcon 9** rocket, and is significant for **global space research**, including for countries like **India**.

NATIONAL

- In a strategic step towards enhancing India's **sovereign space capabilities**, **SatSure** and **Dhruva Space** have joined hands to offer **end-to-end Earth Observation (EO) solutions**. This collaboration will unify upstream and downstream segments of the **space value chain**, integrating **KaleidEO's payloads** with Dhruva Space's **satellite platform infrastructure**. With a focus on **indigenous innovation**, the alliance will provide **full-stack space solutions**, addressing the demands of **commercial** and **strategic users** alike.
- Indian researchers have **engineered a next-generation energy storage material** using **lanthanum-doped silver niobate nanoparticles**, showing **superior performance in supercapacitor devices**. The material demonstrated **118% energy retention** and **100% coulombic efficiency**, making it a promising solution for **clean energy storage**. This **eco-friendly innovation**, led by Dr. Kavita Pandey's team at **CeNS, Bengaluru**, paves the way for future **high-density, fast-charging supercapacitors** in portable electronics and **renewable energy systems**.
- On **July 6, 2025**, **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** opened the **National Biobank** at **CSIR-IGIB, New Delhi**. This project will collect data from **10,000 Indians** to support **personalized medicine** and better disease treatment. It is part of the **Phenome India project**. The minister also highlighted India's work in **genomics, CRISPR technology**, and **healthcare innovation**. Experts like **Dr. N. Kalaiselvi** and **Dr. Souvik Maiti** praised the move as a major step toward **healthcare self-reliance** and **global leadership** in science.
- **India** became the **fourth-largest biofuel consumer** in the world in **2024**, moving ahead of **China** for the **second year in a row**, according to the **Statistical Review of World Energy 2025**. India consumed **77 kbbloe/d**, a **40% rise** from last year, while **China consumed 60 kbbloe/d**. However, in **biofuel production**, India made **70 kbbloe/d**, still behind China's **106 kbbloe/d**. The report also showed that global demand for biofuels rose, especially in the **Asia Pacific** and **North America** regions. While **biofuels** help cut pollution, overall **global emissions** from energy **rose by 1%** in 2024, marking another **record high**.
- The **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB)** has launched the **Kalaa Setu – Real-Time Language Tech for Bharat Challenge** via its **WaveX Startup Accelerator Platform**. The challenge calls on **AI startups** across India to build tools that turn **text into audio, video, or graphics** in various **Indian languages**. Applications can be submitted on the **WaveX portal** by **July 30**, while the **Bhasha Setu translation challenge** closes on **July 22**. This effort is part of the **WAVES initiative**, aiming to boost **innovation in media and language tech**.
- The **Government of Andhra Pradesh** has introduced the **Smart Mosquito Surveillance System (SMoSS)** to fight **mosquito-borne diseases** like **dengue** and **malaria**. This AI-powered project will start in **66 places** across **six major cities** including **Vijayawada** and **Visakhapatnam**. It will use **smart sensors**, **drones**, **apps**, and **hospital data** to track and control mosquito breeding. The system will help officials take quick action by sending alerts and mapping problem areas. This is a **big step** toward **tech-based public health** and can serve as a **model for other states** in India.
- A **new species**, **Garcinia kusumae**, has been discovered in **Baksa district, Assam**, by botanist **Jatindra Sarma**, who named it in honour of his **late mother, Kusum Devi**. The discovery was made in **April 2025** and published in the global journal **Feddes Repertorium**. This **evergreen tree** has unique flowers and fruits and is used in **traditional food and medicine**. With this, Assam adds to its record of **12 Garcinia species**. The new finding boosts **India's botanical diversity** and shows how much more is still to be discovered in the country's **rich forests**.
- 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 thyrsiflora*. The discovery, published in **Entomon**, highlights the importance of **conservation** and continued **field research** in biodiversity hotspots like the Western Ghats.
- **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**.

- 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**.
- A **Martian meteorite** named **NWA 16788**, weighing **54 pounds**, was discovered in **Niger** in **2023** and sold at **Sotheby's** for a **record $5.3 million** in July 2025. The rock, ejected from **Mars** about **5 million years ago**, traveled **140 million miles** to Earth and is now the **largest known Martian meteorite** found. Its journey and discovery highlight key areas of **space science, geology**, and **global interest in extraterrestrial artifacts**.
- **Indian scientists** from **Bose Institute** have identified and **overexpressed the AcSERK3 gene** in **pineapple** to enhance **resistance against Fusariosis**, caused by *Fusarium moniliforme*. This is the **first documented case** of such a native gene's overexpression in pineapple, resulting in **stronger stress response**, **better survival**, and **potential multi-fungal tolerance**. The genetically modified plants showed **increased levels of stress-fighting enzymes** and may offer a **sustainable disease-resistant crop** for future farming.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Nvidia** has become the **world's most valuable company**, reaching a **market capitalisation of $3.92 trillion**, surpassing **Apple's** previous record. Fueled by the **AI boom**, Nvidia's dominance in **AI chip technology** has driven massive growth, with its stock rising **68% since April**. Its value now exceeds the **entire stock markets** of **Canada**, **Mexico**, and even the **UK**, highlighting investor confidence in Nvidia and the future of **artificial intelligence**.
- **HCL Software**, the software arm of **HCL Tech**, has launched **Domino 14.5**, an advanced platform focused on **data sovereignty** and **enhanced privacy** for **governments and regulated organisations**. Its key feature, **Domino IQ**, is a **sovereign AI solution** designed to safeguard **sensitive national and enterprise data** from **foreign surveillance**. **Richard Jefts**, Executive VP, emphasized the importance of **local digital control**, especially as nations tighten **data protection frameworks**.
- **Switzerland's health authority**, **Swissmedic**, has given its **first approval** to a **malaria medicine for infants**, made by **Novartis**. The approval came on **July 9, 2025**, and applies to babies weighing **2 to 5 kilograms**. The decision is important because **malaria kills thousands of children**, especially in **Africa**, where **95% of global malaria deaths** occurred in **2023**. Experts say the new medicine is **safe and effective**, and it will be offered on a **not-for-profit basis** in malaria-hit countries. This move could **help protect the youngest lives** in the fight against one of the world's **deadliest diseases**.
- 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.
- **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.
- **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**.
- **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**.

