

Weekly One Liners 02nd to 8th June, 2025

Telangana Notifies Kumram Bheem Conservation Reserve to Boost Tiger Corridor

In a major step towards wildlife conservation and habitat connectivity, the Government of Telangana has officially notified the Kawal-Tadoba tiger corridor as the Kumram Bheem Conservation Reserve. Spanning nearly 1,493 sq. km, this newly declared reserve strengthens efforts to protect India's big cat population and other critical biodiversity in the central Indian landscape.

Why in News?

On May 30, 2025, the Telangana government issued orders under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, designating a vital tiger corridor linking Kawal Tiger Reserve (Telangana) and Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (Maharashtra) as the Kumram Bheem Conservation Reserve.

Key Objectives and Purpose

- Enhance tiger connectivity between reserves in Telangana, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh.
- Legally protect a vital wildlife corridor spanning over 1,492.88 sq. km.
- Safeguard biodiversity and promote interstate animal movement.
- Support long-term breeding and habitat preservation.

Location and Coverage

- Situated in Kumram Bheem Asifabad district, Telangana.
- Spans Asifabad and Kagaznagar divisions.
- Covers 10 mandals and 78 reserve forest blocks including: Garlapet, Ada, Manikgarh East & West, Bejjur, Kadamba, etc.

Ecological Significance

- Hosts resident and transient tigers, with over 45 unique individuals identified over the last decade.
- Home to other carnivores: leopards, wild dogs, sloth bears, wolves, hyenas, honey badgers, jungle cats.
- Rich prey base: gaur, chital, sambar, nilgai, four-horned antelope, and more.
- Unique avian species: Malabar Pied Hornbills, Long Billed Vultures (only nesting site).



Legal Framework

- Declared under Section 36(A) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- Enables creation of conservation reserves in government-owned land linking protected areas.

Governance and Management

A conservation reserve management committee has been formed, including,

- District Forest Officer (Convenor)
- Local sarpanches
- NGOs (Hyderabad Tiger Conservation Society, WWF, Wildlife Conservation Trust)
- District-level agriculture, veterinary and forest officials

G7 Summit 2025: Key Highlights, Participants, and India's Absence

The 51st G7 Summit will be held from June 15 to 17, 2025, in Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada, marking the summit's 50th anniversary. As the host nation, Canada aims to foster collaborative dialogue on key global concerns like climate change, economic stability, digital transformation, and geopolitical peace. However, this year's summit sees a notable development — India will not participate for the first time in six years, reportedly due to strained diplomatic ties with Canada.

Why in News?

The G7 Summit 2025 will take place in Kananaskis, Alberta, from June 15–17, 2025. The summit celebrates the 50th anniversary of the first G7 meeting. India will not participate due to ongoing diplomatic tensions with Canada. The summit will address critical issues such as, Global economic stability, Climate action, Digital technology transformation and Peace and global security.

About the G7 Summit

The G7 (Group of Seven) consists of,

1. Canada
2. France
3. Germany
4. Italy
5. Japan
6. United Kingdom
7. United States

The European Union also participates in discussions but is not a formal member and The summit provides a platform for high-level discussions on economy, security, health, energy, environment, and international cooperation.

Host Country & Venue 2025

- **Host Country:** Canada
- **Venue:** Kananaskis, Alberta
- **Dates:** June 15–17, 2025

Significance

- Second time Kananaskis is hosting (last in 2002).
- Marks the 50th year of the G7 summits since their inception in 1975.

Core G7 Members and Their Leaders

- **Canada (Host):** Prime Minister Mark Carney
- **France:** President Emmanuel Macron
- **Germany:** Chancellor Friedrich Merz
- **Italy:** Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni
- **Japan:** Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba
- **United Kingdom:** Prime Minister Keir Starmer
- **United States:** President Donald Trump

European Union

- Council President António Costa
- Commission President Ursula von der Leyen

Invited Guest Nations and Leaders

- **Australia:** PM Anthony Albanese
- **Brazil:** President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva
- **Mexico:** President Claudia Sheinbaum (attendance unconfirmed)
- **South Africa:** President Cyril Ramaphosa
- **Ukraine:** President Volodymyr Zelenskyy
- **India:** Not invited this year due to strained bilateral relations with Canada. PM Narendra Modi will miss the summit for the first time in six years.

Focus Areas of G7 Summit 2025

- Climate Change Mitigation
- Global Economic Recovery
- Digital Governance & AI Regulation
- Peace and Conflict Resolution
- Health Infrastructure & Pandemic Preparedness

Significance of the 2025 G7 Summit

- **Global Leadership Forum:** Reinforces the G7's commitment to multilateralism.
- **Geopolitical Context:** Reflects evolving alliances and diplomatic rifts, especially visible in India–Canada relations.
- **Tech & Sustainability:** Pushes for regulations on emerging tech and commits to climate goals.

Khichan and Menar Wetlands Get Ramsar Tag Ahead of World Environment Day

In a significant boost to India's environmental conservation efforts, two wetlands from Rajasthan—Khichan in Phalodi and Menar in Udaipur—have been added to the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance, taking India's total tally to 91 Ramsar Sites. The announcement, made on the eve of World Environment Day 2025, underscores the country's commitment to protecting vital ecosystems and aligns with global sustainability goals.

Why in News?

India has added Khichan and Menar wetlands to the Ramsar List on June 4, 2025, just before World Environment Day (June 5). This move not only strengthens India's biodiversity conservation efforts but also highlights the role of public participation and government initiatives in safeguarding natural habitats.

What Are Ramsar Sites?

- A Ramsar Site is a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, an intergovernmental treaty signed in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran.
- The convention promotes the conservation and wise use of wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation.

About the Two Newly Added Sites

Khichan (Phalodi, Rajasthan)

- Famous for attracting thousands of migratory Demoiselle Cranes.
- A crucial stopover for migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway.
- Popular for birdwatching tourism, contributing to the local economy.

Menar (Udaipur, Rajasthan)

- Referred to as the "bird village" due to its thriving avian population.
- A habitat for over 150 bird species, including flamingos, pelicans, and storks.
- Actively conserved through community participation.

Significance of Wetlands

- Act as natural water filters and carbon sinks.
- Help in flood control, groundwater recharge, and biodiversity conservation.
- Support livelihoods via fishing, farming, and tourism.
- Critical to climate regulation and maintaining ecological balance.

India and the Ramsar Convention

- India became a signatory to the Ramsar Convention in 1982.
- The country has steadily increased its Ramsar tally over the years, reflecting proactive environmental policies.

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

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

Why in News?

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

Background of Census in India

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

Key Features of Census 2027

Conducted in Two Phases

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

Reference Date

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

Inclusion of Caste Enumeration

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

Objectives and Importance

- Update population figures to reflect the current demographic trends.
- Aid in planning public infrastructure, allocating welfare schemes, and electoral management.
- Caste data will help in evaluating the effectiveness of reservation policies and identifying marginalized communities.

Static and Legal Facts

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



Last census phases

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

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

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

Why in News?

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

Aims and Objectives

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

Project Timeline and Completion

USBRL Total Length: 272 km (Udhampur to Baramulla)

Key milestones

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

Highlights of the Chenab Rail Bridge

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

Features

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

National and Regional Significance

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

Major Infrastructure Projects

Chenab Bridge

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

Anji Bridge

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

USBRL (Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link)

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

Vande Bharat Trains

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

Healthcare Boost

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

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

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

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

1. Policy Rate Cut

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

2. Adjusted Policy Corridor

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

3. Shift in Policy Stance

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

Next Meeting Date

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

GDP Growth Forecast

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

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

Inflation Forecast (CPI) – Revised Downward

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

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

Who are members of the RBI MPC?

Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934 provides for an empowered six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) to be constituted by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette. The first such MPC was constituted on September 29, 2016. The present MPC members, as notified by the Central Government in the Official Gazette of October 1, 2024, are as under:

- Governor of the Reserve Bank of India—Chairperson, ex officio;
- Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, in charge of Monetary Policy—Member, ex officio;
- One officer of the Reserve Bank of India to be nominated by the Central Board—Member, ex officio;
- **Dr. Nagesh Kumar**, Director and Chief Executive, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi — Member;
- **Shri Saugata Bhattacharya**, Economist — Member; and
- **Prof. Ram Singh**, Director, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi —Member

(Members referred to at 4 to 6 above, will hold office for a period of four years or until further orders, whichever is earlier)

- The MPC determines the policy repo rate required to achieve the inflation target.
- The MPC is required to meet at least four times in a year. The quorum for the meeting of the MPC is four members.
- Each member of the MPC has one vote, and in the event of an equality of votes, the Governor has a second or casting vote.
- Each Member of the Monetary Policy Committee writes a statement specifying the reasons for voting in favour of, or against the proposed resolution.

RBI Instruments of Monetary Policy**Repo Rate**

The Repo Rate is the interest rate at which the Reserve Bank of India lends short-term funds to commercial banks under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF), using government and other approved securities as collateral. It serves as the primary monetary policy tool for regulating inflation and managing liquidity in the economy. When the repo rate is increased, borrowing becomes more expensive, which helps control inflation. Conversely, a reduction in the repo rate makes borrowing cheaper, encouraging lending and investment, thus stimulating economic growth.

Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate

The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate is the interest rate at which the RBI accepts uncollateralised overnight deposits from commercial banks. Introduced in April 2022, it replaced the fixed reverse repo rate as the floor of the LAF corridor. The SDF rate is placed 25 basis points below the policy repo rate. It plays a dual role by not only absorbing surplus liquidity but also contributing to overall financial stability, allowing banks to deposit excess funds with the central bank without requiring securities.

Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate

The Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate is a penal rate at which banks can borrow funds overnight from the RBI by dipping into their Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) holdings, up to a predefined limit (usually 2%). This facility acts as a last-resort mechanism to manage unexpected liquidity pressures in the banking system. The MSF rate is set 25 basis points above the repo rate and serves as the upper bound or ceiling of the LAF corridor.

Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)

The Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) comprises the RBI's tools to either inject or absorb liquidity in the banking system. It includes overnight and term repo/reverse repo operations at fixed and variable rates, as well as the SDF and MSF. In addition to LAF operations, the RBI also utilizes instruments such as open market operations (OMOs), forex swaps, and the Market Stabilisation Scheme (MSS) for effective liquidity management.

LAF Corridor

The LAF Corridor is the range within which the RBI allows overnight money market interest rates to fluctuate. The corridor has the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate as the upper bound, the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate as the lower bound, and the policy repo rate at its midpoint. This structure helps guide short-term interest rates and ensures the smooth functioning of the monetary transmission mechanism.

Main Liquidity Management Tool

The main liquidity management tool of the RBI is the 14-day term repo or reverse repo auction conducted at a variable rate. These operations are aligned with the cash reserve ratio (CRR) maintenance cycle and serve to manage the routine liquidity requirements of the banking system. This is the RBI's principal method for fine-tuning liquidity in normal market conditions.

Fine Tuning Operations

Fine tuning operations are supplementary liquidity measures taken by the RBI to address short-term and unforeseen liquidity fluctuations. These include overnight or longer-tenor repo/reverse repo auctions. If needed, the RBI may also conduct variable rate repo/reverse repo auctions with tenors exceeding 14 days. These operations help maintain liquidity conditions within the desired corridor.

Reverse Repo Rate

The Reverse Repo Rate is the interest rate at which the RBI absorbs liquidity from commercial banks by accepting deposits backed by government securities. Though it remains part of the LAF framework, its role has been altered since the introduction of the SDF. The RBI now uses fixed-rate reverse repo operations at its discretion, depending on prevailing liquidity and policy needs.

Bank Rate

The Bank Rate is the rate at which the RBI is willing to buy or rediscount bills of exchange and other commercial instruments. It also acts as a penal rate charged to banks for failing to maintain statutory reserve requirements like the CRR and SLR. Published under Section 49 of the RBI Act, 1934, the Bank Rate has been aligned with the MSF rate and changes automatically with adjustments to the repo rate.

Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)

The Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) is the minimum average daily balance that commercial banks are required to maintain with the RBI as a percentage of their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL), as of the last Friday of the second preceding fortnight. The CRR is a tool used to control the money supply and liquidity in the economy by restricting the amount of funds available for lending.

Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)

The Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) mandates that banks maintain a certain percentage of their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) in the form of liquid assets such as unencumbered government securities, cash, or gold. Like CRR, the SLR helps in regulating credit growth, ensuring bank solvency, and controlling inflation.

Open Market Operations (OMOs)

Open Market Operations (OMOs) refer to the outright purchase or sale of government securities by the RBI in the open market. These operations are aimed at injecting or absorbing long-term liquidity in the banking system. When the RBI buys securities, it infuses liquidity; when it sells, it absorbs liquidity. OMOs are a critical component of the RBI's toolkit for durable liquidity management.

EnviStats India 2025 Offers Crucial Insights on India's Environmental Progress

On the occasion of World Environment Day (June 5, 2025), the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the 8th edition of "EnviStats India 2025: Environment Statistics" at a national workshop held in New Delhi. The publication provides a comprehensive overview of India's environmental indicators, tracking key changes in climate patterns, biodiversity, energy production, and sustainability metrics over the last decade. With contributions from various central ministries and alignment with the UN's Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) 2013, this annual report is a vital tool for evidence-based environmental policymaking.

Why in News?

The 8th edition of EnviStats India was released by MoSPI on June 5, 2025, aligning with World Environment Day. The report offers quantitative data and emerging trends related to climate change, biodiversity, fisheries, renewable energy, and environmental expenditure. The 2025 edition features new structural changes, indicator mapping, and data integration with FDES 2013.

Objectives of EnviStats India 2025

- Present scientific and statistical data on India's environmental conditions.
- Support policy formulation, research, and environmental management.
- Enhance public access to environmental statistics for transparency and academic use.
- Align with global environmental frameworks like FDES 2013.

Energy and Climate Trends

- Thermal power generation rose from 7.92 lakh GWh (2013-14) to 13.26 lakh GWh (2023-24).
- Renewable energy production increased from 65,520 GWh to 2,25,835 GWh in the same period.
- Annual mean temperature climbed from 25.05°C (2001) to 25.74°C (2024).
- Minimum temperature rose from 19.32°C to 20.24°C, and maximum from 30.78°C to 31.25°C.
- No long-term trend in annual rainfall, though year-to-year variability exists due to monsoon fluctuations.

Fisheries Production

- Inland fish production nearly doubled: from 61.36 lakh tonnes (2013-14) to 139.07 lakh tonnes (2023-24).
- Marine fish production grew from 34.43 lakh tonnes to 44.95 lakh tonnes during the same period.

Biodiversity Statistics

- India accounts for 1,04,561 faunal species out of the world's 16,73,627 species.
- Includes 20,613 marine species, 9,436 freshwater species, and 22,404 soil species.
- Rich biodiversity in mangroves, estuarine, and soil ecosystems.



Structural Reforms in EnviStats 2025

- Expert group formed to expand scope, identify new data sources, and refine presentation.
- Introduction of component-wise data structure aligned with FDES 2013.
- Includes new data on access to electricity, transport, sanitation, and Ramsar sites.

Environmental Expenditure

- Environment Sustainability Sector saw highest expenditure: Rs. 2,433.24 crore (2021–22).
- Agro-forestry had the lowest funding, while Conservation of Natural Resources showed growth.

Background & Context

- EnviStats began in 2018, published annually by NSO under MoSPI.
- Aligned with FDES 2013, a UN-recommended statistical framework for environmental data.
- Built using data from multiple central ministries and agencies.

