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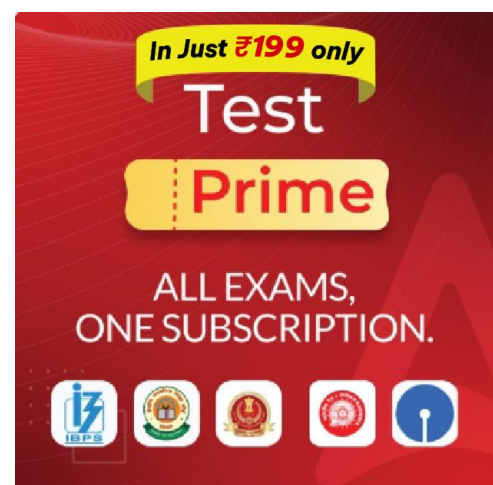
MAY 2025

OPERATION SINDOOR

Contents

National News

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**.

Parliament News

Most Important News of the Month

Operation Sindoor: India Strikes Back in Pakistan and PoK

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

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

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

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

Objective: Neutralize Terror Infrastructure and Re-establish Deterrence

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

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**. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

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. (Click here to read article)

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. (Click here to read article)

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. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

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. (Click here to read article)

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**. (Click here to read article)

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. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

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**. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

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**. (Click here to read article)

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**. (Click here to read article)
- 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**. (Click here to read article)

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**. (Click here to read article)
- 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. (Click here to read article)

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. (Click here to read article)
- 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. (Click here to read article)
- 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. (Click here to read article)
- 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. (Click here to read article)
- **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. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- 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)**. (Click here to read article)

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**. (Click here to read article)

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.**(Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

- **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**. (Click here to read article)

- *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. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- **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**. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

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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.

GOVT SCHEMES

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**.

Name of Initiative	Purpose
	• It aligns with **Digital India**, **Make in India**, and the goal of achieving **$500 billion electronics output** by 2030. Industry giants like **Tata Electronics** and **Foxconn** have reportedly shown interest.
''Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA)	• 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. (Click here to read article)

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

- **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.. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

- **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. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

- **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**. (Click here to read article)

BANKING & FINANCE

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.
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.
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)**

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

S.No	Announcement	Key Details
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. (Click here to read article)

• 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. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))
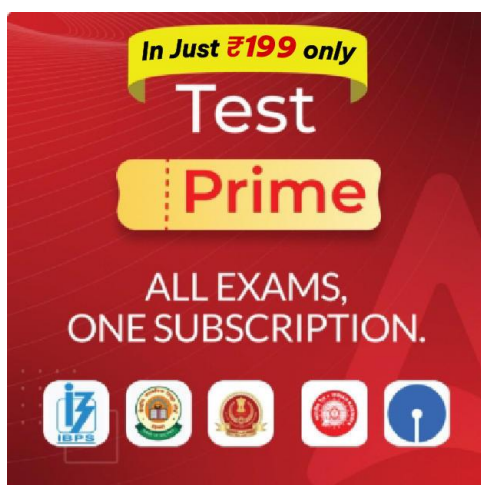
ECONOMY & BUSINESS

GDP & GROWTH RATE as per October 2024

- The **United Nations** has cut **India's 2025 GDP growth forecast** to **6.3%**, down from **7.1% in 2024**, while still recognizing India as one of the **fastest-growing large economies**. Key drivers include **strong private consumption**, **public investment**, and **services exports**. The **UN report** also warns of **global headwinds** like **trade tensions**, **tariff hikes**, and **investment uncertainty**, affecting overall global growth. **Inflation** in India is projected to remain within the **RBI's target range**, enabling **monetary easing**. Despite global risks, **India's macroeconomic fundamentals remain strong**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Morgan Stanley has increased India's GDP growth forecast to **6.2% for FY26** and **6.5% for FY27**, driven by **robust domestic demand**, rising **urban and rural consumption**, and strong **public capital expenditure**. The report highlights the **stability of macroeconomic fundamentals**, expected **policy easing** by the RBI, and the positive impact of reduced global trade tensions on India's external outlook. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Fitch Ratings has **raised India's medium-term growth forecast to 6.4%** for FY26, citing **higher labour force participation** and **reduced pandemic scarring**. While the report warns of **slowing labour productivity** and **reverting total factor productivity**, India's outlook shines in contrast to declining estimates for other **emerging markets**, especially **China**. This signals global recognition of India's **economic resilience** and **growth potential**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Crisil**, the global ratings and analytics agency, has projected **India's gross domestic product (GDP)** growth at **6.5% in fiscal 2026 (FY26)**, supported by **improving domestic consumption**, **easing inflation**, and **favourable monetary policy**. ([Click here to read article](#))