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 Jahnavi**, 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**, Jahnavi 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 **CO_2** 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-IIIa 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)

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**.

- 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 **CReATE Centre**.

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 Bowe**, **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 softwa re. 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 ($NbSe_2$)** 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 **CO_2 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.

Schemes/ Apps / Portal

National Schemes/ Apps of August 2025

CENTRAL GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
PM Internship Scheme (PMIS)	Ministry of Corporate Affairs	2023	To provide internship opportunities to youth in various companies across districts; aims to boost employability and inclusiveness. Female participation rose from 31% to 41% in the second round.
Mission Poshan 2.0	Ministry of Women & Child Development	2021	Combines Poshan Abhiyan and ICDS to improve nutrition for pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children. Offers Take-Home Ration (THR) for 300 days.
Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)	Ministry of Women & Child Development	2017	Provides maternity benefits to pregnant women and lactating mothers to reduce maternal and infant mortality. Over 4.05 crore beneficiaries till July 2025.
MERITE Scheme	Ministry of Education	2025	Improve quality and employability in technical education; boost research, innovation, and NEP goals
Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana	Ministry of Labour and Employment	2025	Generate 3.5 crore jobs by 2027; incentives for first-time employees and employer subsidies
PM E-Drive Scheme	Ministry of Heavy Industries	Extended till 2028	Promote electric vehicles, support charging infrastructure, reduce subsidies as market matures

STATE GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	State	Year	Purpose
Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Moina 2.0	Assam	2025	Provides monthly financial aid to girl students from HS to PG level in government/aided institutions. Aims to reduce dropout rates and empower female education. Expected to benefit 4 lakh+ students.

National Schemes/ Apps of July 2025

CENTRAL GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose (Detailed)
SPREE 2025	Ministry of Labour and Employment (ESIC)	2025	Promotes voluntary registration of employers and employees under the ESI Act via a digital, inspection-free process. Removes fear of retrospective penalties and aims to extend ESI benefits to informal workers.
Amnesty Scheme – 2025	Ministry of Labour and Employment (ESIC)	2025	Resolves long-pending legal disputes related to ESIC compliance. Encourages voluntary compliance, reduces litigation, and fosters a cooperative approach to social security enforcement.
AYUSH Integration with ESIC	Ministry of Labour and Employment (ESIC)	2025	Enhances healthcare by integrating AYUSH systems (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy) into ESIC facilities and partnering with charitable hospitals for holistic treatment.
Small Savings Interest Policy	Ministry of Finance	2025	Keeps interest rates unchanged for PPF, NSC, Sukanya Samriddhi, etc., to ensure predictable returns, boost public trust, and support household savings amid economic uncertainties.
Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)	Ministry of Agriculture	—	10-year review shows progress in covering non-loanee farmers, though reach has flattened. Recommendations include higher central funding, a national-level model, and third-party evaluation for affordability, transparency, and effectiveness for small farmers.
PM E-DRIVE Initiative	—	—	First electric truck scheme offering up to ₹9.6 lakh incentive per vehicle for N2/N3 category e-trucks. Targets 5,600 deployments, promotes cleaner freight transport, mandates scrapping of old diesel trucks, and supports Atmanirbhar Bharat and net-zero goals.

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose (Detailed)
Employment-linked Incentive Scheme	—	2025	₹1 lakh crore scheme to generate 3.5 crore jobs (1.92 crore first-time workers) from Aug 2025–Jul 2027. Offers ₹3,000/month per employee to employers and up to ₹15,000 wage support for new employees.
Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)	—	2025	Six-year plan (₹24,000 crore/year) to enhance agriculture in 100 low-performing districts via crop diversification, irrigation, credit, and storage. Converges 36 schemes from 11 ministries with NITI Aayog guidance, benefiting 1.7 crore farmers.
ADEETIE Scheme	Ministry of Power (BEE)	—	₹1,000 crore scheme to improve industrial energy efficiency in MSMEs across 60 clusters and 14 sectors, targeting 30–50% energy savings. Includes interest subvention, technical audits, and supports low-carbon growth.
VCF Settlement Scheme 2025	SEBI	2025	One-time scheme (July 21, 2025 – Jan 19, 2026) for Venture Capital Funds to settle violations during migration to the AIF regime. Promotes voluntary compliance, investor protection, and smooth regulatory transition.
New Employment Scheme	—	2025	Provides ₹15,000 incentives to first-time private sector employees from Aug 1, 2025. Funded with ₹1 lakh crore, targeting youth employment, especially in eastern states like Bihar, to boost formal sector job creation.
Bima Sakhi Scheme	LIC	2024	Empowers rural women as Mahila Career Agents with a stipend (₹7,000–₹5,000) for the first 3 years plus commissions. Over 2 lakh enrolled, ₹520 crore FY 2025–26 budget. Offers career growth and enhances insurance penetration.
Palna Scheme	—	2022	Supports working mothers with day-care/crèche facilities for children (6 months–6 years), integrated with Anganwadi centres for nutrition, health monitoring, and early learning. Targeting 17,000 centres, 14,599 approved.
Skill India Mission	—	2015–2025	Trained over 6 crore people, integrating PMKVY 4.0, PM-NAPS, and JSS. Focuses on AI, robotics, and green energy skills. Major achievements: 1.63 crore under PMKVY, 26 lakh under JSS, 43.47 lakh apprentices under PM-NAPS.