PM Modi to Attend G-7 Summit in Canada, Signaling Thaw in Bilateral Ties

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Canada next week to participate in the G-7 Summit, following an invitation from Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney. This visit, Mr. Modi's first to Canada in a decade, comes amid efforts to repair strained bilateral ties caused by the Khalistan separatist issue, allegations over the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, and reciprocal diplomatic expulsions in 2023–24. The invitation and acceptance mark a significant step towards restoring India-Canada diplomatic engagement and rekindling broader people-to-people and commercial relations.

Why in News?

PM Modi has officially accepted Canadian PM Mark Carney's last-minute invitation to attend the upcoming G-7 Summit in Alberta, Canada, on short notice. The development is highly significant given the recent low point in India-Canada relations and indicates a potential reset in diplomatic ties following political transitions and ongoing international dialogues.

Key Highlights

- **Event:** G-7 Summit 2025
- **Location:** Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada
- **Date:** Next week (Mid-June 2025)
- **Invited by:** Canadian PM Mark Carney
- First India-Canada visit by PM Modi since 2015
- Theme of visit: Resetting bilateral relations with "renewed vigour"

Context and Background

India-Canada ties worsened over

- Khalistan-related violence and protests
- Murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in 2023
- Expulsion of High Commissioners and diplomats in 2023 and 2024
- Suspension of visa services and downsizing embassies

Two major anniversaries in June

- 40 years since Air India Kanishka bombing (June 23, 1985)
- 2 years since Nijjar's assassination (June 18, 2023)

What the Leaders Said

PM Mark Carney

- Discussed "security cooperation and law enforcement dialogue"
- Emphasized shared commercial and people-to-people ties

PM Narendra Modi

- Promised to work with "renewed vigour guided by mutual respect"
- Congratulated Carney on election victory
- Highlighted India-Canada as vibrant democracies

International Implications

Modi to meet

- U.S. President Donald Trump, amid tensions over Operation Sindoor
- U.K. PM Keir Starmer, post India-U.K. FTA finalization
- Possible interactions with Quad and BRICS leaders (Australia, Brazil, South Africa)

Future of Diplomatic Exchanges

- Canada had proposed Christopher Cooter as High Commissioner to India in 2024.
- India recently named Dinesh Patnaik, Ambassador to Spain, for the post in Ottawa.
- Speculation on whether High Commissioners will be restored as part of the thaw

National Affairs

- The Government of India commemorated **60 years of Integral Humanism**, a philosophy by **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya**, with a national symposium addressed by **Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan**. The Minister emphasized agriculture as the backbone of the Indian economy, advocated for environmental consciousness through a **tree plantation drive**, and promoted **women's empowerment** via schemes like **Lakshpati Didi Yojana**. He reiterated that Deendayal Ji's ideology offers a uniquely Indian framework for development grounded in **cultural ethos, balanced economics, and social harmony**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Government of India has launched the **SPMEPCI scheme** to accelerate the growth of the **domestic electric vehicle industry** by offering import duty concessions and supporting local manufacturing. By allowing **brownfield investments** and capping imports with rollover provisions, the government aims to attract major global players and bolster India's **clean mobility agenda**. However, Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy confirmed that **Tesla is not planning** to manufacture cars in India, underlining the challenge of securing foreign investment in the EV space. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Government of India** has permitted **Central Government employees** who retired under the **National Pension System (NPS)** with a minimum of **10 years of service** to claim **additional pension benefits** under the **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)**. The scheme, introduced in **January 2025**, offers a **50% assured pension**, a **lump sum payout**, and **monthly top-ups** to bridge the gap between UPS and NPS returns. The last date to apply is **June 30, 2025**. This move benefits nearly **23 lakh employees** and enhances **social security** for NPS retirees. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **DHRUVA policy**, launched by India's **Department of Posts**, introduces a **nationwide, geo-coded digital address system** designed to modernize how address data is used, stored, and shared. Recognising address information as foundational public infrastructure, DHRUVA ensures **secure, standardised, and consent-based address management**. It leverages the **Address-as-a-Service (AaaS)** model to benefit sectors ranging from governance to logistics. By integrating this digital approach, India strengthens its **digital public infrastructure** to support **inclusive growth, user privacy, and service innovation**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Ministry of Coal**, under the leadership of **Shri G. Kishan Reddy**, launched **C CARES Version 2.0**, a **digital platform** by **CMPFO** for **coal workers' Provident Fund and pension services**. Developed by **C-DAC** in collaboration with **SBI**, it includes **real-time tracking, direct benefit transfers**, and a **mobile app** for member access. Initially deployed in **five regional offices**, it will expand **nationwide from July 2025**. The portal advances **transparency, efficiency**, and aligns with **Digital India** and **worker welfare goals**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- At **Urban Adda 2025**, held in **New Delhi**, a powerful collective of **policymakers, activists, and urban planners** advocated for **gender-inclusive urban design**. The event illuminated the daily challenges women face in Indian cities — from **unsafe commutes to infrastructure exclusion** — and highlighted success stories like the **training of women as ferry pilots and public bus drivers**. Speakers emphasized that **urban mobility systems** must intentionally include women, and that only a **structural shift from intent to action** will ensure **equity in city design and livelihood access** for all. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** successfully observed **Swachhata Pakhwada 2025** between **May 1–15**, conducting **188 activities** across its headquarters and affiliated organizations. The campaign emphasized **cleanliness, health awareness, waste management, and community participation**, aligning with the **Swachh Bharat Mission**. Key activities included the installation of **e-waste and sanitary facilities, CPR training, cleanliness drives, and Nukkad Natak**s. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **water management system** is under immense strain from **pollution, climate change, and governance gaps**, necessitating a transition to the **Source to Sea (S2S) approach**. In 2025, the UN spotlighted **glacier preservation and ocean science**, emphasizing integrated water policies that consider the full water continuum from **mountains to oceans**. Despite early global momentum, **India has not fully embraced S2S**, although some pilot initiatives are emerging. Experts urge alignment of **SDG Goals 6.5 and 14.1**, stakeholder participation, and nested governance to ensure **sustainable and climate-resilient water futures**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The long-awaited **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL)** project, envisioned nearly **three decades ago**, has reached completion with the operationalisation of its final segment — the **Sangaldan to Katra stretch**. This milestone marks the **full integration of the Kashmir Valley into India's rail network**, highlighted by **iconic engineering feats** like the **Chenab and Anji bridges** and the **longest railway tunnel in the country**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **June 6, 2025**, **Amit Shah** inaugurated the **Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag (BBA)** to integrate **Indian languages into administrative and governance processes**, minimizing the dominance of English. Backed by ₹56 crore in funding and supported by **C-DAC**, this platform will ensure real-time translation and allow communication in **mother tongues**, especially with **Region C States**. The initiative resonates with the **NEP 2020 vision** and strengthens **linguistic inclusivity and national unity**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Election Commission of India** has introduced a **technology-based system** to automate the creation of **Index Cards and Statistical Reports**, replacing earlier manual methods. This change, under the guidance of **CEC Gyanesh Kumar**, will significantly **accelerate post-poll data dissemination**, offering detailed insights into **electoral demographics, voting patterns, and party performance**. Aimed at researchers and policymakers, this initiative reinforces **transparency, data accessibility, and academic engagement** with India's democratic processes. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has pledged **\$20 billion** to advance its **maritime infrastructure**, with a focus on building **three Green Hydrogen Hub Ports**, enhancing **global trade corridor connectivity**, and promoting **multimodal logistics**. Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** made the announcement at the **Nor-Shipping Conference**, highlighting India's commitment to a **green maritime future**, stronger **seafarer partnerships**, and **sustainable port development**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India's **digital public infrastructure** continues to expand as UIDAI reported over **211 crore Aadhaar authentication transactions in May 2025**, with **15.49 crore** via **face authentication** and **37 crore** e-KYC verifications. These figures underscore Aadhaar's central role in **government welfare, financial services, and citizen-centric governance**. Leveraging **AI/ML technologies**, Aadhaar's authentication capabilities are enabling **seamless, secure, and real-time identity verification**, driving forward the goals of **Digital India and inclusive development**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **World Environment Day 2025**, PM Narendra Modi launched the '**Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0**' campaign in Delhi, aiming to plant **10 crore trees** across India by **September 30**. The initiative, blending **environmental consciousness with cultural values**, encourages individuals to **plant a tree in their mother's name**. Additionally, the Prime Minister flagged off **200 electric buses** in the capital to promote **clean urban transport** and tackle **air pollution**. These actions reflect India's strengthened commitment to **sustainable development, climate action, and green mobility**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet**, led by CM Yogi Adityanath, has approved **20% horizontal reservation** for former **Agniveers** in various **police recruitment posts** including Constables and Firemen. The move aligns with the **Agneepath scheme**, offering **age relaxation** and inclusive benefits across categories like **SC, ST, OBC, and General**. Starting in **2026**, this policy ensures continued **employment and recognition** for Agniveers, promoting both **security and youth welfare**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- An **ancient Shiva temple**, dating back to the **later Pandya period**, was recently discovered in **Udampatti village**, Tamil Nadu. The **foundation and inscriptions from 1217-1218 CE** confirm the site's historical significance. The temple, named **Thennavanisvaram**, was once financially self-sustained and located in a village then known as **Attur**. The detailed **sale deeds** on the stone base shed light on **land ownership, water resource management, and temple endowments** during Pandya rule. This archaeological finding is a critical window into **medieval Tamil heritage, Pandya dynasty administration, and temple economy systems**. ([Click here to read article](#))