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.** ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

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**. (Click here to read article)

- **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. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

- **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. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- **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**. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- **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**. (Click here to read article)

- **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. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

MoU's & AGREEMENTS

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**.

Country	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
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)**. (Click here to read article)

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.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

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**.

Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
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.
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**.
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.

AWARDS

Other Awards

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**

S.No.	Name of Award	Winner
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**

SUMMITS, EVENTS & CONFERENCE

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**.
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**.

Category	Event	Key Points
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.
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**.

Category	Event	Key Points
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**.

INDEX

RANKING

India's Total Fertility Rate Remains at 2.0: SRS 2021 Report

India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) stood at 2.0 in 2021, the same as in 2020, as per the Sample Registration System (SRS) report 2021 released by the Registrar General of India (RGI). The report provides vital insights into the country's changing demographic patterns, including fertility, ageing population, and marriage trends. Notably, Bihar reported the highest TFR at 3.0, while Delhi and West Bengal recorded the lowest at 1.4.

Why in News?

The SRS 2021 report, released on May 7, 2025, provides updated demographic estimates at the national and state levels, a crucial resource in the absence of the 2021 Census, which has been delayed. The report gains added relevance amid the announcement in the 2024 interim budget regarding a high-power committee to address population growth and demographic shifts in India.

Key Highlights of the SRS 2021 Report

Total Fertility Rate (TFR)
• **National average:** 2.0, same as 2020.
• **Bihar:** Highest TFR at 3.0.
• **Delhi & West Bengal**: Lowest TFR at 1.4.

TFR Below Replacement Level (2.1) in many states
• **Includes:** Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, etc.

TFR at or above Replacement Level
• Assam (2.1), Gujarat (2.0), Haryana (2.0).

Age Structure Shift
Decline in 0–14 years population
• From 41.2% (1971) to 24.8% (2021).
• Rise in 15–59 years (working age group):
• From 53.4% to 66.2%.

Increase in elderly population
- 65+ age group: From 5.3% to 5.9%.
- 60+ age group: From 6% to 9%.

Elderly Population by State
Highest
- Kerala: 14.4%
- Tamil Nadu: 12.9%
- Himachal Pradesh: 12.3%

Lowest
- Bihar: 6.9%
- Assam: 7%
- Delhi: 7.1%

Marriage Trends
- Mean age at effective marriage for females:
- Increased from 19.3 years (1990) to 22.5 years (2021).

About SRS Survey
- **Conducted by:** Registrar General of India (RGI).
- Largest demographic survey in India after the Census.
- Covers 8,842 sample units across states.
- **Sample population:** ~84 lakh individuals.

CareEdge State Rankings 2025: Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Karnataka Lead the Way

In the latest CareEdge Ratings State Ranking 2025, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Karnataka have emerged as the top three states based on their overall performance across seven key pillars: economic, fiscal, infrastructure, financial development, social, governance, and environment. The rankings, which are based on a detailed evaluation of 50 indicators, shed light on the diverse strengths and challenges of Indian states.

Why in the News?
The CareEdge Ratings State Ranking 2025 has placed Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Karnataka as the top-performing states in India, based on their performance across multiple metrics.

Aim of the Rankings
- **Evaluate performance:** The CareEdge Rankings aim to assess the overall development and sustainability of Indian states using a comprehensive set of indicators.
- **Focus on holistic growth:** The rankings are based on seven pillars, offering a multi-dimensional view of each state's progress.
- **Encourage informed decision-making**: The rankings provide insights into the investment attractiveness of states, making them a valuable resource for businesses and policymakers.