STATE GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	State / Government	Purpose (Detailed)
Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Poverty-Free Village Scheme	Rajasthan Government	Launched on July 4, 2025, to support BPL families in 5,000 villages. Provides up to ₹1 lakh for job/business support and ₹15,000 for women in SHGs. Families moving out of poverty get ₹21,000 as a reward and Atmanirbhar Parivar Cards. Village-level plans link families to skill and job programs, aiming to reduce rural poverty and promote self-reliant villages.
Mukhya Mantri Sehat Yojana	Punjab Government	Launched on July 8, 2025, offering free and cashless medical treatment up to ₹10 lakh per year for every family in the state. Covers ~65 lakh families, including farmers, workers, pensioners, businessmen, and government employees. Digital health cards enable treatment for 2,000+ diseases at both government and private hospitals. Includes ₹5 lakh top-up for Ayushman Bharat beneficiaries.
Gajah Mitra Scheme	Assam Cabinet	Approved on July 11, 2025, to reduce human-elephant conflicts in 80 problem areas. Includes planting elephant-friendly vegetation, rapid response teams, and community awareness programs. Aims to reduce deaths of both humans and elephants caused by conflicts, often linked to illegal fencing and human encroachment.
Digi-Lakshmi Scheme	Government of Andhra Pradesh	Launched on June 30, 2025, to empower urban poor women as entrepreneurs. Establishes 9,034 Common Service Centres (CSCs) in Urban Local Bodies, run by SHG women, offering ~250 public services. Women receive training and loans of ₹2–2.5 lakh to start their centres, supporting the 'One Family, One Entrepreneur' mission and digital job creation.

Name of Initiative	State / Government	Purpose (Detailed)
Prerona Aasoni Scheme	Assam Cabinet	Provides ₹300 per month to Class X students to support education. Part of broader welfare measures to boost rural pay, support traditional workers, and promote education.
Monthly Pay Enhancement for Rural Workers	Assam Cabinet	Increased monthly pay for Gaon Pradhans from ₹9,000 to ₹14,000, Anganwadi workers to ₹8,000, and Anganwadi helpers to ₹4,000. Recognises and strengthens grassroots workforce contributions.
Monk Stipend Scheme	Assam Cabinet	Provides a ₹1,500 monthly stipend to monks in Satras, supporting cultural and religious institutions.
GST Refund Scheme for Bell Metal Artisans	Assam Cabinet	Offers GST refunds to bell metal artisans to boost traditional industries and support rural craftsmanship.
Rabindranath Thakur Vishwavidyalaya	Assam Cabinet	Renaming of Rabindranath Tagore University to Rabindranath Thakur Vishwavidyalaya, honouring cultural heritage.

National Schemes/ Apps of June 2025

CENTRAL GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	Purpose
MGNREGS	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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.

Name of Initiative	Purpose
Top National Players Stipend Scheme (TNPSS)	• 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)	• 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
SPMEPCI (EV Manufacturing Scheme)	• **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	• 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 Tariff Reform	• TRAI capped tariffs for PDOs under PM-WANI • PM-WANI plans previously 2× costlier than FTTH Example: • 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	• **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	• **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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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)	• 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)	• 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.

Name of Initiative	Purpose
''Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA)	• 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.
Jan Suraksha Schemes	• 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	• **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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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),	• 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	• 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	• 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)	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	**1. One Nation: One Port Process (ONOP)**
		Aimed at standardizing port operations across India to enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and boost global trade.
		• **Key Objectives:**
		  ○ Uniform operational procedures across all major ports
		  ○ Reduction in logistics costs and elimination of redundant documentation
		  ○ Faster clearance and improved transparency through digitization
		2. Sagar Ankalan – Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI) 2023-24
		A benchmarking tool to assess and improve port efficiency and global competitiveness.
		• **Key Highlights:**
		  ○ Evaluates port performance and turnaround time
		  ○ Focuses on sustainability and cost-effectiveness
		  ○ Encourages competition among ports to enhance service quality
		3. Bharat Global Ports Consortium
		Strengthening India's global maritime influence through international collaborations.
		• **Key Benefits:**
		  ○ Expanding India's trade connectivity with global ports
		  ○ Attracting foreign investment in port infrastructure
		  ○ Developing world-class smart, green, and digital ports
		4. Future Focus Areas
		• **Smart Ports:** AI & blockchain-based automation
		• **Green Energy:** Renewable sources for port functioning
		• **Maritime Security:** Coastal surveillance & cybersecurity
		• **Digitalization:** AI-powered tracking & electronic documentation
		These initiatives align with **Sagarmala Project's 'Port-Led Development'** vision, positioning India as a leading global maritime hub.

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Purpose
PM-YUVA 3.0	**Ministry of Education**	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**. **Introduction to PM-YUVA 3.0** 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. **Key Highlights** • **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** **Objectives of PM-YUVA 3.0** **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. **Themes of PM-YUVA 3.0** The **third edition** of PM-YUVA focuses on **three major themes**, each representing India's evolving identity and global influence: **1) Contribution of Indian Diaspora in Nation Building** • 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** • 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)** • 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**. **Role of the National Book Trust (NBT), India** The **National Book Trust (NBT), India**, will execute the program **phase-wise**, ensuring **structured mentorship** and high-quality content creation. • **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
		• **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)**.

Important Days

Important Days of August 2025

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
August 1, 2025	World Breastfeeding Week (Aug 1–7)	Theme: **"Prioritise Breastfeeding: Create Sustainable Support Systems"**; emphasizes long-term support, public acceptance, and policy for accessible breastfeeding.
August 1, 2025	National Mountain Climbing Day	Celebrates the feat of **Bobby Mathews and Josh Madigan** (2015); promotes physical and mental fitness and environmental value of mountains.
August 1, 2025	World Lung Cancer Day	Highlights awareness, prevention, and **early detection** of lung cancer, including risks from smoking, pollution, and genetics.
August 1, 2025	World Wide Web Day	Theme: **"Empowering the Future: Building an Inclusive, Safe, and Open Web"**; focuses on digital inclusion, ethical AI, and universal access.
August 3, 2025	Cloves Syndrome Awareness Day	Raises awareness about **CLOVES syndrome**, a rare disorder; promotes early diagnosis, treatment, and community support.
August 6, 2025	Hiroshima Day	Marks the **1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima**; promotes peace, non-violence, and nuclear disarmament; honors Hibakusha (survivors).
August 7, 2025	National Handloom Day	Theme: **"Handlooms – Empowering Women, Empowering the Nation"**; celebrates Indian weavers and commemorates the **Swadeshi Movement of 1905**; initiated in 2015 by PM Modi.