States in the News

- Karnataka has tightened its **tobacco regulations** by enacting the **COTPA (Karnataka Amendment) Act, 2024**, which raises the legal age for purchasing tobacco to **21**, imposes a **statewide ban on hookah bars**, prohibits the sale of **loose cigarettes**, and increases the **fine for public smoking** to ₹1,000. The **High Court upheld** the ban, citing **Article 47** of the Constitution. These reforms are intended to reduce tobacco addiction and improve **public health** standards across the state. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) is establishing its **first regional campus in Shillong, Meghalaya**, with funding under the **PM-DevINE** scheme. The ₹100.95 crore investment aims to transform the region into a **policy and training hub**, promoting **corporate governance, entrepreneurship, and capacity building**. Situated within the **Knowledge City cluster**, the new campus will support national missions like **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and **Vikshit Bharat @2047**, while fulfilling the government's vision of **inclusive and decentralized development** in the **North East region**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **3rd Lavender Festival** at **Bhaderwah, Jammu & Kashmir**, showcased the growing success of the **CSIR-Aroma Mission**. Held from **June 1-2, 2025**, and attended by over **1,200 participants**, the event featured field visits, live **distillation demonstrations**, and success stories of farmers and **startups**. With over ₹10.5 crore in turnover from lavender-based products and more than **9,000 trained individuals**, the festival underscored the **socio-economic upliftment, women entrepreneurship, and industrial development** spurred by lavender farming. ([Click here to read article](#))

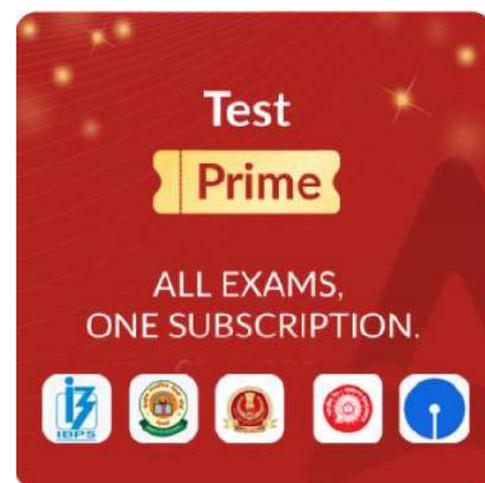
International Affairs

- **Luís Montenegro** has been reappointed as **Portugal's Prime Minister** following the final general election results, with his centre-right alliance forming a minority government. Despite the surge of the far-right Chega party, Montenegro ruled out near-term constitutional reforms and emphasized priorities like economic growth, healthcare transformation, and improved public services. The development reflects a significant shift in Portugal's political dynamics and sets the tone for pragmatic governance. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In 2024, **Germany surpassed Japan** to become the **world's largest creditor**, ending **Japan's 34-year dominance**. Despite Japan reaching record external assets, **Germany's trade surplus, stronger euro, and investment strategies** gave it the edge. Japan's **ageing population, cautious foreign investments, and a weak yen** contributed to its fall. However, **wage growth, the NISA scheme, and slow rate hikes** might help Japan regain ground in the future. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Annalena Baerbock was **elected President** of the **80th United Nations General Assembly** on **June 2, 2025**, securing **167 votes**. A former **German Foreign Minister**, Baerbock is the **first woman from the Western European group** and the **fifth overall woman** to hold the prestigious post. She assumes leadership at a time of global turbulence, pledging to act as an **"honest broker"** and focus on **UN efficiency, the 2030 Agenda, and inclusivity**. Her presidency aligns with efforts to uphold the **UNGA's role** in crises where the **Security Council** remains deadlocked, empowered further by the **2022 Veto Initiative**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Lee Jae-myung**, a liberal opposition candidate, was elected **President of South Korea on June 4, 2025**, following the removal of former conservative leader **Yoon Suk Yeol**. Lee, known for his reformist and populist rhetoric, has pledged **economic reform, pragmatic diplomacy, and peaceful engagement with North Korea**. Despite criticism for alleged pro-China leanings, he reiterated the importance of the **U.S.–South Korea alliance**. The election marks a significant democratic shift after political turmoil, with Lee facing pressing issues like **U.S. tariffs, nuclear threats, and domestic economic inequality**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Karol Nawrocki**, a conservative nationalist backed by **Donald Trump**, has been elected as **Poland's next president**, narrowly defeating liberal challenger **Rafal Trzaskowski** with **50.89% of the vote**. Nawrocki, a **historian and former head of the Institute of National Remembrance**, represents the **Law and Justice party's** attempt at a political reset after losing parliamentary power. Known for **patriotic values, anti-communist stance, and traditionalist ideals**, Nawrocki is expected to take a strong line on **national identity, foreign policy, and social conservatism**, with potential challenges ahead in **EU relations**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Nicaragua's acceptance of the **WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies** marks the **101st formal endorsement**, moving the global community closer to the agreement's entry into force. With just **10 more acceptances needed**, this step reinforces the WTO's aim to **eliminate harmful fisheries subsidies**, particularly those that support **illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing**, and to strengthen **marine sustainability**. Adopted at **MC12 in Geneva**, the agreement introduces **binding global rules, a Fish Fund** for developing nations, and a collective move toward securing the **blue economy**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a landmark decision, **Bangladesh's interim government** has **unveiled new Taka banknotes** that replace the image of **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** with visuals of **natural landscapes, archaeological sites, and Hindu and Buddhist temples**. The move aims to **depoliticise currency** amidst **ongoing political turmoil**, including legal proceedings against **exiled leader Sheikh Hasina**. The redesigned notes of **Taka 1000, 50, and 20** will circulate alongside existing ones, symbolising a shift towards a **more inclusive national identity** rooted in **cultural heritage** rather than political legacy. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has secured the **Presidency of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS)** for the **2025–2028 term**, with **V. Srinivas**, Secretary of **DARPG**, elected as its head. The election, held in **New Delhi**, saw India defeat **Austria** by receiving **87 out of 141 votes**. With this win, India gains a leading role in **global public administration reforms**, marking a significant milestone in its international engagement. IIAS, based in **Brussels**, is a respected federation of **31 member countries** and academic institutions dedicated to improving **administrative science**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **June 3, 2025**, the **UN General Assembly** elected **Bahrain, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Liberia, and Latvia** as **non-permanent members of the UN Security Council** for a term from **January 2026 to December 2027**. These countries secured overwhelming support in a **single round of voting**, with **Latvia making its first-ever entry** into the Council. The elections reflect a **balanced regional representation** and underline the **UN's commitment to inclusive global peacekeeping efforts**. Key highlights include **Colombia's seventh term** and **Latvia's historic debut** on the world's most powerful diplomatic body. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Bangladesh interim government** has **dropped the title 'Father of the Nation'** for **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** in its revised **Liberation War Act 2025**, issued on **June 3**. This move follows the release of **new currency notes that omit Mujib's image**. The act also **excludes the Mujib Bahini** from the list of **freedom fighters**, disqualifying them from state benefits. A new category, **"Associates of Liberation War,"** has been introduced to recognize broader support for the 1971 struggle. These steps mark a significant **recalibration of national history** under the post-Awami League **interim regime**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Books and Authors