Significance of the Report
- **Investment attractiveness**: States with high rankings are likely to attract greater investment due to their favorable fiscal, economic, and governance conditions.

- **Regional development insights**: The rankings highlight the regional disparities in development, showcasing the dominance of western and southern states in economic, fiscal, and environmental indicators.
- **Policy formulation:** The rankings provide a foundation for policy-making, encouraging states to focus on areas where they lag, such as social development or environmental governance.

Key Findings
- **Maharashtra:** Ranked first overall, benefiting from a strong performance across financial, economic, fiscal, and social metrics.
- **Gujarat:** Excelled in economic performance, driven by high per capita GSDP, strong FDI inflows, and high gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) for industries.
- **Karnataka:** Ranked third with significant achievements in industrial and environmental indicators.
- **Goa:** Highest-ranked among small states, showing strong performance in fiscal, financial development, and infrastructure metrics.

Regional Patterns
- **Western States:** States like Gujarat and Maharashtra dominate economic and fiscal parameters due to their strong industrial bases and investments.
- **Southern States:** Karnataka, in particular, excels in governance and environmental indicators, reflecting its policies on sustainable growth and good governance.

Forbes W-Power List 2025 Recognizes India's Leading Women Achievers

In a world that is increasingly recognizing the power and potential of women leaders, Forbes India has released its much-anticipated W-Power List 2025, spotlighting the nation's most influential and self-made women. These women come from diverse backgrounds — from global finance and filmmaking to sports, science, and entrepreneurship — and are breaking barriers while setting new benchmarks in their respective domains.

Why in News?
Forbes India recently published the W-Power 2025 list, celebrating self-made women from various sectors who have significantly influenced their fields, challenged norms, and redefined success in India and beyond.

About the W-Power List 2025
- An annual feature by Forbes India recognizing self-made, influential Indian women across sectors.
- Focuses on women leading from the front, whether in business, politics, science, arts, or sports.
- Aims to inspire the next generation of women by showcasing real success stories.

Notable Names Featured

- Gita Gopinath – First Deputy Managing Director, IMF
- Leena Nair – Global CEO, Chanel
- Smriti Mandhana, PV Sindhu, and Manu Bhaker – International sportspersons
- Payal Kapadia – Award-winning filmmaker
- Dr. Pratima Murthy – Director, NIMHANS
- Rohini Iyer – PR and marketing entrepreneur
- Shefali Goradia – Chairperson, Deloitte South Asia
- Vishakha Mulye – CEO, Aditya Birla Capital Limited

India Justice Report 2025: Where Do We Stand?

The **India Justice Report (IJR) 2025**, published earlier this year, delivers a comprehensive analysis of the **institutional capacity of the justice delivery system in India**. Now in its fourth edition, the IJR has become the **only quantitative index** of its kind in India, relying entirely on **government data** to assess how well states are equipped to deliver justice to their citizens.

Launched first in 2019 with the support of **Tata Trusts**, the 2025 report has been jointly produced in partnership with **DAKSH**, **Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative**, **Common Cause**, **Centre for Social Justice**, **Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy**, and **TISS-Prayas**.

Why the IJR Matters: A Tool for Accountability
The **IJR 2025** evaluates the justice system using five key pillars: **police**, **prisons**, **judiciary**, **legal aid**, and **human rights commissions**. These pillars are measured using a mix of indicators related to **human resources**, **infrastructure**, **budgetary allocations**, **workload**, and **diversity**.

Unlike qualitative assessments or opinion-based rankings, the IJR is rooted in **hard statistics**. This makes it a vital tool not just for policymakers, but also for **UPSC aspirants**, civil society groups, and legal practitioners aiming to understand the practical strengths and weaknesses in India's justice infrastructure.

State Rankings: Karnataka Leads, UP and WB Languish
In the **overall ranking of large and mid-sized states**, **Karnataka retained its first position**, followed by **Andhra Pradesh**, which jumped from 5th to 2nd. **Telangana** and **Kerala** follow closely.