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
August 9, 2025	World Sanskrit Day	Celebrates ancient Sanskrit; promotes preservation and education among youth
August 9, 2025	Nagasaki Day	80th anniversary of atomic bombing; stresses peace, disarmament, and global remembrance
August 10, 2025	World Lion Day	Highlights lion conservation, threats from habitat loss and poaching
August 12, 2025	International Youth Day	*Theme:* "Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond"; focuses on youth participation
August 12, 2025	World Elephant Day	*Theme:* "Bringing the World Together to Help Elephants"; stresses conservation efforts
August 15, 2025	Independence Day (India)	79th celebration; honors freedom struggle and India's vision for a $5 trillion economy

Important Days of July 2025

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
July 1, 2025	National Doctor's Day	Theme: *"Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers?"* — Focuses on the mental health and emotional well-being of doctors; honours their selfless contribution to public health.
July 1, 2025	National Chartered Accountants Day	Celebrates 76 years of ICAI; recognises the role of CAs in economic governance, taxation, auditing, and nation-building.
July 1, 2025	GST Day	Marks the anniversary of GST implementation in 2017; celebrates tax reform that unified India's indirect tax system with benefits like ITC, online compliance, and simplified tax structures.
July 1, 2025	SBI Foundation Day	Celebrates 70 years of State Bank of India (formed in 1955); acknowledges its ₹61 trillion asset base, digital leadership, and role in India's financial evolution.
July 2, 2025	World Sports Journalists Day	Theme: *"Championing Fair Play: Reporting with Integrity and Impact"* — Honours sports journalists for promoting ethical storytelling and public engagement with sports.
July 4, 2025	Punyatithi of Swami Vivekananda	Commemorates the death anniversary of Swami Vivekananda (1902); honours his spiritual legacy, teachings of nationalism, Vedanta, service, and his iconic 1893 Chicago address.
July 5, 2025	International Day of Cooperatives (CoopsDay)	Theme: *"Cooperatives: Driving Inclusive and Sustainable Solutions for a Better World"* — Highlights the role of co-ops in empowering communities and achieving sustainable development goals.
July 6, 2025	World Rural Development Day	First-ever celebration by the UN; focuses on empowering rural communities, supporting women, youth, farmers, and small businesses; promotes infrastructure, digital and financial inclusion to achieve SDGs by 2030.
July 7, 2025	World Bioproduct Day	Promotes sustainable bioproducts from renewable materials to protect the environment; highlights India's role in biopharma, agriculture, and bio-industry; supports a cleaner, circular economy.
July 7	World Swahili Language Day	Declared by UNESCO in 2022; celebrates Swahili as a unifying African language spoken by over 200 million; honors leaders like Nyerere and Kenyatta; promotes cultural pride and respect for African languages.
July 11, 2025	World Population Day 2025	Theme: "Empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world"; focuses on youth empowerment, reproductive rights, and gender equality amid India becoming the most populous country.
July 11, 2025	World Horse Day	First-ever celebration by UN; recognizes horses' role in agriculture, culture, therapy, and livelihoods; urges protection of equine welfare; promotes awareness through visits, education, and support for rescue centers.

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
15 July 2025	World Youth Skills Day 2025	*Theme:* "Youth Empowerment Through Artificial Intelligence and Digital Skills" – Focus on equipping youth with AI and digital skills, addressing NEET challenges, and promoting TVET for jobs and career growth.
16 July 2025	AI Appreciation Day (India)	Showcasing AI-driven transformation across sectors; highlighting initiatives like Digital India, AI for All, and Skill India AI Portal; emphasis on inclusive, ethical AI innovation.
15 July 2025	World Snake Day 2025	Awareness on snake conservation; sessions at Bannerghatta Biological Park; release of snake-themed postcards; focus on reducing fear/misinformation and empowering youth as ecological stewards.
17 July 2025	World Day for International Justice	Commemorates adoption of the Rome Statute and founding of the ICC; promotes justice, human rights, accountability, and rule of law.
18 July 2025	Nelson Mandela International Day	*Theme:* "It's still in our hands to combat poverty and inequity" – Encourages 67 minutes of community service, honoring Mandela's 67 years of public service and commitment to justice and equality.
20 July 2025	World Chess Day	Marks FIDE's founding in 1924; celebrates chess as a tool for intellectual growth, strategic thinking, and global unity; roots in ancient India.
20 July 2025	International Moon Day	Marks Apollo 11 Moon landing; promotes peaceful space exploration, sustainable lunar resource use, and global cooperation in space initiatives.
22 July 2025	World Brain Health Day	Theme: *Brain Health for All Ages* – Promotes early intervention, lifestyle awareness, and equal access to neurological care; encourages quality sleep, exercise, healthy diet, and mental engagement.
22 July 2025	NABARD Foundation Day (44th)	Celebrates NABARD's role in rural development; highlights loans and infrastructure support, cooperative development, digitisation, and climate-resilient growth.
22 July 2025	National Flag Day	Marks the 78th anniversary of adoption of the Indian National Flag; promotes patriotism, national pride, and adherence to the Flag Code of India.
23 July 2025	National Broadcasting Day	Commemorates the history of radio broadcasting in India; honors AIR's role in communication, education, freedom struggle, and disaster management.
25 July 2025	International Day for Women and Girls of African Descent	Highlights challenges faced due to racism, sexism, and socio-economic bias; calls for education, leadership, and policy inclusion.
25 July 2025	World Drowning Prevention Day	Raises awareness on drowning prevention; promotes low-cost interventions, swimming lessons, and rescue training; stresses multi-sectoral action.
25 July 2025	International Day for Judicial Well-being	Highlights the link between judicial wellness and quality justice; combats stigma, encourages institutional reforms, and promotes awareness.
24 July 2025	Income Tax Day	Marks the introduction of income tax in India (1860); highlights modernization of tax administration and voluntary compliance.
26 July 2025	World Mangrove Day	Promotes conservation of mangrove forests; raises awareness on biodiversity, climate resilience, and sustainable livelihoods.