- TCA Srinivasa Raghavan's new book *Indira Gandhi and the Years that Transformed India* is a deeply researched historical analysis of Indira Gandhi's tenure, with a spotlight on the Emergency of 1975–77. It emphasizes the **struggle among democratic institutions, the evolution of executive dominance, and the policy shifts** that still influence Indian politics. Released ahead of the 50th anniversary of the Emergency, it offers **valuable insights into India's constitutional and political development** through an objective lens. ([Click here to read article](#))



Banking/Economy/Business News

- The **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)** and **SEBI** launched the first **Niveshak Shivir** in **Pune** on **June 1, 2025**, focusing on helping investors **reclaim unclaimed dividends and shares**, update **KYC and nominations**, and learn about the **IEPF claim process**. Over **450 participants** benefited from **personalized assistance**, including a **search facility**, form filling support, and awareness of common errors. A special **NSDL brochure** was also released to guide investors. The initiative reflects a commitment to **transparent, investor-centric governance**, with more city-wide events to follow. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **GST collections for May 2025** rose **16.4% year-on-year** to **Rs 2.01 lakh crore**, showing **strong momentum** despite being lower than **April's record** Rs 2.37 lakh crore. While **domestic GST** grew **13.7%** to Rs 1.50 lakh crore, it slowed due to reduced **year-end transactions** and shifting **consumer behavior**. In contrast, **import GST** surged **25.2%**, indicating strong **import demand**. After **refunds**, **net GST** rose **20.4%** to Rs 1.74 lakh crore, signaling **economic recovery**, as highlighted by experts from **KPMG** and **EY India**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **UPI transactions in May 2025** hit a **record high** with **18.68 billion transactions** worth **₹25.14 trillion**, showing **4% M-o-M** and **33% Y-o-Y growth** in volume. This surge surpasses **March 2025's** previous record, highlighting India's rapid **digital payment adoption**. **Daily transactions** rose to **602 million**, with daily value reaching **₹81,106 crore**, underscoring the **UPI ecosystem's expanding scale** and deepening **usage intensity**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **SBI Economic Research Report** forecasts a **rise in household net financial savings** to **₹22 lakh crore** in **FY25**, making up **6.5% of GNDI**—a sign of economic strengthening. It also highlights the **RBI's record surplus transfer** of **₹2.69 lakh crore** and the **resilience of India's financial system** despite challenges like rising fraud amounts. The report paints a picture of **robust financial fundamentals** and **transformative shifts** in savings, governance, and institutional efficiency. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **RBI's enhanced liquidity stress testing framework** marks a significant step toward improving the financial system's capacity to absorb shocks. By including **NBFCs, UCBs**, and even its **own portfolio** in stress test models, and integrating **climate transition risk**, the central bank aims to foster a **resilient, transparent, and future-ready financial ecosystem**. The introduction of a **Growth-at-Risk** model will further align monetary policy with potential macroeconomic vulnerabilities. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India is set to review its inflation targeting framework and reassess the required liquidity levels in **FY26**. With growing concerns over the volatility of food prices, discussions are gaining momentum around using **core inflation** as a more stable benchmark for monetary policy. Simultaneously, the RBI plans to fine-tune liquidity management to maintain a **surplus of around 1% of NDTL**, ensuring smoother **policy transmission**. The shift underlines the central bank's commitment to **financial stability, price control, and growth facilitation** through a robust policy framework. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In its **Annual Report for 2024–25**, the **RBI** announced a substantial **8.2% increase** in its **balance sheet**, touching **₹76.25 lakh crore**. A **record surplus transfer** of **₹2.68 lakh crore** to the **central government** was driven by **33% growth in forex gains, 52% increase in gold reserves**, and a jump in **e-rupee circulation**. The RBI expects **macroeconomic stability** to persist, despite external **geopolitical and trade policy** challenges. Meanwhile, **currency printing costs** rose by 25% and **counterfeit detection** trends showed a rise in **₹500 and ₹200 notes**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted **in-principle approval** to **PayPal Payments** and **Worldline ePayments India** to operate as **cross-border payment aggregators (PAs)**. This move follows an RBI directive from **October 2024** requiring such firms to secure independent authorization instead of operating under the old **OPGSP** model. The step is expected to significantly benefit India's **freelancers, SMEs, and exporters**, strengthening India's digital economy and its participation in **global trade**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Canara Bank** has removed the **Average Monthly Balance** requirement for all **savings bank accounts**, including salary and NRI types, eliminating related penalties. This step, aimed at **financial inclusion**, will benefit a wide range of customers. Established in **1906**, Canara Bank now has **over 9,800 branches**, including a strong rural footprint and global presence. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has successfully facilitated the **withdrawal of ₹2,000 notes**, with **98.26% returned** by **May 31, 2025**. Introduced during the **2016 demonetisation**, these high-value notes are being phased out under the **Clean Note Policy** due to **low usage and aging currency stock**. The notes can still be **exchanged or deposited** through **RBI offices and India Post**. This step is seen as a major move towards **efficient currency management** and reducing **unaccounted cash holdings**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Deutsche Bank has appointed **Stefan Schaffer** as the **CEO of Deutsche India's Global Capability Centre (GCC)**, alongside roles as **Global CIO for Corporate Functions** and **Head of Global Technology Centres**. This appointment reinforces Deutsche Bank's commitment to **technological innovation, standardisation, and its India operations**, which currently support global functions across **finance, technology, risk, and operations** with a **20,000-strong workforce**. Schaffer's leadership experience in **Bucharest and shared applications** underscores the bank's drive toward a **digitally unified global enterprise**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed **353 penalties** worth **₹54.78 crore** on various **regulated entities (REs)** during the fiscal year **2024–25**, as disclosed in its **Annual Report**. The violations pertained to **cybersecurity non-compliance, exposure norms, IRAC guidelines, KYC norms, and fraud/data reporting failures**. Cooperative banks faced the most penalties (264), followed by **NBFCs, HFCs, and commercial banks**. The RBI's actions reinforce the growing emphasis on **regulatory enforcement, transparency, and risk mitigation** across India's banking ecosystem. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **1 June 2025**, the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** unveiled a **\$10 billion initiative** for **urban transformation in India**. This 5-year plan aims to revamp **metro networks, launch new RRTS corridors, and improve urban infrastructure and services** across over 100 cities. Backed by sovereign loans, **private capital**, and the **Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)**, the project also includes **\$3 million in technical assistance** for project planning. ADB emphasized skill development, women's empowerment, and **inclusive urban growth** as part of India's **Viksit Bharat @ 2047** mission. The announcement follows meetings with **PM Modi, FM Nirmala Sitharaman, and Housing Minister Manohar Lal**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **FY26 GDP forecast** witnessed divergence as **OECD** lowered its projection to **6.3%**, citing risks from **US tariffs, a weak monsoon, and global trade tensions**, while **UBS** raised its estimate to **6.4%** due to expectations of stronger **private consumption, tax relief, and additional RBI rate cuts**. Both institutions expect investment to be supported by **public spending** and falling **interest rates**, although OECD projects slower **global economic growth** at 2.9%. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Nomura** has revised India's **GDP growth forecast** for **FY26** to **6.2%**, citing a **divergence between strong headline indicators** like **GST collections** and weak trends in **auto sales** and **bank credit growth**. This comes as a contrast to the **RBI's 6.5% growth estimate**, highlighting caution amidst **global uncertainty**. Despite this, **Nomura raised its Nifty 50 target to 26,140**, underscoring confidence in **domestic macroeconomic stability** and **market resilience**. It also signaled a sectoral preference for **domestic-oriented sectors** over exporters. Meanwhile, **BofA Securities** maintained a positive **long-term view on Indian equities**, emphasizing structural reforms and digitisation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued a draft proposal on **April 9, 2025**, outlining revised rules for lending against gold, aiming to **align practices** across financial institutions and curb discrepancies. Triggered by the **surge in gold loan activity**, particularly among banks, these guidelines focus on **enhancing borrower safety, ensuring transparency, and streamlining lending norms**—though they've raised alarms about potential disruptions to rural credit, especially for small-scale borrowers in southern India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a groundbreaking development for **India's digital economy**, Walmart-owned **Flipkart** has received approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to operate as a **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)**. With this licence, Flipkart can now offer loans directly to its customers and sellers, moving beyond partnerships with traditional lenders. This move marks the first time an Indian e-commerce giant has been granted such a licence, paving the way for deeper fintech integration in online retail. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has revised its **gold loan guidelines**, increasing the **loan-to-value (LTV) ratio** to **85% for loans up to ₹2.5 lakh**, while setting the cap at **80% for ₹2.5–5 lakh** and **75% beyond ₹5 lakh**. Effective from **April 1, 2026**, the norms are designed to improve **credit accessibility for small-ticket borrowers** while addressing rising **non-performing assets (NPAs)** in the sector. The move follows inputs from the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** and mandates **stricter collateral valuation, faster gold return, and safeguards against misleading ads**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has officially granted **Starlink**, the satellite internet venture by **Elon Musk's SpaceX**, the much-awaited **GMPCS licence**, paving the way for the company to offer satellite communication services across the country. This makes Starlink the third operator in India's satellite internet market, alongside **OneWeb** and **Jio Satellite**, and it is expected to receive trial spectrum soon to prove its technical and security readiness. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **June 3, 2025**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** launched its first-ever **documentary series**, titled '**RBI Unlocked: Beyond the Rupee**', on **Jio Hotstar**. This **five-part series**, produced by **Chalkboard Entertainment**, offers a unique glimpse into the **90-year journey** of India's central bank. The episodes cover key areas such as **monetary policy, currency management, financial inclusion, and regulatory supervision**. With this move, the RBI aims to **demystify its operations, foster public trust, and enhance financial awareness** through a **digital, accessible medium**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- In a decisive vote, the **WADA Foundation Board** has granted President **Witold Bańka** and Vice-President **Yang Yang** a third and final term (2026–2028) to continue steering the global fight against doping. During their tenure since 2020, they have championed **athlete-centered reforms**, advanced testing technologies, and expanded anti-doping education. Their re-election underscores WADA's commitment to **transparency, scientific innovation, and athlete engagement**. Over the next three years, they will focus on elevating the athlete experience, strengthening compliance, and fostering collaboration among stakeholders to safeguard the integrity of sport. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Rajiv Memani**, Chairman and CEO of **EY India**, has been appointed the new **CII President** for **2025–26**, succeeding **Sanjiv Puri**. With a strong background in **global finance** and **industry leadership**, Memani is set to enhance **public-private collaboration** and drive **economic innovation**. Alongside him, **R. Mukundan** and **Suchitra K. Ella** have been named **President-Designate** and **Vice President**, respectively. Their leadership is expected to reinforce the Confederation's mission of strengthening **India's industrial growth** and promoting **global competitiveness**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **FSIB** has finalized **Asheesh Pandey** and **Kalyan Kumar** for the positions of MD & CEO of **Union Bank of India** and **Central Bank of India**, respectively, marking a key leadership reshuffle in the public sector banking landscape. These appointments follow interviews with 23 candidates and reflect the Bureau's ongoing efforts to ensure **efficient leadership transitions**, reinforce **good governance**, and sustain **strategic progress** in India's financial ecosystem. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **S. Padmanabhan** has been appointed as the **Chairman of Tata Chemicals**, marking a new chapter in the company's leadership. An alumnus of **IIM Bangalore**, he has held strategic roles in **TCS**, **Tata Power**, and most recently at **Tata Chemicals** as a Director. Recognized with the **Distinguished Alumnus Award** in **2008**, Padmanabhan's leadership is expected to steer Tata Chemicals through its next phase of sustainable innovation and global growth. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Ashwani Lohani**, former chief of Air India and the Railway Board, has been appointed as the **Director of the Prime Ministers Museum and Library (PMML)** for a three-year term starting June 2025. His appointment follows recent restructuring of the PMML's executive council, which now includes eminent figures like Smriti Irani and Shekhar Kapur. Lohani's extensive public sector experience is expected to significantly contribute to preserving and promoting the legacy of India's Prime Ministers. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Noted economist **S Mahendra Dev** has been appointed the **Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)**, stepping into a key policymaking role. With deep expertise in **agriculture**, **development economics**, and **rural transformation**, Dev's academic and professional background makes him well-suited to guide economic strategy in a time of evolving domestic and global challenges. His leadership is likely to strengthen India's efforts toward **inclusive growth**, **sustainable development**, and **evidence-based policymaking**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Ryan Roslansky**, the CEO of **LinkedIn**, has been appointed to also oversee **Microsoft's Office productivity division**, including the **Microsoft 365 Copilot AI suite**. This strategic leadership move reflects Microsoft's push toward **AI-driven workplace innovation** and tighter integration between its major platforms. Roslansky will remain CEO of LinkedIn while managing key products like **Word**, **Excel**, **PowerPoint**, **Teams**, and more under **Rajesh Jha's unit**, reinforcing Microsoft's long-term vision of **connected, intelligent productivity**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **TCL India** has renewed its partnership with **cricket legend Rohit Sharma** as its **brand ambassador** for the **second consecutive year**, reinforcing its core message of "**Master the Moment**". The collaboration aims to foster a **deeper emotional connection** with Indian audiences through **technology-led campaigns**, **AI-powered product innovations**, and **community-focused initiatives**. TCL's continued association with Rohit Sharma reflects a strategic move to expand its **digital presence**, enhance **brand credibility**, and inspire consumers to **embrace excellence** in every moment. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **May 28, 2025**, **Dettol** announced **MS Dhoni** as the **brand ambassador** for its new **Icy Cool** range, including **soaps**, **bodywash**, and **handwash**. The campaign addresses **summer-related hygiene problems**, offering **germ protection** with an **instant cooling effect**. Known for his calm demeanor and reliability, **Dhoni** embodies the spirit of the product, helping Dettol foster **stronger emotional engagement** with its audience while promoting **refreshing hygiene solutions** tailored for **India's hot climate**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Defence News

- In a historic **first visit**, European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) ships — **ESPS Reina Sofia** and **ITS Antonio Marceglia** — docked in **Mumbai** from **26 May to 1 June 2025**. The port call featured **Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEEs)**, a **Table Top Exercise**, and discussions with the **Indian Navy** on boosting **maritime security cooperation**. These engagements serve to enhance **interoperability**, reflect the outcomes of the **4th India-EU Maritime Security Dialogue**, and underscore shared interests in tackling **piracy**, **smuggling**, and **IUU fishing** in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Air Marshal **Jasvir Singh Mann** has assumed the role of **Senior Air Staff Officer** in the **Western Air Command of the Indian Air Force**, bringing with him a vast range of operational and strategic experience, having served in several critical commands and earned prestigious honours during his decades-long career in the armed forces. ([Click here to read article](#))