At the bottom of the list:
- **Uttar Pradesh** ranks **17th**, up by one place
- **West Bengal** slips to **18th**, down from 17th

State	IJR 2025 Rank	IJR 2022 Rank
Karnataka	1	1
Andhra Pradesh	2	5
Telangana	3	3
Kerala	4	6
Uttar Pradesh	17	18
West Bengal	18	17

India and the Rule of Law Index 2024

In a related development, the **World Justice Project (WJP)** released the **Rule of Law Index 2024**, in which **India ranks 79 out of 142 countries**. The index assesses countries across **eight dimensions**:

- Constraints on government powers
- Absence of corruption
- Open government
- Fundamental rights
- Order and security
- Regulatory enforcement
- Civil justice
- Criminal justice

India's **criminal justice system** ranks **89th**, indicating weak mechanisms to prosecute offenses and deliver fair outcomes. Its **civil justice system** performs even worse, at **111th**, largely due to issues such as **accessibility**, **delays**, **corruption**, and **lack of impartial dispute resolution**.

Human Development Index 2025: A Detailed Analysis

India improved its rank to **130 out of 193 countries** on the **Human Development Index (HDI)** in 2023, according to the **UNDP Human Development Report 2025**. This marks a three-place rise from its 2022 rank of 133. India also demonstrated notable improvement in reducing gender inequality, climbing from 108 (out of 166 countries) in 2022 to **102 out of 193 countries** in 2023 on the **Gender Inequality Index (GII)**. The theme of the Human Development Report **"A matter of choice: People and possibilities in the age of AI"**.

Despite this progress, India scored **0.874 on the Gender Development Index (GDI)**, placing it among Group 5 countries which are considered to have **low success in closing the gender gap**. On the HDI front, with a value of **0.685**, India remains in the **medium human development category**, but is inching closer to the threshold of high human development, set at **0.700**.

Top 10 Country in Human Development Index 2025

HDI Rank (2023)	Country	HDI Value (2023)
1	Iceland	0.972
2	Norway	0.970
2	Switzerland	0.970
4	Denmark	0.962
5	Germany	0.959
5	Sweden	0.959
7	Australia	0.958
8	Hong Kong, China (SAR)	0.955
8	Netherlands	0.955
10	Belgium	0.951

Bottom 10 Country in Human Development Index 2025

HDI Rank (2023)	Country	HDI Value (2023)
184	Yemen	0.470
185	Sierra Leone	0.467
186	Burkina Faso	0.459
187	Burundi	0.439
188	Mali	0.419
188	Niger	0.419
190	Chad	0.416
..	Central African Republic	0.414
192	Somalia	0.404
193	South Sudan	0.388

REPORT

- India's steady progress on the **Human Development Index (HDI)** reflects notable improvements in health and education, including a rise in life expectancy and increased school attendance. However, disparities in income and gender persist, with inequality **lowering India's HDI by over 30%.** The report also emphasizes India's growing potential in artificial intelligence, which is expected to play a key role in its future development. **Despite these advancements, global progress in human development remains slow, marking the 2025 HDR as an important indicator of both achievements and ongoing challenges**.

- The **IEA's Global Methane Tracker 2025** reveals that **methane emissions from the energy sector remain high and underreported**, with **abandoned infrastructure and fossil fuel operations** driving much of the pollution. Although technological solutions and international pledges exist, their **implementation is weak**, and **satellite data continues to expose hidden emissions**. The report urges immediate action to **enhance monitoring**, **enforce policies**, and **unlock energy security benefits** by reducing leaks and flaring.

- NITI Aayog's **"Designing a Policy for Medium Enterprises"** report marks a critical step toward enhancing the competitiveness of a largely untapped segment of the MSME sector. Despite representing just **0.3%** of MSMEs, medium enterprises contribute significantly to exports, showcasing immense potential. The report presents a policy framework centered on **financial support**, **Industry 4.0**, **R&D**, **testing infrastructure**, **custom skilling**, and a **centralized digital portal** to strengthen their capabilities. These measures aim to position medium enterprises as the **backbone of industrial growth**, aligning with the **Viksit Bharat @2047** vision.