Important Days of June 2025

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
June 1	**Global Day of Parents**	• 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**	• **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**	• **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**	• 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**	• **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**	• 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	• 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**	• **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 9th	**World Accreditation Day 2025**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• **World Day Against Child Labour 2025** was observed on **June 12**, emphasizing the urgent need to eliminate child labour globally. With **138 million children** still affected, this year's theme — *"Progress is clear, but there's more to do: let's speed up our efforts!"* — serves as a powerful reminder that global efforts must intensify. • Initiated by the **ILO in 2002**, the observance aims to promote **child rights**, ensure **education**, and reduce **poverty-driven exploitation**, while in India, various national policies and acts are already supporting the cause.
June 12	**World Kidney Cancer Day 2025**	• **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**	• **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**	• **World Blood Donor Day 2025**, observed globally on **June 14**, honours voluntary blood donors and raises awareness about the importance of **safe, regular blood donations**. With the theme *"Give Blood, Give Hope,"* this year's observance highlights how each unit of donated blood brings healing and hope to those in need. • Established by the **WHO** in **2004**, the day also commemorates the birthday of **Karl Landsteiner**, who discovered the **ABO blood group system**.
June 15	**World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2025**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**	• The **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2025**, observed on **June 17**, focuses on the theme **"Restore the Land. Unlock the Opportunities."** 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**	• **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**	• On **June 19, 2025**, the world observes the **11th International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict**, under the theme **"Breaking the Cycle, Healing the Scars."** • 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**	• **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**	• 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**	• 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**	• **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**	• **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**	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**	• 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**	• **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**	• **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**	• 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**	• **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**	• **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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• **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**	• 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**	• 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**	• **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**	• **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**	• 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**	• **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**	• 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**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**	• 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	• 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**	• **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**	• 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**	• **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**	• 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	• 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**	• 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**	• 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**	• 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	• **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	• 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	• **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)	• **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)	• 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	• **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	• **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	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**	• 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**	• 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**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**,	• **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**	• **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**, *"The Role of Literature in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)".*
24 April	**National Panchayati Raj Day**	• 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 **Namo 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	• 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	• 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**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**	• 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**	• **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**.

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
March 4 to March 10, 2025	**54th National Safety Week**	• 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**. • 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**	• **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**	• 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**,	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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**	• **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.

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
March 20	International Day of Happiness	• **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.
March 20	French Language Day	• **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	• **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	• **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	• **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	• 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	• **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**.

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
March 22	**World Water Day 2025**	• **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**	• **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**. (

Obituaries (National/International)

Obituaries (National/International) of August 2025

NATIONAL

S.No	Person Name	Field	Born Place	Key Notes
1	**Shibu Soren**	Politics (Tribal Leader, JMM Founder)	Nemra, Jharkhand	Passed away on **August 4, 2025**, aged **81**; known as **"Dishom Guru"**; played a key role in the creation of **Jharkhand**; served **three terms as CM**.
2	**Satya Pal Malik**	Politics (Former Governor)	Hisawada, Uttar Pradesh	Died on **August 5, 2025**, aged **79**; last **Governor of J&K** during **Article 370 abrogation**; also served as **Governor of Goa, Meghalaya, Bihar**.
3	**La Ganesan**	Politics	Tamil Nadu, India	Former Governor of Nagaland & Manipur, ex-Rajya Sabha MP, promoter of Tamil culture

Let me know if you'd like an obituary-style article or visual tribute layout.

INTERNATIONAL

S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	BORN PLACE	KEY NOTES
1	Hiromasa Urakawa	Boxing	Japan	Died from brain injuries post-knockout; third boxing fatality in 2025
2	Dr Vece Paes	Sports Medicine / Hockey	India	Olympic hockey medallist, noted sports doctor, father of Leander Paes

Obituaries (National/International) of July 2025

NATIONAL

S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	BORN PLACE	KEY NOTES
1	Dr. BV Pattabhiram	Hypnotist, Psychologist, Motivational Speaker	India	Passed away at 75 in Hyderabad due to cardiac arrest; pioneer in hypnosis and mental wellness; conducted global workshops; founded India's first magic school; received honorary doctorate.
2	Peter Rufai	Football (Goalkeeper)	Nigeria	Known as Dodo Mayana; AFCON 1994 winner; played in 1994 & 1998 FIFA World Cups; earned 65 international caps; admired for calm, confident style; passed away July 4, 2025, aged 61; sixth loss among Nigeria's golden 1994 squad.

S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	BORN PLACE	KEY NOTES
3	Vatsala	Wildlife (Elephant Conservation)	Nilambur forests, Kerala	Asia's oldest living elephant (100+ years); worked in timber trade; relocated to MP in 1971, Panna Tiger Reserve in 1993; key in tiger tracking & forest patrols; retired 2003 but mentored younger elephants; symbol of wildlife conservation; died July 8, 2025.
4	Charupara Ravi	Politics (Socialist Leader)	Kerala	RJD State Vice-President; began activism at 18 with ISO; led Yuvajanatha during Janata Party rise in 1977; contested in 1980, 1996, and 2011 Kerala Assembly polls; respected for grassroots activism and dedication to socialist ideals; died July 8, 2025, aged 77.
5	Bismillah Jan Shinwari	Cricket Umpiring	Nangarhar province, Afghanistan	ICC International Panel umpire; debuted 2017 in Afghanistan vs Ireland ODI; officiated 34 ODIs, 26 T20Is, and many domestic matches; known for fairness and precision; died July 7, 2025, aged 41, during surgery; funeral held July 8, 2025.
6	N. Tippanna	Law & Politics	Turuvanur, Karnataka	Veteran leader; Chairman of Karnataka Legislative Council; JD(S) State Unit head; championed education in Ballari; influential in Veerashaiva-Lingayat community; 60-year public career; died July 11, 2025, aged 97; funeral July 12, 2025, in Chitradurga district.
7	Kota Srinivasa Rao	Telugu cinema actor, former Andhra MLA	Andhra Pradesh, India	Legendary actor with a 40+ year career; played diverse roles; honoured with many awards; major loss to cinema and politics.
8	B. Saroja Devi	Indian cinema actress	Bengaluru, Karnataka, India	Starred in 190+ films across Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Hindi; recipient of Padma Bhushan; remembered for beauty, talent, grace.
9	Muhammadu Buhari	Politician, former Nigerian President	Daura, Katsina State, Nigeria	Military ruler turned elected president (2015–2023); focused on security & anti-corruption; significant figure in Nigerian politics.
10	Fauja Singh	Marathon runner	Beas Pind, Punjab, India	World's oldest marathon runner; began running at 89; completed many international marathons; symbol of resilience and positivity.
11	Andrea Gibson	Poet, activist	Calais, Maine, USA	Queer poet, former Colorado Poet Laureate; wrote on gender identity, love, cancer survival; subject of award-winning documentary.
12	Felix Baumgartner	Extreme sports, skydiver	Salzburg, Austria	First to break sound barrier in free fall (2012 jump); set global records; inspired aerospace and extreme sports advancements.