- On **June 1, 2025**, **Shailendra Nath Gupta**, a seasoned officer from the **Indian Defence Estates Service (IDES)**, took charge as the **Director General of Defence Estates (DGDE)**. Having held various leadership positions across **Cantonment Boards, Defence Estates Circles, and Commands**, Gupta now oversees **18 lakh acres of defence land**. The **DGDE**, through its six regional commands, plays a crucial role in **land management, urban governance in cantonments, and coordination with the Ministry of Defence**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Tri-Services All-Women Sailing Expedition Team** completed a **historic 1,800-nautical-mile international voyage to Seychelles**, marking the **first of its kind** by the **Indian Armed Forces**. The mission, conducted aboard 'Triveni', not only showcased the **resilience and operational capability** of women officers from the **Army, Navy, and Air Force**, but also contributed to **India's maritime diplomacy**. Their return on **June 4, 2025**, is a tribute to **Nari Shakti, Tri-services synergy, and India's strategic vision** for gender inclusion and oceanic outreach. ([Click here to read article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- Kumar Mangalam Birla**, Chairman of the **Aditya Birla Group**, has been honoured with the **Global Leadership Award** by the **U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)** at its **8th annual summit in Washington D.C.** The award recognises Birla's **visionary leadership**, which led the group to invest over **\$15 billion** in the **U.S. economy**, creating **over 5,400 jobs**. With a presence in **15 American states**, Aditya Birla Group represents one of India's largest global footprints. Birla emphasized a **long-term, people-first investment approach**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Defence Investiture Ceremony 2025 (Phase-II)**, held at **Rashtrapati Bhawan**, saw **President Droupadi Murmu** confer **92 Distinguished Service Awards** to officers from the **Armed Forces, Coast Guard, and BRO**. The honors, including **30 PVSMs, 5 UYSMs, and 57 AVSMs**, recognize excellence in both peacetime and wartime service. This ceremony reflects India's focus on **military recognition, modernization, and border preparedness**, especially amid strategic challenges along the **LAC with China**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- David Beckham**, the globally celebrated **footballer, philanthropist, and environmental advocate**, is set to receive a **knighthood** in the upcoming **King Charles III Birthday Honours**. Having already earned an **OBE in 2003**, Beckham's continued dedication to **UNICEF**, his ambassadorship with **The King's Foundation**, and his public service mark a transformation from sports icon to national role model. This honour will formally bestow the title "**Sir David Beckham**", celebrating decades of achievements both **on and off the field**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- Delhi's IGIA Airport** has been ranked among the **top 10 hub airports in Asia-Pacific and the Middle East** by the **Airports Council International (ACI APAC & MID)**. It is the **only Indian airport** to achieve this feat, with **seamless connectivity to 153 destinations**. The new **Hub Connectivity Index** evaluated the effectiveness of airport hubs, recognizing IGIA's alignment with India's vision of becoming a **global aviation transit hub**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Sports News

- In a **historic victory at Norway Chess 2025**, **Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh** defeated **World Champion Magnus Carlsen** in a **classical chess match**, marking his **first win** over the Norwegian legend. Despite being in a **losing position**, Gukesh showed **exceptional resilience**, turning the game with **accurate endgame play** and capitalizing on Carlsen's **blunders under time pressure**, notably **44...f6** and **52...Ne2+**, to claim a **momentous win** and reaffirm his status as a **rising chess prodigy**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Glenn Maxwell**, one of **Australia's most explosive ODI batters**, has announced his **retirement from One Day Internationals** after the **2025 Champions Trophy**. The **36-year-old**, known for his **unmatched strike rate of 126.70**, cited **fitness challenges, team responsibilities, and future planning for younger players** as his main reasons. Maxwell, a **two-time ODI World Cup winner**, will **continue to represent Australia in T20s**. His exit marks the end of a **power-hitting era** in Australian cricket. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Heinrich Klaasen**, a seasoned **wicketkeeper-batter for South Africa**, has **retired from international cricket**, concluding a **7-year stint** that saw him excel in both **ODIs and T20Is**. Klaasen made his decision following the **Champions Trophy 2025**, where South Africa exited in the semifinals. Renowned for his aggressive batting, he finishes with over **3000 runs in white-ball formats**, including a career-best **174 vs Australia**. The **33-year-old** cited **personal priorities and gratitude** for his international journey, earning tributes from **Cricket South Africa** for his contributions as a **match-winner**. ([Click here to read article](#))



- **Oscar Piastri** showcased his dominance at the **2025 Spanish Grand Prix** by leading from **pole to finish**, securing his **fifth win** of the season. The **McLaren driver** extended his lead over **Lando Norris** to **10 points** in the Formula One championship standings. The race held at the **Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya** highlighted Piastri's ability to bounce back after recent setbacks and reinforced **McLaren's rising supremacy** in the current F1 season. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB)** created history by winning their **first-ever IPL title** in the **IPL 2025 final**, defeating **Punjab Kings (PBKS)** by **6 runs** at the **Narendra Modi Stadium** in **Ahmedabad**. RCB posted **190/9**, and PBKS fell short with **184/7** despite a valiant chase. After years of near-misses, this victory marked a **landmark moment** for RCB, who showed **consistent performance** throughout the season, while PBKS' wait for their **maiden IPL title** continues. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India concluded the **Asian Athletics Championships 2025** with an impressive tally of **24 medals**, including **8 golds**, securing the **second position behind China**. Notable performances came from **Gulveer Singh, Jyothi Yarraji**, and the **relay teams**, while athletes like **Parul Chaudhary** and **Animesh Kujur** set new **national records**. With over **60 athletes** competing across **30 events**, India's success reinforced its growing stature in **Asian athletics** and strengthened preparations for the upcoming **Paris 2026 Olympics**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Magnus Carlsen** emerged victorious at the **Norway Chess 2025** tournament, claiming his **seventh title** after a dramatic final round in **Stavanger**. His resilient draw against **Arjun Erigaisi** helped him finish with **16 points**, narrowly ahead of **Fabiano Caruana** (15.5) and **D Gukesh** (14.5). A late blunder by Gukesh against Caruana cost him both the championship and second place. The tournament highlighted **Carlsen's enduring brilliance** and **India's growing chess strength** through stars like **Gukesh** and **Erigaisi**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The ECB and BCCI have renamed the **India-England Test series** as the **Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy**, replacing the historic Pataudi and de Mello titles. This move honours cricketing icons **James Anderson** and **Sachin Tendulkar**, who played a combined 388 Tests. The trophy will be revealed at **Lord's on June 11**, before the World Test Championship final, with the upcoming **five-Test series beginning June 20 at Headingley**. The decision reflects a broader trend in global cricket to honour legendary players through marquee bilateral series. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India will start its **Women's Asia Cup 2025** hockey campaign on **September 5** against **Thailand** in **Hangzhou, China**. Placed in **Pool B** alongside **Japan, Thailand, and Singapore**, the team aims to **win the title** and secure **direct qualification to the 2026 Women's FIH Hockey World Cup**. Captain **Salima Tete** and vice-captain **Navneet Kaur** highlighted the team's **focused preparation** and **determination**. India last won the tournament in **2017**, and a strong showing this year would reaffirm its **continental dominance** and bolster its **global aspirations**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- **Himachal Pradesh** has launched the **Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojana** to improve **green cover** and provide **employment opportunities** through **community participation**. Introduced by **CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu**, the scheme involves **Mahila Mandals, Yuvak Mandals, and SHGs** in **forest restoration** on degraded lands. Complementing this is the **Green Adoption Scheme**, which brings in **corporate players** like **Ambuja, Adani, and UltraTech** for large-scale plantations. Additionally, **Van Mitras** were inducted to address staff shortages in the forest department, and the event highlighted the state's commitment to **women empowerment** and **sustainable forest management**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Science and Technology News