DEFENCE

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.

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
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. ([Click here to read article](#))
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. ([Click here to read article](#))

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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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](#))

SPORTS

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)**. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- **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**. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

- **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**. (Click here to read article)

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**. (Click here to read article)

- **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**. (Click here to read article)

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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

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**. ([Click here to read article](#))

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**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **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**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- 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**. ([Click here to read article](#))
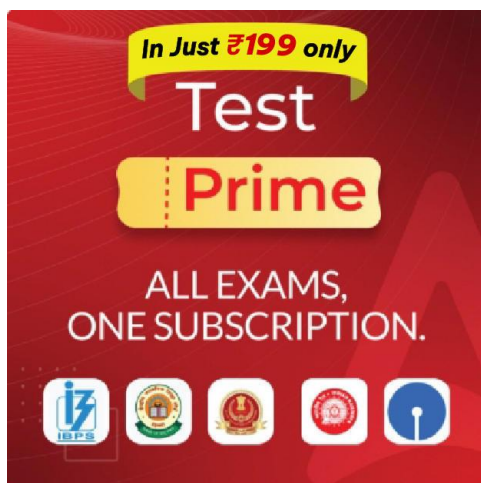- Neeraj Chopra, **India's Olympic champion**, achieved a **career-defining milestone** by breaching the **90m barrier** in javelin with a **90.23m throw** at the **2025 Doha Diamond League**. He became the **first Indian** and **third Asian** to do so, joining an elite group of **global athletes**. 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. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **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**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read article](#))

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- **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. (Click here to read article)

- **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**. (Click here to read article)

OTHER SPORTS NEWS

- The **Khelo India Youth Games 2025,** hosted in Bihar, marks a transformative moment for the state's sports landscape. With participation from over 6,000 athletes across 27 disciplines, including new sports like sepaktakraw and esports, the event reflects India's commitment to nurturing talent for future global competitions. The program has bolstered Bihar's sports infrastructure, **with 38 Khelo India Centres established, offering training in various disciplines**. (Click here to read article)

- **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**. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)

- **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**. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- 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. (Click here to read article)

- 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**. (Click here to read article)
- **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. (Click here to read article)

BOOKS & AUTHORS

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.
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.

OBITUARY

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)

S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	KEY NOTES
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.
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.

S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	KEY NOTES
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.

IMPORTANT DAYS

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**.
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**.

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
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.
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**.

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
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.
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.

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
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.
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**.

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
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.
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.

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
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.
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.

Miscellaneous

- 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. (Click here to read article)
- **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**. (Click here to read article)
- **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. (Click here to read article)
- 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. (Click here to read article)
- 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. (Click here to read article)

Static Takeaways

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 - Cyril Anand
8	Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation India	CEO - Shantanu Mitra
9	Union Bank	MD - Manimekhalai	HQ - Mumbai
10	Canara Bank	MD - Satyanarayan Raju	HQ - Bengaluru
11	UPSC	Chairman - Ajay Kumar
12	Supreme Court	CJI - Justice Gavai
13	ISRO	Chairman - V Narayanan
14	WHO	HQ - Geneva
15	USA	President - Donald Trump	Capital - Washington D.C.	Currency - USD
16	Angola	President - Joao Lourenco	Capital - Luanda	Currency - Kwanza
17	Russia	President - Vladimir Putin	Capital - Moscow	Currency - Ruble
18	Vietnam	President - Luong Cuong	Capital - Hanoi	Currency - Dong
19	France	President - Emmanuel Macron	Capital - Paris	Currency - Euro
20	China	President - Xi Jinping	Capital - Beijing	Currency - Yuan
21	Bhutan	PM - Tshering Tobgay	Capital - Thimpu	Currency - Ngultrum
22	Japan	President - Shiegru Ishiba	Capital - Tokyo	Currency - Yen
23	Canada	President - Mark Carney	Capital - Ottawa	Currency - Canadian Dollar

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
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