INTERNATIONAL

S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	BORN PLACE	KEY NOTES
1	Julian McMahon	Actor	Australia	Passed away at 56 in Florida after cancer battle; known for roles in Fantastic Four, Nip/Tuck, Charmed; son of former Australian PM Billy McMahon; last appeared in Netflix's The Residence.
2	Alan Bergman	Oscar-winning Lyricist	Brooklyn, New York, USA	Won 3 Academy Awards, 16 nominations; collaborated with Marilyn Bergman, Barbra Streisand, Michel Legrand; wrote classics like The Way We Were and Nice 'n' Easy; shaped Hollywood's musical legacy.
3	V.S. Achuthanandan	Politician (Former Kerala CM, CPI(M) Leader)	Alappuzha, Kerala, India	Rose from coir worker to CM; championed land reforms, farmers' rights, anti-corruption; part of CPI(M) formation in 1964; known for oratory, simplicity, and ethical leadership.
4	Hulk Hogan	Professional Wrestler, Entertainer	Augusta, Georgia, USA	WWE icon, 2-time Hall of Famer; transformed pro wrestling in the 1980s; headlined 8 WrestleMania main events; famous for "Hulkamania" catchphrases; also actor and pop culture figure.

Obituaries (National/International) of June 2025

NATIONAL

S.No	Person Name	Field	Born Place	Key Notes
1	Vikram Sugumaran	Tamil Filmmaker	—	• 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	—	• 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)	—	• 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	Dangiwacha, Rafiabad	• 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	—	• 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	• 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	Environmentalist, Padma Shri Awardee	—	• 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	—	• 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	—	• 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	• 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	• 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 Dr. Subbanna Ayyappan	Scientist	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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)	• 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	• 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**	• 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**	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of August 2025

- To mark **50 years of the iconic film *Sholay***, the **Maharashtra Postal Circle** released **special picture postcards**, a **presentation pack**, and an **exclusive golden cancellation** on **Independence Day 2025**. The commemorative items were unveiled by **Amitabh Singh**, Chief Postmaster General, and presented to **director Ramesh Sippy**. The event, attended by film and postal dignitaries, drew **philatelists and cinema lovers**, showcasing the film's **enduring cultural impact**. India Post has previously honoured **sports icons** like **chess champion D Gukesh** and **India's 2025 Cricket Champions Trophy** win with similar **special cancellations**.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of July 2025

- **Warren Buffett**, the legendary investor and CEO of **Berkshire Hathaway**, has donated **$6 billion** in **Class B stock** to five major **philanthropic foundations**, including the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Trust**. The move brings his **total charitable contributions** since 2006 to **around $60 billion**. This donation highlights his ongoing commitment to **giving away 99.5% of his fortune**. The **foundations** receiving the donations are known for their work in **global health, education, poverty reduction**, and **social equity**, making this announcement a significant event in the **world of philanthropy and social impact**.
- In a **pioneering step** towards eradicating **tuberculosis (TB)**, **Puducherry** has become the **first Union Territory** in India to link **TB screening** with the **Family Adoption Programme**. Under this **National Medical Commission** initiative, **medical students** adopt 3–5 families and monitor their health over three years. In Puducherry, this outreach now includes **routine TB checks** for all family members. If symptoms are detected, students help with **diagnosis and treatment**, enhancing **early detection** and **access to care**.
- In a **landmark breakthrough** in **archaeology** and **genetics**, scientists have successfully sequenced the **first complete genome** of an **ancient Egyptian**, marking a major step in understanding **early human populations**. Published on **July 2, 2025**, in the journal **Nature**, the study details DNA extracted from a man buried in **Nuwayrat**, around **4,500 years ago** during Egypt's **Old Kingdom** period. The individual, likely a **physically laboring male** aged **44–64 years**, had **brown eyes**, **brown hair**, **dark skin**, and lived a relatively **affluent life**, as suggested by the **tomb style**.

- **Sundar Pichai**, CEO of **Alphabet Inc.**, has reached a **net worth of $1.1 billion**, driven by **Alphabet's soaring stock** and **heavy AI investments**. His rise—from a modest background in **Tamil Nadu** to leading one of the world's biggest tech companies—illustrates the power of strategic leadership and innovation. With only **0.02% stock ownership**, Pichai's wealth stems largely from **stock sales** and compensation, alongside his pivotal role in Alphabet's **AI infrastructure boom**. **DeepMind's acquisition**, a **120% stock rise**, and **$50 billion AI investment in 2024** were key factors.

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 1.5ºC 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 s**ent 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 'Chhanabora'**, 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**.

Static Takeaways Current Affairs

Static Takeaways Current Affairs of August 2025

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
1	ISRO	Chairman - V Narayanan
2	NASA	Head - Sean Duffy
3	FIFA	President - Gianni Infantino
4	BIMSTEC	HQ - Dhaka, Bangladesh
5	Airbus India	CEO - Jurgen Westermeier