- China launched the **Tianwen-2 mission** on **May 30, 2025**, targeting **asteroid 2016HO3** for **sample collection** and later exploring **comet 311P**. Led by **CNSA**, the mission is designed to yield **scientific insights** about the **solar system's origins**, particularly Earth's **water sources**. The mission represents China's growing role in **deep-space exploration**, further advancing its **space technology** after previous successes like **Tianwen-1** and its **lunar missions**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India is taking a **major step in AI infrastructure** by launching its first **AI-focused Special Economic Zone (SEZ)** in **Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh**, with a **₹1,000 crore** investment by **RackBank Datacenters**. This **carbon-neutral data hub** aims to foster **AI research, development**, and employment, offering incentives under the **SEZ framework**. It is expected to attract **global tech giants** like **Google, Microsoft, and OpenAI**, and will provide **job opportunities** to local youth while supporting **digital transformation** nationwide. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India is embarking on the construction of its **first-ever Polar Research Vessel (PRV)** through an MoU signed between **GRSE and Norway's Kongsberg**. This vessel, to be used by **NCPOR**, will enhance India's role in **polar research** and reflect its **Make in India** prowess. Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal**, attending the Nor-Shipping 2025 event in Norway, also promoted India's **MAHASAGAR vision**, encouraged **sustainable maritime investments**, and highlighted opportunities in **shipbuilding and green logistics**. This development marks a critical step in India's maritime transformation and global collaboration. ([Click here to read article](#))
- For the first time in Kerala, the **State Public Health Laboratory** has confirmed the presence of *Acanthamoeba spp.*—a fatal brain-infecting amoeba—in a human sample using **in-house developed molecular diagnostic kits**. This scientific advancement allows Kerala to carry out its own **confirmatory testing for amoebic encephalitis**, bypassing national labs and enabling early, effective treatment. ([Click here to read article](#))

Important Days News

- The **Global Day of Parents**, celebrated on **June 1**, recognizes the immense contributions parents make toward the well-being and development of children. In 2025, global institutions focused on supporting **positive parenting, mental health, and inclusive caregiving**. With origins dating back to UN resolutions in the 1990s, the day emphasizes that **strong family structures** are crucial for achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. The observance brings together global voices to celebrate, support, and empower parents worldwide. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Bicycle Day 2025**, celebrated globally on **June 3**, highlights the bicycle as a **sustainable, accessible, and health-promoting** mode of transportation. Initiated in **2018** after the efforts of **Prof. Leszek Sibilski**, the day draws attention to both the **personal and societal benefits** of cycling. From reducing pollution and improving health to supporting low-income groups, cycling plays a key role in addressing today's global challenges. As cities face rising pollution and sedentary lifestyles, **bicycles offer a simple yet powerful solution** for a better future. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **June 4, 2025**, the world observes the **International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression**, a **UN-designated day** dedicated to highlighting the **suffering of children** affected by **armed conflict, violence, and exploitation**. Originating in **1982** following the violence in **Palestine and Lebanon**, the observance now encompasses global efforts under frameworks like the **Convention on the Rights of the Child, Resolution 51/77**, and **SDG 16.2**. The

- **UN's 2024 report** revealed **32,990 grave violations** in 2023, including **killing, recruitment, abduction, and sexual violence**, urging the international community to intensify child protection efforts. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Environment Day 2025**, observed on **June 5**, focuses on the theme **"Beat Plastic Pollution"**, highlighting the urgent need to tackle the **global plastic crisis** affecting **ecosystems, wildlife, and human health**. Celebrated annually since **1973**, it is a **UN-led initiative** involving over **150 countries**, urging **governments, industries, and individuals** to reduce **plastic waste** and promote **sustainable alternatives**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Milk Day**, celebrated on **June 1st**, recognizes milk's **nutritional power**, economic importance, and cultural value. Established by the **FAO in 2001**, it highlights milk's role in **health, rural livelihoods, sustainability, and women empowerment**. The **2025 theme**, **"Let's Celebrate the Power of Dairy,"** emphasizes dairy's impact across all life stages. In India, the **White Revolution**, led by **Dr. Verghese Kurien** and the **NDDB**, transformed the nation from a milk-deficient country to the **world's largest milk producer**, ensuring **food security** and economic growth. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Telangana Formation Day**, observed on **June 2nd**, marks the creation of **India's 29th state in 2014** after a prolonged struggle for **self-determination, cultural identity, and regional autonomy**. Far from being symbolic, the day reflects the people's fight against **regional imbalances, administrative neglect, and cultural underrepresentation**. Rooted in the **Hyderabad State's** distinct pre-1956 identity, the **Telangana Movement** ultimately culminated in a political and social victory that empowered its citizens and reshaped India's federal landscape. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing**, observed annually on **June 5**, aims to spotlight global efforts to curb unsustainable and often criminal fishing practices. With support from the **UN FAO** and the **Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA)**, now backed by **two-thirds of coastal nations**, this initiative enforces port-level regulations to block illegally sourced fish. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Food Safety Day 2025**, observed on **June 7**, promotes the theme **"Food Safety: Science in Action"**, spotlighting the use of technology and innovation to combat food contamination. Established by the UN in **2018**, the day raises global awareness about the **health, economic, and social consequences** of unsafe food. In India, where food adulteration, inspection shortfalls, and poor cold storage pose persistent risks, the observance urges **collective action**—from authorities to consumers—to ensure safety from **farm to fork**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **World Brain Tumour Day 2025** will be observed on **June 8**, a day dedicated to raising **awareness** about **brain tumours**, promoting **early diagnosis**, supporting **patients and families**, and encouraging **research and treatment advancements**. Although the **official theme for 2025** is yet to be announced, global activities like **health talks, campaigns**, and **events** will spotlight the serious challenges faced by those affected. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Tamil filmmaker **Vikram Sugumaran** died at age 47 due to a **cardiac arrest** while traveling from **Madurai to Chennai**. Known for directing *Madha Yaanai Kootam* and contributing to *Aadukalam*, he had recently completed *Raavana Kottam* and was working on **Therum Porum**. He began his career under **Balu Mahendra** and was admired for his **realistic rural dramas**. His death has triggered an outpouring of grief in the Tamil film industry. ([Click here to read article](#))

Obituaries News

- **Étienne-Émile Baulieu**, a French biochemist and pioneer of the **abortion pill RU-486 (mifepristone)**, passed away at **98**. Known for his work on **steroid hormones** like **DHEA** and **progesterone**, Baulieu also championed **reproductive rights** and later focused on **aging research**. Despite controversy, his invention enabled **safe, non-surgical abortions** and influenced global **health policy**, earning him recognition as a **scientific visionary** and **humanitarian**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- **Elon Musk's X** has introduced **XChat**, a secure, cross-platform messaging app currently in beta for paid subscribers. Equipped with **Bitcoin-like encryption**, **disappearing messages**, and **audio/video calling**, the app represents Musk's push to rival platforms like WhatsApp, Telegram, and WeChat. It reflects his broader vision to turn X into a **super app** with integrated services, potentially including AI-powered tools like **Grok AI** in the future. ([Click here to read article](#))

Static Takeaways

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
Banking Organizations		
1	SBI	Chairman - Challa Sreenivasalu Setty
2	RBI	Governor - Sanjay Malhotra
3	Deutsche Bank India	MD - Sandhya Vasudevan HQ - Mumbai
4	Asian Development Bank	HQ - Manila, Philippines
5	Canara Bank	MD - K. Satyanarayana Raju
6	Starlink	CEO - Murtadha Adenji
Countries		
7	Germany	Chancellor - Friedrich Merz Capital - Munich
8	Portugal	PM - Luis Montenegro Capital - Lisbon
9	South Korea	President - Lee Jae Myung Capital - Seoul
10	Poland	President - Andrez Duda Capital - Warsaw
11	Nicaragua	President - Jose Daniel Ortega Capital - Managua
12	Bangladesh	Capital - Dhaka
13	Canada	President - Mark Carney Capital - Ottawa

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
Indian States		
14	Karnataka	CM - Siddharamaiya Governor - Thawar Chand Gehlot
15	Kerala	CM - Pinarayi Vijayan Governor - R. Arlekar
16	Uttar Pradesh	CM - Yogi Adityanath Governor - Anandiben Patel
17	Jammu and Kashmir	CM - Omar Abdullah L. Governor - Manoj Sinha