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
6	Indusind Bank	CEO - Rajiv Anand
7	Jaguar Land Rover	CEO - P. B. Balaji
8	AU Small Finance Bank	CEO - Sanjay Agarwal
9	RBI	Governor - Sanjay Malhotra
10	Goldman Sachs	Chairman - David Solomon
11	TATA Motors	CEO - Guenter Butschek
12	Paytm	CEO - Vijay Shekhar Sharma
13	Deloitte India	CEO - Romal Shetty
14	JSW Steel Limited	CEO - Jayant Acharya
15	PNB Housing Finance	CEO - Girish Kousgi
16	BOB (Bank of Baroda)	MD - Debadatta Chand
17	Jio Financial Service	CEO - Hitesh Sethia
18	ICICI Bank	MD - Sandeep Bakshi
19	IDFC Bank	MD - V Vaidyanathan
20	Axis Bank	MD - Amitabh Chaudhary
21	Microsoft	CEO - Satya Nadella
22	NVIDIA	CEO - Jensen Huang
23	Apple	CEO - Tim Cook
24	Alphabet (Google)	CEO - Sundar Pichai
25	Amazon	CEO - Andy Jassy
26	Russia	President - Vladimir Putin, Capital - Moscow
27	USA	President - Donald Trump, Capital - Washington D.C.
28	China	President - Xi Jinping, Capital - Beijing
29	Azerbaijan	President - Ilham Aliyev, Capital - Baku
30	Armenia	President - Vahagn Khachaturyan, Capital - Yerevan
31	Cambodia	PM - Hun Manet, Capital - Phnom Penh
32	Thailand	PM - Paetongtarn Shinwatra, Capital - Bangkok
33	Mexico	President - Claudia Sheinbaum, Capital - Mexico City
34	Moldova	President - Maia Sandu, Capital - Chisinau
35	Zambia	President - Hakainde Hichilema, Capital - Lusaka
36	Australia	PM - Anthony Albanese, Capital - Canberra
37	Singapore	PM - Lawrence Wong, Capital - Singapore City
38	Kenya	President - William Ruto, Capital - Nairobi
39	Assam	Governor - Lakshman Prasad Aacharya, CM - Hemanta Sarma
40	Punjab	Governor - Gulab Chand Kataria, CM - Bhagwat Mann
41	Delhi	L. Governor - Vinai Saxena, CM - Arvind Kejriwal
42	Gujarat	Governor - Acharya Devvrat, CM - Bhupendra Patel
43	Sikkim	Governor - Om Prakash Mathur, CM - Prem (Pema) Tamang
44	Chhattisgarh	Governor - Khambhapati, CM - Vishnu Deo Sai
45	Jammu & Kashmir	L. Governor - Manoj Sinha, CM - Omar Abdullah
46	Madhya Pradesh	Governor - Mangubhai Patel, CM - Mohan Yadav
47	Andhra Pradesh	Governor - Abdul Nazeer, CM - Chandrababu Naidu
48	Tamil Nadu	Governor - R N Ravi, CM - M. K. Stalin
49	Maharashtra	Governor - Radhakrishnan, CM - Devendra Fadnavis

Static Takeaways Current Affairs of July 2025

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
1	**RBI**	Governor – Sanjay Malhotra
2	**SBI**	MD / Chairman – Challa Sreenivasalu Setty
3	**Indian Bank**	MD – Binod Kumar
4	**PNB Bank**	MD – Ashok Chandra
5	**Karnataka Bank**	MD – Srikrishanan Sarma
6	**Adani Green Energy Ltd.**	CEO – Amit Singh
7	**Adani Power**	CEO – Shersingh Khyalia
8	**SLICE**	CEO – Rajan Bajaj
9	**PhonePe**	CEO – Sameer Nigam
10	**ACKO**	CEO – Varun Dua
11	**Exim Pay**	CEO – Arjun Zazaria
12	**Fino Payments Bank**	CEO – Rishi Gupta
13	**IndiGo India**	CEO – Pieter Elbers
14	**Hindustan Unilever Ltd.**	CEO – Priya Nair
15	**NVIDIA**	CEO – Huang Jensen
16	**Apple**	CEO – Tim Cook
17	**Tesla**	CEO – Elon Musk
18	**HSBC India Bank**	CEO – Hitendra Dave
19	**Birla Group**	Chairman – Kumar Manglam Birla
20	**Reliance Jio**	Chairman – Akash Ambani
21	**SAIL**	CEO – Amarendu Prakash
22	**Asian Development Bank**	HQ – Manila, Philippines
23	**ISRO**	Chairman – V Narayanan
24	**NASA**	Head – Sean Duffy
25	**ICC**	Chairman – Jay Shah
26	**India**	PM – Narendra Modi; Capital – New Delhi
27	**Japan**	PM – Shigeru Ishiba; Capital – Tokyo
28	**USA**	President – Donald Trump; Capital – Washington D.C.
29	**Australia**	PM – Anthony Albanese; Capital – Canberra
30	**UAE**	Head – Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan; Capital – Abu Dhabi
31	**France**	President – Emmanuel Macron; Capital – Paris
32	**Ukraine**	President – Volodymyr Zelenskyy; Capital – Kyiv
33	**Saudi Arabia**	Head – Mohammed Bin Salman; Capital – Jeddah
34	**Russia**	President – Vladimir Putin; Capital – Moscow
35	**Suriname**	President – Jennifer Simons; Capital – Paramaribo
36	**Colombia**	President – Gustavo Petro; Capital – Bogotá
37	**Bulgaria**	President – Rumen Radev; Capital – Sofia
38	**Maldives**	President – Mohammed Muizzu; Capital – Male
39	**China**	President – Xi Jinping; Capital – Beijing
40	**Sri Lanka**	President – Anura Kumara Dissanayake; Capital – Colombo
41	**Odisha**	CM – Mohan Majhi; Governor – Kambhapati; Capital – Bhubaneswar
42	**Gujarat**	CM – Bhupendra Patel; Governor – Acharya Devvrat; Capital – Gandhinagar
43	**Uttar Pradesh**	CM – Yogi Adityanath; Governor – Anandiben Patel; Capital – Lucknow
44	**Karnataka**	CM – Siddaramaiah; Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot; Capital – Bengaluru
45	**Jammu & Kashmir**	CM – Omar Abdullah; L. Governor – Manoj Sinha; Capital – Jammu
46	**Bihar**	CM – Nitish Kumar; Governor – Arif Khan; Capital – Patna
47	**Tamil Nadu**	CM – M.K. Stalin; Governor – R.N. Ravi; Capital – Chennai
48	**Sikkim**	CM – Prem Singh Tamang; Governor – Om Prakash Mathur; Capital – Gangtok

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
49	**Madhya Pradesh**	CM – Mohan Yadav; Governor – Mangubhai Patel; Capital – Bhopal
50	**Goa**	CM – Pramod Sawant; Governor – Pusapati Ashok Raju; Capital – Panaji
51	**Himachal Pradesh**	CM – Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu; Governor – Shiv Pratap Shukla; Capital – Shimla
52	**Maharashtra**	CM – Devendra Fadnavis; Governor – Radhakrishnan; Capital – Mumbai
53	**Andhra Pradesh**	CM – Chandrababu Naidu; Governor – Abdul Nazeer; Capital – Amravati
54	**Kerala**	CM – Pinarayi Vijayan; Governor – Arlekar Rajendra; Capital – Thiruvananthapuram
55	**Delhi**	CM – Rekha Gupta; L. Governor – Vinai Saxena; Capital – New Delhi
56	**Uttarakhand**	CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami; Governor – Gurmit Singh; Capital – Dehradun
57	**Jharkhand**	CM – Hemant Soren; Governor – Santosh Gangwar; Capital – Ranchi

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 – Stefan Schaffer; 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 – Sean Duffy
ISRO	Chairman - V. Narayanan
Bharati Space	Chairman - Sunil Mittal
SpaceX	CEO - Elon Musk
Starlink	CEO - Elon Musk *(Corrected from Murtadha Adenji)*
Honda Space	CEO - Toshiriro Mibe
Reliance Group	Chairman - Mukesh Ambani
Adani Group	Chairman - Gautam Adani
TATA Group	Chairman - Chandrasekhar
Jio Financial Service	CEO - Hitesh Sethia
Meta India	CEO – Arun Srinivas
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 *(Corrected)*
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
Nicaragua	President - Jose Daniel Ortega; Capital - Managua
Bangladesh	Capital - Dhaka
Canada	Capital – Ottawa, President – Mark Carney
Israel	PM - Benjamin Netanyahu; Capital - Jerusalem
Sri Lanka	President - Anura Kumara Dissanayake; Capital - Colombo
USA	President - Donald Trump; Capital - Washington D.C. *(May be outdated)*
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 – Nicusor Dan; 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 *(Tentative)*; 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 Fadnavis; Governor - Radhakrishnan *(Likely incorrect)*; Capital - Mumbai
Bihar	CM - Nitish Kumar; Governor - Arif Khan Capital - Patna
Tamil Nadu	CM - M.K. Stalin; Governor - R. N. Ravi; Capital - Chennai
Andhra Pradesh	CM - Chandrababu Naidu; Governor - Abdul Nazeer; Capital - Amaravati *(admin)*
West Bengal	CM - Mamata Banerjee; Governor - C. V. Ananda Bose; Capital - Kolkata
Delhi (NCT)	CM - Rekha Gupta; L. Governor - V. K. Saxena
Tripura	CM - Manik Saha; Governor - N. Indrasena Reddy; Capital - Agartala
Odisha	CM - Mohan Majhi; Governor - Hari Babu Kambhapati; 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
5	PNB	MD - Ashok Chandra | HQ - New Delhi
6	Yes Bank	MD - Prashant Kumar | HQ - Mumbai
7	Starlink	CEO – Elon Musk
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	PM - 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 - Sidhharamaiya | 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 Dhami
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** - Brazilia
17	**Myanmar**	**President** - Min Aung Hlaing (Acting) **Currency** - Kyat **Capital** - Naypidaw
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** - Yan **Capital** - tokyo
21	**Russia**	**President** - Vladimir Putin **Currency** - Russian Ruble **Capital** - Moscow

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
Indian States		
22	**Assam**	**Governor- Lakshman Prasad Acharya** **CM** - Hemanta Biswa Sarma **Capital** - Dispur
23	**Punjab**	**Governor-** Gulab Chand **CM** - Bhagwat Man **Capital** - Chandigarh
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 Kambhapati **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

Sr. No	Static Name	Details
12	**Ecuador**	**President** - Daniel Noboa **Capital** - Quito **Currency** - USD
13	**Tanzania**	**President** - Samia Suluhu **Capital** - Dodoma **Currency** - Tanzanian Shilling Equals
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** - Thiruvananthpuram
16	**Tamil Nadu**	**Governor** - R. N. Ravi **CM** - M. K. Stalin **Capital** - Chennai
17	**Meghalaya**	**Governor** - C. Vijayshankar **CM** - Conrad Snagma **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

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
Countries		
12	USA	**President** - Donald Trump **Capital** - Washington D.C. **Currency** - USD
13	China	**President** - XI Jinping **Capital** - Beijing **Currency** - Yuan
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 Kambhapati **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

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
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
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

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
17	Haryana	**Governor –** Ashim Kumar Ghosh **CM -** Nayab Singh Saini **Capital -** Chandigarh **State boundary** - Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan **State Animal** - Black Buck **State Bird** - Black Francolin
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** - Thiruvananthpuram **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** - Siddharamaiya **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** - 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.
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
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

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
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 – Tuhin Kanta Pandey Head Office - Mumbai
3	SBI	CMD - Challa Sreenivasalu Setty 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 Kambhapati 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- Thiruvananthpuram
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

Sr. No	Name	Static Details
20	New Zealand	PM - Maori Capital - Wellington
21	Pakistan	PM - Shehbaaz Sharif Capital - Islamabad
22	Belgium	PM - Bart De Wever Capital - Brussels
23	Russia	President - Vladimir Putin Capital - Moscow
24	South Africa	President - Cyril Ramaphosa Administrative Capital - Pretoria
25	Democratic Republic of Congo	President - Felix Tshisekedi Capital - Kinshasa

Sr. No	Name	Static Details
Minsters in Govt. of India		
1	Union Minister of Agriculture	Shivraj Singh Chouhan
2	Union Minister of Finance	Nirmala SItharaman
3	Union Mister of Forest, Environment and Climate Change	Bhupenda 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

Sr. No	Name	Static Details
8	Delhi	**L. Governor** - Vinai Kumar Saxena **CM** - Rekha Gupta **Capital** - New Delhi
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** - Siddharamaiya **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** - Thiruvananthpuram **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 Kambhapati **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

Sr. No	Name	Static Details
Countries of World		
15	Qatar	**Head of State** - Sheikh Tamim Bin AL Thani **Capital** - Doha **Currency** - Qatari Riyal **Neighbouring Countries** - Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, UAE
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** - RIyadh **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 Zuckerburg 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

Sr. No	Name	Static Details
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
34	Google	CEO - Sundar Pichai Head office - California
35	ISRO	Chairman - V Narayanan Head Office - Bengaluru